



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT COAST YMCA



SUCCESS STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Lisa and her children made their way to Connecticut after falling into homelessness in 2020 when fleeing a domestic violence situation from out of State. Lisa knew she needed to keep herself and her children safe and trusted us at the **ALPHA COMMUNITY SERVICES YMCA** to help her do it. After a year of bouncing around the Fairfield County System due to limited space for large families in the family shelters, Lisa and her children were temporarily accommodated in a hotel through Coordinated Access Network (CAN) efforts. This opened the pathway for Lisa to be linked with our Y Navigators, who worked to get her and her children all the needed documents to officially sign a lease in our Clinton Avenue Apartments Permanent Supportive Housing in 2021. With the Permanent Supportive Housing program, the Y provides extended case management and partners with community resources to help clients access applicable financial supports and services like healthcare, counseling, and/or job training. The Alpha Community Services YMCA provided Lisa and her children with the chance to start over and created a safe place for her and her family to thrive. With the help of her YMCA Case Manager, Gigi Gonzalez, Lisa gained employment working full-time with the Board of Education and is currently in her second semester at Housatonic Community College pursuing her Associate’s Degree in Art and Illustration. With the momentum of success and with the support of a Section 8 Voucher, on January 1, 2023, Lisa was able to move into an apartment where she and her children can now call home.

For many years, George has been experiencing homelessness throughout the State of Connecticut. From behind the Courthouse in downtown Bridgeport, to a homeless encampment under a bridge, George called these places home. That is until Y Case Workers connected with George and welcomed him to stay at the South End Community Center “All Weather Facility”. George’s time outside exasperated his conditions like asthma, bronchitis, COPD, and arthritis in both knees. Once safe and warm at the South End Community Center, George worked with our amazing Y staff to get all documents needed to move forward with finding him housing. George is now housed at our Harrison Apartments Permanent Supportive Housing site where he works with his Y Case Manager, Vanessa Avalos. “I’m very happy to have my own place where I feel I’m ‘home’. I don’t need anything else. I am happy where I am at,” said George. With housing now stabilized, George will continue working with his Y Case Manager on linking to all the resources he

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES IN EXTREME WEATHER & EDUCATION

ALPHA COMMUNITY SERVICES YMCA continues to recognize the need in our homeless community and has structured a solution for serving the most vulnerable population in the City of Bridgeport. During times of extreme weather conditions such as a hurricane, tornado, blizzard, or excessive cold or heat, individuals find themselves in a State of Emergency for housing. While shelter capacity has been drastically slashed, the level of demand for shelter beds is drastically increasing due to joblessness, skyrocketing housing costs and the onset of winter weather. These conditions, among others, have created a public health and safety crisis leaving hundreds of people to face dangerous weather conditions with no possibility of shelter or housing in the area.



The ACS Y South End Community Center "All Weather Emergency Facility" offers a solution for housing during these times, opening its doors when the State of Connecticut activates the Cold Weather Protocol program and during severe weather. YMCA Case Managers provide on-site social services and House Managers provide 24-hour supervision, expanding our commitment to the most vulnerable population.

Heading this facility is our very own, Mario Ramirez. Originally from Guayama, Puerto Rico, Mario joined Alpha Community Services YMCA in 2014 as a Permanent Supportive Housing Case Manager at the Harrison Apartment building on 650 State Street in Bridgeport. With a new understanding of the critical support needed by the homeless and a Bachelor Degree in Criminology from InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico, Mario got to work expanding his education with the goal of helping people break the cycle of homelessness. While working with Bridgeport Housing and the Rapid Rehousing Program, Mario simultaneously obtained his Masters in Social Work from Southern Connecticut State University and never stopped

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

and ease demonstrated by having served over 89 individuals and housing 13 individuals into the permanent housing community. Mario shared, "I like to [have] a positive impact on people's lives by helping them break the cycle of homelessness. I want to make sure they don't end up back on the streets and for that they need to learn skills on how to sustain themselves and have access to resources." Mario now serves as the Y Housing Coordinator at the South End Community Center "All Weather Emergency Facility" located at 650 Park Ave and continues to expand upon opportunities to do what he loves...to serve the homeless population. Thank you, Mario, for everything you do!



THANK YOU FOR LAST YEAR & HELLO TO THE NEW YEAR!

Congratulations to all of our sponsors, donors and the entire YMCA team for an incredible 2022! Despite ever rising challenges, with your help our team was able to provide critical support services to the most vulnerable, the homeless population. Below are a few of our accomplishments thanks to your support.

- YMCA Brooks Street Shelter served 43 households - 29 have been housed successfully in the community, 14 were still in the shelter at year's end
- 982 scheduled Coordinated Access Network (CAN) Appointments with Alpha Community Services YMCA in 2022
- 27 households have moved out of YMCA Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs into their own housing in the community
- 66 new individuals entered YMCA Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Properties
- 162 children were served across our PSH and Shelter Programs
- Since January 2022, we have served a total of 22,975 meals across our Programs (PSH, Family Shelter, SECC)
- Since its opening on November 1, 2022, we have served 81 clients at the Southend Community Center, by the end of January 2023

With gracious hearts, we thank you as we cannot do this important work without you! Thank you again for being a special part of the **ALPHA COMMUNITY SERVICES YMCA** family and for taking charge in changing people's lives.

And the fun doesn't stop there! For 22 years, we have led the charge, and the crowd, through the seaside streets of the great City of Bridgeport, in our Annual Walk to End Homelessness.

SAVE THE DATE and join us on Saturday, May 20, 2023, for an inspirational morning to help raise awareness and donations so that everyone in the community can help Alpha Community Services YMCA to end chronic homelessness. (For detailed information visit

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



You have the distinct opportunity to help our cause - [register to walk](#), [become a sponsor](#), [invite your friends and family and join us!](#)

ALPHA COMMUNITY SERVICES YMCA | 650 Park Avenue | Bridgeport CT 06605 | P 203 366 2809

ALPHA COMMUNITY SERVICES YMCA
a Branch of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA
850 Park Avenue, Bridgeport CT 06605
P 203 366 2809 **W** ccymca.org

Share this email:



Manage your preferences | **Opt out** using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? **Sign up** to receive our future emails.

View this email **online**.

387 Clinton Avenue
Bridgeport, CT | 06605 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.