To our Partners and Friends:

Welcome to our Annual Report for the 2019 fiscal year, which runs from July 2018 through June 2019. This is the 54th year that Access has served the region.

In the following pages you’ll see how Access carried out our Mission to provide under-resourced individuals, families, and communities with access to opportunities that empower them to achieve and sustain economic stability. With the support of many community partners and friends like you, we have been able to continue making a positive difference to those in need in northeast Connecticut.

Those partners have included our state and federal government, local towns, foundations, faith communities, and generous individual donors. Together we have fought poverty to get results that matter to people in need throughout our region. Toward that end we provided access to food, shelter, jobs and other pathways to self-reliance.

Highlights of our 2019 fiscal year include the completion of Access to Housing at Parker Place, a 37-unit affordable senior housing development in Tolland, and bringing the community together to ensure all those in the area that experience the crisis of homelessness have a warm, safe place to sleep this upcoming winter. Look inside these pages to learn more.
Your partnership with us strengthens our resolve, and continues to inspire us to make our region a better place to live and work for all, particularly those struggling with the burden of poverty. Thank you for all you do to make that possible.

Enjoy,

Peter S. DeBiasi  
President/CEO

Gregg Haddad  
Chair, Board of Directors

Above: Peter S. DeBiasi, President/CEO of Access and Gregg Haddad, Chair of the Board of Directors.
The Access Community Action Agency Board of Directors consists of dedicated volunteers who generously donate their time and talent in service to the local community. They represent the region’s towns, private businesses, organizations, and constituent groups.

Gregory Haddad, Chair
Melissa Phillips, Vice Chair
Richard Ives, Treasurer
Jane Hale, Secretary
Michael Dell
Jennie Gardiner
Christine McFatter
Robert Miller
Tammy Miner
Pat Wilson Pheanious
Christine Rosati Randall
Benji Rivera
Josh Santos
William Stover
Dianne Williams
Our Community Vision

All Windham and Tolland County residents will be economically secure.

Our Mission

To provide under resourced individuals, families, and communities with access to opportunities that empower them to achieve and sustain economic stability.

Strategic Commitments

- Ensure access to adequate Healthy Food, and safe decent Affordable Housing
- Provide access to Jobs and Other Pathways to Self-Reliance
- Mobilize Stakeholders to Advocate and Act to ensure economic stability is more accessible
Accessing Home Ownership Program

Access assists homebuyers in purchasing two-family income producing homes with the Accessing Home Ownership Program. This program helps income-qualifying buyers purchase and renovate two-family properties in high opportunity towns in Windham and Tolland counties. Each home buyer, who must live in one of the units, is eligible to receive up to $100,000 to be used for down payment assistance, closing costs and renovations.

“Thanks to the program I’ve been able to accomplish something I never thought I could - becoming a home owner. My family now finally has a place to call home”, says Sean, who with his wife and four children lives in one of the program supported homes.

For a Homebuyer to qualify for help through the Accessing Home Ownership Program they must be income eligible and bank-approved to receive a mortgage to purchase a two-family property in which they will occupy one of the units in the following towns: Bolton, Columbia, Coventry, Somers, Willington, Pomfret, Scotland, and Woodstock. Buyers must have income that does not exceed 100% of the area median income (AMI) and they must rent to tenants who income is not higher than 80% of AMI. “The program provides affordable housing
Results That Matter

Because of the help and hope Access provided:

- **365 nights of housing and 45,671 meals** were provided to those living in our group homes and emergency shelter.

- **1,853 women, infants, & children** are healthier because they redeemed **$1,698,963** worth of healthy food vouchers.

- **189 income eligible seniors lived in 172** safe, high quality, affordable one-bedroom apartments.

- **1,707 low-income children are healthier** because of **505,378** nutritious meals and snacks provided through their licensed home childcare providers.

- **643 families** obtained and/or maintained safe and affordable housing; of these **36 families and 27 individuals**, who were chronically homeless, were permanently housed.

- **3,328 adults and 1,198 children** didn’t go hungry because they received supplemental food equivalent to **54,312** meals; of these customers **3,078** received their meals from our mobile food pantry.

"options in towns without much affordable housing already in place”, says Alex Fuentes, Sr. Director of Housing and Property Management. Please contact Alex at 860-450-7400 ext. 7481 for more information about this program.

*The Accessing Home Ownership Program is funded by the Department of Housing (DOH).*
Dear Miss Peabody (Staff of Crossroads),
Thank you for what you do for not only me, but for all the kids at Crossroads. Your positive interactions and quirky sense of humor makes for an uplifting and caring environment. What you do for us makes us feel warm and welcome even when things aren’t going our way.

I am particularly moved by your friendship and how you willingly take time out of your busy schedule to play games and watch movies with us. The time you spend with us makes us want to do better and because of that, you are a positive role model.

So, basically, what I am trying to say is thank you for what you do. You make this place better by just coming in everyday and I look forward to spending that time with you. See you at our next board game.

Sincerely,
Stephanie (Resident of Crossroads)

Crossroads

Crossroads is a community-based, transitional living program for youth in the care of the CT Department of Children and Families (DCF) who are getting old enough to leave the DCF system and need support to transition to independent living and self-reliance.
Often these youth come to Crossroads with histories of abuse, neglect, and abandonment. Some struggle with making positive choices that could lead to poor school performance, dysfunctional relationships, substance abuse, and other dangerous circumstances and behaviors.

Crossroads offers these youth opportunities to overcome the barriers borne of the issues that haunt their pasts and to learn — through practical application — critical independent living skills needed to succeed as adults. Youth residents live in a supervised apartment setting with staff on site 24/7, and learn budgeting and money management, health and medical care management, household management, and educational and vocational achievement. They also participate in scheduled recreational activities and cultural events to increase their positive engagement in the community. Program staff works closely with the residents to help them define and achieve their goals.

_Crossroads is funded by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF)._
Eastern Design Group

Last year, ten graphic design students at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) concluded a major project with the Access Community Action Agency in Willimantic. As part of Professor Terry Lennox, Professor of Digital Art and Design’s capstone course “Eastern Design Group,” the students created 13 posters that graphically represent the agency’s 13 community programs.

After receiving input from Access program directors, each student worked over time to finalize one poster for each of the 13 programs. Access then selected at least one poster from each student as the final poster for display. Access introduced the posters through an “Art Reveal” event that gave the students a chance to meet with the Access program directors, and to discuss the intersection between program work and artistic design.
The posters hang in the agency’s conference room, and are used externally for fundraising and outreach events.

ECSU’s Center for Community Engagement (CCE) invites local nonprofits and charities to apply for service projects with Eastern students. Each year, a new cohort of graduating seniors takes on a design-related project to serve an area community organization. This was Lennox’s 10th year bringing students into the community for such a project, and her first with Access.
Access to Food and Affordable Housing

Energy Assistance, Case Management, Nutrition Programs, Food Banks, Homelessness Prevention

INCOME $ 10,613,547
EXPENSE $ 10,535,158

Access to Jobs and Other Pathways to Self-Reliance

Affordable Housing, Access to Employment, Energy Conservation, Youth Transitional Housing and Support

INCOME $ 1,402,694
EXPENSE $ 1,463,536

Mobilize Stakeholders to Advocate & Act

INCOME $54,333
EXPENSE $ 41,700

TOTALS
INCOME $12,070,574
EXPENSE $12,040,394
Funding Sources

Federal Agencies
Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA)
Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)
Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
Department of Energy (DOE)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

State Agencies
Department of Children & Families (DCF)
Department of Social Services (DSS)
Department of Education (SDOE)
Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA)
Department of Public Health (DPH)
Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS)

Partnering Organizations
Eversource
The Connection, Inc.
Town of Columbia
United Way of Central & Northeastern CT
United Way of Southeastern CT

Annual Appeal Donors
# 2019 Annual Appeal Donors

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<tr>
<th>Individual Donors</th>
<th>Peter DeBiasi</th>
<th>Dorothy Grady</th>
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<td>Kelly Ahern</td>
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<td>Curt F. Beck</td>
<td>Maryellen Donnelly</td>
<td>Jane &amp; Laurence Hale</td>
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<td>Phyllis &amp; David Emigh</td>
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<td>Yolanda Irizarry</td>
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<td>Jeannie Gardiner</td>
<td>Kathleen Krider</td>
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<td>Richard E. Gault</td>
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<td>Ronald A. Goldstein</td>
<td>Christopher Marcinkewicz</td>
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<td>Marguerite Davis</td>
<td>Merrill Ann Gonzales</td>
<td>Rhiannon McCabe</td>
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John & Jean McClellan  
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Robert Miller  
Peter Millman & Marie Cantino  
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Bob’s Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Connecticut Credit Union Charitable Foundation  
Charter Oak Foundation  
Greater Hartford Community Foundation, Inc.  
Liberty Bank Foundation  
Newell D. Hale Foundation  
PayPal Charitable Giving Fund  
Berkshire Bank Foundation  
Staples Foundation  
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Christ Church of Pomfret  
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Eastern Connecticut State University  
Federated Church of Christ/ WCGCS
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Friendly Spirits

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Newell D. Hale Foundation

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Putnam Vision Center

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Quikrete

Radianz Dental Group

Rawson Materials

Saveway Petroleum, Inc.

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Science Engineering Associates

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Storrs Friends Meeting

Tennet Tree Service, Inc.

The Barn at Gray Mare Hill

The Crossings Restaurant & Brew Pub

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Town of Ashford

Town of Brooklyn

Town of Chaplin

Town of Eastford

Town of Hampton

Town of Mansfield

Town of Pomfret

Town of Putnam

Town of Scotland

Town of Sterling

Town of Thompson

Town of Willington

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Troiano Auto Group

United Way

Woodstock Agricultural Society, Inc.

Willimantic Brewing Co. LLC

Yankee Oil

In-Kind Individual Donors

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Cheryl Boland

Mike Crockett

Tayla D.

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Mona L. Ducat

Martha & Luis Giraldo

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Paula Sgambato
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Rachel Vincent
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CT Tigers
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Danielson Surplus
Day Kimball Hospital
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Ella Meas Boutique and Consignment
Fiddleheads Food Coop
First Congregational Church of Canterbury
In Memory of Andrew Shippee
Killingly Quiet Corner Lions Club
One Yoga Center
Patriots Foundation
Plainfield Congregational Church
Pomfret Rectory School
Price Chopper
Quikrete Co.
Scotts Company
Spring Valley Farm
Staples
State Police Troop D
Sterling Public Library
Stop & Shop NE
Surplus Unlimited
T.A Daley Promotional Services
Temple Bnai Israel
Thai Basil
The Red Sox Foundation
Tito’s Gift Basket
Trinity Episcopal Church
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Storrs

We Truly Appreciate your support!

Report represents donations received September 1, 2018 - October 8, 2019.

If you find an error, please bring it to the Community Engagement Department’s attention.

Design thanks to Elisha Sherman & Lucía Bazzardi
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Danielson, CT
The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.

We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

www.accessagency.org

The Access Community Action Agency is an equal opportunity provider and employer.