



END OF FISCAL YEAR REPORT For Friends of Inspirica

JUNE 30, 2018



I hope this report finds you well, enjoying the last few days of summer. For many of us, this season offered a chance to relax with our families and recharge for the year ahead. For the people Inspirica serves, however, the summer months provided no respite from the challenges they face to secure a job and to exit homelessness. Their journey to safety and stability does not come with a "vacation."

June 30 marked the end of Inspirica's 2018 fiscal year. I am pleased to report that once again we had a very successful year with record results across the board, including our most important outcome: the number of men, women, and children we moved into permanent housing.

As a friend and supporter, it is important that we keep you up to date on the organization and the work you make possible. This report, issued twice per year, will do this. The pages that follow provide highlights from the past fiscal year, including our results and some of our new initiatives.

As always, thank you for your investment in us. As you will see, it has yielded a high return. Together, we have transformed the lives of hundreds of men, women, and children who turned to us at their most desperate time of need, moving them from the streets to health, jobs, homes and -- most importantly -- dignity.

JASON SHAPLEN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HOMELESSNESS IS INCREASINGLY DRIVEN BY ECONOMICS

As we reported in our last Fiscal Year Report, in 2017, the Point in Time Survey of Homelessness indicated an 18% decline in homelessness in our community, following a near steady increase in recent years. Given the drop in 2017, we were pleased not to give back any of our gains in this year's PIT count. In 2018, the number of homeless in our area essentially remained flat -- an increase of just two people. This good news is offset by a sobering statistic. Even with last year's decline and our ability to hold steady this year, homelessness today is still at the same level it was at the end of the Great Recession, when unemployment was 10.1%. And this is despite a strong economy over the past eight years.

There is a climate of stubborn homelessness in our community. One reason is that the face of homelessness has changed. Mental illness, addiction, and physical illness still play an outsized role, but homelessness today is increasingly about economics:

Cost of living has skyrocketed. The Stamford-Norwalk metropolitan area remains the nation's 5th most expensive housing jurisdiction. A typical two-bedroom apartment in Stamford costs approximately \$2,500 per month. To afford this, a family of four would have to earn \$100,000 (\$48.08/hour or 4.8 times the minimum wage).

Job recovery in Connecticut has not caught up with the nation. We are now the only state in the nation that has not yet recovered the jobs lost in the Great Recession. 101 months after the end of the recession, we have recovered just 86 percent of lost jobs.

We are experiencing near total wage stagnation. Nationally, wage growth has been a meager 3.3 percent over the past eight years. Connecticut has fared far worse, at just 0.1 percent wage growth in the same period, worse than every state other than Alaska.

Many renter households have been subject to eviction. New statistics culled from 83 million court eviction records dating to 2000 show how pervasive evictions have become. In 2016 alone, there were 900,000 eviction *judgments*. That means landlords were given the right to evict 1 in 50 renter households across the country. In some cities, the number was 1 in 9.

Almost 1 in 3 people in the US (29.3%) live below or near the poverty line. Poverty numbers are a leading indicator of homeless numbers. 45 million people live below the poverty line, and another 49 million live within 50 percent of the poverty line, in what is known as "near poverty." These people are not living paycheck to paycheck -- they are living day-to-day, and making heart-wrenching decisions on a daily basis, like choosing between having dinner or buying the medication they need.

This is the backdrop against which Inspirica operates.

WE ACHIEVED RECORD RESULTS

We track outcomes rigorously and in myriad ways. Given the difficult economic environment, we are especially proud of our FY '18 results.

JOB AND HOUSING PLACEMENT RESULTS

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

Job placements: 209

Housing placements: 207

Average wage: \$12.78 per hour (27% over minimum wage)

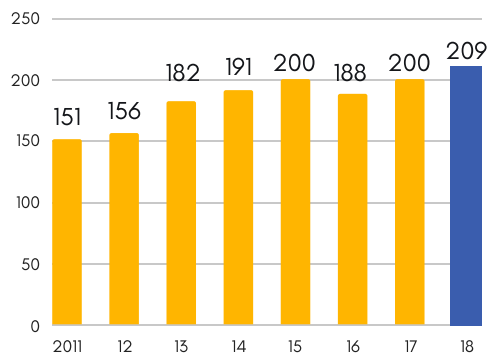
Average hours worked per week: 32.0

1,477 job placements over the past eight fiscal years

1,312 men, women, and children placed in housing over the past eight fiscal years

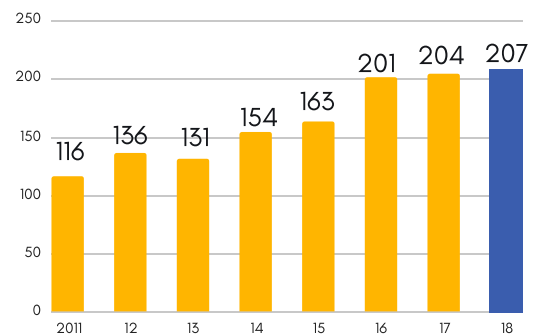
JOB PLACEMENTS

Over the past eight years: 1,477



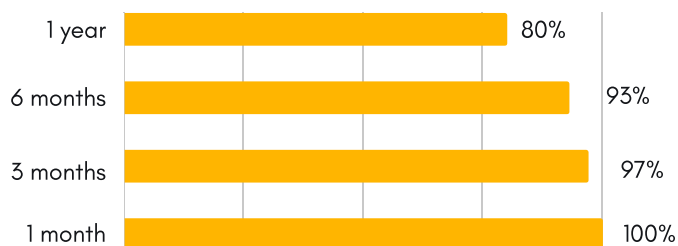
HOUSING PLACEMENTS

Over the past eight years: 1,312



HOUSING RETENTION

When we place people in housing, they stay housed and break the cycle of homelessness.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

We ensure that the children in our care perform well relative to their peers who are not homeless.

100% graduated to the next grade level

Average grade B- or higher

100% offered full scholarships
to summer camps

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The core of our success is our programs, many of which are groundbreaking in their approach to addressing homelessness. It would be impossible to describe all of them in this report, but what follows are some highlights from the past fiscal year.



EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PARENTING PROGRAM (ECPP)

Our ECPP program combines essential early childhood learning and a pre-literacy program for children ages 0-5 with essential parenting skills for their parents. This year we implemented several new initiatives to make the program more robust, including Baby & Me classes (2x per week) and myriad parent-child bonding initiatives, including parent-child yoga and parent-child healthy cooking. Once a month, ECPP also runs two support groups, one for moms (Muffins with Moms) and one for dads (Donuts with Dad), so that parents have the informal social and emotional support that is critical for families residing in shelter.



To ensure they are developing relative to their peers who are not homeless, each child in ECPP is also tested for gross motor skills and communications every month. Children who are found to be below the age-appropriate developmental range receive one-on-one counseling through Inspirica or a third-party specialist.

SUMMER CAMP

It's critical to keep children engaged during the summer so that they can continue the progress they make with us during the school year. 100 percent of the children we serve were offered camp scholarships, which allowed them to attend camps like the one at Bartlett Arboretum (a science and nature camp in Stamford), Camp Seton (a Boy Scout camp in Greenwich), and even a sleep-away camp (Camp Hi-Rock in Mount Washington, Massachusetts).





EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

We embrace a unique *two-generation* approach to ending family homelessness. We provide adults with the skills they need, and we provide their children with a foundation that helps them overcome learning and developmental deficits to develop in line with their peers who are not homeless.

Nationally, math and reading proficiency among homeless children in high school are 11% and 14%, respectively, with less than 25% graduating. At the elementary level, math and reading proficiency are in the low 20s. By contrast, at the end of the last school year, 100% percent of the children in our care graduated to the next grade level. Their average grade was a B-.



JUMPSTART CAREER PROGRAM

Our Jumpstart Career Program provides our adult clients the skills to secure employment and earn the income necessary to exit homelessness.

Over the past fiscal year, we relaunched our Home Health Aide Program, partnering with DanielCare. We also launched two new vocational training initiatives: a Certified Nurse's Assistant training program (also with DanielCare) and a food handler/ServSafe training program (in partnership with the City of Stamford). All three initiatives tap directly into two of the fastest growing segments of the labor market: food service and health care.



JOB & HOUSING RETENTION

To make sure we break the cycle of homelessness, we do something unusual: we continue to work with our clients long after they get a job and leave us. Our Retention Specialists work side-by-side with clients who are working or living independently to identify and assess risk factors before they become full-blown crises.

This year, we added several new initiatives to help our clients, including support groups for families and individuals, more face-to-face meetings in the field, social groups, and more.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

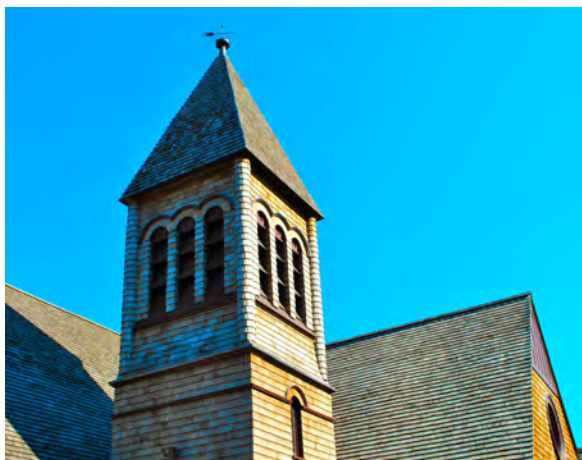
Some of the things we did this year were less public, but underscore how strong Inspirica is deep into our core. They go to the heart of our values: to provide safe, stable, dignified places to house people, including those who are homeless and transitioning to permanent housing as well as those who are living in our own permanent supportive and deeply affordable housing.



FRANKLIN CAMPUS

141 Franklin Street

The Franklin Campus is home to our Family Housing, Children's Services, Early Childhood and Parenting, and Jumpstart Career programs, administrative offices, and much more. Among other projects, we renovated several bathrooms, installed a new elevator, and replaced stucco damaged during a big snowstorm. While this cost thousands of dollars to repair, it's nothing compared to what might have happened to the homeless people we serve had we not been here for them.



WOODLAND CAMPUS

8 Woodland Place

Home to our emergency shelter for single women and some of our support programs, 8 Woodland Place is a magnificent historic building that needs continual updating. This year, we completed some electrical work and expanded and updated our intercom system. Up next year: a \$300,000 project to replace the roof of the residential portion of the building.



ATLANTIC PARK AND COLONY APARTMENTS

Combined, these two facilities are home to 56 units of permanent supportive housing for single men and women. This year, we added generators to both (having power through a storm is essential, especially for residents with disabilities) and made substantial updates to the community room kitchens.

DEEPLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

72 FRANKLIN | OUR NEWEST DEEPLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

In October, we broke ground on 72 Franklin, a forthcoming addition to our deeply affordable housing program. We have been making swift progress on construction since, and 72 Franklin is on track to open in early 2019. When completed, it will be the largest building that Inspirica has ever built -- and also the most innovative.

Despite rents that are just one quarter to one third of the market rate, it will be completely self-sustaining from Day 1 and will not require any ongoing operating federal, state, or city subsidies whatsoever. Rents will range from \$490 for studios to \$865 for three-bedroom units. Fully 90% of apartments in the building are reserved for people earning 35% of area median income and below. 72 Franklin will also have on-site daycare, a critical factor for families, the fastest group falling into homelessness.

We have graded the site, completed the foundation and footings, backfilled them, completed underground storm, sewer, and electrical work, and installed structural steel and laid the slab for the building. We expect to be cutting the ribbon in the first quarter of 2019!

72 Franklin is a tri-sector initiative that shows what can happen when the not-for-profit sector, government, and the private sector get together and decide to solve a problem. We are pleased to be working with outstanding partners, including: Garden Homes Fund, Mayor David Martin and the City of Stamford, RMS Companies, First Congregational Church of Greenwich, First County Bank Foundation, and Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County.



VOLUNTEER WITH US

We cannot do what we do without you! We invite you to join us in our efforts to break the cycle of homelessness by becoming a volunteer. Each year, 2,000+ volunteers from across Fairfield County support Inspirica's mission by donating their time and talent.



AFTER-SCHOOL YOUTH CENTER

Adults needed afternoons | Monday through Friday, 4:00 - 6:00pm

Our Youth Center operates every day after school during the academic year, and is a dedicated space for the children in our care to achieve. Assist with homework and supervise recreational activities at our on-site gymnasium, library, and educational game room, which includes chess, an electronic drum set, and more. Appropriate for adults with experience working with children, as well as mature youth volunteers (15+).



YOUTH TUTORING

Adults needed afternoons | Monday through Friday, 4:00 - 6:00pm

We want to ensure that the children in our care develop in line with their peers who are not homeless. To accomplish this, we call on volunteers to tutor children on a one-on-one basis. Tutors cover a variety of subjects, with a focus on reading and math skills. Appropriate for adults with experience working with children, former teachers, and mature youth volunteers (15+).



EARLY CHILDHOOD PARENTING PROGRAM (ECPP)

Adults needed afternoons | Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 5:30 - 7:00pm

Volunteer Classroom Assistant: We have two separate classrooms, one for ages 0 - 2.5, and one for ages 2.6 - 5 years. The volunteer assists with the children under the supervision of the teacher. We ask volunteers to commit to one or more regular time slots so the children have consistency with the same assistants.

Meal Provision: Each program session closes with a meal for children and their parents, served at 7:00pm. Volunteers may prepare meals by either: (1) cooking in our on-site kitchen, or (2) preparing the meal beforehand and serving on-site.



JUMPSTART BABY SITTING

Adults needed mornings | Monday through Thursday, 9:00am - 12:30pm, as needed

Babysit infants and toddlers while their parents attend Jumpstart Education, classes and workshops designed to help them move towards achieving a stable life. Parents are more likely to focus on the information in these classes when they know their children are being watched just down the hall by outstanding babysitters like you. Volunteers must be 18 or older; 15 to 17 year old mature teens are welcome with the supervision of an adult.



JOB SEARCH HELP

Adults needed, flexible schedule during work week; preferably 10:00am - 1:00pm

Jumpstart Education is a 13-week series that focuses on every aspect of the job search process, including how to navigate the job application process, tips for successful interviewing, and more. Volunteers help our clients search online job postings and coach program participants through their search and interview process. Computer and internet experience required.



CHILDREN'S RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Adults needed afternoons | Monday through Friday, 4:00 - 6:00pm

Provide a fun party (birthday or holiday-themed) for children and their families, including refreshments, games and/or art activities, and entertainment.

Appropriate for small groups of up to 12 volunteers, and can be led by mature youth volunteers accompanied by adults.



MEAL PROVISION

365 days per year, Sunday through Saturday, dinner is served at 6:00pm

Gather your family, friends, or colleagues to prepare and serve dinner in our Women's Shelter (approximately 25 women). On Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, we invite clients from McKinney and Gilead House, residential programs for men and women living with HIV/AIDS and recovering from mental illness, for a campus dinner (on average about 45 men and women). Great for groups of up to 10 volunteers. Dinner can be prepared beforehand or prepared on-site, and then served to our clients. There is also an opportunity to provide meals Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for our ECPP program.

We welcome individual and group volunteers, including corporations who wish to plan a day of giving. For more information or to schedule your visit, please contact Emily Tang at etang@InspiricaCT.org or 203-388-0187.

JOIN US AT UPCOMING EVENTS

From our *One Step Closer to Home* Walkathon to Thanksgiving Drive to the Holiday Gift Collection, we run a number of different events throughout the year to engage with you, our clients, and the community. Please save these dates to your calendar and look out for announcements!

October
7

ONE STEP CLOSER TO HOME WALKATHON

In partnership with St. Luke's School, our annual 5k walk helps us make strides towards our mission. All ages welcome - sign up at InspiricaCT.org/OneStep and create your own team with friends, family, and colleagues!

November
20

THANKSGIVING DRIVE

Help make Thanksgiving a festive occasion for families in need. Organize a food drive, sort donations, prepare baskets, and/or volunteer to distribute Thanksgiving baskets stuffed chock full of all the turkey day necessities.

December
8

HOLIDAY WRAPPING PARTY

We believe every child deserves to experience the magic of the holidays. With the assistance of 600+ handy helpers in our Toy Workshop, we wrap nearly 6,000 gifts for 3,000 children in need.

April
25

SPRING SOIREE

Join us at this invitation-only soiree, where we will thank our generous partners for their contributions to Inspirica's mission and celebrate our clients' successful journeys out of homelessness.

To learn how you can get involved in or sponsor each of the above events, please contact Emily Tang at etang@InspiricaCT.org or 203-388-0187.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@InspiricaFromHomelessToHome



@InspiricaCT



@InspiricaCT

NICOLE F.

SINGLE MOM, ONCE STRUGGLING WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE, NOW CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANT

Nicole came to Inspirica near rock bottom, in seek of the help she and her son so desperately needed to turn their lives around. Prior to walking through our doors, Nicole had a substance abuse problem that cost her not only her home, but her marriage and two children, ages five and six, who were adopted out. She was at risk of losing her son Xavier, as well, now one year old, because she tested positive for opiates when he was born. Homeless and having already lost two of her children, Nicole knew that she needed to make a change. Inspirica was there to help.

The Inspirica team was determined to introduce hope and stability into Nicole's and Xavier's lives. Coordinating closely with Nicole, we immediately created a plan for them. The director of our Early Childhood and Parenting Program (ECPP) set Nicole at ease, building a relationship that encouraged her to take advantage of our ECPP classes, where she learned the skills to be a better mom to her son. Our Chief Program Officer of Support Services started Nicole in our Jumpstart Career Program, which provides our clients the skills to secure employment and earn the income necessary to exit homelessness. Nicole completed Jumpstart in record time and, driven to make a better life for her and her son, enrolled in our Certified Nursing Assistant program (CNA), where she made such a deep impression that she was offered a full-time job -- before she even graduated.

Today, Nicole lives in Bridgeport, Connecticut in a place of her own and with a CNA certificate in hand, having graduated at the top of her class. Xavier is enrolled in daycare, which our ECPP director helped secure.

SUCCESS STORY

"Inspirica gave me the tools to better myself... it opened so many doors."



OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

We are one of only a handful of organizations (10 to 15) in the nation able to address the physical aspect of homelessness (residential services) and its underlying root causes (support services) on a single, powerful end-to-end platform. Our programs are fully integrated and leverage one another.

Residential Programs

EMERGENCY SHELTER

- Emergency shelter for single women - 25 beds
- Emergency shelter for families - 42 beds

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- Transitional housing for families - 63 beds
- McKinney House - 10 beds
- Gilead House - 16 beds

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

- Colony Apartments - 29 beds
- Atlantic Park Apartments - 27 beds
- Metcalf House - 10 beds
- Rose Park Apartments - 6 beds
- McKinney House - 5 beds
- 992 Summer Street - 24 beds +

DEEPLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- 24 Woodland Place - 18 beds
- 26 Woodland Place - 11 beds
- 992 Summer Street - 24 beds
- 72 Franklin Street - 125 beds (*forthcoming*)

RAPID REHOUSING

- Short- and long-term subsidies to rapidly rehouse individuals and families

Support Services

CHILDREN'S SERVICES & EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PARENTING

- Foundational support
- Educational support
- Psychological/developmental support
- After-school Youth Center
- Early Childhood and Parenting Program
In partnership with Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County and Saint Joseph Parenting Center

JUMPSTART CAREER PROGRAM

- Jumpstart Vocational Training - Home Health Aide Training Program, Certified Nurse's Assistant Training Program, and food handler/ServSafe Training Program
- Jumpstart Education - 13 weeks of workforce education
- Jumpstart Employment Agency

HOUSING PLACEMENT

JOB & HOUSING RETENTION

CLINIC @ WOODLAND - HEALTHCARE

In partnership with Optimus

CLINIC @ SUMMER PLACE - HEALTHCARE

In partnership with Optimus

We would love to have you join us for a tour. To schedule a visit, please call (203) 388-0187.

OUR IMPACT



350 people housed each night and 1,025 people served each year, including 250 children



1,312 men, women, and children placed into permanent housing in the past 8 years



1,477 job placements in the past eight years



100% of the children in our care graduated to the next level