

Liberty Community Services

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2009 was a rollercoaster year at Liberty. We started the year during a winter of the deepest recession since World War II. Liberty couldn't imagine what the economic collapse would mean for our agency's funding and for the needs of our clients.

Luckily, state, federal, and private funding held steady during the year so that we could meet the increased needs. Liberty clients benefited from the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program initiated by the United Way and Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. Liberty was awarded funds to start a community Sunday brunch. The grant also allowed us to provide emergency assistance to our clients. The brunch began in February; we had the expectation of feeding 50 people on Sunday morning when many social services are closed. Over twelve weeks, we averaged 120 meals per Sunday and delivered hope during a difficult winter.

Our housing programs continued to accept new clients in 2009, as others moved on. At any point during the year, we helped to house and maintain over 100 single men and women in housing. These individuals, who had once been homeless, are now housed and are leading fuller lives. Liberty's goal of providing permanent, supportive housing has not solved homelessness in New Haven. The need is too great. But our model makes a life-changing difference in the lives of those we serve. People with mental health, physical and substance abuse issues can indeed find housing with the right balance of financial assistance and staff support.

Our Safe Haven Day Program offers a drop-in facility for individuals who unfortunately cannot be housed yet because of capacity issues. We are able to provide food, access to computers, showers, educational offerings, and a washer/dryer for up to 15 people per day. The program, which runs at capacity daily, celebrated its second anniversary in 2009 and participants wrote a thank you card to the Liberty Board of Directors. One client wrote, "thanks to the staff for showing me that there's still love in this dark world." Clients are able to find resources for jobs and housing through the day program, but even when those goals are not immediately attained, the program offers hope that maybe tomorrow will be better.

Liberty secured two new federal grants in 2009. The government appropriated \$1.5 billion over three years to help renters affected by the economic crisis who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness. Liberty competed to administer these funds allocated to New Haven and was one of four agencies to obtain the contract. It is gratifying to see the process of federal stimulus money making its way to New Haven to prevent a mother of three children from being evicted after she received a cut in pay. There are numerous other examples of people living on the edge who have been helped through this program.

The second federal grant we were awarded in 2009 was a five-year \$2 million grant to create an outreach and support system for people who are homeless with mental health and substance abuse disorders. The program will be jointly designed by Liberty and the South Central Rehabilitation Center, a freestanding detox center in New Haven. We are looking forward to creating a model system for dealing with people who are homeless and in need of treatment.

One of the most profound moments of the year for me was at a Board meeting when we had a visit from a Case Manager who was sharing the story of a client who had recently passed away. Because he had done odd jobs for many downtown merchants, he was well-known in the community. It was profoundly touching to realize that even though he had serious medical and mental health problems, he had an immense impact on the community at Liberty and on the larger New Haven community.

The housing that Liberty is able to provide helps individuals develop their talents and true potential. Though 2009 was a difficult year, we never lost sight of what was important - supporting the people of our community when they needed it most.

Because we recognize how difficult this work is on a daily basis, I would like to thank the staff for their tireless efforts, the Board for their volunteer hours and guidance, the donors who supported our efforts, and the clients who gave Liberty their trust.

Thank you for your support.
John Bradley

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The voice of our **CLIENTS**

Liberty Community Services, Inc. was started in 1986 by a group of volunteers who were responding to the crisis of housing for people living with HIV/AIDS. Individuals affected by HIV/AIDS were alienated from support systems and unable to find the housing and also unable to work.

For more than 20 years, Liberty has provided housing and support to people living with the challenges of HIV/AIDS, mental illness and substance abuse. Liberty provides housing and support services more than 100 men and women.

In addition, Liberty has started a Day Program for people in shelters, a treatment outreach program to people who are homeless, and medical case management for people with HIV/AIDS.

The following demonstrates the value of the Day Program to one of its participants:

Q: *What was life like before coming to Safe Haven?*

A: *This place is a blessing. It has saved me a lot of heartache. I'd have to go someplace different every day just to try to be safe and comfortable in the winter and summer. I never had the opportunity to shower or wash my clothes.*

Q: *Was life much different after you started coming to Safe Haven?*

A: *Before, I wasn't able to accomplish anything during the day. Now, I have a base to operate from. I can use the phone and computers to look for jobs and make appointments. I even have a voicemail so employers can leave me messages.*

Q: *How has life changed with Liberty Community Services and Safe Haven Day?*

A: *I was involved in five different programs in and around New Haven. I was doing three different programs a day. The Day Program gives me everything I need in one place. Liberty has given me a chance to receive housing and gain computer skills. Now, I'm at a point where I'm thinking about going back to school. Safe Haven has provided the support services I need to rebuild my life.*

LIBERTY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

And Subsidiary Audit Statement of Activity June 30, 2009

Revenue:

Government Contracts	\$ 2,714,392
Program and Service Fees	39,167
Donations	81,687
Rental and Other	156,995
Net Assets Release from Restriction	<u>24,362</u>
Total Revenue	<u>3,016,603</u>

Expenses:

Program Services:	
Transitional Living Program	733,536
Supportive Living Program	349,171
Independent Living Program	323,806
Safe Haven	1,323,150
DPH Drug Treatment	60,000
Outreach and ODA	244,723
Support Services:	
Management and General	199,577
Fundraising	<u>21,162</u>
Total Expenses	<u>3,255,125</u>

Operating Income	(238,522)
Other Income and Adjustments:	
Allocation of losses to non-controlling interest	
Limited partner interests in limited partnerships	<u>150,532</u>
Total other income and adjustments	<u>150,532</u>
Change in unrestricted net assets	(87,990)
Unrestricted net assets — beginning of year	<u>200,753</u>
Unrestricted net assets - end of year	<u>112,763</u>
Change in temporarily restricted net assets:	
Released from program expenditures	<u>(24,362)</u>
Change in temporarily restricted net assets	(24,362)
Temporarily restricted net assets — beginning of year	<u>317,285</u>
Temporarily restricted net assets — end of year	<u>\$ 292,923</u>

2008-2009 DONORS

continued

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Liberty Community Services MISSION

DIGNITY, COMPASSION AND RESPECT...

Because Liberty Community Services believes housing is a fundamental human right,
we are committed to creating opportunity, solutions and change for individuals
and our community, grounded in respect and self-determination.

Liberty Community Services ensures quality housing and support programs for the underserved.

Liberty Community Services

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Ex Officio

Letter from the **BOARD PRESIDENT**

One of my strongest memories of Liberty in 2009 was when I had the opportunity to thank a group of volunteers from United Healthcare. Liberty was fortunate to have these volunteers dedicate their work day to us during the summer. I remember hearing their stories of what they had accomplished during the day and what they learned about Liberty and Liberty's clients. They briefly experienced the important work that Liberty does and the unique way that we fulfill our mission of ending homelessness. I also shared with these volunteers my belief that their work extended beyond their hours at Liberty. The volunteer hours, the donations given and general support of the community help us assist the people of New Haven that have been overlooked and forgotten. When we pay attention to the problems of HIV/AIDS, homelessness and mental illness, we help to build hope that these issues can be overcome even though they seem enormous.

Thanks to my fellow Board members, the Liberty staff, our community of supporters, volunteers and the people who benefit from Liberty's services for helping to build a better community.

– Maureen Murphy

President, Board of Directors