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Liberty Community Services is in need of a used car

Liberty Community Services is in need of a gently used car to replace one of our cars that is in need of repairs that are very costly. Because the mileage is very high, it is not prudent to fix it.

If you know of anyone who would like to donate a car please call Ellen Gabrielle at 203-495-1769. The donation is tax deductible.

We will use this car to transport our clients who were formally homeless to medical appointments.



Upcoming Liberty Events



This winter Liberty Community Services will be hosting our first annual event- **Project Holiday & Fair 2011!** The dates are:

Friday, December 2nd- Ticket Holders' night from 5:30-8:30 pm Complete with wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, music, and a chance to shop early for one-of-a-kind items. *Tickets will be \$50.00*

Saturday, December 3rd will be open to the public from 10 am-3 pm This event will benefit the Liberty Sunday Brunch, serving the New Haven homeless community during the winter months.

Cut-a-Thon **Sunday, February 12th,** Rimage Salon & Spa will open from 11am-3pm. Come and get a haircut and style by the creative team at Rimage to benefit our Sunday Brunch.

PROJECT STYLE **4th Annual Project Style Event!** New Haven's premier fashion show curated and produced by New Haven talent. Designers, models, and creative team are all New Haven based and the proceeds benefit our New Haven community. April Date To Be Determined

More details can be found at our website libertycs.org

The Liberty Newsletter

Editor: Erin Laskey
Contributors: John Bradley,
Ellen M. Gabrielle, Kim
Tchakirides

LIBERTY COMMUNITY
SERVICES, INC.

The Liberty Newsletter

THE LIBERTY

FALL 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Letter from John
Bradley 2

Stacy Tanchum 2

Office Comings and
Goings 3

Take a Moment . . . 3

Liberty Cookout a
Success! 3

Five Years with the Community Garden

The Liberty Community Garden began in 2007 to provide residents and community members with job training and recreational opportunities. After one successful year, a larger plot of land in West Rock was given to Liberty by the New Haven Parks Department. The garden continues to a successful Liberty project serving our clients and the New Haven community.

Our Gardener, Jeff Panettiere, began at Liberty in June 2011. He has taken agriculture classes and has studied a natural gardening technique called forest gardening. Jeff brings clients every Tuesday and Thursday.

To work on the garden. He has taught natural fertilizing techniques to the community, as all the land is fertilized organically with compost. This summer Jeff grew tomatoes, onions, lettuce, strawberries, and peas. With these crops, Jeff made a salad with clients to bring back to the Safe Haven Day Program.

This fall we are growing carrots, potatoes, beets, beans, pumpkins, gourds, and butternut squash. Jeff is also growing a "three sisters" crop, which consists of beans, corn, and squash. On October 5th, Liberty staff members

hosted a harvest meal using the fall crops for clients to enjoy. Five years on, the garden is thriving and will hopefully remain active for many years to come.



LCS Gardener, Jeff Panettiere, at the Liberty Garden

Liberty Celebrates Our New Women's Group



Staff Members of
the LCS Women's
Group Committee

This year Liberty Community Services is very excited to announce the start of our first agency wide, Women's Group. The Women's Group opened on September 26, 2011 with a warm celebration. The group is regularly held Monday through Thursday from 9-11 next to our Safe Haven building. This group is open to any woman that is receiving services from LCS. Groups include topics ranging from stress management to knitting and sewing. Outside speakers from the community will also offer groups to participants. A creative writing group and a women's empowerment group are on the cur-

rent schedule.

The Woman's Group is under the direction of the Women's Group Committee. The committee consists of women from different areas of our agency and has been a collaborative project. These women are, Kim Tchakirides, Juakia Inabinet, Nicole Carlowitz, Andrea Daniels, Cindy Mercier, Kijana Edwards, Silvia Moscarriello, Barbara McMillian and Maria Rodriguez.

Donations are always welcome for our women. Please contact one of the listed staff members if you are interested in donating.



John Bradley, Executive Director

2011-2012 Board of Directors

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A Note from John Bradley, Executive Director

The staff at Liberty have had an eventful summer, as we moved our administrative office from 254 College St, where we had been for over ten years. We moved to a wonderful office at 129 Church Street where we overlook the New Haven Green. A lot has happened in the community and at Liberty during the many years we were at our old location. Many hopeful events have happened – clients getting back on track, progress made in the treatment of HIV/AIDS and mental health, expansion of medical assistance to cover many of our clients, and employees working with clients in miraculous ways to support and help improve lives.

In the New Haven community, we have found that the number of homeless men and women actu-

ally decreased in the 2011 annual count of people who are homeless. Despite the economic downturn, Liberty and other agencies were able to reach more people with housing in 2011 than we did in previous years. There are many reasons for that but the most important reason was that the federal and state government continued to support the successful effort to reduce and eventually end homelessness. In particular, one program funded through stimulus funds, targeted rapid rehousing and prevention for apartment dwellers who were affected by the economic downturn. This program prevented hundreds of people from falling into homelessness or quickly helped people leaving homelessness in the last two years. Now those

stimulus funds are spent and we don't know how our community will replace them.

As you read and think about the ongoing role the government should play in the United States, remember that the vast majority of funds to end homelessness come from the government. Private contributions help agencies such as Liberty in critical ways, but without government support the system fails. We are thankful that in 2011 the support of government was there and we made progress, but the future is uncertain. Thanks for your continued support of Liberty and its mission.

Stacy Tanchum

September 7, 2011, Liberty suffered a loss with the death of Stacy Tanchum. Stacy had been a Program Director at Liberty until she left for medical reasons earlier this year. Stacy came to Liberty in 2005 with many years of social service experience and was totally dedicated to the field of mental health. She was in the process of obtaining her second Master's in Counseling Degree when she became ill. Stacy was a natural counselor and impacted many clients with her empathy. Despite

her medical situation, Stacy was dedicated to her job at Liberty and came back to work with the insight and determination to help in any way she could between her treatments. Stacy made a lasting mark on Liberty and will be missed.



Stacy Tanchum, Liberty will miss you!

Office Comings & Goings

Dan Bell worked as Liberty's Administrative and Communications Assistant for slightly over a year. Below he offers a reflection on his time with us.

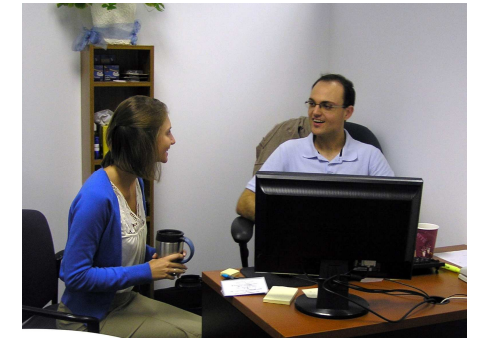
When I began working at Liberty in May 2010, I expected the usual office duties, however, my role developed into something much more interesting than this. I assisted with grant-writing, fundraising projects, and coordinating volunteers. By doing so, I have learned a great deal about the inner workings of a non-profit organization and, more specifically, how agencies such as Liberty endeavor to help people facing homelessness. I especially value the time I spent working with Liberty's

clients. Despite difficulties, I was impressed and inspired by the positive outlooks displayed by many of the clients that Liberty serves. Indeed, though I am leaving the agency as an employee, I feel that I will always remain a part of the Liberty family. This fall, I will return to Yale Divinity School for a second master's degree.

Erin Laskey reflects on joining the team.

I found Liberty Community Services online while searching for non-profit organizations in New Haven. Liberty's history and growth through the years immediately interested me. I started with Liberty in July 2011 and am confident that this will be a

valuable experience. I am hoping that being here I can help Liberty continue its progress in serving the community.



Dan and Erin at our new main office

Take a Moment . . .

Imagine for a minute living in New Haven without a car. You would have to navigate the bus system and hope that where you wanted to go was on the bus line and that the bus was leaving at the time you needed to go. Now add to that picture the idea that you might not have enough money for the bus fare. How would

you see family, visit the doctor, get groceries, or get to a job interview? Most of Liberty's clients live with this reality on a daily basis. Since most state and federal grants do not provide money for bus passes, your donations help us to get people to critical events. Our clients' lives are vastly improved with your support of Liberty.



Liberty Cookout a Success!

On Wednesday, June 29th, Liberty hosted its first annual cookout for clients at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven. Hamburgers and hotdogs were provided by Sweet Relief Catering, Popeyes donated several trays of fried chicken, and a Liberty staff member's mother provided some delicious side dishes as well. The event was held within the carousel house and everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather outside. A number of clients remarked that they really enjoyed their time at the cookout and couldn't wait for Liberty to have another one next year!



LCS staff and clients dance the electric slide