



**Always
Home**

PREVENTING
FAMILY
HOMELESSNESS

Serving Communities Since 1998

July 2026 E-Newsletter

You Helped Cianny



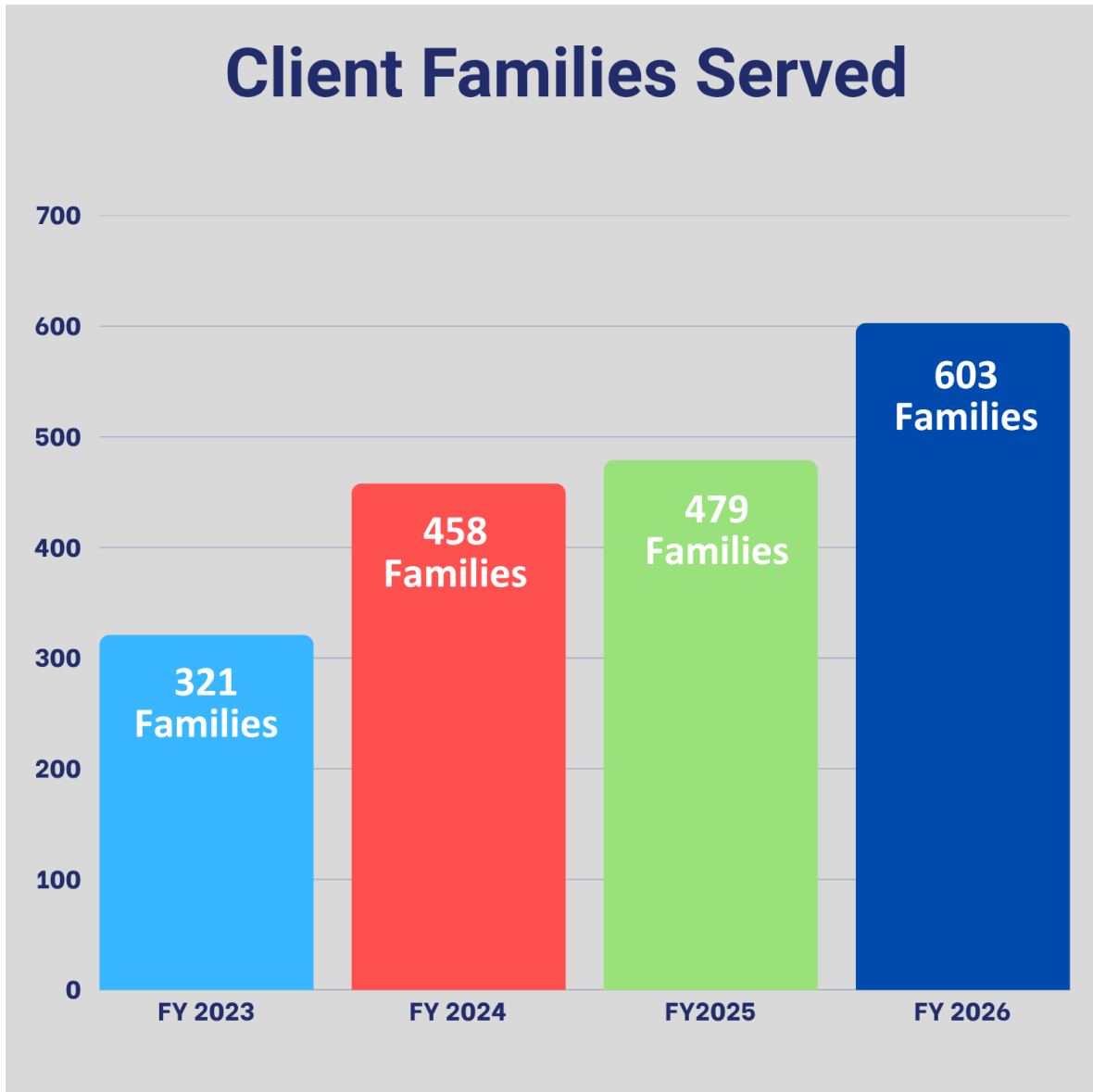
Click on the photo above to see Cianny share her story.

Cianny is a single mother of three daughters ages 15, 8 and 7. She's a Certified Nursing Assistant who works night shifts. Despite holding a full-time job, she still struggles to meet basic needs. When she was evicted from the apartment she and her girls had lived in for many years, she couldn't find another place she could afford. She had to make the heartbreaking decision to place her children in her parents' care until she could regain stability.

With her children safely housed, Cianny committed to long shifts and weeks of work without a day off. Yet the cost of housing remained out of reach. Your support for Always Home made a significant difference. We were able to help Cianny achieve housing stability, enabling her and her daughters to begin rebuilding their lives together.

The Power of Your Support

Every year, Always Home is addressing a growing number of families facing housing insecurity. A look at our service statistics reveals this trend. When we compare Fiscal Year 2023 to Fiscal Year 2026, the number of families we served rose by a staggering 88 percent!

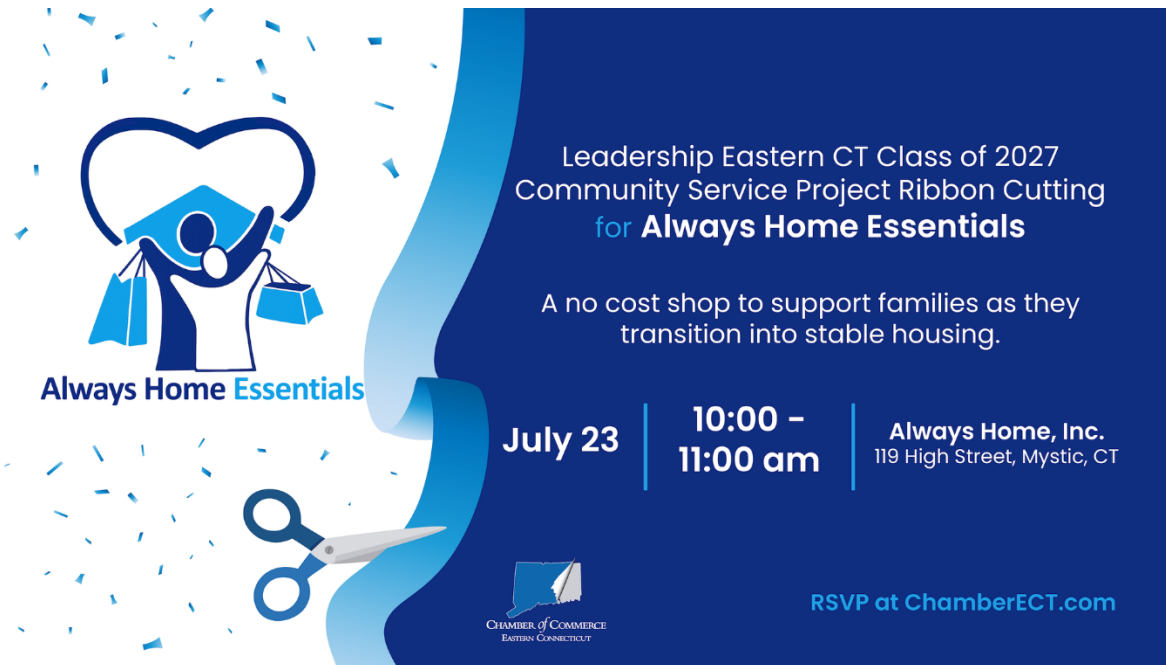


In Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026), Always Home served 603 families. **The 603 families consisted of a total of 1,956 members, which included 1,135 children who were under the age of 18.**

Every family received our personalized case management services. A total of 260 of the families required financial assistance totaling \$446,235, alongside our case management, to stabilize their housing or overcome their housing emergency.

These statistics underscore the urgent need for continued investment in Always Home's programs and services. By partnering with us, you play a vital role in transforming lives and creating a brighter future for countless families. Thank you!

Always Home Essentials is Opening!



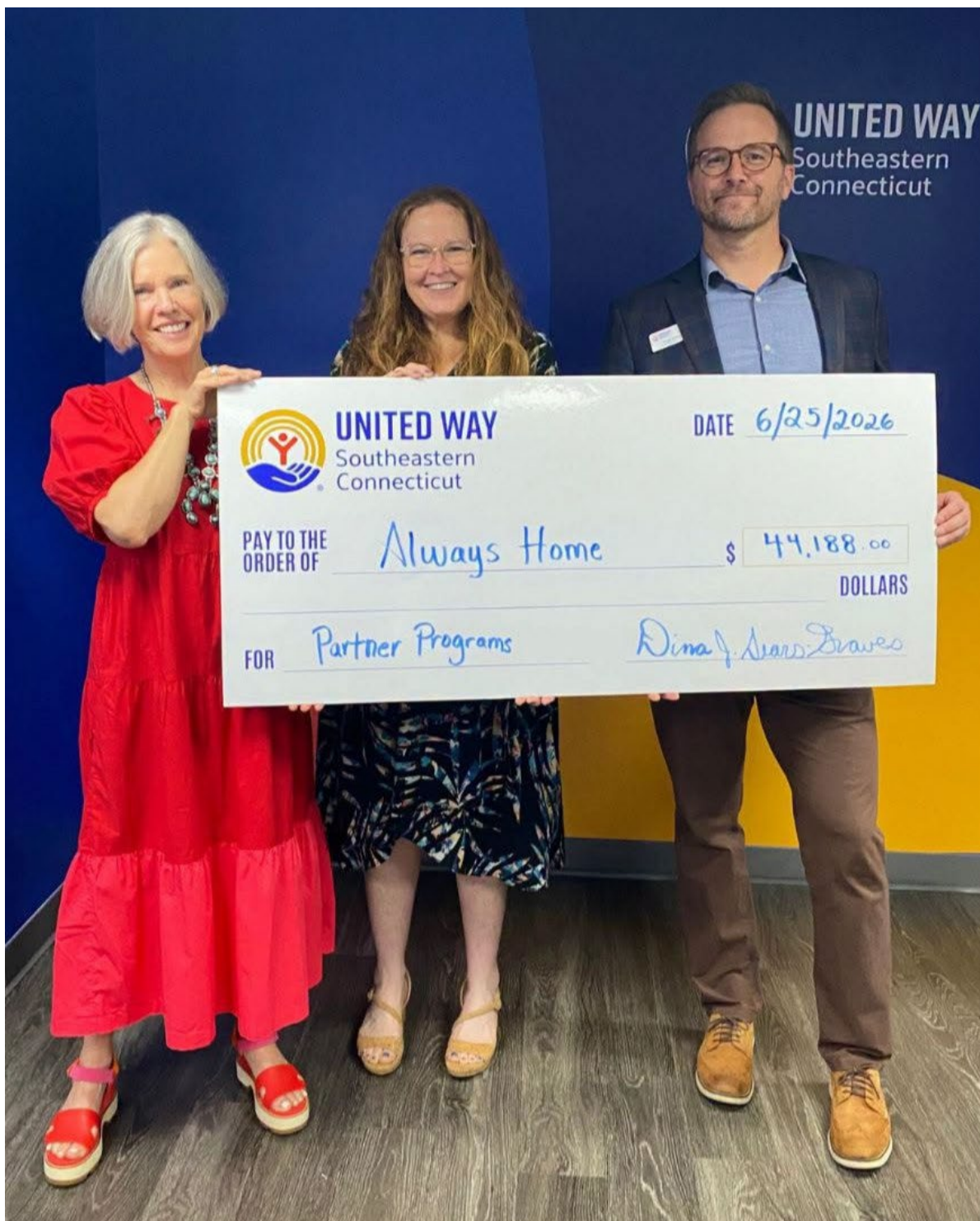
Since our start in 1998, Always Home has offered household goods to our client families, assisting them in their transition to stable housing. But our selection of items was restricted to what we could fit in a closet. Now, we are thrilled to announce the opening of **Always Home Essentials**, a shop dedicated to providing low-income families with free access to new household items. But we didn't accomplish this on our own.

The Chamber of [Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Leadership Program](#) Class of '27 chose **Always Home Essentials** as their Community Service Project, making our vision a reality. With their help, the shop is now stocked with towels, bedding, cookware, plates, glasses, utensils, small appliances, and other every-day essentials families need to make a house a home.

Union Baptist Church donated space for Always Home's Essentials, in addition to our office that they have provided since our founding. This meaningful in-kind donation of both space and utilities greatly reduces our overhead costs, allowing us to allocate more of every dollar we raise to helping the families we serve.

The Edward and Mary Lord Foundation awarded Always Home a generous grant for the renovation of the room, and Advanced Construction made the repairs to the space, installed custom-made shelving units, and completed all finishing work.

In the words of the Leadership Class "This ribbon cutting represents more than the opening of a shop—it reflects a shared commitment to helping neighbors rebuild, regain stability, and move forward with confidence, while reducing financial barriers across our region."



Left to Right: Kathy Keller, Always Home Marketing, Communications & Grants Manager; Tricia Cunningham, Always Home Executive Director; Scott Umbel, United Way of Southeastern Connecticut Vice President of Community Impact

Always Home's team is incredibly excited and honored to be recognized as a [United Way of Southeastern Connecticut](#) (UWSECT) Partner Program organization for the very first time! This year's allocations process marked the first time in decades that UWSECT invited new organizations to apply. As a result, fourteen programs, including Always Home's Family Housing Support Services, are new to United Way funding.

All funded programs focus on serving Southeastern Connecticut's ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) population. United Way recently reported that **40% of households in the state of Connecticut are below the ALICE Threshold**. These are working households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level but are still struggling to afford the basic cost of living.

We look forward to working alongside the United Way and our fellow partner agencies. Together, we can address the urgent needs of our community by providing essential services and support to those who need it most.