



NAVIGATING THE SPEED BUMPS OF HIS LIFE

Jeremy buckles his 2-year old twin boys into their car seats. He waits to hear the click of his 8-year old stepson's seatbelt before starting the engine. He sits for a few seconds then drives the INFINITI out of the parking space and onto the street. It is in these moments that he appreciates the many ways in which this donated car has changed his life.

For 14 years, Jeremy has worked as a casino slot technician honing his skills maintaining and repairing the game floor machines. He loves troubleshooting problems and the happy sound of the slots - the chiming, whirring and repeating musical notes all synchronized to the key of C major. But without a car of his own, getting to and from his job was a constant source of stress for Jeremy. For a while, Jeremy borrowed his mother's car that she purchased through a 'Buy Now, Pay Later' deal. His mother was ill and didn't use the car much. But in April she passed leaving Jeremy, her only child, lonely and grieving. The fact that he had to give his mother's car back only added to his despair. As the primary breadwinner in the family, he needed his job. Not showing up because he couldn't get to work simply wasn't an option.

Call it divine intervention or call it luck, but around the same time that Jeremy needed help, Mike Mondello, Founder and CEO of Mystic Financial Group, LLC, decided to donate his INFINITI to Always Home. Mike knew from his time serving as President of Always Home's Board of Directors that reliable transportation is an urgent and immediate household need. Without it, a parent can't get to work and earn the income they need to pay the rent. [Always Home's Wheels to Work Program](#) is a targeted intervention focused on restoring a family's means of transportation as soon as possible, so that parents don't experience reduced earnings or a period of unemployment that will lead to housing insecurity.

The INFINITI Mike generously donated had 90,000 miles, but with a few repairs kindly funded in part by Mike and Rob Valenti of The Valenti Family of Dealerships, the car was ready to be gifted and signed over to Jeremy. After such sadness something wonderful was happening in Jeremy's life. He started saving to register and insure the car. On a sunny Friday in late June, Jeremy drove the INFINITI out of Always Home's office parking lot and home. For many drivers, a car is synonymous with the freedom of the open road and independence. For Jeremy, this car is all about job security, stability and making a better life for his family.

Thank You



Mystic River Mudheads!



Mudhead Regatta & MegaParty!

Southeastern Connecticut's coastline rippled last Saturday with the wake of 38 sailboats racing to end homelessness. For over 30 years, Mudhead sailors have raised funds and awareness for local charities. This year, we were honored to be named beneficiary of the 2022 Annual Mudhead Benefit Cup Regatta & MegaParty which raised over \$14,000 for Always Home. Heartfelt thanks to the eight Regatta Champions - Team Patriot, Team Bunny Boat, Vice, Friends, See You Aft'er, Team IzzeyMAYhem, Fishers Island Yacht Club IOD Fleet & Arabesque - whose fundraising efforts added more than \$9,000 to the total raised.

Winds were light, but spirits were strong. Always Home thanks all the Regatta participants and congratulates the boats who finished first in their class: John Fries on Details won Class 5 with two first place finishes; Matthew Schoman on Vitesse won the Navigator Class; Dave Kelly on Mast Transit II won the Non-Spinnaker Class; Neal O'Connell and OJ O'Connell on Checkered Demon won Class 3; Jon Bawabe on 2nd Chance won Class 4 with two first place finishes; and John Burnham on Norwegian Wood won the One-Design (IOD).

Special to the Regatta this year was the addition of MAIDEN on the race course. MAIDEN is a 58-foot sailing yacht known worldwide for its pioneering all-women crew and their epic finish in the 1989-1990 Whitbread Round the World Race. Seeing her under full sail alongside the Mudhead Regatta sailors was truly memorable for everyone involved in bringing her here.



Following the Regatta, sailors and landlubbers gathered at Mystic Shipyard for the Mudhead MegaParty to celebrate and support Always Home. A late-day storm blew through, but nothing could dampen everyone's excitement. Friends, old and new, enjoyed an abundance of food and drink, lined up for the chance to dunk Senator Heather Somers (who generously agreed to a turn in the dunking booth), applauded and cheered the Regatta winners, vied for some great door prizes, and took to the dance floor when Mystic's own Woolly Mammoth started jamming.

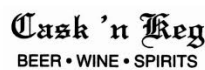
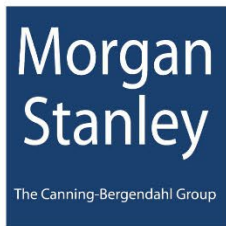
The Mudhead Benefit Regatta & MegaParty was an all-hands-on-deck day made possible by the kindness of restaurants and vendors who donated food and beverages, the generous sponsorship of area businesses, and the help of Jacqui Copp, Matthew Curtiss, Selma Dhaouadi, Tony Edwards, Allyson Edwards, Pat Fritz, Isabel Georgian, Luke Georgian, Bethany Goddiess, Tom Longo, Frank Lotti and Samantha Morin of Wireless Zone, Constancia Malahia, Shona Nilsson, Maggie Rogers, Ketu Tiwari, and the New London Naval Submarine Base volunteers who stayed 'til the end.

With every event, there is a group of individuals who create the momentum that leads to the big day. Always Home recognizes the work of the Mudhead Regatta Committee members including Peter Austin, Bob Austin-LaFrance, Luke Georgian (*chair*), Greg Gilmartin, Bethany Goddiess, Claudia Koerting, Courtney Moore (*co-chair*), Frank Murphy and Vanessa (Allison) Reed. And to all the Mystic River Mudhead Sailing Association members, thank you for helping families resolve their housing crisis and chart a course forward.

[Click Here for Regatta & MegaParty Photos!](#)

THANK YOU!

FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE
MYSTIC RIVER MUDHEAD BENEFIT CUP FOR ALWAYS HOME



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Between Wimbledon and US Open, A Tournament to Benefit AH

If you've been perfecting your tennis swing this Summer, there's a charity match you won't want to miss! Starting Friday, August 12, 2022 Stonington Human Services Recreation is hosting the [Stonington Open](#), a weekend tennis tournament to benefit Always Home and the Stonington High School Girls Tennis Program.

Did you know that the Stonington Girls Tennis Team captured the State championship this year? GO BEARS!

Open to the public, residents and non-residents alike, the competition welcomes all ages and all levels of players. Participants can register for up to three events. Matches will be played at Spellman Park, 166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck (behind Stonington High School) and are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, with Finals held on Sunday, April 14th from 8am 'til 1pm. The entry fee is \$35 for an individual and \$55 per doubles team.

Whether you sign up to participate or just stop by to watch a few sets (free to all), bring along a listed household item to donate to Always Home and you'll receive a free raffle ticket! For details or to register, click here [Stonington Open](#).



Your Support Keeps Parents and their Children Stably Housed

We're all feeling the pinch of inflation. A bag of groceries, a tankful of gas, that morning coffee-to-go all cost more. Most of us have room in our monthly budgets to adjust to these price increases, but for low-income families who live paycheck to paycheck, the rising cost of basic needs is threatening their housing stability.

In the past fiscal year, with your support, Always Home helped 286 families avoid the trauma of eviction, homelessness or time spent in emergency shelter. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of 369 parents and their 529 children.

Program grants are also critical to our ability to provide meaningful support to families in housing crisis. Since May 2022, we are honored to have received grants from: **Bank of America Foundation; Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut; Charles B. Allyn Foundation; Charter Oak Federal Credit Union; Chelsea Groton Foundation; Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut; Eversource Energy; George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee; Groton Utilities; Mystic Woman's Club; Ledyard Rotary Club; Nordson Corporation Foundation; and Pfizer Community Grants.**

Help families create lasting housing stability with a monthly recurring gift.

Join our [Hopeful Hearts Monthly Giving Club](#) and your donations will have community impact all year long.

[Donate Now](#)