

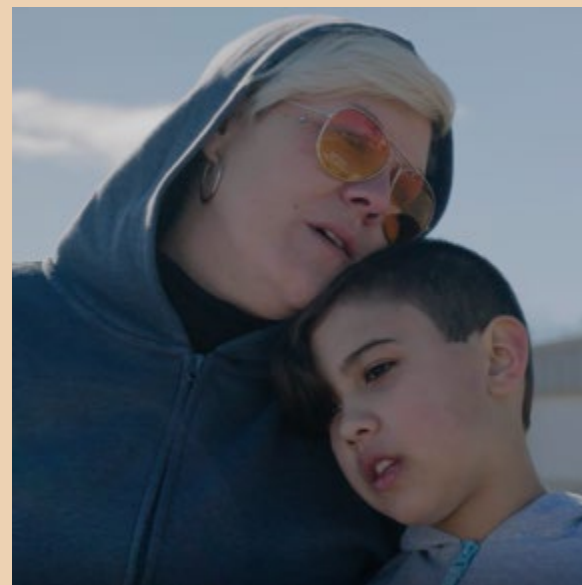


**25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS**

Always Home's 2023 Heart to Heart Gala was one for the history books! The evening commemorated 25 years of Preventing Family Homelessness, honored Betty and Bill Smith for advancing our mission and celebrated everyone who makes our work possible each day. Always Home's Executive Director, Tricia Cunningham, summed it up best when she said, "We cannot do it alone and it is because you are here tonight that there is hope, there is help, and there will be a hand up for families today, tomorrow and for the next 25 years!" **Click on the photo of Betty and Bill to view the Gala Album.**

**PARTY FOR A PURPOSE**

At the heart of every sparkling Always Home gala is our mission, Preventing Family Homelessness. Every day our staff meets parents who desperately need help to keep their children safely housed. Take a moment to watch this video about Jill. She's a single mom whose life was completely upended when she was diagnosed with Stage 1, Grade 3 invasive breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy. With Always Home's help, Jill was able to resolve her housing crisis and focus on what was foremost in her mind - recovery and the needs of her 9-year old son. **Click on the photo of Jill and her son, Sean, to watch the video.**



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### Thumbs Up to Our Gala Patrons!

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### Thumbs Up to Recent Grant Funders!

Community Foundation of Eastern CT; Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency - Emergency Food and Shelter Program; Eversource Energy Foundation; Frank Loomis Palmer Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee; M & T Charitable Foundation; Rotary Club of Mystic; Rotary Club of the Stoningtons; and Town of Groton.

### Thumbs Up to OMV!

Olde Mistick Village's 18th Annual Cabin Fever Festival and Charity Chowder Cook Off was an amazing day-long event that raised over \$21,000 for Always Home. We are grateful to Annie Hettick and her OMV crew for working so hard on behalf of our mission and the families we serve.

### Thank You Stop & Shop!

Stop & Shop has been a strong supporter of Always Home through their Community Bag and Bloomin' 4 Good Programs and wanted to share our good work with others. As Tricia says in the interview, "Highlighting the work of nonprofits is wonderful. And anytime business partners can support the local nonprofits in the communities in which they do work, it makes a difference, so thank you." [Click here to read the feature article.](#)



### Our Gala Auctions included every heart's desire thanks to the generosity of the following donors.

Adore; Advantage Personal Training; AT&T; Balance Body Studio; Becca Rose & Desert Rose; Bliss Hair Studio; Block Island Express; Boston Duck Tours; Boston Red Sox; Cahoon Museum of American Art ; Captain Daniel Packer Inne; Cardinal Honda; Carrie Roseman Studios; Cask n' Keg; Catherine M; Connecticut River Museum; Connecticut Science Center; Connecticut Sun; Copper Beech Inn; Courtyard by Marriott Copley Square; Cove Ledge Beer, Wine & Spirits; Cozy Nails Mystic; Crazy Burger; Crowned Fit; Dan Kenyon; Danforth Pewter; Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center; East West Chiropractic; Essex Steam Train & Riverboat; Esthetics by Emma; F&F Distributors, Inc.; FaceltweWaxIt and More; Finer Line Gallery; Flander's Fish Market; Four Paws Veterinary; Foxwoods Resort Casino; G Spa; Hang The Moon/Trove/Tidal River; Hartford Yard Goats; Holdridge Home & Garden; Institute of Contemporary Art Boston; Ivory Ella; James Harris; Jealous Monk; Jill Wilson; Jonathan Edwards Winery; Kitchen Little; Lake Compounce; Lamarque & Pandit Family; Le Creuset; Lillian's Café; Lindt Chocolate; Lynn Frink; Mark Bancroft; Mashantucket Pequot Museum; Mermaid Inn of Mystic; Mike Mondello; Mystic Aquarium; Mystic Bridge to Wellness; Mystic Coffee Roasters; Mystic Luxury Cinemas; Mystic Massage & Wellness; Mystic River Mudheads; Mystic Seaport Museum; New York Giants; Nourish Aesthetics; Oar Shop; Ocean Community YMCA; Old Sturbridge Village; Olde Mistick Village; Pressed Nostalgia; Providence Marriott Downtown; Rafetto's Palate; Randy Richards; Real McCoy Rum; Rhythm & Roots Festival; River Jam; Roger Williams Park Zoo; Rum Tropic Distillery; Russ Kramer; Sails Up 4 Cancer; Sarah Stifler Lucas; Scotch Plains Tavern; Serial Quiller; Sift Bakeshop; Simply Majestic; Stone Acres Farm; Stonington COMO; Stonington Country Club; Stonington Vineyards; Studio 1 Fitness; Susan Hibbard; Susan Noyes; Susan Rafetto; Taber Inne and Suites; The Capital Grille; The Ditty Bag; The Flour Shop; The Fun Company; The Garde Arts Center; The Graduate Providence; The Holiday Inn - Cape Cod Falmouth; The Homestead Madison; The Shipwright's Daughter; The Spa at Norwich Inn; The United Theater; The Whaler's Inn; Tito's Handmade Vodka; Toby Halsey; Tree Trails Adventures; Trish's Totes; True 180; Valentino's Restaurant; Verde Birdie; WaterFire Providence; Whitecrest Eatery; Wm Cole; Wireless Zone



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**Race info. & party tickets: [www.mudhead.org](http://www.mudhead.org)**

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ALL THE DETAILS!**