



Always Home | PREVENTING
FAMILY
HOMELESSNESS
Serving Communities Since 1998

January 2026 E-Newsletter

Meet Our New Family Support Manager



We are excited to announce that Tara Dowling has joined Always Home as the Family Support Manager. In her new role, Tara is part of our compassionate client services team, offering support and guidance to families dealing with housing insecurity and homelessness.

Tara has worked in the human service field for over 25 years, advocating for people in need. She has served as a Resident Service Coordinator in public housing where she assisted elderly residents with a range of housing challenges, including accessing available benefits.

"I am excited to join the team of Always Home," Tara shares. "My passion has always centered around helping others, so Always Home's mission of preventing family homelessness is significant to me. I look forward to using my experience to support this important cause!"

Client Family TESTIMONIALS

"Always Home truly has helped me more than anyone ever. I'll always be so grateful for them!"

Tabitha

"Beyond blessed to have gotten the help I did. Will forever cherish this program."

Ana

"With Always Home, I was able to keep my housing and make sure my car was able to make it. Always Home, gave me a peace of mind. "

Shayenne

Mark Your Calendars for Our Heart to Heart Gala

"Garden Soirée " on Friday, June 5th



We invite you to join us at Always Home's June 5th Heart to Heart **"Garden Soirée"** Gala in support of Preventing Family Homelessness. The Gala Committee is excited to announce this year's Heart of Gold sponsors: [Resolute Dental Partners](#), [Pathview Wealth](#) and the [The Whaler's Inn](#). Their generous support is Creating Pathways Home for families in housing crisis.

You can make a difference too!
[Reserve Your Place at the Gala Today by Clicking here!](#)

We also extend heartfelt thanks to [Lavanya Shubhakar](#), a gifted artist and the Director of Education at the Mystic Museum of Art. Lavanya created the stunning artwork featured on our invitation and has graciously donated the painting to our auction. If you love her work as much as we do, you'll have the opportunity to bid on it at the gala!

Calling All Chowder Lovers & Volunteers!

Olde Mistick Village
Always in Season

21st Annual Cabin Fever

CHARITY CHOWDER COOK OFF

All proceeds from this event benefit **Always Home**
A non-profit service agency dedicated to preventing family homelessness throughout Eastern CT.

Saturday, February 28, 2026

Sample signature chowders and cast your vote for your favorite in 4 categories!
Tickets: \$2 each • 12 for \$20

FREE PARKING
Visit OldeMistickVillage.com for more information!

Shake off those winter blues at Olde Mistick Village's 21st Annual Cabin Fever Charity Chowder Cook Off, a favorite community event that supports Always Home! Sample local restaurants' chowders and cast a vote for your favorite!

Our thanks to the Olde Mistick Village Merchants Association, participating restaurants and event sponsors – [Charter Oak Credit Union](#), [Hoyt Filippetti & Malaghan LLC](#), and [R.B. Kent & Son, Inc.](#) - for making this day possible.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT. [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!](#)

We our Funders

The support of those who believe in Always Home's mission empowers us to carry out the work we do

Halfway through our current fiscal year, Always Home has served as a critical safety net for over 300 families in housing crisis. Your support made this possible! We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who generously contributed to our annual appeal and The Day's Make a Difference campaign, and to those who donated holiday food baskets and gifts.

We are also grateful for grants received in recent months, which strengthen our capacity to provide families with essential services. We acknowledge the vital support of the following funders: Charter Oak Credit Union Community Giving; Dime Bank Foundation; Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation; Elizabeth Carse Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee; Elsie A. Brown Fund, Inc.; Edward and Mary Lord Foundation; New London Telephone Employees Community Service Association Fund; George A. Ramlose Foundation, Inc.; Rotary of the Stoningtons; Seedworks Fund; and the Southeast Area Women & Girls Fund.

Share the Love This February

PB & J: The Perfect Pair

This February, Women United is sponsoring a Valentine-themed food drive benefiting the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center by collecting peanut butter and jelly. These simple items are always in high demand and make a meaningful difference for kids and adults facing food insecurity.



What to Donate:

✓ Peanut Butter

✓ Jelly or Jam

* shelf-stable, plastic jars please

Together, we can help ensure families have access to food that is comforting and nourishing throughout the year.

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT:

Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center
374 Broad Street, New London
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., M-F

United Way of Southeastern Connecticut
283 Stoddards Wharf Road, Gales Ferry,
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., M-F



GEMMA E. MORAN
UNITED WAY/LABOR FOOD CENTER



An AFL-CIO Community Services and United Way Partnership

**WOMEN
UNITED**

Join Women United in sharing the love.
When we come together, everyone can thrive.