



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathryn Keller

[Kkeller@alwayshome.org](mailto:Kkeller@alwayshome.org)

(860) 287-0300

### **300 GATHER FOR A HEART TO HEART**

*Always Home's Gala to Prevent Family Homelessness a Success!*

**Mystic, CT (May 16, 2022)** — Always Home's HEART TO HEART gala on Friday, May 13, 2022 at the Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa was a heart-inspired event attended by 300 guests. Also present was U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal who recognized this year's gala honoree, Groton Long Point resident David Cruthers, with a Certificate of Special Recognition.

When deciding who to honor this year, Always Home's Executive Director, Tricia Cunningham, shared that she and the Event Committee members agreed that Cruthers ticked all the boxes. As a former Board member and past Always Home employee, Cruthers went the extra distance to keep families housed. "When I worked for Always Home, I ran the Wheels to Work program which helps a family sustain housing through reliable transportation," Cruthers said. "A dependable car increases parents' ability to work and earn the income needed to pay the rent and keep their children stably housed. I continue to support Always Home because they provide families in housing crisis with tools to move forward." Cruthers was visibly moved to receive the agency's first Heart award.

Cunningham said that this year's gala was the organization's most successful to date. "Everyone at the event opened their hearts and came together with the shared purpose of Preventing Family Homelessness." Annually, Always Home helps hundreds of families resolve their immediate housing crisis and avoid the trauma of homelessness or time spent in emergency shelter. Cunningham also acknowledged the hard work of the Event Committee members and the generous support of Heart of Gold Presenting Sponsor, The Whaler's Inn; Young at Heart Sponsors, Melinda Elliott Carlisle of Randall Realtors Compass, Block Island Express, Foxwoods, Groton Utilities, Mohegan Sun and Mystic Aquarium; and numerous other corporate sponsors listed on the organization's website. "I am so grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening," she said. "Together, we're making a difference in families' lives."

#### ***About Always Home***

Always Home is a private 501(C)3 non-profit formed in 1998 to address the needs of Eastern Connecticut's homeless and at-risk families. Formerly known as Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality, Inc. (MASH), the agency continues to pursue its mission of Preventing Family Homelessness. As a key player in the Eastern Coordinated Access Network (ECAN), Always Home works closely with the other service providers in the Eastern Connecticut regional network to ensure that at-risk families receive the services they need to attain housing stability.

*For more information about Always Home, visit [www.alwayshome.org](http://www.alwayshome.org)*



Always Home Executive Director Tricia Cunningham recognized 2022 gala honoree, David Cruthers, with the first Heart award.