

CT CANs go to Washington, DC to Meet with Congressional Delegation

Written by Sarah Fox

On Thursday, July 28th Connecticut providers headed to Capitol Hill to meet with Connecticut's Congressional representatives about federal homeless response resources. The Connecticut Delegation for the National Alliance on Ending Homelessness Capitol Hill Day included representatives from the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Partnership for Strong Communities, Pacific House, Inc., Journey Home, Columbus House, and Supportive Housing Works. Team CT held meetings with housing legislative staffers in the offices of both Senators and all our Congressional representatives.



Every staffer echoed back to us their enthusiasm for the energy, drive, urgency, and sense of collaboration in our communities today – driven in large part through the Zero:2016 Initiative, Connecticut's leadership and success in being the second state to effectively end veteran homelessness, and statewide declines in chronic homelessness.



CANs Celebrate Successes with Federal Delegates across CT



Housing Hero: James “Jim” Joy



As a Case Manager with CHD Waterbury Pilots Team, Jim meets with landlords to put a positive face on both Supportive Housing and collaboration with case management services. He is also networking to draw in new landlords and building the Waterbury-Litchfield CANs' cache for future housing endeavors.

"I think the most important part about housing a new client is building a relationship with the landlord by selling yourself and the program as a resource. I try to make them understand that although I am an advocate for my client, I am also an ally to the landlord. I make them feel comfortable knowing I'm an additional support to ensure my clients are accountable for their responsibilities as a tenant."

Jim recently completed intakes on and housed 3 new clients in less than one month's time in a nice area of the city—right on the bus line and close to shopping and their providers. Jim has become a valued resource for his Team when they need to move a client, particularly in difficult situations such as client having no security deposit, needing all utilities included, or no income.

Housing Success Story



Wayne will tell you that the thing that keeps him going is his kids. For a period of six years, Wayne experienced homelessness, living on and off the streets, in his car, and in shelter.

Injured at work, feeling depressed and experiencing PTSD, Wayne ended up drinking. He was unable to pay for rent and ultimately ended up in shelter, which put him on the path to housing.

Wayne, who became disabled, was able to apply for benefits, get matched to housing resources and services, and has now been housed for three years come this December.

"Housing helped me to be able to deal with my issues; you can make doctor appointments and get better meds", said Wayne. "I couldn't be involved the way the father should be before, but housing allowed me to be a father again."