

Thames River Community Service, Inc.

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Together ... Creating Community

The mission of Thames River Community Service, Inc. is to provide safe housing with support services by creating an environment in which families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness pursue goals for self-sufficiency and control over their lives. This mission is accomplished by promoting family and individual wellness, by empowering people to develop an achievable plan for successful independent living, to pursue significant employment, to acquire life skills and to maintain stability.

Thames River Community Service, Inc. was established in 1992 with the creation Thames River Family Program (TRFP), which was a response to the rising number of families headed by single women who were homeless and living in poverty. Located in Norwich, CT and serving Southeastern CT, TRFP is a 24 hour staffed, transitional housing program with 24 apartments. Advocates and other supportive staff work closely with families coming from shelters to assist them in becoming employed and/or more employable, helping them to gain financial literacy by learning to budget and improve their credit, to acquire tenancy skills and to overcome criminal histories. There also is a great deal of effort to provide support and resources around the needs of their children by working collaboratively with other area social providers and the educational system as well as mental health and wellness facilities. Staff works together with families to establish achievable goals in these areas so that they can leave TRFP for permanent housing, in most cases, in less than a year. The families who live here at Thames River, the only Youth Transitional Housing program in Connecticut, are parenting youth who are 18 to 24 years old.

Over the years, 639 families including 993 children have come to TRFP from shelters and other situations of homelessness. A typical TRFP graduate is employed full-time in a job with benefits and potential for growth, is residing in safe, permanent housing, and has left public assistance. This Program receives funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, The CT Department of Housing, United Way of Southeastern CT and private grants and donations.

In 2008, the agency's Supportive Housing Program began with a grant received from the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Families receive rental assistance and support from case managers who partner with the nine families to provide comprehensive, individualized services in safe and affordable scattered site housing units. Heads of household in these families have mental illness and/or chemical dependency, histories of trauma/domestic violence, are homeless and have incomes at or below 50% of the median income of this area.

Thames River Community Service does not have an endowment.



A United Way Member Agency