



Empowering lives. One person at a time.

# 2014 **CL****SP**

ANNUAL REPORT

Photograph by Pamela Einarsen

[www.clasphomes.org](http://www.clasphomes.org)



Photo taken by John Videler



**Meet Christian**, a strong, handsome, confident 50 year old man! Thirty years ago that wasn't the case. Chris was one of the first residents to live at our Kings Highway group home. Chris was shy and not so confident. Fast forward 30+ years and he is living on his own, in his own apartment calling the shots! This was Chris's dream and with hard work, determination from him and staff at CLASP, it came true. Chris lives a very independent life enjoying swimming on the weekends while he trains for the Special Olympics, working at Whole Foods during the week and in his free time, eating out, watching the daily soaps and staying current on political issues.



## Celebrating 30 years of passion

This year was a milestone year for CLASP staff longevity. President Tracy Flood celebrated her 30 year anniversary with CLASP, only to be surpassed by Clancy Horan celebrating 31 years with CLASP.



# home sweet home.

## Where the magic happens.

In 1982 most people in Fairfield County didn't know what a group home was. A group of parents banded together, called themselves CLASP, and opened such a home on Kings Highway in Westport. The focus of the organization was and continues to be providing opportunities to people diagnosed with autism and developmental disabilities. This includes having a long term home of their own where they can feel safe and happy and enjoy life.

Through loving care and support from the staff they are able to accomplish new things each day, often things no one ever thought possible. And with hard work CLASP now runs 12 homes and 9 apartments. It's in these homes where people live real lives, with friends, jobs, hopes and dreams... Just like you and I.



House photographs by Mary Ellen Hendricks



## Our homes and programs

Our group homes and apartments are located in the towns of Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Norwalk, Shelton, Stratford, Trumbull, Westport, and Wilton. In addition, we run a highly personalized program called the Career and Community Options Program (CCO) in Fairfield.



# Individual Investors

## \$2,000 Plus

Andrew and Carol Boas  
Samuel Febbraio  
Marc Hawley  
Len and Fern Leader  
Robert and Patricia Loh  
Barbara Maisonnier  
Julie McNamee  
Jeff Mose  
Daniel Offutt

Betty Lou Cummings  
Maura Curry  
Linda Dolan  
Tracy Flood  
Michael Foster  
Gisele Guillette  
Jeannine Howard  
Edward and Amy Hulina  
Bruce Katz  
Virginia & Larry Katz  
Viveka Kjellgren  
Alan Levine  
Florance Lozyniak  
Denise McLaughlin & Arthur Kirsch  
Ruby Melton  
Alfred Mezquida  
United Methodist of Westport  
and Weston  
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley and  
McCloy, LLP  
Miriam Moran  
Peter Mynarski  
Joseph O'Callaghan  
Patty Richards  
Hendrika Rose  
Steve and Laura Solomon  
Dora Stuttman  
Patricia Tagariello  
Joseph Valerio  
Nancy von Euler  
Jacqueline Wachowski

## \$1,000 Plus

Steven and Yvette Kohn  
Dermot and Susan McBrinn  
Patricia Peterson  
Elizabeth Pfriem  
James Randell

## \$100 Plus

Tami Aloisa  
Laura Amicucci  
Janet Anderson  
Marcia Atsaves  
Peter Barnes  
Ken Bernhard  
Nancy Borchetta  
Charles Chiusano  
Pamela Collins  
John and Gail Coykendall  
Jennifer Driscoll  
Bret P. Factora  
Bob Fiore

## \$500 Plus

Lynn Colhoun  
Stephen Colhoun  
Gary Cosgrave  
Jane Crawford  
Edward and Nancy Doty  
Alan Eugley  
Dr. Peter Ferrara  
Jack and Pauline Freeman  
Sandra Ganley  
Tom and Eve Green  
John Hawley  
Harold & Janet Kristiansen  
Rene LeDuc  
Thomas Porter  
Lieselotte Schwab  
Sheffer/Sheffler Family  
Norman Trepner  
Jeffrey Updyke  
Dorothy Vecchione

## \$250 Plus

Maureen and Dan Aron  
Father John Baran  
Jacqueline and Naill Byrne  
Betsy & Steve Corman

Josephine Fuchs Luscombe  
Nathaniel Gibbons  
Ruth Gray  
Rene Greenlee  
Kate Grob  
Sheila Israel  
Karen Kachele  
Richard Kalt  
John Kennedy and Maria Casale  
Cathy Lambert  
Joanne Leaman  
Richard Lennon  
Paul and Brenda Liistro  
Lance and Anne Lonergan  
Jo Fuchs Luscombe  
Patricia Maher  
Alex Mantel  
Rebecca Manuel  
Marino Family  
Ann and David Matlow  
George McGuigan  
Timothy McManus  
Hilary and Ed Michaels  
Majorie and Bob Micklos  
Elizabeth Millicia  
Michael Miller  
Richard Orenstein  
Susan Peterson  
Margaret Peterson  
Richard Peterson  
Christopher Peterson  
Dina Phelps  
Audrey Press  
Barbara Raffel  
Elizabeth Rhodes  
Eugene & Ann Richter  
Janet and Timothy Rodgers  
Kathryn Romano  
Virginia Roundy  
Sarah Santasiero  
Hildi and Richard Silbert  
Mary Solkofske  
Mary Stablein  
Mary Stockton  
Randi Swindel  
Len Tavormina and Mary Younglove  
Hugh Thurnauer

Bonnie Britz Thurnauer  
Susan Williams  
Ken Wirfel  
Leona Yin

## Up to \$100

Marc Adelsberg  
Rosemary Ahern  
Monica Azzara  
Gertrude Balamaci  
Jocelyn Barandarian  
Jeffrey Barker  
Frank and Sue Basler  
Susan Beffel  
Ruth Bonrowsky  
Toni Boucher  
Ernest Bredice  
Beth Breuninger  
Elsa Cantor  
Paul Carpenter  
Nancy Carter  
Octavia Catana  
Stephen Cowherd  
Vincent Debo  
Arthur Dinitz  
Robert Flicker  
Doris Franzago  
Ed and Lisa Friedland  
Irwin Lebish  
Caren and Lou Gagliano  
William Gartin  
Susan Gault-Brown  
Bruce Gaylord  
John Gillis  
David Gordon  
Lori Gordon  
Kate Greenberg  
Betty Gum  
Robert Hacker  
Catherine Hager  
Barbara Hanauer  
Susan Hand  
John Hartwell  
Samuel Hawley  
Ruth Hopkins  
Mildred Jacko

Herbert Kaehler  
Gloria Katz  
Katherine Keeney  
Lynn Kermode  
Mara Kristiansen  
Michael Lantowski  
Charlotte and John Layne  
Robert Lesser  
Harold and Barbara Levy  
Gloria Licari  
Roberta Liepolt  
Michele Markelon  
Rick Martire Family  
Nancy Masloski  
Bruce and Susan Mason  
Linda McCullough  
Claire Michalak  
Richard and Lois Miller  
Cynthia Mooney  
Jeanette Navin  
Stephanie Oscar  
Claire and Patrick Pascuzzo  
Mary Jane and Elliot Pierson  
Santiago PR  
Lithia Prezkop  
Margaret Prezzano  
Mary Purdy  
Beverly Reidy  
Donna and Joe Renzuilli  
Malcolm Ritter  
Annabel Schwartz  
Rita & Richard Seclow  
Justine Sekira  
Patricia Serrano  
Paul Spiekermann  
Baron Stanely  
Johanna Straczek  
Lynette Thompson  
Rose Tiernan  
Stephen Urciuoli  
Pamela and Dimitri Vlahakis  
Sherrill Werblood  
Jeff Wieser  
Celeste Wright  
Kenneth Young DDS

We apologize for any errors or omissions

# Community Investors

## \$5,000 Plus

Commerce Trust  
George Ohrstrom Foundation  
Newman's Own  
Mabel Fisher  
Near & Far  
Carl Marks Foundation  
Anonymous

## \$2,000 Plus

Estate of Ruth Krauss  
Fairfield County Community  
Foundation  
Mid-Fairfield Association  
of Realtors  
Lexus of Westport  
Sunrise Rotary Club  
TD Bank  
Keston Brown Insurance  
Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi  
Foundation  
Norfield Congregational Church  
Berkowitz Law Firm  
Westport Young Woman's League

## \$1,000 Plus

Splash Car Wash  
Westport Rotary Club  
Wiggin & Dana  
Westport Woman's Club  
Columbian Charties  
Knights of Columbus  
Guilmartin, DiPiro, Sokolowski  
Bessemer Trust  
Damman Family Foundation  
Fairfield Rotary Club

## \$500 Plus

Grace Salmon  
Probus Club  
Barnes & Noble Westport  
Qdoba  
323 restaurant  
Cherie Greene Interiors  
Realty Seven  
Lucent Technology  
Georgetown Lions Club  
Blumfield Development  
Group, LTD  
Broder & Orland LLC  
Landmark Financial Group  
Santa Fuel  
Teddy's Limo  
Temple Lodge No 65

We apologize for any errors or omissions

**1 in 68** Children in the U.S. is diagnosed with autism

**most, if not all** Individuals who have Down Syndrome will be diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease

## \$250 Plus

South Norwalk Columbiettes  
 Spruce  
 Spotted Horse  
 Ellis Family Foundation  
 Huntington Learning Center  
 Lawn Enforcement Landscaping  
 Second Act Fitness  
 Sherwood Diner  
 Tina Dragone  
 Triple S  
 Westport Firefighters Fund

## \$100 Plus

United Methodist Church of  
 Westport and Weston  
 J. Hilburn  
 Imperial Dental Associates  
 Cohen & Wolf  
 Fedell's Service Center  
 T & C Steakhouse

## Up to \$100

Black Duck  
 Peter Atkin  
 Adulant Consulting Services  
 All-State Exterminating  
 Andrea's Cleaning  
 Andrew Stefanou Salon & Spa  
 Bathworks  
 Beautiful Births & Beyond  
 Berkshire Hathaway  
 Home Services  
 Bob's Plumbing & Heating  
 Christopher Noland Salon  
 Collins Medical Equipment  
 J & J Car Center  
 Kelly Schutte Designs  
 Lingua E Cucina  
 Seybridge Pharmacy  
 Terri Ricci Interiors  
 The Carpet Connection



Our longtime friend and supporter, Patrick Francis, started working for CLASP, painting at our group homes over 15 years ago. Patrick's generous spirit has led him to be Santa at our resident's holiday dances, plant gardens at our Kings, Blue Ridge and Webb Road group homes. The past 3 years he has worked with John T. on building the Westport Memorial Day parade float. This year we were the proud winner of "Most Creative Float". Even with a busy home improvement business, "Premier Painting", he still manages to donate time to brighten our resident's days.

Patrick proudly displaying the certificate for "Most Creative Float"

## Committee Members & Special Friends

Paul Albert	Eugene Kohn
Deb Alderson	Larry Kurzner
Lillian August	Irwin Lebish
Rick Bensen	Jim & Mary Ellen Marpe
Carruthers Brothers	Dave Matlow
Miggs Burroughs	Denise McLaughlin
Gloria Case	Tracy Mitchell
Robert Clark	Mynarski & Passerelle Families
Betty Lou Cummings	Janet Nazarian
Maria Cummings	Jeff Northrup
Maura Curry	Fides Ostbye
Al & Chris DiGuido	Lisa Parrelli Gray
Marita Driscoll	Barbara Pitcher
Karen Drozd	Betsy Pollack
Suzy Flood	Bobbi Reilly
Patrick Francis	Toni & Steve Rubin
Roy Fuchs	Lee Saveliff
Jo Fuchs Luscombe	Paula Schooler
Lou & Caren Gagliano	Susan & John Shuck
Allison Galloway	Bonnie-Britz Thurnauer
Jennifer Gans Blankfein	Sheri Valente
Richard Gordon & Family	Joseph & Deborah Valerio
Mark Gray	John Videler
Jane Green	Golda Villa
Mike Greenberg	Erik Vittorino
Maureen Hallock	Linda Wenger
Emily Hamilton Laux	Dianne Wildman
Diana Heinsinger	Bob Wilhemy
Deborah Hollis Wilhemy	Dennis Wong
Leslie Kerr	
Robert Kesten	

We apologize for any errors or omissions



Splash Car Wash has donated over \$13,000 to CLASP since 2001.

Mark Curtis and Chris Fisher know the true meaning of community spirit.

Left to right: CLASP President Tracy Flood, Splash owner Chris Fisher, CLASP Development Director Robin Hammond



In December 2014, the Westport -Weston AARP Chapter honored Westporter Betty Lou Cummings with its eighth annual "Senior Star of the Year" award at a luncheon at the Red Barn Restaurant.

Betty Lou was one of CLASP's first volunteers and continues to give selflessly of her time to CLASP, in addition to other causes close to her heart. We couldn't be more grateful to have her on our team!

Thanks to some of our sponsors



Photo by Dave Matlow

The 2014 Taste of Westport committee at Lexus of Westport, 2013/14 Taste sponsor.

# Community Partners

## gifts in kind

55 Degrees Wine Bar & Restaurant  
 95.9 Fox  
 A Dash of Salt  
 Al's Angels  
 American Harvest  
 Audrey & Drew Klotz  
 Barnes & Noble Westport  
 Beaver Beer  
 Bigelow Tea  
 Bistro B  
 Black Bear Wine & Spirits  
 Blow Dry of Southport  
 Blue Lemon  
 BMW of Darien  
 Bobby Q's  
 Bridgeport Bluefish  
 Chaz & AJ Show  
 Cherie Greene Interiors  
 Chocologie  
 Cohens Optical  
 Colony Grill  
 Crystal Rock  
 DaPietro's Restaurant  
 Davids Tea  
 Down Under  
 Downtown Merchants Association  
 Dragone Motor Cars  
 Dr. Peter Ferrara  
 Erik Vittorino Painting  
 Eugene Kohn  
 Eventi Café  
 Forte Gelato  
 Garden Catering  
 Geronimo Tequilla Bar  
 Greens Farms Garden Clube  
 Greens Farms Spirits  
 Hotel Zero Degrees  
 Hummock Island Rawbars  
 Imperial Dental Associates  
 It's Relevant  
 Jane Green  
 La Paella  
 Leslie Kerr  
 Lillian August

Liquor Locker  
 Lisa Parrelli Gray  
 Little Barn  
 Lucent Technologies  
 Make a Difference Day  
 Marty Rodgers  
 Mary Ellen Hendricks  
 Matsu Sushi  
 Mitchell's  
 Moffly Media  
 National Charity League  
 Neil Fuentes, the Singing Chef  
 New County Toyota of Westport  
 Newmans Own  
 Norfield Congregational Church  
 Northern Trust  
 Pamela Einarsen Photography  
 Pane e Bene  
 Paul Albert Salon  
 Picture This  
 Posh Nails & Spa  
 Post 154  
 Premier Painting  
 Rive Bistro  
 Rockwell Art and Framing  
 Saugatuck Congregational Church  
 Saugatuck Rowing Club  
 Seaver Interactive  
 Second Act Fitness  
 SPECS  
 Spiked Seltzer  
 Spotted Horse  
 Star 99.9  
 Sweet Sabrina's Cake Shop  
 Tarantino Restaurant  
 Teddy's Limo  
 The Spread  
 The Westport Inn  
 Tiffany & Co.  
 Tutti's  
 Westport Chamber of Commerce  
 Westport Community Theater  
 Westport Country Playhouse  
 Westport Historical Society  
 Westport Pizza



## Taste of Westport benefit continues to thrive

Photo by John Videler

Thanks to an amazing volunteer committee, the generous restaurant and business community, the Taste of Westport continues to grow! Join us on the first Thursday in May for an evening of good food, good friends and a good cause!



L to R: CLASP resident Tom, Peter Mennona of Spotted Horse, CLASP resident Martha, CLASP President Tracy Flood, CLASP Development Director, Robin Hammond, David Waldman



Could Tom look happier celebrating New Year's Eve at his group home!

“When we consider our hopes and dreams for our loved ones, we wish each person to be happy, healthy and safe. My brother Tom has been a resident at CLASP Homes for over twenty years. He is happy, healthy and very safe, as are his four house mates, who are just like family. His home is well maintained and the nurturing staff has the best interest of each resident as their number one priority. Tommy and his house mates enjoy a wonderful varied social life.

Living in Fairfield, I am fortunate to be able to see my brother on a regular basis. I know he considers both Kings Highway and my house to be his homes. A common worry for families of individuals with special needs is, who will be there for them when we're gone? It is my belief that CLASP is committed to each resident and will always strive to keep each person happy, healthy and very safe! Thank you, CLASP for everything you do for our loved ones!

Patty (Freeman) Loh, Tom Freeman's sister

We apologize for any errors or omissions



### Meet Our Board

**Chair:** Julie McNamee  
**Vice Chair:** Bruce Katz Esq.  
**Secretary:** Lisa Gray  
**Treasurer:** Marc Hawley



### In photos at left

Group photo at left, front row: Julie McNamee, Chair, Yvette Kohn, and John Chidsey Back row: John Harmon, Marc Hawley, Bruce Katz Inset top Lisa Parrelli Gray Inset bottem: Beverly Bonfoe

Julie McNamee, CLASP Board Chair & CLASP Board member Yvette Kohn at the annual Barnes & Noble "wrapping event"





Rita Pickett with the Horan Award

## Rita Pickett: Going above and beyond

Rita Pickett had flown under the radar for some time. She worked third shift, often coming on AND going off duty while it was dark. That all changed a couple of years ago when she transferred to our CLASP Community Options Program, or CCO. She works during the day, coming up with creative ways to engage the folks in the program. Those activities include: boat rides, arts and crafts, movies, picnics, dancing, planting, BBQ'ing, trips to the beach, the mall, the park. You name it, she's up for it. Because she has consistently gone that "extra mile" in her 15 years here, she was honored with the Horan Award at our staff appreciation party. Let's all give Rita a huge thank you!!



Clancy Horan

## Our Extended Family

### Our Dedicated Staff

**30 years plus**  
Siobhan Sorak  
Tracy A Flood

**25 years plus**  
Laura Polozzolo  
Jennifer Saracin  
Michael Saracin  
Michele Markelon  
Jodi D Flora

**20 years plus**  
Janet Williams  
Patricia Richards  
Dennis Hammer  
John Tyliczszak  
Jeannine Howard  
Alice Allen  
Tina Martire  
Pedro Laureano  
Cecelia Kelley

**15 years plus**  
Adrian Vasnick  
Julie Ficano  
Williana StClair  
Patricia Linsom  
Opal Cox  
Hope Gardner  
Rita Pickett  
Toneman Abbott  
Monique Roberts  
Robin Hammond  
Aisha Jama

We apologize for any errors or omissions

### Clancy Sorak Horan - 31 years: What working at CLASP means to me

"Early on, I recognized the importance of relationships. Our residents had experienced so much loss in their lives that building trust meant staying and fostering strong relationships. I have had so many opportunities to learn and grow during my time with CLASP. Every day is different and always fulfilling."

**10 years plus**

Marie Belzair  
Clement Eneh  
Pamela Cox  
Twinewa Young  
David Chevrette  
Latravia Cox  
Angela Vitali  
Wilcox Jeter  
Kizzy Jeter-Wilcox  
Heather Inghram  
Dawn Delacruz  
Annette Lafond  
Bettie Martin  
Carolyn Thomas  
Amanda Adnett  
Terena Wilson  
Antoinette Williams  
LeeAnn Howard  
Joetta Cox  
Christina Keitt  
Moses Ogunjimi  
Regina McKenzie  
Gladys Maisonete  
Raymonde Samedy  
Kevin Upchurch

**5 years plus**  
Patricia Peele  
Ja-Asia Baker

Gloria Thomas  
Marie Jean  
Octavia Catana  
Hyacinth Blake  
Isiaka Obisesan  
Elicia Manuel  
Tyjuan Edmonds  
Taneesha White  
Ellen Reynolds  
Stacey Smith  
June Glover  
Cathy Dicks  
Tiknya Youngblood  
Lawrence Izilein  
Norma Serrano  
Joe Rhivis  
Kyonda Teele  
Darlene Brown  
Elizabeth Green  
Joseph Wilcox  
Mary Lanham  
Lachers Reese  
Gloria Fogle  
Joseph Alexis  
Olutayo Adekoya  
Tamara Brooks  
Gregory Alves  
Rosemary Edmonds  
Hepsie Leslie-Abbott  
Eileen Chang  
Debbie Patrick  
Dennis Jennings  
Jessica Williams  
Sabrina Rivera



Williana StClair offers a little help with a smile.



Mike Saracin, Michele Markelon, Jen Saracin.

### 25 year Milestone

Other milestones being celebrated by CLASP are Michele Markelon, Jen Saracin and Mike Saracin who all celebrated their 25 year mark.



Longtime CLASP volunteer, Allison Galloway, manages the Saugatuck Rowing Club fitness center, but also makes the time to help a number of charitable causes. For many years Allison has donated her time and exceptional eye for beauty to the Taste of Westport. In June 2014, she created a winning duck for the Westport Sunrise Rotary's duck decorating contest! Winning was fantastic, but creating the duck in 48 hours was more than amazing!

Allison with her winning duck.



246 Post Road East  
Westport, CT 06880  
Tel: 203-226-7895 | Fax: 203-221-0533

[www.clasphomes.org](http://www.clasphomes.org)

Non Profit  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Stamford, CT  
Permit 864



**Our mission:** To provide homes and opportunities for people with autism and other developmental disabilities. To offer high quality personalized services that enhance each person's independence, dignity and continued growth. As a non-profit community organization, we are dedicated to increasing public understanding of the people we serve and their ability to be contributing members of the community.