

HOPEFUL HAPPENINGS



Spring Forward, But Glance Back

Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of Hopeful Happenings! In this newsletter, we celebrate the incredible work being done across Catholic Charities of Fairfield County. From impactful events and inspiring success stories to upcoming volunteer opportunities, we invite you to see the difference your support makes every day.

Key Initiatives

Morning Glory Breakfast Program's Indoor Seating Brings Warmth This Winter

Guests can now enjoy their morning meal indoors at Dorothy Day Shelter in Danbury! This welcoming space shields them from the cold and fosters community over coffee and breakfast—take-out service remains available for those who prefer it. "It's so rewarding to see our guests gather in comfort and hope," said Program Director Tamara Espinal.



Norwalk Celebrity Breakfast: A Home Run for Giving

Funds raised for the Norwalk Family Center at the Norwalk Celebrity Breakfast! Special guest Ron Darling, former NY Mets pitcher, joined guests for an inspiring morning at Shorehaven Golf Club. The event raised critical funds for the center's services that empower local families.



Stuff-A-Bus Food Drive: Four Busloads of Love!

Students at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull organized their first-ever Stuff-A-Bus food drive, helping stock shelves at the Thomas Merton Family Center in Bridgeport. Their efforts ensured that families in need had access to meals throughout the winter.

INSPIRING SUCCESS STORIES



Shaniel's Journey: From Homelessness to Stability

When young mother Shaniel found herself homeless with a newborn, she turned to Catholic Charities. With our support, she secured housing, a job, and a stable future for her daughter. Today, Shaniel is thriving, proving that with the right support, transformation is possible.



Richard's Story: Finding Stability After Homelessness

After struggling with addiction and a serious health scare, Richard found stability through CCFC's housing program. With support from his case manager and family, he has remained housed for six years and is enjoying life's simple pleasures again. "I thank you so much for all of your support," Richard shares.



Celebrating 50 Years of Service at Thomas Merton Center

A special Friendsgiving event marked the 50th anniversary of the Thomas Merton Family Center, sharing guest stories of resilience and hope. The Thomas Merton Family Center's stars shined bright when members of the TMFC family were featured in a special interactive photo exhibit at CT State Community College Housatonic.



Lionel's Fresh Start: From the Streets to a Home

For the first time in his life, Lionel has a place to call his own. After battling homelessness and addiction, he moved into permanent housing in December and is now interviewing to become a Recovery Coach. Lionel's goal? To help others find the same hope and stability he now enjoys.





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: GET INVOLVED!

Serve Meals in Stamford – Help prepare and serve food at New Covenant Center’s soup kitchen. (Contact Teazia Vincent, tvincent@ccfc-ct.org).

Morning Glory Breakfast Program (Danbury) – Serve breakfast to homeless individuals and bring warmth to those in need. (Contact Tamara Espinal, tespinal@ccfc-ct.org).

Thomas Merton Center (Bridgeport) Assist in the dining room, pantry, or shower program for guests experiencing homelessness. (Contact Karen Frissora, kfrissora@ccfc-ct.org).

Sign up today!
Visit ccfairfield.org/volunteer or email the coordinators listed.



DONATION HIGHLIGHTS: Your Generosity in Action

Whole Foods Donates Refrigerated Van – This new van expands New Covenant Center’s ability to rescue surplus food and deliver it to families in need.

“Be the Light” Holiday Appeal – Thanks to your generosity, hundreds of families received food, housing assistance, and support services.

Giving Machine at Darien Sport Shop – Community members donated essentials like meals and winter coats at an interactive Giving Machine run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Your Gift Changes Lives! Every donation helps provide food, housing, and essential services to families in need. Join us in making a difference today!

Donate Now: ccfairfield.org/donate

UPCOMING EVENTS: Please join us!

February 23 – May 7 – **Loaves and Fishes Lenten Campaign**– Support neighbors struggling with food insecurity.

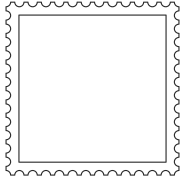
May 22 @ 7:00 AM – **31st Annual Thomas Merton Family Center Celebrity Breakfast** – Featuring guest speaker Darryl Strawberry and honoring Westport’s own, Bill Mitchell. Don’t miss this incredible morning of inspiration and giving!

June 18 @ 5:30 PM - **New Covenant Center’s Summer Soiree** - Featuring guest speaker Father Greg Boyle, Founder of Homeboy Industries. Join us to kick off summer!

Save the dates and get involved!
Visit ccfairfield.org/events for details.



Open to see how YOU are changing lives!



CatholicCharities
238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

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Donate Today:

Mail Checks to:

Catholic Charities
238 Jewett Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606



Thank YOU for Spreading HOPE!

Every success story, meal served, and life transformed is made possible because of you. Thank you for being part of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County's mission. Let's continue making a difference together!