What an awesome and transformative 12 months it has been during fiscal year 2017-2018 at Sterling House Community Center.

Aewsome was our 85th anniversary celebration in October 2017 – a celebration coupled with an equally awesome major renovation and addition to our already amazing historic Sterling House itself, built in 1886.

Our new Food Pantry, four-story elevator, lobby and front offices – completed at the same time we hosted the 85th anniversary celebration weekend on Oct. 13-15, 2017 – were the products of the collective vision and relentless pursuit by many in Sterling House’s recent past.

For at least a decade, the renovation of the Food Pantry and the addition of an elevator – to help seniors, the disabled and others in physical need to better utilize all four floors of Sterling House – have been major “Wish List” items, among many others still remaining.

This resultant 21st century renovation is a blessing for which we are truly grateful – to all of you, our donors, supporters, program users and to our local and state political leaders who advocated successfully for the grant funding.

Being able to “check off” these items from our Wish List is a major accomplishment that will have a lasting, positive effect in our community for many decades to come, enabling us to even better serve the many thousands who utilize our programs and services each year.

And looking to the near future, the completed renovation of the 2017-2018 fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2018, gives us the capability to offer accessible programs on every floor of the House.

Of course, any non-profit agency’s 85th anniversary is an achievement that can stand all by itself. This longevity and success serves as proof-positive that this generation at Sterling House continues to fulfill our tradition and mission to serve the community – like many have done in the past, that we continue to do in the present, and future generations of leadership will be able and willing to do and serve in ways perhaps not yet foreseen in years to come.

What a year! What a transformation! So many good things happened in just one fiscal year. And we are just getting started!

So as this generation of leadership continues the work of past generations, we can only imagine what future generations have in store.

For our part, we continue to strengthen our programs and services for young and old. We are fortunate to have major donors who continue to sponsor events, fund grant requests and participate in programs like the state’s Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) program that provided funding for energy efficiency projects.

So as we address all these old and new challenges each day at Sterling House, it remains our honor to share our accomplishments with you as we move forward into fiscal year 2018-2019 and beyond.

James Millward
Board Chair

Amanda Meeson
Executive Director
U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy helps honor volunteers

For the second time in less than two years, U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-CT, visited Sterling House on Dec. 15, 2017. Sen. Murphy greeted townspeople, local officials and guests, and helped present volunteer appreciation certificates as part of a Pancake Breakfast tour, one in a series of local discussions that the Senator had been holding across the state designed to gather with community leaders, activists, representatives of civic organizations, youth and other community stakeholders to discuss legislative matters in Congress and to share breakfast. More than 80 people attended.

Strategic Plan in the Process of Update

**strategic** [struh-tee-jik]
ADJECTIVE
1. pertaining to, characterized by, or of the nature of strategy
2. strategic movements important in or essential to strategy

**plan** [plan]
NOUN
a specific project or definite purpose: plans for the future

In February 2017, the Board of Directors formally started reviewing Sterling House’s 2009 – 2019 Strategic Plan with a goal to update the plan for the five-year period 2019-2024, a process that gained momentum into the 2017-18 fiscal year.

By April 2018, Executive Director Amanda Meeson presented to the Board subcommittees and staff the first draft of a new 2019–2024 plan after the first round of edits and ideas from the larger Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Directors.

By May 12, 2018, all parties had reviewed the changes and questions and venue were being planned for soliciting a round of important public and community feedback on the draft 2019-2024 Strategic Plan.

This important work will include meeting with various focus groups into the 2018-2019 fiscal year, with an emphasis on identifying community needs, evaluation of existing programs, staffing, volunteer service, facility use, Town Plaza land use in conjunction with our neighbors and Sterling House’s perceived and general role in the greater Stratford community.

Adoption of the new Strategic Plan for 2019-2024 is expected in the Spring of 2019.
Excerpts from the “Celebrating 85 Years” booklet distributed during Sterling House’s 85th Anniversary Weekend celebration.

We are gathered here during Sterling House Weekend to celebrate two momentous milestones in the history of Sterling House Community Center.

First, we see here the fruit of many years of planning. The near completion of our renovation is the culmination of the cooperation and vision of town of Stratford officials, state legislators, Sterling House’s Board of Directors, Trustees, staff, our membership, donors and supporters.

We also are gathered here to mark the 85th anniversary of the founding of Sterling House in 1932. It was 85 years ago in a small town and era much different than our own Stratford today when Cordelia Sterling’s vision of a place for community to meet, learn, play and grow had its humble beginnings.

As we gather here today, let us remember so many generations of youth and adults who in these past 85 years have been a part of the Sterling House story.

And let us marvel at the vision of Cordelia Sterling and her decision to create the framework and provide the resources from her brother’s fortune that became Sterling House.

Let us also acknowledge that this generation of the Sterling House story has added to Cordelia’s vision, making important parts of the House physically accessible to all. While much remains to be done to ensure that our 131-year-old mansion continues to be upgraded, preserved and purposed to its best and fullest use, we can be satisfied that we are continuing in the right direction.

The future? Generations to come will no doubt have its own visions for Sterling House. We don’t know what these visions might be. However, we can be confident that they will build upon what we together have done here in 2017.

We will continue to honor Cordelia Sterling, her brother - and their sea-faring father by perpetuating the spirit and purpose for which this organization was formed 85 years ago.

We welcome everyone in the entire Stratford community to join us in celebrating these two momentous milestones in the ongoing history and mission of our beloved Sterling House.

OPEN HOUSE COMMITTEE
Donna Kelly
Meral Prewitt
Lynne Pert
Family Day!

Saturday, October 14, 2017

“It is my wish [to] obtain the services of a competent landscape architect in order to develop the property so as to combine, as far as possible, beauty of landscape treatment with the greatest measure of usefulness as a park, community center and playground, for the children and young people of the town, without regard to race or religion.”

- The Will of Cordelia Sterling, 1931
85th Anniversary Weekend

Saturday Night!

Saturday evening, October 14, 2017

SAT. NIGHT COMMITTEE
Jen Sheldon
Beth Benson
Kathy & Sarah Benson
Judy Gouveia
Melissa Viselli
Dina Liburdi
Shauna Quigley-Blaze
Anne Wargo

MUSIC, GAMES,
FOOD, DANCING
& MUCH MORE

A time to celebrate
our 85 years
serving Stratford
and the greater
Stratford community.

Alumni Soccer Game
Sunday, October 15, 2017

ALUMNI SOCCER COMMITTEE
Bill O’Brien, Craig Budnick, Carl Glad, Tim Cepetelli
Growing up in Stratford during the late 1930s and 1940s, Sterling House was more than just a place to go for Frederick Downey. Downey, now of New London, New Hampshire, wrote us in 2017, “Sterling House was a second home to me for almost 10 years between 1937 and 1946.”

Born in 1928, Downey turned 90 in 2018, and he effusively praised the agency’s work with youth. “Those were very formative years for me. I learned how to play ping-pong at the House, and baseball and football in the fields” behind Sterling House.

He recalls playing basketball at the American Legion Hall nearby in the days when Sterling House was closely affiliated with the American Legion.

Downey later went on to play semi-pro basketball on the Bridgeport Lenox team in the old Eastern Basketball League in 1946-47. With his Sterling House neighborhood buddies in those days, Downey recalled playing baseball up on nearby Academy Hill. The cemetery was right field, with the trees in left field. It was the height of the Great Depression, he noted, and our baseballs were “fixed with electrical tape.

“Sometimes we used just the core itself,” he laughed. “Neighborhood players could be anywhere between the ages of 7 and 14. You don’t see much of that these days.”

Downey also credits his first exposure to golfing and caddying at Sterling House. “Golf opened doors for me.” He also credits a past program director, a Mr. Brown, “with recommending the path that I take in business,” including his first job at Warnaco.

Decades later, Downey went on to become a CPA and retired as a CFO of a large corporation. His family includes four daughters, 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

“I attribute much of my adult success to my years at Sterling House.” Then as now, Downey said, “The Sterling House organization did and does many good things and especially for needy people.”

He added, “I have had success in business and sports, but what I most fondly look back upon today is what I did as a youth at Sterling House.”

Lynne Preto Rodas of King Street has many memories of Sterling House dating back to the late 1940s and 50s when her mother, Valborg Cawthra, worked as the director of junior activities programs under Mary Hardy. “She was friends with Mary and they went to high school together,” Lynne remembered.

At that time, there was a little cabin at the back of the property behind where Erin’s Gym is today. It was not being used much. It became known as the ‘Brownie Cabin,’ so named because Mrs. Cawthra had a troop of Brownie scouts who met there. “The Brownies met there for a number of years,” but the cabin was removed when I-95 cut through the Sterling Park property in the mid-1950s.

“In my teen years in 1958 and 1959, my friends and I used to go to Sterling House on Friday nights. We met every week and hand dances and did things together.” When she was a senior girl scout, Rodas remembers meeting on the third floor of Sterling House. “My two sisters and I all took music lessons there, too.”

In those days of her youth, the quickest path to Center School where Rodas went to school cut right through Sterling Park. “Before the highway, you could come in off King Street and there was a little path. Back a little further there was a big barn owned by the Haley family. If you kept walking toward West Broad, there was a really nice stone steps up the corner on an angle into the property of Sterling House.

“Back then, in the late 40s and 50s, we walked everywhere and we weren’t afraid. We were always walking to Sterling House.”

More recently, Rodas’ grandchildren attended the nursery school and summer day camp - evidence that the legacy of Sterling House spans generations of local families.
Remembering Mary Hardy

November 25, 1916 - January 9, 2018

Long-time Sterling House executive director, Mary L. Hardy, 101, passed peacefully at home at Academy Hill on January 9, 2018.

Born on November 25, 1916, Hardy was predeceased in 2016 by her beloved husband of 75 years, Vincent L. Hardy. The two were married on the Sterling House grounds in 1942.

Hardy’s passing was met with sadness at Sterling House, where she began her service as a volunteer in 1933 just out of high school. Executive Director Amanda Meeson noted that a small group of employees had just visited Hardy at her home in early December 2017 to help mark her 101st birthday the previous month.

“Mary always brightened up when we visited,” Meeson noted, “and she always left us with words of wisdom and encouragement.” Meeson recalled one visit in late November 2016 on the occasion of Mary’s 100th birthday. Looking over closely everyone visiting, Mary commented wryly, “You are doing just fine. I can tell.”

Hardy remembered that times were not always easy at Sterling House, especially in its early years during the Great Depression of the 1930s. She added, “We didn’t have a lot of money most of the time. But we always had a good time.”

Hardy came to Stratford with her family from New Jersey as a small child, attending Stratford schools. By the time she graduated from Stratford High School she had already become a familiar face at Sterling House.

In 1953, Hardy was appointed executive director, and her dedication, caring, influence and leadership positively affected thousands of people in many ways until her retirement in 1987.

A 1977 newspaper article, in marking the 24th anniversary of Hardy’s service as executive director, quoted Mary as saying, “You could say that Sterling House and I grew up together. We have had a lot of joint education, learning a great deal and adjusting constantly to changing times and the changing needs of the community.”

In 1986 and with her retirement looming the following year, Hardy was nostalgic about the 100th anniversary of the Sterling mansion and the two-week “Decorator’s Showcase” event held in September 1986, which she described as “the high point on the mountain in my existence as the executive director.”

A gazebo that still stands to the rear of Sterling House was constructed and dedicated to Vincent and Mary, also in 1986. A bronze sculpture by James Michael Tripp entitled, “Mary Hardy,” was dedicated on April 6, 1990, and still occupies a prominent landing in the mansion’s library room.
Hive of 30,000 Bees Relocated From Porch Ceiling

Major construction projects always reveal a surprise or two along the way and certainly the recently completed $2.4 million renovation at Sterling House was no exception. This proved true when a decades-old hive nearly 20-feet long - home to an estimated 30,000 bees - was discovered within the front porch ceiling rafters.

The discovery came in the Fall of 2017 after renovation began to remove the old fire escape and restore the ceiling and tile flooring of the front porch of Sterling House, built in 1886.

Board of Directors member and Building Committee Chair Raymond Meglio noted, “The magnitude of the hive was certainly unanticipated. However, we were committed to taking every precaution in its removal” and to preserve the integrity of the colony at another location.

The issue with bees and the dramatic drop in bee populations has become a major concern worldwide:

- Bumble bees were declared an endangered and protected species in January of 2017.
- Where there once was a horde of the rusty patched bumblebee across 28 states 20 years ago, in 2018 it was estimated that they are found in just small smatterings across 13 states—a population drop researchers estimate is as high as 87 percent in just two decades.

So while many see bees as “painful nuisances,” farmers and others involved in agriculture understand their importance - of the 100 food crops providing humanity with 90 percent of its food, 70 percent are pollinated by bees.

Meglio continued, “This meant engaging professionals who were highly qualified and who understood the importance of preserving the colony while containing the potential risks to our staff and program participants.”

The bottom line, he said, “The process was tedious and painstakingly difficult but in the end the mission was completed without incident,” and today the bees that once called Sterling House home are now safety free to do their important work at another undisclosed location in the region.
Volunteers honored at 2018 dinner; Benson named Mary Hardy Award winner

Sterling House celebrated its special Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on April 26, 2018, at Vazzano’s Four Seasons while also remembering two special teens, Debbie Diaz and Erin Jockers.

Sterling House Executive Director Amanda Meeson welcomed the contingent or more than 150 persons with praise and thanks for the service of the hundreds of volunteers. “You are what makes Sterling House what it is – a Stratford community asset. Tonight, we recognize a special selection of our volunteers in memory of three incredible females in Sterling House history: Debbie Diaz, Erin Jockers and Mary Hardy - all of whom embodied the spirit of community service and helped forward the mission of Sterling House.”

What has been the impact of volunteers at Sterling House? she asked. Volunteers here have impacted “more than 8,000 people,” including 1,000 in athletic programs, 1,000 in child development and youth programs, 1,000 who support and participate in our annual events, more than 1,000 in visitors and community groups who utilize the house, and more than 4,000 people served by the Food Pantry and Resource Connection program, Meeson said.

Sterling House Board Chair Jamie Millward then took to the podium to thank the volunteers and to then ask the audience to close their eyes and imagine a few things. “Imagine all the Sterling House youth teams without its volunteer coaches. Imagine the Sterling House Food Pantry without its volunteer food contribution and workers. Imagine no summer day camp. Imagine no youth volunteers helping homeowners rake leaves in the fall and shovel snow in the winter. Imagine our community without Sterling House volunteers.”

Simply put, without its volunteers there would be little left of Sterling House,” Millward concluded. “You are Sterling House and I thank you for your continuing community service.”

The evening also featured the presentation of the annual Diaz Awards in memory of Debbie Diaz who was tragically lost at the age of the 16 in a car accident in 1993, presented by members of the Diaz family an Sterling House Senior Director Bill O’Brien. Award winners included:

- Chris Gallant - Basketball Coach
- Doug Planker - Soccer Coach
- Jenis Peques - Basketball Referee
- Kevin Quiles - Basketball Coach
- Lenny Gonzalez - Soccer Coach, Sterling House Association
- Luca Servino - Basketball & Soccer Coach
- Matt Holmgren - Soccer Coach
- Miquel Pambas - Basketball Coach
- Mike Madar - Soccer Coach
- Rafiqah Akhdar - Soccer Referee

Four area business and individuals – Encon, Stop & Shop, and Dave Estrella and Joe Mulligan from the Sterling House lacrosse program – were recognized with the Erin Jockers Friends of Sterling House Awards in memory of Erin Jockers, who was also killed in the car accident that took Debbie Diaz’s life.

Mary Hardy Award Winner

Sterling House Board Treasurer Beth Benson was called upon to accept The Mary Hardy Award for her many volunteer contributions during the last 12 months, Meeson said.

“Any number of volunteer titles could be bestowed upon Beth,” Meeson noted, “among them: ice cream scooper, wallpaper stripper, house painter, museum-quality framer, Board treasurer, substitute bookkeeper for three months, event co-chair on the 85th anniversary committee, and a nurturer, advisor and cheerleader.

“She brightens every room, her heart beats for Sterling House and she continues to be a living example of what commitment and service looks like – not only to us but in all the ways she lives her life.”

The award is named for former Sterling House executive director Mary Hardy who worked here from 1933 until her retirement in 1978.
Mookie Wilson entertains at 2018 Celebrity Breakfast

Former New York Met answers another calling as an ordained minister

Former New York Mets star Mookie Wilson told an audience of more than 200 people at the Trumbull Marriott on May 30, 2018, that given the talent on the Mets in the 1980s, “we certainly should have won more championships.”

Wilson, an outfielder known for his speed, hustle and good attitude, was a key player on the Mets team that won its only recent championship in the classic World Series of 1986 versus the Boston Red Sox.

Wilson was the special guest speaker at Sterling House Community Center’s annual Celebrity Breakfast. Bob Baird, a lifetime Stratford resident, high school athletic director and coach, and Stratford High senior Ryan Duffy were also honored at the event for their community service.

Wilson, an ordained Baptist Church minister, gave an entertaining and enthusiastic presentation, telling listeners that “through the grace of God, I survived a lot of hardships.” He noted that his love of baseball came early in life, instilled by his father who “worked sunup to sundown on the farm.” But when the weekend came, “Saturday and Sunday was all about baseball. He wore his baseball cap to church.”

Speaking of church, Wilson often speaks in his minister’s role, too, although most audiences identify him first as a baseball player. At one particular church, he started his message in the pulpit by saying, “Before we get started, there’s one thing I need to do.” He then took off his jacket, loosened his shirt collar, did some stretching, then jogged from one side of the pulpit to the other.

“I did a couple of jumping jacks and then I told the audience, ‘Now that we’ve gotten that out of the way, let’s get to why we are here.’” While he was telling that anecdote, Wilson physically acted it out for the local crowd, taking off his shirt, mock running and stretching on the stage, and doing a half-dozen jumping jacks in front of the amused Sterling House breakfast audience.

Wilson then praised the work of Sterling House. “Change is good when it affects everyone in a positive way. Your organization is about change when it affects everyone in a positive way. Sterling House gives kids the opportunity to improve their lives through participation in sports.”

Wilson also stressed the important of “effort.” “There are no guarantees in life, but if the effort is there, you can feel good about that. In life, you have to find out who you are because our expectations in life are not always realized.

“Don’t necessarily worry about results, worry about your effort ... and the results will validate the effort.

“Maximize your strengths,” he continued, “and avoid exposing your weaknesses. My job in baseball was to run as fast as I can all the time. And it paid off in 1986,” he said, recalling the now infamous last play of Game Six in the 1986 World Series. On the 10th pitch of his at-bat against Bob Stanley in extra innings, Wilson hit a sharp grounder to Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner, who misplayed the ball allowing the winning run to score. Ironically today, Buckner and Wilson are “great friends,” Wilson said, and often appear together at events.

Wilson then took questions from the audience, and at one point observed that “baseball is the greatest game in the world ... but baseball fans are crazy. Sports brings out the best and the worst in us. Met fans – Mets fans are patient,” Wilson said, evoking some laughter in the audience. “Yankee fans? Yankee fans feel entitled. If they don’t win the championship, then they think it’s been stolen from them.

“And Boston fans are never happy!” he said more loudly. They’ve won three World Series in the last 15 years, “yet Boston fans are still not happy,” he said to more laughter.

“Sports teaches us many things, and one of them is that yesterday is gone. If there’s something I have to deal with three hours from now – like getting to the airport – I will deal with it then What matters right now is my speaking to you. And what we can do today together is to improve our community, our schools and our churches.”

Nearing the end of his presentation, he told the audience that he often gets asks that if Buckner had fielded his ground ball cleanly, would Wilson have been out at first base? “No, I would have beaten him to the bag,” he said, smiling.

Each year, special events raise substantial funds supporting Sterling House programs. At left, Mayor Laura Hoydick lines up a putt at the annual Sterling Classic golf tournament. At right, a participant truly understands the Down & Dirty 5K concept of this very successful annual event.
Lacrosse has been around a very long time. Started by American Indians, it was originally known as stickball and can be traced back to the Algonquian tribe in the early 1600s.

Here at Sterling House, lacrosse doesn’t have quite that long a history. The boys program began in 2002, according to Dave Estrella and John Karafa, who list themselves as “managers” on the official Sterling House Lacrosse web site (www.stratfordsterlinghouselacrosse.org). But in reality, each could add any of the following titles: organizers, fundraisers, mentors, coaches, travel agents, schedulers and field custodians.

It comes with the territory, they said, and each was quick to cite the other, and volunteers and donors for the continuing lacrosse program success.

The boys program boasted 93 players for the Spring 2018 season, and Estrella credits Pat Corcoran and Tom Cotter for starting it in 2002. Two years later in 2004, he said, Drew Viner began the girls lacrosse program at Sterling House, which had 81 girls playing in the five levels during the Spring 2018 season.

“The dedication and commitment that goes into the Lacrosse program is second to none,” Estrella noted, “and is led by volunteers who wants to grow awareness of the sport.” He especially cited Karafa, “who runs the whole lacrosse program.”

For instance, in early 2018, “John won a ‘First Stick’ program grant from U.S. Lacrosse,” which provided the program with full equipment for 20 new boys and 20 new girls to play in 2018. “This tremendously helps grow awareness and eliminates the financial burden to new parents of equipment costs.”

Recently, Estrella said, “We have teamed up with the town of Shelton to create a developmental program above our Learn-to-Play program but below our Competitive level teams,” allowing Shelton and Stratford players at the same level of play to learn the rules and game together.

“Learn-to-Play has taken off with boys and girls high school players taking the reins with our ‘little laxers’ every Sunday getting the sticks in their hands and showing them the basics of the game, like how to hold the stick, pass, pick up balls and shoot.” Karafa also oversees this program.

Meanwhile, higher level team play has been “really great” in 2018, he added, with all Stratford Storm teams putting competitive squads on the field to face teams from towns across the state.

In 2018, the program also boasted its first female coach in many years, Kaitlyn Stevens, who led the senior girls team (13- and 14-yr-olds). The senior boys were coached in 2018 by Chuck Threshie, called “Mr. Reliable” by Estrella. Leading the junior level teams were Jason Wright and Threshie, while long-time volunteer Mike Hoynes helped with the girls, assisted by Joe Wright.

“The Lightning teams, 3rd and 4th grade, have John running the boys team and longtime girls program leader Drew Viner running the girls team.” In all, Karafa coached two teams and assisted with another in 2018.

For his part, Karafa was quick to praise Estrella, too. “Dave is instrumental in every program aspect. His fundraising efforts go unmatched. He also plans the important off-the-field events including the West Point trip, and our year-end banquet at Short Beach.

“Beyond that, Dave is the assistant coach of the girls Senior team, and also helps with the Junior boys and the girls Lightning – when he is not helping out with Learn-to-Play and the Sterling House program.”

The opportunity to play at West Point in New York is a real treat for players, coaches and parents.
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July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

A comprehensive list of all our financial and in-kind donors, listed alphabetically.

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David Fuchs & Lynne Fuchs
Gaetano’s Deli
Galello-Luchansky Funeral & Cremation Services
Patricia & Sean Gallagher
Patty Gallagher
Christopher & Megan Gallant
Anthony & Donna Gallo
Tony Gangemi
Brian & Sharon Garrow
Gault Family Companies
Lynn Gauman
Stefanie Gavrisch
General Raffle
General Reinsurance Corp.
Lana & James Gerwien
Get Healthy CT
Cheryl & Daniel Giasullo
Jim Gilleran
David Gioiello Jr. & Denese Deeds
Girl Scout Troop 37237
Girl Scout Troop 37704
Anne Giroux
Give with Liberty - Employees
Carl & Amy Glad
Global Scenic Services
Golden Hawk MA, LLC
Claire & Sam Gonzalez
Anne Goto
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Phyllis & George Grafton
Kenneth Graham
Elizabeth & Gary Granling
Teresa Grancorvitz
Linda Grant
Joseph Gresko
Mary Greyfox
Michelle Griffin
Susan & Matthew Griswold
Cathy Gruner
Jennifer Haley
Halle’s Hope Foundation
Halper Keating Family Foundation
Hampford Research
Cheryl Hannon
Pastor David L. Harden
Carol Hardy
John Harkins
Mike Harkins
Nicoie Harmon
Rosemary Harrison
Red Hatters
Elaine Hay
Mark & Karen Herron
Diane Hetes
Cheryl & John Hewitt
Hi-Tek Racing
Mary Elizabeth Higbie
Debbie Higgins
Sandy & Garry Higgs
Ken Hill
Hoco Gas Inc.
Holistic Health and Wellness
Victoria Holmes-Sells
Jeffrey Holton
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Holy Name of Jesus Church
Gail & Greg Hopkins
Laura & Paul Hoyduck
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Hubbell Electric Heating Co.
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Marion Hulton
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IBEW Local 486
Michael Imbro
Industrial Health & Safety
Robert Ingmanson
Scott Jacob
Tory Jacob
Arlene Jacobian
Gary Jacobian
Bob Janczewski
Charles Jankovsky
Michael Jankovsky
Tracey Jefferson
Jessica & Scott
Jim’s Ice Cream
Linda & Thomas Jockers
Joel Fleban CPA
David & Mary Johnson
Lawrence & Mona Johnson
Richard & Pamela Johnson
Nick Jorg
Martin & Marie Josephson
Rod Jovanelly
Karel Julian
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JV Hair Design
Rehan & Nazia Kahn
Kaiser & Collier, Attorneys
Kapusta, Otzel & Averaimo
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Marc & Laura Kavulich
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Barry Kelly
Brian Kelly
F. Patrick Kelly
David & Donna Kennedy
James Kennelly
Key Corp
Joe Kiefer
Jane Kirby
Kitchen Brains
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Jenn Khuchnick
Knights of Columbus
Knot, Knot & Dunn
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Joe Kubic
Diana Kunkel
F. Paul Kurnay
Kuroghlian Family
Steve Kutash
Laborers International Union Local 665
Nadine Lajeunesse
Linda Lambeck
Beth Lambert
Chris Landino
Mary-Beth Lang
Russell Lanz
Mike Latella
Laurel Road - a division of
Darren Rowayton Bank
Shelton Mayor Mark Lauretti
Law Offices of Kurt M. Ahlbreg LLC
Andrew Lee
Brian Leitch
Richard Lemanski
Nancy Lewis
Dan Licitra
Lifetouch
Lighthouse Dental Care
Little Inc.
Jennifer Littrell
Live Lean
Jonathan Lizotte
Meghan Loneran
Lord Chamberlain
Lordship Community Church
Celeste Lorenz
LoStocco Insurance
Michelle Lowry
Tracey Lubas
Louis Lulana, Jr.
George & Teresa Lycoudes
Steven Lynchard
M & M Refrigeration
Mac McKinnon
Michael McKinnon
Main Street Mortgage, L.L.C.
Ken Manely
Maryann Manera
Sean Marcantonio
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Jancee Past-Marcone
Kathlyn Marcus
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Joe Markus
JE Martin
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Josephine & Noah Mastro
Laura Matosian
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Milford Photo
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Fame & Museum
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Philip Nazzaro
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O’Brien-Law
Nicelle Oberson
Olde Stratford Ale House
On Point Chiropactic
Condominium Assoc.
Oronoque Village
Outriggers
Day of Package Sales
Linda/Rich Page
Laura Palmer
Panera Bread
Peter Panicali
OUR DONORS - 3

Continued from Previous Page

Sharon & George Pappas
Par Pharmaceutical
Paradise Cream
Paradise Pizza
Bonnie Paradise
Travis Passar
Lisa Passaro
Rich Patterson
Patricia Patusky
Ronald & Valerie Pelletier
People’s United Bank
People’s United Community Foundation
People’s United Insurance
George Perham
Bill Perillo
James Perrella
Jon & Dorna Persson
Wayne Pethrick
John & Lisa Piccolo
Joe & Amanda Pilcavage
Cynthia Pincus Russell
Kathy Piro
Pitney Bowes
PK Salon
Shizue Pleasanton
PMA Companies
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Mary Jane Pompa
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Thomas Preston
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Prudential
Kevin & Rose Pryor
Mary Psarras
Pyramid Shriners #9
Shauna Quigley-Blaze
Clayton Quinn
Katie Quinn
Down Dirty 5K
Barbara Raiton-Jones
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Realm
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May Shamak
Shannon Lawn and Landscaping Inc
Jennifer Sheldon
Richard & Bernadette Sheldon
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Shoreline Prime
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Sandra Short
Tim & Monica Short
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Sikorsky Employee Resource Groups
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Silk Plumbing
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Karen Sinnott
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Robert Skelly
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Elizabeth Skerencak
Ski Sundown
Kelly Smith
Smitty’s Landscaping
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Sonitrol
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Virginia Spencer
Betty Sprouse
St Marks
St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox
Sarah St. Onge
Don Stanziele
Star Trophy & Engraving
Jeanette & James Sten
Stephanie for Mayor
Sterling Ski Club
Stevens Ford
Stew Leonard’s
Stonebridge Restaurant
Anita Stook
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Stop & Shop - Stratford
Stratford Academy PTSA
Stratford Coaches Soccer Club
Stratford Democratic Town Committee
Stratford Development Co.
Stratford High School
Stratford Historical Society
Stratford Ladies Face Book
Stratford Library
Stratford Methodist Church
Stratford Old Timers Athletic Association
Erin McLaughlin
Stratford Police Activities League
Stratford Police Dept
Stratford Recreation Department
Stratford Retired Teachers
Stratford Rotary Club
Stratford Sister Cities Chorus
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Students of Stratford Academy
Sunset Shores/Harborview
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Andrew Testa
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The Ernest & Joan Trefz Foundation
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The Milford Bank Foundation
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Total Wine
Town of Stratford
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Edward Tuskara
Tuttle Insurance Group
Two Roads Brewing Co.
Chris Tymniak
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UIL Holdings Corp.
United Illuminating Co.
United Way of Coastal Fairfield County
United Way of Milford
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Jeanette Vail
Henry Valerio
William Vasquez
Kathleen & William Vazquez
John Vazzano
Vazzy’s-Stratford
Mara Vera
Michele Vichiola-Van Wart
Vicki Soto Memorial Fund
Fred & Antia Vigeant
Nancy Vitone
Volvo Aviation
Diaine Waite
Lili Walker
Judi Wannagot
Virginia Hart & David Ware
Anne & Robert Wargo
Watson Foods Co.
Becky Weaver
Randy Weaver
Webster Bank
Rudy Weiss
David Wells
Fred Wernerr
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West End Lumber Company
Whiting-Turner
Judith & Robert Whitman
Wilcoxson Elementary School
Jonathan & Robin Williams
John & Jane Wilson
Wooster Middle School
John Sherman Wooster
Michael Worobec
Jason Wright
Lori Wzltzer
Thomas & Jamie Wuenemann
Taya & Jax Wynn
Xavier Realty
Yazluk LLC
Philip Young
Zack’s Frozen Yogurt
David Zamba
Joann Zammaro
John Zogby
Antonietta Zarlio

We apologize for any donor name omissions. Please contact Development office, 203-378-2606, ext. 106.
Sterling House Community Center’s 2017-2018 fiscal year was noteworthy for the impact of the state-funded renovation, which elevated several income and asset lines, as shown at right. The project was substantially completed during the 2017-2018 fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

The agency received a clean audit and financial bill of health for its finances and financial controls, as noted by the accounting firm, Caposella Cohen LLC, in its audit completion statement dated Dec. 18, 2018.

Program fees and revenues remained strong in 2017-2018, with general fundraising and special event revenues continuing to provide needed additional income. Several grants earmarked for energy efficiency upgrades were received and related projects were completed.

Sterling House ended the fiscal year with a strong balance sheet and cash flow position.

### Thanking our Volunteers

Sterling House salutes its hundreds of volunteers at its Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner each Spring. At right and at Vazzano’s, Anne Wargo - the lead volunteer for our Christmas Tree sales. Below, Athletics Director Bill O’Brien, who oversees all athletics program volunteers including coaches.

---

### FINANCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$418,286</td>
<td>$280,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted cash</td>
<td>2,185</td>
<td>79,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>16,849</td>
<td>9,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>1,346,699</td>
<td>1,346,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>5,559,078</td>
<td>4,813,601</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and net assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current liabilities</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current portion of obligation under capital lease</td>
<td>$1,053</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current portion of long-term debt</td>
<td>2,796</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>46,307</td>
<td>513,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to pass-through entity</td>
<td>7,528</td>
<td>7,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income</td>
<td>256,903</td>
<td>257,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td>314,784</td>
<td>757,410</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Capital lease payable, net of current portion | 4,074 | - |
| Long-term debt, net of current portion | 8,156 | - |

| Total Liabilities | 327,041 | 757,410 |

### Net assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unrestricted net assets:</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available for operations</td>
<td>53,620</td>
<td>(15,112)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in property and equipment</td>
<td>2,115,055</td>
<td>1,287,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unrestricted</td>
<td>2,169,775</td>
<td>1,272,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>1,422,701</td>
<td>1,465,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>1,440,088</td>
<td>1,338,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>5,232,964</td>
<td>4,076,283</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total liabilities and net assets</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,559,078</td>
<td>$4,813,601</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### STERLING HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended June 30, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues and other support</td>
<td>$317,242</td>
<td>$56,560</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct public support</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross special events: Contributions</td>
<td>186,648</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: costs of direct benefit in services</td>
<td>(65,003)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(65,003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net special event revenue</td>
<td>121,645</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>29,182</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross program service fees</td>
<td>736,595</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: scholarships</td>
<td>(11,985)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(11,985)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net program fees</td>
<td>724,610</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>920,232</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind donations</td>
<td>253,104</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>60,156</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in value of beneficial interest</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>23,120</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,542,994</td>
<td>985,965</td>
<td>102,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net assets released from restrictions | 1,027,113 | - | - | 1,027,113 |
| Total revenues and other support | 2,570,077 | (43,148) | 102,150 | 2,629,099 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>1,052,471</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,052,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting services: Management and general</td>
<td>205,766</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>205,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>213,540</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>213,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>1,472,796</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,472,796</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Change in net assets | 1,097,681 | (43,148) | 102,150 | 1,156,683 |
| Net assets at beginning of year | 1,271,894 | 1,465,849 | 1,338,538 | 4,076,281 |
| Net assets at end of year | 2,169,575 | 1,422,701 | 1,440,088 | 5,232,364 |