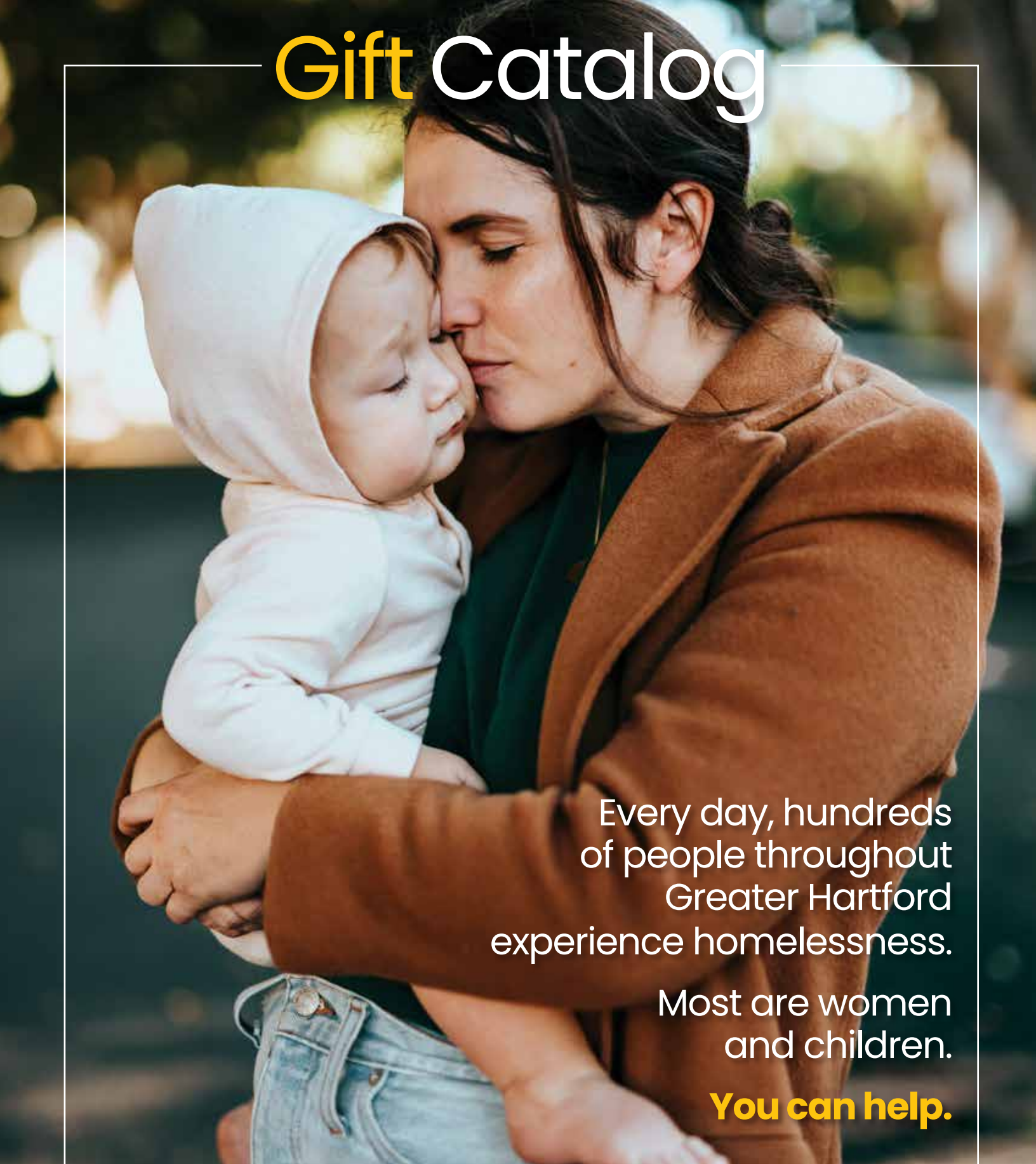


# Gift Catalog



Every day, hundreds  
of people throughout  
Greater Hartford  
experience homelessness.

Most are women  
and children.

**You can help.**



# Together, we can open more doors to self-sufficiency

## MY SISTERS' PLACE

Founded in 1982 as a shelter for women with infants, My Sisters' Place has helped more than 30,000 Greater Hartford residents to overcome homelessness and to lift themselves toward independence.

Our clients — men, women, youth, and families — make their homes in more than 60 clean, safe and affordable residences, including the Mary Seymour Place Apartments and the Sue Ann Shay Place Apartments. We lend vital support for stability, nourishment, and health: a food pantry, medical and mental health care, financial and case management, after-school tutoring, substance abuse counseling, and more. Men and women with behavioral health issues live in their own Hartford-area apartments with our support, too.

## MERCY HOUSING AND SHELTER

Since 1983, Mercy has provided supportive services to persons experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. With our help, people move into permanent housing and gain the dignity and respect that comes from greater self-sufficiency. We advocate, too, for changes in social systems that perpetuate homelessness.

Our doors are open at St. Elizabeth House to people who are living with HIV/AIDS, experiencing homelessness, or recovering from substance abuse or a mental health crisis. Within St. Elizabeth is the Friendship Center, a day shelter where people facing housing insecurity can stop in for meals, a food pantry, warm showers, medical screenings, clean clothing, personal care items, and comfortable areas to rest. Caring case managers are on hand for referrals to community and social services. And people living with mental health disabilities can thrive in our supervised apartments at The Residence at St. Mary's.

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***Community Housing Advocates is the parent corporation and administrative services provider for its two affiliates, My Sisters' Place and Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation.***

**LEARN MORE AT**

**ctcha.org**

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# Give your neighbors dignity and independence—through gifts that create stable homes and lives.

Dear Friends,

*You care.* And you know that the economic fallout from the COVID-19 crisis put even more people at risk for homelessness.

That's why I'm sharing our gift catalog with you. It's a meaningful new way for you to support Greater Hartford residents working to achieve stable homes and lives.

The catalog items were chosen to help you make the greatest impact for the people served by My Sisters' Place and Mercy Housing and Shelter. By selecting and gifting items in this catalog to either (or both!) organizations, you provide lifelines in the form of safe, stable housing and supportive services. Through your gifts, your neighbors can achieve self-sufficiency with the dignity every human being deserves.

An order form is enclosed. You'll see that you can make gifts in honor of loved ones. If you do, we'll send a personalized letter telling them of your thoughtful gift in their honor.

With gratitude for your care and compassion,



Chief Executive Officer  
Community Housing Advocates, Inc.

## How it works *It's easy!*

1

Select gifts for My Sisters' Place and/or Mercy Housing and Shelter. If you'd like, you can make the gift in honor of a person special to you.

2

Complete and return the enclosed form with your payment in the envelope provided.

3

Your honoree receives a heartfelt, personalized letter about your tribute gift to benefit My Sisters' Place and/or Mercy Housing and Shelter.



# Gifts for MY SISTERS' PLACE

## Newborn Care Bundle

By gifting a bundle of diapers, wipes, bottles, and formula, you can help formerly homeless mothers give their newborns a healthy, happy start in life.



### A Healthy Start: Bundle of Baby Supplies

**\$150**  
for 1 newborn

**\$450**  
for 3

**\$750**  
for 5



## Kitchen Table and Chairs

The families we serve often have no furniture at all when they emerge from homelessness and move to an apartment. A kitchen table is deeply meaningful for them. It's the heart of the home — where meals are shared, homework is done, birthdays are celebrated. Your gift of a kitchen table and chairs will furnish their place.



### A Place to Eat, Learn, Gather, and Share: Dining Set

**\$250**  
furnishes 1 apartment

**\$500**  
furnishes 2

**\$1,000**  
furnishes 4



## Bus Passes

Reliable, affordable transportation is a key to independence. With it, our clients can get to medical appointments, grocery stores, jobs, and their children's schools. Connecticut's bus network, CTtransit and CTfastrak, are only temporarily fare-free due to the COVID crisis. Your gift of bus passes will keep doors to self-sufficiency open.



### Independence: Bus Passes

**\$15.75**  
for a 10-ride pass

**\$63**  
for a 31-day pass

**\$186**  
buys a dozen 10-ride passes



## Youth Support

Navigating the teenage years is hard enough. Homelessness adds to the academic and emotional challenges. Your gifts of youth support services will fund specialized programs for young people residing in our supportive apartments, including conflict-solving sessions with parents and teens, community trips, and academic support.



### Well-Being: Youth Services

**\$100**  
supports 5 teens

**\$200**  
supports 10 teens

**\$300**  
supports 15 teens

## Toys for Special Occasions

Our formerly homeless families — still getting on their feet financially — strive to light up their children's faces on birthdays and holidays. Yet, they often can't afford toys or gifts for these special occasions. With your help, birthdays can bring joy and smiles to their children.



### Toys (and Smiles!)

**\$50**

*for 1 child*

**\$250**

*for 5 children*

**\$500**

*for 10 children*



## Keys to an Affordable Apartment

A security deposit and one month's rent often stand in the way when a person experiencing homelessness seeks a stable place to live. The payment is the barrier between living on the streets and living in a warm, safe apartment. With your gift of a security deposit and initial rent, you provide a stable place to live — and a new lease on life.



### Stability: Security Deposit and First Month's Rent

**\$1,500**

*per apartment*



## A Permanent Address

Most businesses require job applicants to have a permanent address so they can prove residency or conduct background checks and other legal processes. People experiencing homelessness are often passed over for job positions because they lack a permanent address. Your gift of a post office box can change that.



### A Mailing Address: Post Office Box

**\$45**

*for 3 months*

**\$75**

*for 6 months*

**\$150**

*for 12 months*



## Summer Camp

For children who've experienced homelessness, summer camp opens new worlds — hiking, swimming, singing around campfires, playing games, climbing trees. Your gift will provide outdoor education, recreation and lasting memories.



### Fresh Air and Fun: One Week of Camp

**\$300**

*per child*

**\$600**

*for 2 children*

**\$1,200**

*for 4 children*





## Healthy Eating Education

Many people working to overcome poverty have less access to fresh fruits and vegetables, so they may turn to inexpensive, low-nutrient foods. Your gift will provide families with vital time with a nutritionist, learning how to prepare healthy snacks and meals on a limited budget.



### Nutrition: Two Healthy Eating Education Sessions

**\$100**

for 1 family

**\$200**

for 2 families

**\$500**

for 5 families



## Art Kits for Children

The trauma of homelessness affects children in ways you cannot imagine. Your gift of arts and crafts materials for young people in our housing programs will provide creative outlets for emotional expressions. With their own unique set of paints, pencils, brushes, sketchpads, and more, children can better navigate the path to emotional well-being.



### Creative Expression: Art Kits

**\$50**

for 1 child

**\$250**

for 5 children

**\$500**

for 10 children



## Starter Kitchen Set

Your gift of a kitchen starter set, with dishes, glasses, a can opener, a pot, spatula, and utensils, will give formerly homeless people the basic means to prepare meals in their new apartments. It's a huge step toward having more control over meals, health, budget, and stress.



### Self-Sufficiency: Meal Preparation Set

**\$125**

for 1 kitchen starter set

**\$375**

for 3

**\$625**

for 5



## Groceries

Could your family live on \$4.50 a day for food? That's the average food allotment for people getting supplemental nutrition benefits (SNAP) in Connecticut. It's not enough for anyone, especially for people earning low incomes facing rising inflation. Your gifts provide grocery store gift cards and stock our food pantry with essentials — including soups, beans, and cereals — for those desperate times when some people lack enough to eat.



### Nutrition and Health: Groceries for a Week

**\$75**

for an individual

**\$250**

for 1 family

**\$500**

for 2 families

## Hot Meals and Community

At St. Elizabeth House and at our Friendship Center, nourishment is available 365 days a year in the form of hot meals for people who would otherwise go hungry. Many express profound gratitude for the food, sense of community, and strength the mealtimes provide.



### Nourishment and Strength: Hot Meals

**\$50**  
for 5 people

**\$250**  
for 25 people

**\$500**  
for 100 people



## Blankets, Sheets, and Pillows

At St. Elizabeth House, formerly homeless adults are welcomed into our 48 warm, safe rooms until they can transition to stable housing. Many are women in recovery, veterans, people healing from HIV, or newly discharged from a hospital. Your gift of a blanket, sheets, and a pillow provide comfort when they stay with us — and when they move on.



### Comfort and Warmth: Sleep Sets

**\$250**  
for 5 people

**\$500**  
for 10 people

**\$1,000**  
for 20 people



## Supplies for Health Screenings

Regular physical and mental health screenings are essential to maintain good health and to detect problems early. Your gifts will provide the medical equipment and supplies necessary for weekly health screenings. Compassionate medical students provide most of the screenings for more than 200 residents and visitors who seek meals and housing from us each day.



### Health and Wellness: Medical Supplies

**\$400**  
for 3 weeks of screenings

**\$1,600**  
for 3 months of screenings



## Hygiene Kits and Sleeping Bags

No doubt you've seen the bone-chilling reality of some of your Greater Hartford neighbors. Lacking a place to live, they sleep in cars, in parks, or under highway overpasses. It's hard for many to ask for help, so our outreach workers extend a hand. Your gifts will provide sleeping bags and hygiene kits (including soap, toothpaste, disposable razors, and sanitizer) for distribution to people sleeping outdoors.



### Warmth and Hygiene: A Sleeping Bag and Toiletry Kit

**\$135**  
for 5 people

**\$270**  
for 10 people

**\$400**  
for 15 people





## Dental Care

They say that a smile opens doors and creates possibilities. Imagine going to a job interview and being terrified to smile because of poor dental hygiene or appearance. Your gift of dental care provides oral health, pain relief, and a confident smile for our formerly homeless clients.



### Oral Health and a Confident Smile: Dental Care

**\$100**  
*teeth cleaning*

**\$250**  
*minor tooth repair*

**\$500**  
*cleaning for 5 individuals*



## Legal Assistance

For a person experiencing homelessness, a ticket for even a minor offense — such as loitering or parking a car overnight — is unaffordable. Even more consequential, the legal issue can be a significant barrier to securing employment or permanent housing. Your gifts will provide timely legal counsel and assistance for pressing issues facing the people we serve.



### A Clean Slate: Legal Assistance

**\$75**  
*per hour*

**\$375**  
*for 5 hours*

**\$600**  
*for 8 hours*



## Emergency Housing

Veterans striving to overcome homelessness often face many barriers — disabilities, addiction, mental health challenges, and social isolation. Your gift can provide a night of warmth, comfort, and nourishment to a veteran at our St. Elizabeth House.



### A Comfortable Night's Sleep at St. Elizabeth House

**\$110**  
*for 1 night*

**\$550**  
*for 5 nights*

**\$770**  
*for 7 nights*



## Employment Services

Navigating the complexities of a job search is often overwhelming for formerly homeless people. Your gift will provide an employment specialist to work alongside them — teaching job search and interviewing skills, building relationships with second-chance employers, and connecting clients to job opportunities and training.



### A Job and Self-Sufficiency: Employment Support

**\$100**  
*provides 5 hours of an employment specialist*

**\$200**  
*provides 10 hours*

**\$300**  
*provides 15 hours*



## Bath Set

At our Friendship Center, people struggling with homelessness can drop in for a warm shower in a safe, clean bath area. A soft bath towel and soap go a long way toward giving them the dignity they deserve — and they can take the items when they leave.



### Dignity and Hygiene: Bath Towel and Soap Set

**\$100**  
buys 10 sets

**\$200**  
buys 20

**\$500**  
buys 50



## Mental Health Services

Often, homelessness is not the only battle our clients are waging. Many are bravely taking steps to heal and recover from substance abuse, trauma, domestic violence, or mental health challenges. Your gift will provide compassionate counseling and support from mental health professionals. The support is restoring — and sometimes lifesaving.



### Emotional Support: Mental Health Counseling

**\$100**  
for 1 month

**\$200**  
for 2 months

**\$400**  
for 4 months



## Clothing and Footwear for New Jobs

It's cause for celebration when clients land jobs. But the exhilaration disappears when they can't afford clothing or footwear required by the new employer. Your gift will erase that barrier and give our clients what they need to start (and keep!) the new job, such as steel-toed boots, a set of clothes in a particular color, or headgear.



### A Fresh Start: Shoes and Clothes for New Job

**\$75**  
for 1 person

**\$150**  
for 2 people

**\$375**  
for 5 people



## Case Management

After leaving a shelter for a permanent place to live, individuals and families need support to continue to lift themselves toward stability and independence. Your gift will provide a caring and compassionate case manager for connecting newly housed people to transportation, nearby community health services, guided conversations with landlords, budgeting skills, and more.



### Independence and Stability: Case Management

**\$80**  
for 2 hours

**\$200**  
for 5 hours

**\$400**  
for 10 hours





*Mary Seymour Place Apartments*



My Sisters' Place and Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.  
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**LEARN MORE AT**

**[sistersplacect.org](https://sistersplacect.org) | [mercyhousingct.org](https://mercyhousingct.org)**