



hartford region

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For Immediate Release

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Grant From The Hartford Will Support YWCA Housing Initiatives

Hartford, CT- The Hartford has awarded a \$50,000 grant to YWCA Hartford Region's Soromundi Commons, a supportive housing project and emergency shelter in collaboration with the Chrysalis Center, Inc. This unique project supports homeless and those at-risk of homelessness to help them gain residential stability, prepare for employment and reach a greater level of self-sufficiency. This nationally recognized model offers a continuum of services on-site, including case management, job counseling, health care and a community learning center.

"The Hartford is committed to supporting the Asylum Hill neighborhood," said Mary Ellen Curran, director of philanthropy at The Hartford. "We want to make a difference for the families that live here, the children who study and play here and for the people who work here. Soromundi Commons offers an opportunity for at-risk women to learn essential skills and reach their full potential."

Homelessness has become an increasingly challenging issue for Hartford. The number of people in shelters and transitional housing programs increased 3% from 2009 to 2010. Shelters in Connecticut have been operating over 100% capacity for almost two full years. Roughly one in four homeless individuals in Connecticut is sheltered in Hartford.

"The women who come to our emergency shelter have experienced a variety of challenges including mental illness, substance abuse and/or been a victim of violence. Providing them with a bed is the easy part. The program provides services that help them to stabilize their lives and ultimately move into permanent housing without having to move from a building where they feel comfortable and secure," said Deborah Ullman, CEO Hartford Region.

Residents of Soromundi Commons follow established guidelines to achieve long term success. The residents set goals that help them overcome the difficult challenges that lay ahead. In the past 24 months, 17 shelter clients have progressed on to the transitional living program and one went directly to the permanent supportive housing program at Soromundi Commons.

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Established in 1867, YWCA Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate of YWCA, a women's membership movement dedicated to **eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all**. YWCA Hartford Region provides programs and services in the greater Hartford Region including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy and economic empowerment. For more information, visit www.ywcahartford.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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