



# HUNDRED NIGHTS

*Reaching for the Warmth of Home*

Cold Weather Shelter & Open Doors Resource Center

Fall, 2018

Imagine being a single mother with four children ages 1 to 8 and suddenly finding yourself with no home. Your limited income wasn't enough to pay the rent, and staying with friends wasn't an option for long. The kids are due to start school, but you can't even think about that when you have no place to live and no way to take care of your family. It's hard to think about, isn't it?

In this case, it's a true story. Hundred Nights housed this family, along with five other individuals, since earlier this summer. Thankfully, this family's story will have a happy ending because of the help Hundred Nights has been able to give them. The year-round Hundred Nights Open Door Resource Center, which serves both the homeless and those in the community at high risk of becoming homeless, helped them apply for housing, linked them with an agency that was willing to work with them and provided shelter, clothing, food and other resources to get them through these past months. They left for a new home in early October.

Sadly, this family's story is not unique. Hundreds of people in the Cheshire County area find themselves in similar situations, trying hard to make ends meet while dealing with the various challenges life brings. In some cases, it's working three jobs that still doesn't add up to enough money to pay the rent, or struggling with mental illness or addictions. Sometimes it's having to leave your home because of a flood or a fire. And as this family shows, it's not just adults who become homeless. People of all ages, including children, lose their homes. The need for Hundred Nights' services is also not limited to the coldest hundred nights of the year – the need is **year-round**.

But with your help, families like this one, along with other men, women and children who have hit bottom, can find hope, and help, to climb back to a more stable life. By sharing generously today, you can help them **reach for the warmth of home** again.

Fortunately, we live in a community that cares. That's one of the many things that make this region special. Your support to Hundred Nights will help hundreds of our friends and neighbors get the assistance they need; whether shelter from the cold, help to find a job or have a meal, make a connection with agencies that can help with more severe issues or just giving people a

safe place to go and respectful, friendly faces to brighten a dark day. For a person who has lost everything, that can be enough to keep them going and get back on their feet.

Every gift you share will make a huge difference. A gift of \$1,000 can keep people from living on the streets in the coldest days and nights of the winter. A gift of \$500 can provide resources to help women and their children get identification cards and apply for housing and other supports. And a gift of \$100 can feed a family for days.

No matter what you can give, your gift will **literally save lives**. As these days get colder and the overnight shelter at Hundred Nights gets ready to “officially” open, please think about families and other men and women who need our help, and give as generously as you can. On behalf of people who have lost their homes or are on the edge of losing them – those whose voices are, many times, not heard – I thank you for helping our friends and neighbors to reach for the warmth of home in a community we all call home.

Sincerely,

Teresa Starkey  
Member, Board of Directors  
Hundred Nights

P. S. Your gift, today, will help people throughout the year – families like the one staying here this summer, seniors whose savings ran out, men and women who just couldn't make it on their own. Join me in helping them to reach for the warmth of home, and thank you!

*For more information about helping people through Hundred Nights, or to make an online gift, please go to [www.hundrednightsinc.org](http://www.hundrednightsinc.org).*