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Dear Friends,

This year we are celebrating **HopeWorks'** 35th anniversary. It was back in the days of the Vietnam War and Watergate that several local faith communities decided to create a new kind of outreach to provide hope and help to West Hartford young people and their families. They knew that in addition to mental health counseling, some young people needed help in addressing questions about life meaning.

Some things have changed while others have remained the same. Today we are supported not only by faith communities, but also by a diverse cross-section of generous givers like you. Our faith filled roots continue to feed the heartfelt, creative and spiritual dimensions in all of the services we provide.

When we see young people in our office for problems related to substance abuse, stress, or depression, to name a few, we often see the relationship between their presenting issue and the larger questions of meaning. It is our job to help transform these challenges into constructive self-reflection and action.

We are often asked the question, "What does it mean to be an Interfaith Outreach?" The following quote of William Ellery Channing sums up the **HopeWorks** position:

*"The great end ... is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own; not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own; not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth;...In a word, the great end is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life."*

As an interfaith outreach we have a commitment not to lead young people in a particular direction but also not to shy away from conversations about spirituality. How do we do this? When appropriate we might ask:

What is most amazing for you about life?

Can you do an experiment until we next meet by being more open to your spiritual side?

With your help we can share the certainty that there is a Presence that we can each come to know. It is often through struggles that we discover a deeper spiritual connection that sustains us throughout life.

May your summer be full of the miraculous,

## Profiles in Hope



### Allan Schiffer

We first met Allan Schiffer when he volunteered to serve as a facilitator at our Community Conversation on Girls' Relational Aggression. Since then he has been an active participant of Harm2Harmony, the group that was called to action after the Community Conversation. Allan has lead two rounds of training in the Communologue process to interested community members.

This fall he will be offering it to staff at Bristow Middle School where **HopeWorks** will be piloting a program that emphasizes compassionate listening and effective dialogue skills in the classroom.

### What gives you hope?

*"Working with and sharing Communologue with this community's professionals, teachers, parents and even students... and seeing their acceptance and adoption of this communications technique gives me hope." Allan Schiffer, Ph.D.*

Allan explains that "Communologue is a process that helps transform differences into sharing and conflict into understanding. It is not a process for proving one right and the other wrong as that leads to a "win/lose" outcome.

It is a tool that is useful in a variety of activities. Communologue creates an environment where connections, decisions or healing can happen. When cooperation is desired - trust and connection is formed; when decisions are needed – creativity and solutions flow; and when individuals or groups seek reconciliation – safety and healing occurs.

The more we reduce the distance between people, the more they will be able to join their efforts and share their common goals. When we truly listen to and embrace each other's beliefs and feelings anything is possible! That is the transformational power of Communologue."

### THE MUMS ARE COMING

FOOTBALL AND BACK-TO-SCHOOL AREN'T THE ONLY FALL TRADITIONS. THE HOPEWORKS ANNUAL MUM SALE WILL BE HAPPENING ON SEPTEMBER 6TH AND 7TH AT TWENTY LOCAL FAITH COMMUNITIES, AND ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH FROM 8AM-5PM IN FRONT OF THE CROWN SUPERMARKET. YOUR CHOICE OF PINK, YELLOW, WHITE OR BURGUNDY MUMS IN 8" POTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR \$7 EACH.

CALL MOLLY @ 561-1175 EXT. 701 FOR DETAILS



# Donations January 1 through June 30, 2008

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Andy & Theresa Lerner

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Financial Services  
The Rotary Club of West Hartford  
Value Office Furniture

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The Hartford Foundation for Public  
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St. John's Church  
Temple Sinai  
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Women  
Westminster Presbyterian Church

**All the attendees, sponsors and  
auction donors for the 9th  
Annual Mayor's Charity Ball**



**Mark your calendars for the  
10<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's  
Charity Ball  
on February 7th, 2009.**

This major fund raiser for **HopeWorks** and our new partner, **The Grounds** (a safe place to chill for West Hartford teens), is a wonderful winter evening of fun, feasting and dancing for a great cause, the social and emotional health of our young people and families. The 10th anniversary will offer some surprises and promises to transform this old/new event into the most exciting night of the winter season.

Call (860) 561-1175 Ext. 703 for details or visit [www.themayorscharityball.org](http://www.themayorscharityball.org).

**WWW.HOPEWORKSCENTRAL.  
ORG**

**PLEASE VISIT OUR NEWLY REDESIGNED WEBSITE. IN ADDITION TO INFORMATION ON OUR SERVICES AND OUR PAPER INTERVENTIONS, YOU WILL ALSO FIND LINKS TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESOURCES AND A STAFF BLOG. WE WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND INVITE YOUR COMMENTS ON OUR BLOG ENTRIES.**



*Providing hope and help to young people and their families through  
counseling, education and community outreach*