

Families United Serving and Embracing (F.U.S.E)

**THIS IS
OUR
DEFINING
DECADE**

In history, there are times when vision, leadership, community and generosity come together to transform an organization.



Families United Serving and Embracing (F.U.S.E) has been serving women for the past ten years. F.U.S.E is dedicated to promoting physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being for young women.

F.U.S.E' s first home, Nehemiah House provides young moms with a safe environment to welcome their baby as well as create a critical foundation that babies need for healthy development. When mom is free from stressors such as home insecurity, and surrounded by love and support, bonding happens and everyone thrives.

Our second home, Wellspring Freedom Home (pilot emergency bedding, tier 1) was operational through 2020, during Covid. The data we collected showed that these women, who had been victims of human trafficking had little to no support as single mothers as their resources were limited, and their children were placed in DCF, the cycle of violence and exploitation began for them.



24% of referrals were pregnant
2 out of 8 served at Wellspring Home.



45% of referrals were mothers who had children in DCF
6 out of 8 women served at Wellspring home.

In the beginning of **2021,**

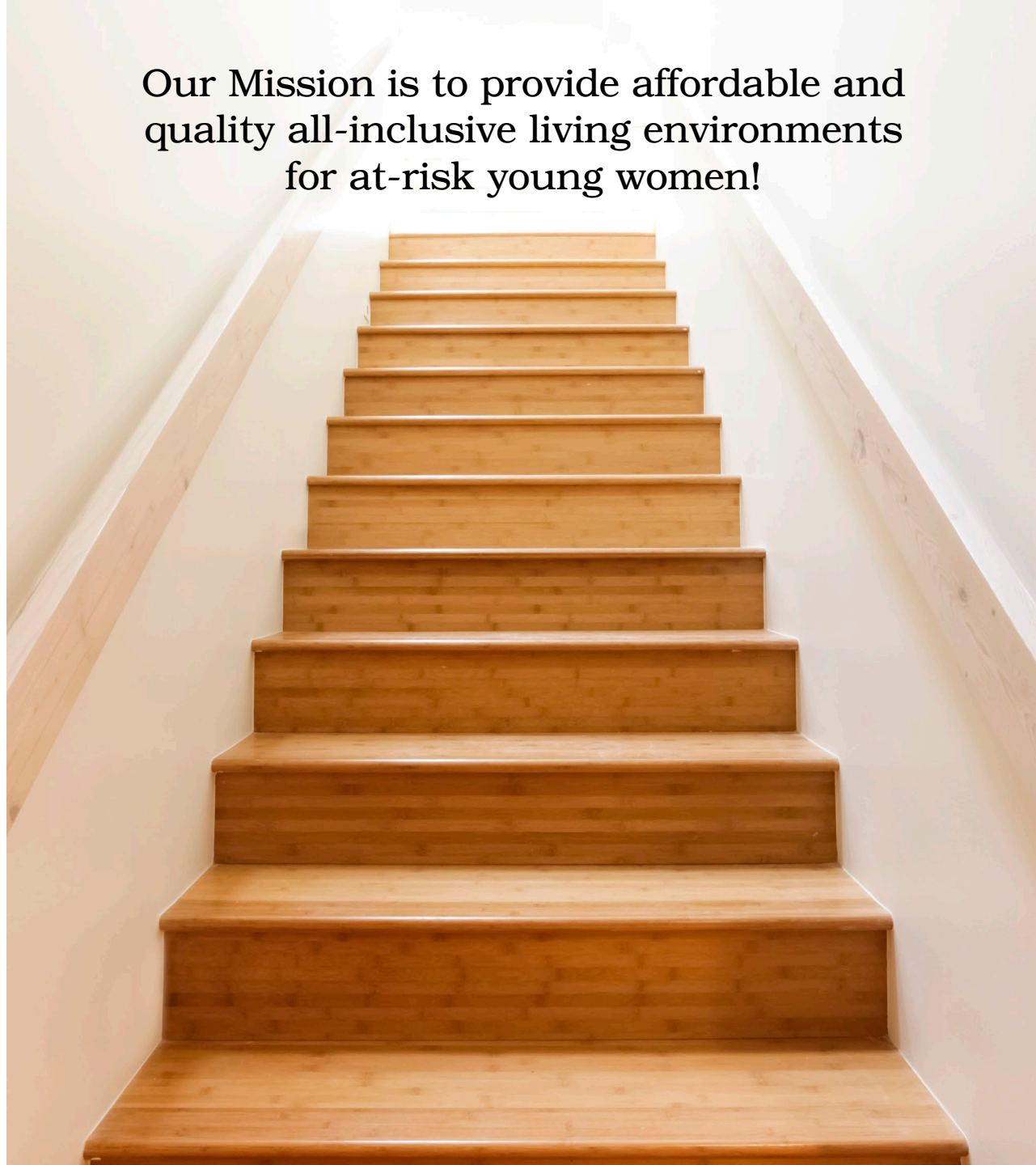
We had enough data (collected over several years) linking instability with lack of safe housing, which lead to homelessness. Affordable and stable housing is limited for single young mothers. Once Nehemiah House guests were ready to reside independently, lack of safe housing became a challenge. The data collected from Wellspring Freedom home confirmed that sustainable safe housing options and job opportunities could have mitigated homelessness that made them vulnerable to predators.

Stepping up!

We envision a broader continuum of compassion centered services in a therapeutic setting that offers healing and transformation. Our services will include:

- Case management
- Wellness/nutrition
- Therapeutic Counseling
- Coaches
- Employment
- Relationship building
- All-inclusive living
- Social enterprise

Our Mission is to provide affordable and quality all-inclusive living environments for at-risk young women!



WHAT IS SOCIAL ENTERPRISE?



INCOME GENERATION SKILLS

Social enterprise provides life skills training and acts as a confidence booster, to see how their newfound skills become income generating activities.



COMMUNITY

Increases autonomy and genuine engagement. Improves ability to respond to local needs with high-quality resources and contributes to the local community.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The social enterprise supplements F.U.S.E's budget, as income is invested back into F.U.S.E's budget. This approach minimizes reliance on one source of funding and helps our mission to provide safe housing options below market rate.

Our target is women who range in ages 18-23 with income levels below federal poverty level who are facing home insecurity and fall victim to exploitation.

Between Nehemiah House and the Wellspring Freedom Home we collected additional data confirming the link between early childhood risk factors such as sexual abuse, forced trauma, unstable living conditions and children in families battling addiction are at greater risk for sexual exploitation. This means that women growing up in these environments are more vulnerable to predators.



Former Foster children are also the most vulnerable to being trafficked.

A recent study found that young adults who have been in foster care suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder at twice the rate of US combat veterans.



Each year, an estimated 20,000 young people "age out" of the U.S. foster care system to care for themselves. Most 18-year-olds haven't yet developed strong-enough life skills to enable them to live on their own and less prepared for independent living. Several studies show that without a lifelong connection to a caring adult, these older youth are often left vulnerable to a host of adverse situations. Compared to other youth in the United States, kids who age out of foster care are more likely to not have completed high school or received a GED, they often suffer from mental health problems, many are unemployed, live in poverty, and higher dependency on welfare. **Nearly 20% become homeless, 42% have become parents themselves and more than 80% are unable to support themselves than those of the population-as a whole.**

We're Ready!

Our vision is to provide a therapeutic transformation center for at-risk young women adapting a whole person holistic approach to healing.

While at Renewal Place, they will have access to:

- Case management
- Wellness/Nutrition
- Therapeutic counseling
- All-inclusive living for up to 90 days
- Step up to one of our fully furnished Renewal Homes

A care plan will be assessed by a multi-disciplinary team.



*"True Transformation will never come
as the result of any secular system"*

- Nancy Alcorn-
Founder of Mercy Multiplied
Celebrating 40 years!

Trauma Informed Meets Whole-Person



Individualized & Trauma-Informed

Every person is very different, and every trauma is different – we put them at the focal point of their program



Whole-Person



Physical – Stabilization in physical self over time



Mental – Function fully in present reality



Emotional – Regulate emotions & work through trauma



Social – Learn communication skills



Vocational/Education- Discover pathway to setting goals



Spiritual – Encounter God, connect with purpose and walk in freedom

Our Response:

Trauma-informed
approach

Safety First

Identity

Trust/Boundaries

Self-Regulation

Control

Phases of Transformation

Phase 1: Stabilization & Safety

Phase 2: Vocational Needs & Trauma Healing

Phase 3: Transition from Renewal Home



Phase 1: Stabilization & Safety

We offer a safe, supportive environment that offers consistency and predictability, with clear boundaries, an emphasis on empowerment, and positive reinforcement. In other words, a regulated environment – all policies and procedures are developed with this in mind.

Techniques to Help:

1. Grounding
2. Calming



Phase 2: Vocational Needs & Trauma Healing



Part-time job and
pursuing academic
avenues



Starting to develop a
savings



Processing
traumatic
memories

Triggers

Phase 3: Transition from Renewal Place to Renewal Homes

Finding meaning and re-establishing secure connections with surrounding community.

Support through the steps of reintegrating into society by stepping up into one of our renewal homes where she can rent a bedroom in a furnished apartment at below market rates. This helps establish financial literacy and provide landlord referencing for future housing options beyond our program while remaining in community.



Our Perfect Home

3,000 + sq. ft. range to
accommodate 4-5 women

At least 3 bedrooms plus
ample space to put offices

Must be a home space, not a
sterilized environment

- Kitchen, living room, large
room for groups

In a neighborhood with easy
access to coffee shops,
bakeries, grocery stores, etc.

Preferably not in an urban
area where substances can
easily be found



Use of Spaces

3,000+ sq. ft.

- 3 bedrooms/2 baths with community living area and dining area
- Conference Room and offices for multi-disciplinary teams
- Therapeutic counseling rooms
- 2 kitchens one used as a teaching kitchen
- Private living quarters for Director of Operations
- Certify R.A.W microgreens indoor farm



Basement 1000+ Sq. ft.

- 1000sq. ft. to be used for indoor non-profit micro farm, Certify R.A.W microgreens
- Seeding
- Growing
- Harvesting
- Packaging
- Office
- Storage



PHASE 1:

Purchasing a multi-dwelling as the home base

\$500,000 - \$750,000

PHASE 2:

Renovations to include

3 bedrooms (2 persons per room), teaching kitchen, counseling rooms, training rooms, and a growing facility for our microgreens indoor urban farm.

\$150,000

PHASE 3:

Salaries for Trauma Informed Specialist and Multi-Disciplinary Team

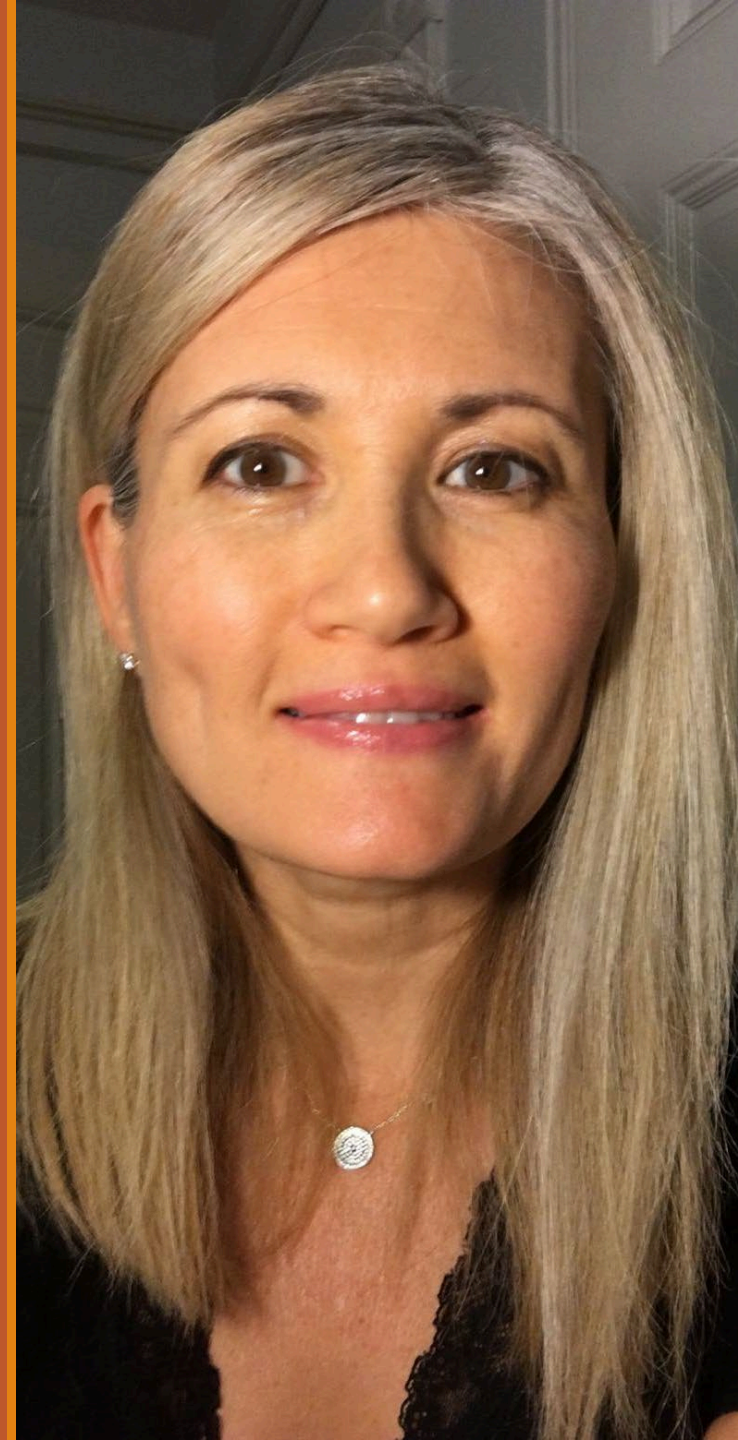
\$233,800

Meet Our Board



President & Founder

Sherry Danalis is married to Stephen Danalis for 30 years and has 2 grown sons, Cameron and Alexander. In 2008 they suffered the tragic loss of their adopted daughter from Korea. What followed awakened the passion to learn more about the plight of young women who experience loss and exploitation when they don't have the support, resources, and community they desperately need for better outcomes. What started as a platform of awareness has now grown to provide safe housing options. The first home, Nehemiah House in Granby Ct, operated for seven years serving 22 women and welcomed 9 children that offered a family-style residential home with pathways to financial stability and independence. F.U.S.E. was established in 2010 (received charitable status in 2012).





Stephen Danalis
Co-founder

Stephen Danalis graduated from Rhode Island School of Design in 1984 with a Bachelor in Culinary Arts. A Restaurateur and entrepreneur for several years, serving on several mission trips through the AG World Missions (MAPS) in Costa Rica and Honduras to accompanying a medical outreach in Kenya until "THE CALL" to the Mission Field himself in the States. Stephen's gift is a turn around specialist whose heart's cry is to see faith communities emerge with one voice, not only to raise awareness but more importantly INSPIRE others into action on behalf of the vulnerable.

Dr. Laura Domer-Shank

Dr. Laura Domer-Shank is a School Psychologist, Educational Consultant, Adjunct Psychology Professor at Tunxis Community College, and Educational Surrogate for the Connecticut State Department of Education. Additionally, Dr. Domer-Shank volunteers her time by serving on Boards that provide services and protects the welfare of survivors of human trafficking and homeless pregnant mothers. She was the Vice President and current consultant of the VCN, a networking organization committed to identifying and coordinating services for the improvement of communities.

Dr. Domer-Shank's 25-year career has included individual and group counseling, crisis management, assessment and evaluation, family therapy, psychoeducational groups, and advocacy for children and families. Dr. Domer-Shank's independent research project on young women in trauma highlights the need for specific supports and education that aid in the prevention of issues that girls and young women must deal with in the light of societal pressures and life stressors.

Dr. Domer-Shank received her Bachelors of Science in Psychology and Education at Elms College, her Master's and Sixth Year degrees in School Psychology at the University of Hartford, and her Doctorate Degree at American International College. She recently received a Women in Leadership Certification from Yale University. Dr. Domer-Shank is also a Certified Life Coach, Nationally Certified BOLD Girls facilitator, and has advanced certification in Mindfulness, Child and Adolescent Trauma, and Trauma-Informed Resilient Schools.

Laura and her husband, Neil, an Athletic Director and Coach spend much of their time actively involved with their three children - two daughters, ages 10 and 12, and 19-year-old son.

She is also the Founder and CEO of brave-embrace.org



Courtney Reim
M.Ed.

Courtney Reim is a passionate Montessorian and advocate for children. She has been engaged in non-profit work focused on children and families since 2003, when she joined The Suffield Auxiliary of the Village for Family & Children. In 1999 Courtney earned a BS in Business Administration with a dual emphasis in Finance and Management & Entrepreneurship from the University of Colorado, Boulder. After spending over 10 years in the corporate world and starting her own family, Courtney refocused her energy to become an educator. Courtney received her Association Montessori Internationale Primary Diploma from the Montessori Training Center Northeast in 2012 and graduated from the University of Hartford with a M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education in 2013. Courtney also serves on the board of Bridges to Hope, Inc., a non-profit organization committed to offering spiritual and educational programs toward the socio-economic transformation of sub-Saharan society. She is employed as a Research Assistant at the Center for Montessori Studies at the University of Hartford and looks forward to post graduate studies and contributing to the field of teacher education focusing on Dr. Montessori's child centered pedagogy and peace education. Courtney currently lives with her husband and 2 children in Enfield, CT.

Kayla Lipsitz

Kayla Lipsitz is director of alumni and family relations with seven years experience previously working as a director of marketing. Lipsitz received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Quinnipiac University located in Hamden, CT. While at Quinnipiac University Lipsitz enjoyed concentrating her studies in small business management and philosophy. Moreover, Lipsitz maintained her excellence in scholarly distinction via the Dean's List and received the Diversity Prize Award from the College of Arts and Science in recognition for innovative approaches for her thesis regarding the historiography of the Civil Rights Movement.

Lipsitz' professional role is focused on bringing solutions, innovative thought, and providing long-lasting support to her domestic and international community.

“Meaningful relationships and connectivity is the core of my work. I enjoy stewarding our international ambassadors and working with our student body made up of great role models. It's rewarding assisting our current students in becoming global philanthropists and “doers” of tomorrow. My number one objective is providing equity across the board which is actualized through education and access to opportunities benefiting their professional and personal growth. An additional project I've enjoyed supporting in my role is focused on broadening data used to track metrics relating to equity in the student population.”

In Lipsitz previous role as director of marketing, the bulk of her work was designing and managing the brand and structure of the business. She also was responsible for researching opportunities to partner in philanthropic ways with various institutions in the surrounding community and drafting the proposals.

Lipsitz has been involved in community service opportunities such as Hands on Hartford in Hartford, CT, and a year volunteering at Greenwich Hospital in Greenwich, CT.

Kayla Lipsitz currently resides in West Hartford, CT with her husband Harrison. She enjoys painting, spending time with her family, and staying connected with their church in Springfield, CT. Additionally, The Lipsitz family enjoys working together as husband and wife providing adult leadership to the Christian Club at Quinnipiac University.



We provide more than
the basics, we provide
dignity and a better
future.

Invest Today



www.ma-fuse.org



Families United Serving & Embracing @
160 Granville Rd. Granby Ct. 06060





LOVE IS
A VERB

*Thank you for
your
partnership
in this next
phase in
building to
safe-
guarding
more lives.*

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