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**My Sister’s Place Wins $25,000 State Farm Neighborhood Assist® Grant**

*Hartford Organization for the Homeless is One of 100 Countrywide Grant Winners*

State Farm® agents recently presented [My Sister’s Place](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fsistersplacect.org%2f&c=E,1,z5WX00jwfVlyxRmBkwup-k9M23M04O8zsr-SQRsrmtt8cOVvXLu6qTVhS9xsbMUy94oUAsJjXPQog1U98BdIxTHu8aPgwM2hX6HPrlP15V1MKQ,,&typo=1) (MSP) with a $25,000 State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant, which will support families experiencing homelessness.

This past February, State Farm hosted its annual Neighborhood Assist program and accepted 4,000 applications for worthy causes, from throughout the country.  The applications focused on supporting communities in need.  The 4,000 applications were reviewed and narrowed down to the top 200.  The top 200 finalists were then posted online for the public to vote on throughout 10 days.

In that time, 88,000 people cast more than 2 million votes in support of their favorite causes.  As a result, 100 communities in 34 states are getting an assist from State Farm®.  The 100 winners, including MSP, are each receiving $25,000 grants to support local community causes.  MSP is also the only Neighborhood Assist grant winner in Connecticut this year.

MSP is based in Hartford and provides a variety programs and services for homeless and vulnerably housed individuals and families.

The Neighborhood Assist grant will specifically support MSP’s For the Love of Children Initiative (FLOCI).  FLOCI is a youth development program offering service to the formerly homeless children residing in My Sister’s Place’s permanent, supportive housing.  The initiative offers recreational and enrichment activities designed to prepare children for school, a tutoring program to specifically help with math, reading, homework skills and computer literacy, and a skill building program that helps youth build critical skills, such as resilience, community and conflict mitigation.

Additionally, FLOCI provides one-on-one and group support, as well as activities designed for both parent and child participation.  There is also access to a computer lab and library where students can complete homework.

“We are so excited My Sister’s Place gained enough votes to finish as one of the 100 grant winners,” says State Farm Corporate Responsibility Analyst Jennifer Young.  “Their ability to earn enough support to win this grant demonstrates the strength and commitment of the Hartford community, as well as their passion to help neighbors in need.”

In the eleven years of the Neighborhood Assist program, nearly 500 causes have received a total of $12.5 million to enact change in their communities.

“My Sisters’ Place is honored to be a recipient of a State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant, especially in such a milestone year,” says Kara A. Capone, Chief Executive Officer of Community Housing Advocates.  “My Sisters’ Place is currently celebrating its 40th anniversary and this award will allow us to ensure that our For the Love of Children Initiative can continue offering a comprehensive array of supports designed to help young people succeed in school and address any challenges associated with their experiences of homelessness.”

The check was presented to My Sister’s Place by local State Farm agents during MSP’s Back-to-School picnic.  During the event, school supplies were handed out to children and youth residing in permanent supportive housing.  Mike Fallon, the Outreach Director for Senator Chris Murphy, also attended and presented a congratulatory letter to MSP.

“We are celebrating State Farm’s 100th anniversary this year and providing 100 causes with a total of $2.5 million is a great way to celebrate,” adds Jennifer.  “We look forward to seeing the impact of this grant throughout the Hartford area.”

For a complete list of this year’s 100 winners, please visit: [www.neighborhoodassist.com.](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.neighborhoodassist.com.&c=E,1,jeMQJwkOcm-uOVsv1xPywplFSmqZy3nV6VnooPv_Sq2tFjERXyWeZz8YzFkTctBvC6DQ-4d5SDohpb0ek_62UMfSmwovngLRVhfq_tY-IBT7BOxhF0iVXm7jDXA,&typo=1)

