



**Saturday,
April 28, 2018
The Guilford Green
43 Park Street,
Guilford, CT**

Sleep out Presentations and Workshops

Dear Friend of the Big Sleep Out:

Homelessness is a problem most people in Guilford grow up separated from. A warm home, a meal, and a safe place to sleep are not given a second thought in most cases. Nevertheless, homelessness is an issue not far beyond our town's borders. New Haven alone contains 14% of Connecticut's homeless population.

For the last four years I have been an active participant in Abraham's Tent, an outreach program of Columbus House. For one week each year, St. George Church sheltered 12 men who were homeless. My role throughout the yearly event was to socialize with the men: share meals, play games, and make them feel at home. Over the course of these weeks I was surprised to discover that these men were different than what I had imagined a person who was homeless would be. Some had families, incredible talents, and hopes and dreams not so different from my own. It was this that opened my eyes to the fact that people who are homeless are just that; people who are not so different from you or me. Abraham's Tent carried this message to the small group taking part in the event, but I would like to bring this same message to our community and my peers in the hope that we can open the minds of Guilford to a new understanding of homelessness.

The Big Sleep Out is an awareness project that aims to spread consideration for the causes of homelessness and raise funds for Columbus House. People from around Guilford will come together this spring to sleep out for a night on the Guilford green. Presentations as well as workshops relating to the cause will take place in the faith communities around the green.

We are hopeful that you will consider supporting our mission by becoming a sponsor of the Big Sleep Out. Your support makes the work of Columbus House possible. Columbus house has been helping people experiencing homelessness for 35 years and today they serve over 3,000 people throughout the region. Proceeds of the Big Sleep Out event will support Columbus House programs. Your support is vital in making the day of the event possible. Portions of your donation will support the workshops and presentations, as well as the supplies needed for such activities.

The Big Sleep Out will take place this spring on April 28, 2018 on the Guilford Green, 43 Park Street, Guilford, CT. A list of Sponsorship Opportunities is attached, however, for more information, visit our website at thebigsleepoutguilford.weebly.com. Please also consider joining us to sleep out by registering a team.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at thebigsleepoutguilford@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Ella Stanley
Ella Stanley
Chairwoman
The Big Sleep Out