



### *Mission and History*

SilverSource was founded in 1908 by Stamford community members who pooled their resources to care for the elderly and disabled who had very limited resources to care for themselves. The mission, from the very beginning was to care for disabled veterans, widows, men, women and children with limited means of support. Housing and healthcare were the foremost concerns from the beginning, and these two areas of concern continue to be our top priorities. Over time the organization's name changed to better reflect the changing needs of low-income older adults, who do not always consider themselves "seniors".

Our mission has evolved yet continues to focus on older adults and disabled people in crises who need good counsel, housing, healthcare and financial support.

#### Mission Statement

SilverSource advances the dignity, independence and quality of life of older adults by providing supportive services to those in need, guidance to families, and by engaging in community partnerships and advocating for sound public policies.

#### Purpose

SilverSource provides a safety net for seniors in need, to keep a roof over their heads, with the heat and lights on, food on the table and the medical care they need.

### *Program Expertise and Professional Partners*

Our program areas include Housing, Healthcare, Food Insecurity, as well as a non-emergency Medical Transportation program that improves access to healthcare and a volunteer supported caring connections program. Our person-centered integrated approach begins with an assessment of needs, community support and health. This is followed by a care plan in partnership with the older adult/family.

Our team of clinical and master social workers are available to the community in our office on Summer Street, at the Ferguson Library, at Building One Community, at home, in the hospital or in a rehabilitation care facility.

Our professional partnership with the State Dept. of Social Services Protective Services for the Elderly unit (PSE) provides nimble area support and ongoing case management for cases of elder abuse, fraud, scams and neglect. Our collaborators may include the Stamford Police, CT legal Services and the Probate court and the Agency on Aging.

Our Housing Stability efforts continue to be our largest program area and cost center. The lack of affordable housing for seniors and families continues to challenge our community. Homelessness among seniors has been on the rise and our work both to prevent homelessness as well as support people moving from a shelter into safe affordable housing. Overall Public Costs for homelessness: Research indicates that when combining healthcare, law enforcement, and social services, the annual cost per homeless individual can range from \$30,000 to \$50,000. Prevention saves the community great expense.

*The community counts on SilverSource to keep seniors safe.*

Referrals come from Stamford Health, DaVita, Tully Health Center, City of Stamford, United Way as well as from other partner agencies, family, friends, medical professionals and home care providers.

### *Continued growth and evolution of services to support seniors*

In June of 2024 the agency celebrated its move to larger quarters on Summer Street, next to a bus stop, with expanded parking and resources. The agency added staff to include additional bilingual social workers and operations leadership to support partnerships and community needs.

Our programs continue to grow to include caregiver support, digital education, food and nutrition support and education in partnership with UCONN. This year we added a new wheelchair van- our third vehicle to our Ride to Wellness program.

### *Challenges*

The older adult population, aged 60 and above constitute about 20.1% of Stamford's population, totaling approximately 25,956 residents. According to projections from the Connecticut State Data Center, the population aged 60 and over in Stamford is expected to reach approximately 32,000 by 2030. Today, more than 51% of people who seek our help are at or below the 100% poverty level.

As of the latest available data, approximately 15.1% of Stamford CT residents aged 60 and over live below the poverty line. *This rate is higher than the statewide average for Connecticut, where 9.6% of individuals aged 60 and over are in poverty.*

This trend aligns with broader demographic shifts both statewide and nationally and underscores the importance of planning for enhanced healthcare services, senior housing, and community support systems to accommodate needs of an aging population.

Additional challenges anticipated include an uncertain future related to projected cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, Medicare and Social Security. Our recent study suggests extreme food insecurity and greatly increased levels of homelessness among seniors would result with any benefit cuts to these safety net programs.

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