



GILEAD
COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC
Improving Lives, Building Futures

SUMMER 2026

BALM OF GILEAD

ROAD TO RECOVERY

LIFT EACH OTHER UP BOOGIE DOWN

Staff and clients donned bell bottoms, platform shoes, and sky-high hair for this year's disco-themed client banquet.

Gilead gathered at the Middletown Elks Lodge – a new location for this celebration – to honor the clients and staff who work hard, reach their goals, and succeed. The small but mighty planning committee managed this new event despite the challenges of a different venue. The decorations and music were a hit! The spirit of the event even moved staff members to dress up in theme-appropriate costumes.

The evening kicked off with a delicious meal followed by the long-awaited awards ceremony. Together we honored community members who are dedicated to Gilead's mission and the individuals who strive to reach their personal goals. Gilead programs distributed custom awards, acknowledging individuals for living independently, committing to sobriety, excelling at their jobs, and so much more.

This event is the culmination of the past year's successes. Thank you to everyone who celebrated with Gilead!



GOOD NEIGHBORS

GENEROSITY GROWS

After many years of good times and harvests, it was time to revitalize the garden with fresh beds and new soil. When clients and staff from Valor Home spoke at a recent board meeting about their love of gardening, board members Mike Monahan and Karen Neag jumped into action! Thanks to a generous donation from Karen, Mike's handywork, and help from staff and clients, there are now 4 new garden beds in the yard with fresh soil ready for planting!

Mike took the lead on clearing the existing garden beds, removing the old wooden frames, pulling out weeds, and preserving the strawberry plant that already took root. Mike carefully measured the spaces between the beds, ensuring that there was sufficient room to walk between each bed. Together with help from Development Coordinator, Marcella, and Recovery Assistant, Joyce, Mike set the new beds in place.

Sean and Jay from Gilead's facilities team stepped in to lend their knowledge, skills, and power tools to the project. They worked with Mike to secure the beds together and finish up the construction.

“Being involved with the clients and staff really lets you get to know them. The excitement from everyone seeing something old being replaced with something new makes us all feel like there’s hope.”
– Mike Monahan

When the new topsoil arrived, everyone - including clients at Valor Home - picked up shovels and got to work filling each bed to the brim. Soon, there will be fresh vegetables, herbs, and flowers for the program to care for and enjoy.

Some of the more avid gardeners at the program described what they hope to plant this year: marigolds, tomatoes, and lots of sweet and spicy peppers!

Thank you to the donors and staff members who made this transformation possible!

By Marcella Micillo,
Development Coordinator



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

This summer, Gilead partnered with the University of New Haven to host four Occupational Therapy interns across both the Gateway and Middletown social clubs. Immersing themselves in the daily community, the interns are gaining vital experience in psychosocial and recovery-oriented care while providing the clubs with fresh, evidence-based academic insights. The club clients have thoroughly enjoyed their presence, eagerly participating in activities and forming meaningful, supportive connections with the students.

Working across both locations allows the interns to see diverse group dynamics and understand how community-based environments support long-term mental health. They are witnessing firsthand how social determinants of health impact daily participation and how tailored routines build coping strategies. Ultimately, this collaboration between practice and academia brings vibrant energy to the clubs while providing the students with a solid foundation in real-world occupational therapy.



-Maria-Adriana Coler
Program Director

TURN YOUR CURRENT PASSIONS INTO AN ENDURING LEGACY

**Join us to learn how including
Gilead in your estate planning
can be simple and impactful.**

*September 18, 11am-12pm
222 Main St Ext., Middletown*

September 22, 4pm-5pm, virtual

Please scan the code to register.

*For questions, please contact
Lucy McMillan at lmcmillan@gileadcs.org or
860-301-6634*



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

IMPROVING LIVES – IMPROVING OURSELVES

The Doc Wiseman Continuing Education Fund honors one of Gilead's founders, Dr. Richard Wiseman, with scholarships to help staff members pursue future educational opportunities. This July, Gilead gave out the 30th award!



The team at the Gateway Community Treatment program loves to party. Every holiday comes with a celebration including themed foods and desserts. In addition to her hard work as a Senior Rehabilitation Counselor, Dawn Tyler is an amazing baker, creating unique desserts to go with each event. She even created custom cake pops with edible "Who Will You Move For" t-shirts on them! This year, she is using the Doc Wiseman Continuing Education Fund to support her enrollment in a cookie decorating class so she can improve her baking skills and bring more joy and creativity to those at Gateway.

The Doc Wiseman Continuing Education Fund provides the resources to make these opportunities a reality for Gilead staff.

THE WAIT IS OVER!

After 6 years on the waitlist, J.G. finally has his own apartment!

J.G. first came to Gilead about 10 years ago. With support from Gilead's continuum of care and his community of supports, he has made strides towards living independently in the community. The wait has been long, but worthwhile! J.G.'s apartment overlooks the water and has community garden space as well as a community room.

"The Portland Housing Authority offered many wraparound supports," said Suzanne, J.G.'s mother and Gilead board member. "It's a relief to know he's in a meticulously maintained apartment with so many supports nearby."

Since moving into his new space, J.G. has been putting his own personal touches on the space, including art from his family and travels to Nepal, records and CDs, a fish tank, and tons of plants. He has been experimenting in the kitchen and even had an old friend visit!

*"I don't know what else to say -
I'm just so happy!" – J.G.*



ROAD TO RECOVERY

FROM SHARED LIVING TO INDEPENDENCE

Over the past year, K.H. has demonstrated meaningful growth as she transitioned from a group home setting into her own apartment. While the process included challenges related to consistency, routines, and independent decision-making, she continued to show determination in building a life that reflects greater autonomy and personal choice.

K.H. participated in appointments, errands, community activities, and aspects of her move with increasing involvement and ownership. She is proud of this step towards independence and is motivated to create a space of her own. Throughout the transition, she gradually developed skills related to self-direction, community integration, and navigating responsibilities associated with independent living.

Her move into her own apartment represents a significant milestone and reflects both her resilience and the progress she has made toward greater independence and self-confidence!

The Shoreline Community Apartment Program (SCAP) honored K.C. at the annual client banquet. We are all so proud of her achievements!

By Srideepthi Kancharla,
Senior Case Manager



CONGRATULATIONS ANNE!

Gilead honored Anne Schwartz, Program Director at Gateway, with the Staff Excellence Award at the client banquet.

The Staff Excellence Award is a peer-nominated honor to recognize a staff member who has gone above and beyond to live Gilead's mission. Anne definitely deserves this honor!

In addition to her role at Gateway Community Treatment, Anne stepped in to assist the Farrell Treatment Center (FTC) as they prepared for their first ever CARF Accreditation. Thanks in part to Anne's help with documentation, staff education, and processes, FTC earned their first ever CARF Accreditation!

Anne builds strong therapeutic and professional relationships and consistently models compassion and patience. She facilitates staff trainings, serves on multiple committees, and continuously contributes to agency-wide initiatives. Her dedication to the clients she serves and the staff she supports is evident in every aspect of her work. She brings a calm, solution-focused attitude to the program every day and is highly respected by both staff and clients.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

Camp Harkness Trip

September 8-11, 2026

Legacy Giving Sessions

September 18 & September 22, 2026



21st Annual Quizine for a Cause

November 1, 2026

WISH LIST

Non-stick pots and pans
Books
8-slot toaster
16oz coffee mugs
Tea Kettle
Cameras

Please note that according to Gilead policy, we cannot accept used clothing, upholstered furniture, bedding, or mattresses. Thank you for understanding!

**Please contact Marcella Micillo at 475-321-2735 or mmicillo@gileadcs.org if you wish to donate an item from the wish list.*

Gilead Community Services is funded in part by



Most of Gilead Community
Service programs are
CARF-accredited

