











# Thank You to All...



Mark Woollett and Candace Clift are California natives. Mark hails from Orange, CA, while Candace comes from the greater Sacramento area. However, they did not meet until they both acted in a production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – in Massachusetts no less. But then, as the Bard himself says, "the course of true love never did run smooth."

In 2013, they moved to New York City. Since, both have kept their toes firmly dipped in the theatre scene by working at The Barrow Group Theatre Company and School. Mark works in finance, while Candace teaches and works in school operations.

Unfortunately, in addition to all the highlights

of their time in the Big City, Mark and Candace also found themselves overwhelmed by the amount of people experiencing homelessness. "the causes of homelessness are many, complex, and intertwined" the couple observed. "There is no one solution."

These observances also inspired the couple to reflect on their own experiences. Mark commented, "Candace's battle in 2016 with Triple Negative Breast Cancer also made us keenly aware of how lucky we were to have insurance when we really needed it. Illness is a vulnerability. We were so lucky to face that fearful situation with a roof over our head and insurance to pay the bills."

Mark and Candace's introspections led them to seek out organizations working to end homelessness in New York City. Eventually, they found Care For the Homeless (CFH). The couple commented, "Our hearts were breaking for those we saw on an almost daily basis, struggling on the street with illnesses. So, we decided to contribute towards a solution."

They continued, "CFH has a pragmatic approach to dealing with the wide-ranging medical needs of those experiencing street homelessness. And to us, that's a compassionate place to start tackling the larger problem of homelessness in our city."



**Dr. Sherill Purcell** came to the United States when she was 21 and settled with her family in Kings County, Brooklyn, NY. She completed undergrad at CUNY-Brooklyn and subsequently graduated from New Jersey Medical School in Newark, NJ. Her early years at CFH were spent at a family shelter in Brooklyn. Purcell now splits her time as a pediatrician between CFH's Citadel Open Access Health Center in Queens, NY and her own private practice.

Even now in 2019 though, after her long career in medicine, she's still meaningfully influenced by her native roots; especially when it comes to working with underserved patient populations. Purcell commented, "We didn't have much [in Grenada]. So, that background is always with me."

Unfortunately, as is the case with many patients utilizing CFH's services, there isn't a whole lot of trust between them and medical professionals. As of 2018, 27% of CFH patients were uninsured and 85% were below the federal poverty line. These circumstances lead those experiencing them, to believe that they'll be turned away by doctors, treated poorly by the system, and/or that they just can't afford health care.

Additionally, these conditions push health to the bottom of their priority list. Food and housing insecurity are tremendous burdens that end up taking precedence, even when someone is feeling sick. This leads to appointment no shows and the unnecessary exacerbation of treatable, chronic diseases.

In situations like these, trust is among the most essential pillars a provider must nurture in relationships with their patients. When asked about how she cultivates trust, Dr. Purcell specifically recounted the story of a young mother, "She was very prim, proper, and articulate. Sometimes you think you understand people, but if you've never been homeless, you don't understand what it's like to be an adult and have people telling you what to do all the time. I gave her respect."

"Later, the mother told her social worker, 'That pediatrician, she looked me in my eyes and made me feel like a human being.' It became a lesson to me. And it's so simple, but that feeling of being validated is so important to so many people."

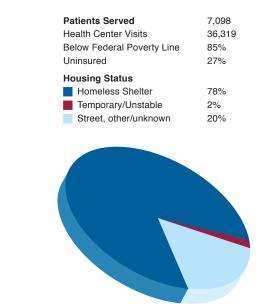
"Now I always think of her," Purcell continued. "I understand that I can't solve all the problems a patient may have, but I can always listen to what they have to say and pay attention. That helps their state of mind. It's supportive and I was happy that I could give her that. And even more so, that she acknowledged it, so that I could be conscious of it moving forward."



# ... Who Advocate for and Support those We Serve

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Health Care for the Homeless
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## 2017 Partners & Supporters

Care For the Homeless is grateful for your kind support and generosity. All individual and institutional donors who made gifts to CFH from January - December 2017, including In-Kind donations and tribute gifts, will be featured on our website under the "Who We Are" section.

#### Financials as of December 31, 2017

#### Revenue and Support

Grants and Contracts \$15,794,526

Medicaid and Medicare Fees \$3,462,649

Miscellaneous Revenues \$142,607

Contributions and Special Events \$237,911

Total Revenue: \$19,637,693

#### Expenses

Program Services
Supporting Services Management
Fundraising
Total Operation Expenses
Depreciation and Amortization

## Change in Net Assets - Operations

Change in Net Assets from Operations Net Assets - end of year

Complete financial statements, audited by Mitchell Titus, are available upon request to Care For the Homeless.





\$16.966.486

\$3,362,311

\$20,694,242

\$365,445

\$697.069

\$1,289,460

\$1,774,130



#### SERVING NEW YORK CITY

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OUR PARTMERS

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