



LEADERSHIP NORTHWEST

Class of 2026 Graduation

June 10, 2026

Brandywine Living at Litchfield



Class of 2026 Graduation

June 10, 2026
Brandywine Living
at Litchfield

Ted Shafer

President & CEO

NWCT Chamber of Commerce



Class of 2026 Graduation

June 10, 2026
Brandywine Living
at Litchfield

Dan Santorso

*Executive Assistant, FISH NWCT Shelter & Food Pantry
Master of Ceremonies & Chairman of Leadership Northwest*



Northwest Connecticut
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Working Together

LEADERSHIP NORTHWEST

January 2026



Connecticut Business Day, 2026 Hartford, CT













Northwest Connecticut
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Working Together

LEADERSHIP NORTHWEST

Class of 2026 Graduation

June 10, 2026

Brandywine Living at Litchfield



Class of 2026 Graduation

June 10, 2026
Brandywine Living
at Litchfield

Graduation Address
Michael Hogan
NBT Bank

Community Cupboard

Kara Hagarty

Office Manager, CHH Diabetes and Endocrinology Torrington

Michael Hogan

AVP, Commercial Banking Relationship Manager, NBT Bank

Rebecca Lee Rivera

Executive Assistant, McCall Behavioral Health Network

Why?

- Custom food cupboard designed to promote privacy, dignity, and ease
- “No-shame” option located at a convenient agency-based location
- Removes transportation barriers as CHWC is located on the bus line
- Supports “community supporting community” access
- Stocked with non-perishables, hygiene items, baby products, and grab-and-go snacks
- All residents will have access

Community Health & Wellness Center

469 Migeon Ave, Torrington

- Outdoors of CHWC in the parking lot (right side) under awning
- High daily foot traffic of community members
- Staff willing to maintain light oversight
- Safe, monitored location
- Visibility without drawing attention to the user

Privacy & Dignity Features

- Soft-close hinges to reduce noise
- Discreet signage



Safety & Durability

- Anchored for stability
- Lockable bottom shelf (for storing overflow stock or donations)
- Easy-clean materials
- CHWC has security cameras inside and outside their campus

Accessibility

- ADA-height compliant shelves
- Easy-open handles
- Wide door swing for mobility devices



Aesthetic & Branding

- Wrapping
- Clear labels for shelves
- Small plaque recognizing partnership
 - NW Leadership of Chamber of Commerce & Community Health and Wellness Center
 - NBT Bank
- Social media



Content & Stocking Plan

- Canned goods
- Dry foods
- Personal hygiene
- Household essentials
- Baby supplies
- Grab-and-go snacks

Set Stocking Rules

- Shelf max/min inventory levels
- Rotation schedule, weekly to start, and then biweekly
- Expiration check system
 - expirations will be checked during weekly/biweekly rotation
 - oldest date will be placed in the front
- Donation acceptance guidelines-
 - nothing refrigerated
 - nothing expired

Roles & Responsibilities Agreement

CHWC:

- Provide physical space
- Allow easy community access during operating hours
- Light monitoring for safety
- Notify the pantry team if they notice stock is low

Roles & Responsibilities Agreement

Pantry Team:

- Purchase - NBT Bank
- Stock and refresh items
- Maintain cleanliness- to be included as part of our rotation schedule
- Provide signage and promotional materials

Ongoing Monitoring & Reporting

- Estimated use
- Stocking frequency
- Most-requested items
- Feedback from the agency partner
- Trends in community need

Thank You



Northwest Connecticut
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Working Together

Paws for Progress

Group #2: Joshua Licursi, Sabrina Nimmich, Alexi Maldonado, Jamie Pighinni & Advisor Alyssa Steel



Meet Our Team

Alex



Jamie



Sabrina



Josh



APPROVAL NEEDED

Many Phone Calls & Emails to Torrington Parks and Recreation, and a few other Torrington officials for guidance and approval! This was our biggest obstacle.



Thank you Mayor Spino for moving our project along!



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Your input will help guide future updates and ensure this space continues to be safe, enjoyable, and welcoming for both dogs and their humans.



**Thank you for taking a moment
to share your thoughts!**

SCAN ME!



Survey Questions

1. What do you love most about the Torrington Dog Park?

Your answer

2. What improvements or changes would you like to see?

Your answer

3. Are there any issues or concerns you've noticed?

Your answer



Help Shape the Future of our Dog Park

On behalf of the Northwest CT Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program, we're gathering feedback from our Torrington dog park community to better understand what's working, what could be improved, and what you'd love to see added.

Your input will help guide future updates and ensure this space continues to be safe, enjoyable, and welcoming for both dogs and their humans. Thank you for taking a moment to share your thoughts!

We're looking for community support to help fund these improvements! After completing this survey, you will receive a link to make a donation that will directly support this project.

4. What amenities would you like added (if any)?

(e.g., seating, water stations, agility equipment)

Your answer

5. How often do you visit the park? *

- Daily
- Weekly
- Occasionally
- First Time

Submit

Clear form

Survey Results



Another poop station at the far end and signs reminding people to pick up

Great that poop bags are available.
Nice having picnic tables for a place to sit and get out of the elements if needed.
Enjoy watching softball games in the summer brings the park alive.
Ample parking also.

More seating

Somehow more shade where the pavilion is on the bigger dog side.

There's no lighting for when it gets dark

Agility equipment would be fun

Water stations and garbage bins for dog duty

Dispenser for bags at the other end of large dog area; trees for shade; larger pavilion with at least one more picnic table

More shade for dog owners. Maybe shade trees for the pooches.

The entrance has to be graded higher so that water and ice dont build up.

Some patrolling, people are not diligent. Waste bags at both ends. More clean up your mess signage inside the fence.

Grass would be nice, but expensive.

Exercise equipment is a good idea.

Holder for water bowls so they dont tip over.

More seating for humans; water stations; trees; agility equipment

Water stations and a few trees for shade

Agility equipment, a poop station at the far end, a portico at the far end as well



Obstacles for the pups and maybe some shade on the big side



Planning For Our Project

What do we do with these results?

- Separate Play areas?
- Agility areas? Who can build? Cost?
- Fencing? Already have some fencing
- Grass?
- Artificial turf?
- Wood Chips?
- Trees? Can we get a business to donate?
- Water or Hydration Station? Do we have the capability to do this?
- Who is going to maintain?
- Seating?
- Picnic Tables?

Torrington Dog Park Clean Up & Tree Planting Event!





TORRINGTON DOG PARK

TREE PLANTING EVENT

Saturday, June 6, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

8 Perkins St, Torrington

Join us to plant locally-donated trees at the Torrington Dog Park! We are also looking for volunteers to help clean up the area.

All are welcome!

This event is hosted by participants of the Northwest CT Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program.

POSTPONED
NEW DATE COMING SOON



Comfort and Care Baskets

Group #3 NW Connecticut Chamber of Commerce
2026

Group Members

- **Jeffrey Bunch** – *Daley Moving Company*
- **Lisa Dombroski** – *Charlotte Hungerford Hospital*
- **Alayna Scarangelo** – *CT State Community College – Northwestern*
- **Katherine Taylor-Klimkoski** – *McCall Behavioral Health Network*

Our Thought Process:

We wanted to create a project that addressed the needs of the community, as well as something we all found interesting. Originally, we were going to do a diaper drive. Lisa did some outreach and spoke with Susan B. After speaking with Susan B, we found out that their residential shelter was in desperate need of shower supplies. This is where the *Comfort and Care Baskets* came about.



Susan B. Anthony Project
SAFETY • HEALING • GROWTH

Our Goal

- Create a basket of supplies that not only provides the essentials, but gives the people using our baskets dignity and the opportunity to feel a little pampered
- We considered the needs of a family. This was why we opted for more scent free items
- Many of the families at the shelter have children and scent free items are safer for kids
- We also wanted to take some of the stress off the families

Creating the Flier:

Our goal with our flier was to clearly state the information the public needed.

We also made the preferences for unscented items known. We picked a design that was “calming” looking. It was on theme for this project not only being hygienic products but allowing the families that will be using them to feel taken care of.



COMFORT AND CARE BASKETS

We are looking for:
shampoo, soap, wash cloths, towels, and lotion.
We are asking for new and unscented items.

For our NWCT Chamber of Commerce Leadership project, we are creating and filling baskets for Susan B. Anthony's shelter. We are hoping to provide peace and comfort with these kits.



CHECKS CAN BE MADE OUT TO
NW CT CHAMBER EDUCATION FOUNDATION OR PLEASE SCAN QR CODE
Donations can be dropped off at the Chamber of Commerce's office by May 15, 2024
59 Field Street, Suite 120 Torrington, CT 06790

GROUP 3

Our Approach

- We started by having a group conversation to identify what products would be best to include in the baskets. We also viewed this as what is best for the family and what products multiple family members could use.
 - Our group also considered that many of the families staying at the shelter have children and this is why we asked for some scent-free items
- We compiled a list and made a rough estimate of what each basket would cost. We then considered some local businesses that may be willing to donate.

Our Donors: Businesses and Organizations

- ***Autumn Rose Handcrafted***

- This is a local business that makes organic and handmade body care products local in Torrington. The owner, Beverly, donated bars of soap and chapstick tubes.
- ***CT State Community College Northwestern***
 - Alayna's employer made a monetary donation towards our project.

- ***Brooker Memorial***

- This is a local child-care center in Torrington. They provide many other child-related services as well. They held a drive for us and collected donations.
- ***Artistic Dental Medicine***
 - Dr. Jorge Baujin donated an assortment of dental supplies for our baskets. He is located in Torrington

Donor Organizations and Business cont.

- ***Primerica Financial Services***

- This is a financial service company that targets middle-income households, providing life insurance and investment products. They have made a monetary donation

- ***Community Health & Wellness***

- Provides integrated, patient focused healthcare and social services to our local communities. They have made a monetary donation.

The background features a large, vibrant green monstera leaf with characteristic holes, partially overlapping a white circular graphic that has a subtle shadow. The overall color palette includes light blue, pink, and white.

Our Donors: Individuals

- Donald and Becky Markie
- Robert and Katie Field
- Bruce and Judith Watts
- Scott Crawford

Our Donations





Thank you!



Class of 2026 Graduation

June 10, 2026
Brandywine Living
at Litchfield

Guest Speaker
Ed Thorney
Wilderness Therapy and Mentoring, LLC

























Class of 2026 Graduation

June 10, 2026
Brandywine Living
at Litchfield

Guest Speaker
Ed Thorney
Wilderness Therapy and Mentoring, LLC



Class of 2026 Graduation

June 10, 2026
Brandywine Living
at Litchfield

Team One

Community Cupboard

at Community Health &
Wellness, Torrington

Kara Hagarty

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Michael Hogan

NBT Bank

Rebecca Lee Rivera

McCall Behavioral Health

Team Two

Paws for Progress

at Torrington Dog Park

Joshua Licursi

McCall Behavioral Health

Alex Maldonado

BD

Sabrina Nimmich

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Jamie Pighinni

Union Savings Bank

Team Three

Comfort and Care Baskets

at Susan B Anthony Project,
Torrington

Jeffrey Bunch

Daley Moving Company

Lisa Dombroski

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Alayna Scarangelo

CT State Northwestern

Katherine Taylor-Klimkoski

McCall Behavioral Health



Class of 2026 Graduation

June 10, 2026
Brandywine Living
at Litchfield

Team One

Community Cupboard

at Community Health &
Wellness, Torrington

Kara Hagarty

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Michael Hogan

NBT Bank

Rebecca Lee Rivera

McCall Behavioral Health

Team Two

Paws for Progress

at Torrington Dog Park

Alex Maldonado

BD

Jamie Pighinni

Union Savings Bank

Sabrina Nimmich

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Joshua Licursi

McCall Behavioral Health

Team Three

Comfort and Care Baskets

at Susan B Anthony Project,
Torrington

Jeffrey Bunch

Daley Moving Company

Lisa Dombroski

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Alayna Scarangelo

CT State Northwestern

Katherine Taylor-Klimkoski

McCall Behavioral Health



Class of 2026 Graduation

June 10, 2026
Brandywine Living
at Litchfield

Team One

Community Cupboard

at Community Health &
Wellness, Torrington

Kara Hagarty

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Michael Hogan

NBT Bank

Rebecca Lee Rivera

McCall Behavioral Health

Team Two

Paws for Progress

at Torrington Dog Park

Alex Maldonado

BD

Jamie Pighinni

Union Savings Bank

Sabrina Nimmich

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Joshua Licursi

McCall Behavioral Health

Team Three

Comfort and Care Baskets

at Susan B Anthony Project,
Torrington

Jeffrey Bunch

Daley Moving Company

Lisa Dombroski

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Alayna Scarangelo

CT State Northwestern

Katherine Taylor-Klimkoski

McCall Behavioral Health



Class of 2026 Graduation

June 10, 2026
Brandywine Living
at Litchfield

Team One

Community Cupboard

at Community Health &
Wellness, Torrington

Kara Hagarty

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Michael Hogan

NBT Bank

Rebecca Lee Rivera

McCall Behavioral Health

Team Two

Paws for Progress

at Torrington Dog Park

Alex Maldonado

BD

Jamie Pighinni

Union Savings Bank

Sabrina Nimmich

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Joshua Licursi

McCall Behavioral Health

Team Three

Comfort and Care Baskets

at Susan B Anthony Project,
Torrington

Jeffrey Bunch

Daley Moving Company

Lisa Dombroski

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Alayna Scarangelo

CT State Northwestern

Katherine Taylor-Klimkoski

McCall Behavioral Health



LEADERSHIP NORTHWEST

Class of 2026 Graduation

June 10, 2026

Brandywine Living at Litchfield