

March 10, 2026

ECAR Announces 2025–2026 Community Benefit Raffle Grant Recipients

\$22,000 Awarded to 24 Local Non-Profit Organizations

Norwich, CT — The Eastern Connecticut Association of REALTORS® (ECAR) is proud to announce the 2025–2026 Community Benefit Raffle Grant Recipients. On Thursday, March 12, 2026, ECAR’s Community Outreach Committee distributed over \$22,000 in grant funding to 24 local non-profit organizations, supporting vital programs that serve communities across Eastern Connecticut.

The funding was made possible through ECAR’s Annual Community Benefit Raffle, held each December at the Lake of Isles. Thanks to the generosity of donors, sponsors, and event attendees, the fundraiser drew over 150 people who raised the highest amount yet to be awarded directly to local organizations making a difference in the region.

“These organizations are the backbone of our community,” said Dan Contino, ECAR President. “Through the Community Benefit Raffle, our members are proud to support the incredible work being done every day to provide housing stability, food security, recovery services, youth programs, and essential resources to those in need.”

2025–2026 Grant Recipients. The following organizations received grant funding this year:

- Always Home, Mystic, CT
- Care & Share of East Lyme, Niantic, CT
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Norwich ,
- Covenant Shelter of New London ,
- Groton Community Meals
- Madonna Place, Norwich, CT
- Martin House, Norwich, CT
- Safe Futures, New London, CT
- Southeast CT Community Center of the Blind, New London, CT
- St. Vincent de Paul Place, Norwich, CT
- The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, Essex, CT
- Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut, New London, CT
- Legacy: A Residential Recovery Program for Women, Groton, CT
- New London Area Food Pantry
- The Riverfront Children’s Center, Groton, CT
- Thames River Community Service, Norwich, CT
- Waterford Country School, Quaker Hill, CT
- United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, Gales Ferry, CT
- SE Regional Action Council, Norwich, CT
- Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Jewett City, CT
- Children First (under The LEARN Project) Old Lyme, CT
- S.T.E.P.S., Inc., Groton, CT
- Malta, Inc., Groton, CT
- United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, New London, CT

ECAR extends a heartfelt thank you to the dedicated Community Outreach Committee, a group of more than 20 REALTOR® and industry professional volunteers who work year-round to organize the raffle and ensure its success. Their commitment allows ECAR members to give back in a meaningful way and strengthen the communities they serve.

“Giving back is at the heart of the REALTOR® spirit,” said Chelsea Laukaitis, Committee Chair. “Seeing these funds support so many impactful organizations is a reminder of what we can accomplish together.”

The Eastern Connecticut Association of REALTORS® (ECAR) represents over 1200 Realtors® and Affiliated businesses across Eastern Connecticut and is committed to supporting property ownership, strengthening

communities, and promoting high standards within the real estate industry. Through community outreach initiatives and charitable programs, ECAR members work to make a lasting positive impact in the region.



From left to right: Kevin Mace, Diane Garner, 2025 Committee Chair, Ellen Godburn, Stacey Wyeth

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