



*Celebrating P.T. Barnum's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday!*

## **Awareness: Ending Homelessness**

### **Special exhibition of photographs by Ronnie E. Maher**

*Presented by ALPHA Community Services*

A moving exhibition titled "Awareness: Ending Homelessness" will be on display at The Barnum Museum from March 11 through May 23, 2010. The exhibition features photographs by Ronnie E. Maher and is presented by [Alpha Community Services, a branch of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA](#). The Opening Reception is free and will be held on Thursday, March 11 from 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Photographer Ronnie E. Maher lives in Norwalk, CT. For the past 14 years she has divided her time between professional and personal photographic work. She also teaches photography to high-risk youth in both Norwalk and Nicaragua. Over the years Maher has taught photography classes and workshops at almost every after school community program in Norwalk including Choices for Success, the Norwalk Housing Authority, GW Carver and Family and Children's Agency. Maher headed the photography program at Briggs High School, the Alternative High School in Norwalk, CT for seven years.

Although much of her personal and professional work centers around local non-profits, Maher photographs weddings, portraits and events both locally and abroad. Starting in 2010 Maher has shifted her focus to expanding [NicaPhoto](#), the photography project in Nagarote and currently spends the majority of the year in Nicaragua overseeing this project. NicaPhoto is a youth project focused on education, art and personal development. To learn more about the artist and view photographs visit <http://www.remaherphoto.com>

Alpha Community Services (ACS), a branch of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA addresses the needs of homeless families and individuals by providing emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing. The YMCA has a demonstrated record for developing creative and effective strategies that respond to challenges faced by individuals and families in our community. For ACS, helping to build a generation of healthy and supportive families through quality programs and services is simply a way of life.

ACS is the largest provider of supportive housing in Fairfield County and operates the only family emergency shelter in the City of Bridgeport. There are close to 4,000 homeless people in the State of Connecticut at any one point including 13,000 children in the course of one year. In 2009 ACS gave 892 individuals, including more than 400 children, a sense of community and a place to call home.

ACS is proud of its role utilizing resources to efficiently help those who find themselves in need - many from circumstances outside of their own control. In addition to a place to sleep, ACS' housing facilities offer case management services including job training and continuing education classes.

Celebrating the 200th birthday of Phineas Taylor Barnum, born July 5, 1810 in Bethel CT, during 2010 The Barnum Museum will chronicle the life and times of this extraordinary showman and the history of Bridgeport where Barnum served as Mayor. For a complete listing of anniversary year events celebrating this amazing – and sometimes outrageous – showman, civic leader and politician, visit [www.barnum-museum.org](http://www.barnum-museum.org). The original museum building, owned by the City of Bridgeport is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Regular Museum Hours: Tuesday - Saturday - 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sunday – Noon to 4:30 p.m.

Last admission to the museum is 3:45 p.m. daily. Closed Mondays and Holidays.

General Admission: Adults \$8, seniors and college students \$6, Children age 4-17 \$5 and under 4 free.

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