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NEW HAVEN, CT - NEW HAVEN NONPROFIT REVITALIZES NEIGHBORHOODS, RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD FROM YALE'S DWIGHT HALL

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Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven (NHS New Haven) has been selected by Dwight Hall students and staff to receive the **2019 Community Partner Award**. The award will be presented to NHS New Haven's Executive Director, James A. Paley, at the Annual Service Awards ceremony, which celebrates Dwight Hall's 133-year tradition of student service and advocacy in New Haven and around the world.

Peter G. Crumlish, Dwight Hall's Executive Director & General Secretary said, "NHS has been a valued partner in countless Dwight Hall endeavors, and has consistently distinguished itself both through the quality of service that it provides to its clients and its support of Dwight Hall students. As a site for Urban Fellows, for volunteer projects during our Days of Service, and as a partner with the pre-orientation program FOCUS on New Haven, NHS exemplifies the best in collaboration and relationship-building we value in our community partners."

Crumlish said Yale students have become more reflective civic leaders and advocates, better-informed citizens, and more thoughtful future public servants because of the opportunities that NHS has provided for service work, meaningful reflection, and personal growth.

As a first-year undergrad student at Yale, Kathryn Paton volunteered with NHS New Haven at Sherman Forest, where she participated in cleaning debris, clearing trails and laying mulch. She also helped beautify homes and gardens in the Newhallville neighborhood. Paton was so moved by the experience she returned for a second year. "I was so impressed with NHS's deeply thoughtful work and so energized by [their] love for the city... I feel grateful to have been introduced to this unique, vibrant small city by people who love it and are doing excellent, productive work to support several of its communities."



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An unexpected benefit of Paton's Dwight Hall service experience was the invitation to consider how housing influences urban space. "Highly-effective community engagement involves specific but various types of work in order to support a community's self-defined needs and goals," Paton said.

"We greatly value the opportunity to work with Yale students, to introduce them to the work we do and to reinforce the importance of community-based projects, and to integrate Yale students into the broader New Haven community," said Mr. Paley.

The ceremony will take place Wednesday, May 1st from 3:30 to 5:00 PM in the Chapel at Dwight Hall on Yale's Old Campus, and will include the presentation of other leadership awards.

Photo Credit: Adam Rawlings

Photo caption: Yale Focus volunteers after an event in 2017