

Michael Ferry
Social Work Manager
Yale New Haven Hospital

Mr. Ferry received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Connecticut at Storrs in 1988 and his Master's degree in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1990. Mr. Ferry began his career in child protective services in California and Connecticut. In 2002, he transitioned into medical social work providing services to palliative care and hospice patients nearing the end of life. Since 2006, Mr. Ferry has been working at Yale New Haven Hospital, initially as a social worker on cardiac and medicine units. As the hospital transitioned to using its current electronic medical record, Mr. Ferry joined with others in developing the YNHH portion of the Medical Respite Program for homeless adults. In conjunction with the data collection and analysis needs of Medical Respite, Mr. Ferry developed the automated data collection and reporting system the Social Work Department now uses. Since FY2018, he has been serving as the manager for social work staff working in the homeless, immunology, and transplant service lines.

Pamela Koprowski
Principal
Cardinale Associates, LLC

Pamela A. Koprowski is an accomplished public affairs executive with more than three decades of public relations, government affairs and community relations experience, including strategic communications, program development, planning management and execution. As public affairs consultant to Stamford Health, Ms. Koprowski has provided strategic guidance for successful outreach to government, corporate and nonprofit stakeholders to support the Hospital's Facility Master Plan. Currently, Ms. Koprowski supports Stamford Health's Community Health Improvement Plan and Vita Health & Wellness Community Collaborative.

As director of public affairs at Stamford Hospital for a decade, her accomplishments include the opening of new facilities, development of programs and guiding the regulatory process for approval of the new Stamford Hospital campus, state approval Emergency Angioplasty and Open Heart surgery. Ms. Koprowski directed local, state and federal government relations, public relations, community relations and internal and external communications and program development including Paint the Town Pink, a breast cancer community awareness campaign and Kids' Fans, a program to raise awareness, prevent and treat childhood obesity.

Previously, Ms. Koprowski served as Director of Public Affairs for Champion International Corporation. In Stamford, she directed the public affairs strategy to successfully fund, construct and open a new downtown campus of the University of Connecticut, and managed the communication strategy that successfully generated private and public support for the project. As the founding president of Stamford Neighborhood Housing Services, led the campaign to fund Connecticut's first Mutual Housing development and raised private contributions to support housing rehabilitation and nonprofit affordable housing programs. Ms. Koprowski served on the Advisory Board of Reading Is Fundamental, was a Director of the Connecticut Association for Human Services and the United Way of Stamford, among other organizations, and was awarded the Dr. Joyce Yerwood Community Service Award by the NAACP-Stamford Branch. She lives in Stamford, Connecticut.

Jacqueline Rabe Thomas
Reporter
Connecticut Mirror Newspaper

Jacqueline Rabe Thomas has been a reporter at The Connecticut Mirror since 2009. She is spending this year investigating exclusionary housing practices in Connecticut in partnership with ProPublica. She has won two first prizes from the national Education Writers Association for her work in 2012 – one in beat reporting for her overall education coverage, and the other in investigative reporting on a series of stories revealing questionable monetary and personnel actions taken by the Board of Regents for Higher Education. In 2016, she was a finalist in the EWA competition for single-topic coverage for her reporting on how schools are funded in Connecticut. In 2019, she won the Theodore Driscoll Award for Investigative Reporting from the Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists for her reporting on the health care inmates receive behind bars. Before coming to The Mirror, Jacqueline was a reporter, online editor and website developer for The Washington Post Co.'s Maryland newspaper chains. She has also worked for Congressional Quarterly and the Toledo Free Press. Jacqueline received an undergraduate degree in journalism from Bowling Green State University and a master's in public policy from Trinity College. She and her husband, two sons and two dogs live in Hartford. Email: jrabe@ctmirror.org
Twitter: @jacquelinera

Christi Staples
New England Director
Corporation for Supportive Housing

Christi Staples joined CSH as New England Director in October of 2017. Prior to CSH, Christi was the Deputy Executive Director at the Partnership for Strong Communities (PSC). She served as a representative for the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), an NGO with consultative status to the United Nations.

Prior to her role with PSC, Christi was the Vice President of Health Equity for the Connecticut State Medical Society, focusing on the physicians' role in eliminating racial and ethnic healthcare disparities. She also served as the interim Executive Director of the Health Assistance Intervention Education Network of Connecticut (HAVEN), an organization that provides confidential consultation and support to healthcare professionals facing health concerns related to alcoholism, substance abuse, behavioral or mental health issues and/or physical illness.

Christi holds a Master's Degree in Social Work. She is a Connecticut Health Foundation Health Leadership Senior Fellow, focusing on increasing leadership knowledge and skills to better advocate and improve the health and well-being of those vulnerable to racial and ethnic health disparities.

Vincent Tufo
Chief Executive Officer
Charter Oak Communities

Vincent Tufo is chief executive officer of Charter Oak Communities (COC), formerly the Stamford Housing Authority, a progressive community development organization serving Stamford, Connecticut. Mr. Tufo is also founder and president of Rippowam Corporation, COC's real estate development subsidiary. COC is entering the final phases of its plan to replace or recapitalize its original publicly-assisted housing properties and to create mixed-use and community facilities in Stamford's underserved

neighborhoods. Overseeing a multi-year \$650 million housing redevelopment program, Tufo has completed two HUD HOPE VI community revitalization initiatives, along with numerous mixed-finance public housing replacement projects.

Charter Oak Communities' commitment to the value of forming strategic partnerships has significantly improved its capacity to undertake diverse initiatives that have served to strengthen the Stamford community.

Under Tufo's leadership, COC has created a dedicated entity – Dovetail: Social Innovation Platform (SIP) – to support multi-sector solutions to complex socio-economic challenges. The SIP team currently serves as an incubator for several pilot initiatives including the Vita Health and Wellness District and the Stamford Cradle to Career program. In its efforts to 'think globally', SIP is co-sponsoring national and regional initiatives with affiliate organizations to build capacity and leverage social enterprise. In one such effort, SIP has partnered with the New York metro area Regional Plan Association in creating the Anchor Opportunity Network to leverage anchor strategies to drive comprehensive neighborhood revitalization.

Tufo has a BA degree from Binghamton University (SUNY) and a MA degree from the University of Michigan. He is a long time member and past chair of the Connecticut Housing Coalition, a statewide advocacy and capacity building membership organization. He is an active national advisory board member of the Association for Community Health Improvement (an affiliate of the American Hospital Association). Tufo has presented extensively on the issues of public housing transformation, community and economic development, real estate structured finance, strategic partnership formation and social innovation.