

Howard Charton
Common Ground Community
Montrose Veterans Program
Program Director
At Large Candidate

Common Ground Community has been a leader and innovator in permanent supportive housing for the past 20 years. Common Ground houses over 3000 formally homeless or at risk of homeless persons throughout New York and Connecticut. We have always sought the most vulnerable and disenfranchised individuals who are chronically homeless. Building a robust and eclectic street-to-home program in the five boroughs and operating safe havens and shelter programs to transition people into permanent housing are our most recent endeavors to decrease homelessness in New York.

As for our work with Veterans, on any given night in the U.S., there are 62,000 homeless Veterans on the streets, a number way too large for anyone who has served their country. To put it in perspective, during the Vietnam War 58,000 men and women died serving our country. There are more homeless veterans on any given night in America than those who perished in 10 years of War. In 2008 Common Ground opened the Montrose Veterans Program which has become the largest Veteran specific transitional housing program in the Hudson Valley (serving up to 96 male and female Veterans). We have worked to build positive relationships not only with the Veterans Administration, but also with our community partners. Common Ground has been represented on the Westchester County CoC Partnership for the Homeless for over 3 years and has Chaired the Veterans Homeless Committee for almost 1 year. We look forward to our continued work with the Westchester County CoC to end Veterans homelessness.