

*Celebrating Ten Years of*

**10<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

*A Better Way*



A Better Way Foundation is a Connecticut non-profit organization that is dedicated to a sensible shift in drug policy from one of incarceration to substance abuse treatment and public health.

## **Do you believe there is *A Better Way*?**

Dear Members and Friends,

A Better Way Foundation (ABWF) is excited to celebrate Ten Years of institutional changes through civic engagement in Connecticut. Our success is based on hard work and donations from supporters like yourself.

In 2003, ABWF made resources available to grassroots organizations allowing them to have a greater role in criminal justice policy-making. As a result, public safety has increased through public health and prison reform efforts. We continue to function as a research engine and an expert in democratic revitalization for allies, political officials, constituents, and various organizations throughout Connecticut. Starting in 1999, we facilitated a public education and policy advocacy strategy that created important changes in Connecticut's drug policies. For every dollar spent on drug treatment in the community, the public receives \$6 to \$7 in benefits from decreased crime, decrease cost of incarceration, stable employment, and more, according to Justice Policy Institute 2008 report.

Drug Policies affect everyone in Connecticut from newborns to our seniors. Due to budget cuts, resources have been taken away from education, transportation, housing, treatment, and prescription drug support. Those resources are currently being used to fund a public safety platform that ruins our communities and families. It is time to do something new! It is time for a holistic strategy for Connecticut! Donate today if you believe there is A Better Way!

### **Be part of the 2010 "I Own It" Family**

"I Own It" Family members are individuals who take ownership of ABWF mission by financially supporting our work

With your donation you will receive an ABWF wristband, email alerts, and quarterly newsletters packed with information you can share with others. Donations of \$25 or more will also receive 2009 "Speak Up and Speak Out" advocacy toolkit.

Thank for supporting and making A Better Way in Connecticut,

LaResse Harvey, BSW  
Policy Director  
A Better Way Foundation

## 10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MORE

1. Successfully advocated for the nation’s second Racial Impact Studies legislation (2009).
2. Released *Law and Justice Commission Speak Up! Speak Out! Advocacy Toolkit* (2009).
3. Supported the passage of the *Ban The Box* ordinance in 3 cities/towns: Norwich, Hartford, and New Haven (2009).
4. Participated in the North Hartford Coalition to keep two Hartford local libraries open: Mark Twain and Blue Hills (2008).
5. Creation of ABWF Law and Justice Commission (A resident led research project - 2008).
6. Successfully passed Medical Marijuana legislation in House and Senate. (2007) Gov. Rell vetoed.
7. Fought for *Pardons Reform Access* to include 3 additional Pardons and Parole Board meetings (2006), funding for the *Connecticut Pardons Team* (a nonprofit organization that helps people through the pardon application process (2007), and the Creation of a year round Pardons and Parole Board (2008).
8. Organized a statewide campaign that resulted in the elimination of the disparity in crack and powder cocaine sentencing laws (2005).
9. Supported the *Overdose Prevention bill* that allows physicians the right to dispense and prescribe Naloxone (a medication that prevents heroine overdose) without fear of prosecution (2004).
10. Advocated in collaboration with many groups to pass landmark prison-overcrowding legislation that helped reverse the growth of Connecticut’s prison population; establish Building Bridges and much more.

## 10 REASONS TO SUPPORT US:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You will be part of a national campaign to reform drug policy and criminal justice issues</li> <li>2. You will support important Policy changes that can affect thousands of lives</li> <li>3. Your donation is tax-deductible</li> <li>4. You are not just a member... You’re FAMILY</li> <li>5. You can help to develop tomorrow’s leaders today</li> <li>6. You will be helping your family, neighbor, and community</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. You support the on-going work YOU believe in</li> <li>8. You support free research and educational forums through Connecticut</li> <li>9. You can see, hear, or read your donation at work</li> <li>10. Your help will provide free public education for community, civil rights, public, labor and religious leaders</li> </ol> |
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## 10 WAYS YOU CAN HELP ABWF RAISE \$100,000 IN 10 MONTHS:

✓ **Become an “I Own It” Family Member: Make checks to A Better Way Foundation and put “I Own It” in the memo area. You can also make donations on our website at [www.abwf-ct.org](http://www.abwf-ct.org). Thanks.**

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| <p>⑥ Community Supporter            \$10 - \$20</p> <p>⑥ Basic Donor                        \$25 - \$50</p> <p>⑥ Event conveners                 \$75 - 100</p> <p>⑥ Bronze                                \$110 - \$200</p> <p>⑥ Silver                                 \$210 - \$500</p> <p>⑥ Gold                                    \$510 - \$1,000</p> | <p>⑥ Platinum                            \$1,010 – \$5,000</p> <p>⑥ Diamond                            \$5,010 - \$10,000</p> <p>⑥ Pledge _____</p> <p>⑥ Birthday Donation Amount _____</p> <p>In the name of _____</p> <p>⑥ Christmas Donation Amount _____</p> <p>In the name of _____</p> |
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