

# THE REVIEW

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## Chestnut Street Apartments Now Open

Chestnut Street is the newest RSS program in Sullivan County. Funded by an ESSHI grant, the program is a joint project between Kearney Realty Group and RSS. Chestnut Street has 72 apartments in two buildings in Liberty, NY. RSS administers 37 of these apartments in a supportive housing model.

The apartments are spacious and well-constructed and have a balcony or porch attached to each one. RSS staff are on site with an office in one of the buildings. Tara Roberts Goldman, Program Director, along with Shana Vega, program coordinator, were the staff who worked together to open the program. This was no easy task, but both staff more than rose to the occasion. Tara coordinated the RSS responsibilities prior to the opening of the project. Part of these responsibilities were choosing the RSS apartments as

well as choosing and arranging for the delivery of the furniture and decorating the apartments. This was all quite challenging since all of this took place at the height of COVID. Tara had an excellent eye and all the apartments are beautifully and durably furnished. She worked tirelessly on assuring that everything RSS was responsible for was completed on time. Shana was responsible for interviewing and admitting 37 people to the program. The first 16 clients were admitted in October 2020 and the second group in January 2021. With ESSHI projects deadlines must be met and both Tara and Shana met every deadline, even though this seemed like an impossible task. Tara said, "This was a new project for us all and there was a steep learning curve. I developed skills I did not know that I had. It was an adventure to work on this project and I am so glad that it is going well. It has given a wonderful housing opportunity to our clients."

When Shana moved out of town, RSS long time program coordinator, Heather Stalter stepped up to the plate and volunteered to take over the management of the program.



Chestnut Street Apartments in Liberty, NY

Heather is a certified alcoholism counselor who is also working on her master's degree in social work. That, along with her experience as long-time manager of Revonah Hill Community Residence, was a perfect fit for managing a program where many of the client's have challenges with substance use along with their mental



Jay Colon, Heather Stalter, Sr. Program Coordinator & Armin Treat-Chisholm



Jay Colon, Paxten Sanders, Sr. Case Coordinator & Armin Treat-Chisholm

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# Chestnut Street Apartments (continued)

illness. Heather notes that, “Chestnut Street has given so many people with mental health challenges the opportunity to successfully live in beautiful apartments with the extra support the RSS staff who work at Chestnut Street are able to give them.” Heather, along with Paxton Sanders, Shelia Zayas and Brielle Farrish provide this extra support along with traditional case coordination services to our clients who live there. Rounding out the team are Nolly Climes, managing director and Jackie Babcock, program director.

“There is a saying that it takes a village” said Nolly Climes, managing director, “It has taken a village to put this program together. We have really

appreciated the partnership with Kearney Realty especially Ken Kearney, Sean Kearney and Donna Farmer. Without these people we would not have this beautiful apartment complex. This is a new project for RSS and I have appreciated how Tara, Shana, Heather

and Jackie have all worked together with the Kearney’s to make this project a reality. And a special thank you to all of the staff of RSS who have worked on site



*Peter Plagianos, Heather Stalter, Sr. Program Coordinator & Armin Treat-Chisholm*

to support the clients during these challenging times.”



*Peter Plagianos*