



Open Pantry Community Services names Matthew CastleMan new executive director



Matthew CastleMan

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SPRINGFIELD — As the new director of Open Pantry Community Services Matthew CastleMan hopes to engage the community and help those in need.

"I feel I have a purpose in my life to help others," said CastleMan in a prepared statement. The South Hadley resident worked in sales briefly before realizing he wanted to do work that improved the life of others, he said.

"My goal now as OPCS director is to get into the community more and talk about all our services, so that more people within our service area understand what we do. It's important to

engage the community so that they feel empowered and believe that they have a stake in the work we do to better the lives of all who live here," he said.

CastleMan, a Connecticut native and a graduate of Southern Connecticut State University, has 10 years of experience with a variety of social services programs and agencies.

"In the past two years as regional director of several Open Pantry programs, Matt proved himself to be an intelligent and compassionate leader who understands the dynamics of the job and is quick to confront any problem with a workable solution," said James T. Cuddy, executive director of South Middlesex Opportunity Council, which the Springfield agency is affiliated with. "Matt sees great opportunity for this organization and we're looking forward to seeing those ideas come to life."

In addition to overseeing the operation and maintenance of 180 units of regional housing, the social services agency also operates an emergency food pantry at 2460 Main Street in Suite 108 & 108B in the Plaza Del Mercado in Springfield, the Loaves and Fishes Kitchen meal program at Christ Church Cathedral, the South Congregational Church and the Shiloh Seventh Day Adventist Church, along with the holiday meals program at the High School of Commerce.