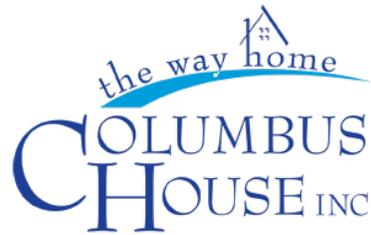


Thank you for helping to end homelessness!



## Columbus House February E-News

### Eat Chocolate to Help End Family Homelessness

Chocolate artisans will showcase their creations for your indulgence during our annual *Chocolate to the Rescue* event at the Inn at Middletown on Sunday, March 24. From 1:00-4:00 pm, you can sample a variety of mouth watering chocolate delicacies, vote for your favorites, observe judging from a panel of culinary experts and bid on a large variety of silent auction prizes – all to benefit the families who stay at our Middlesex Family Shelter. This emergency shelter program provides a safe place to stay along with case management for up to 50 families per year. You will help families who are experiencing homelessness remain together while we work to find them a permanent home. Tickets to the event make a great Valentine's Day gift, but hurry, they won't last! Purchase tickets, view participating chocolatiers and the professional judges at: [columbushouse.org/chocolate](http://columbushouse.org/chocolate)



Thank you to our sponsors!

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### Life Saving Warming Centers Open in Middletown & Hamden

Clean, safe overnight accommodations are provided to those experiencing homelessness during the frigid winter months so they do not have to brave cold nights outside. We have partnered with St. Vincent de Paul Middletown, South Congregational Church, Church of the Holy Trinity, and Saint John Church to operate a warm space for those seeking refuge in Middletown. In Hamden, a Warming Center is open and will operate initially for two months with the help of Grace and St. Peter's Episcopal Church (Jan.) as well as Hamden Plains United Methodist Church (Feb.). Warm beverages and snacks are



Thank you to KBE Construction for thinking of our neighbors and supplying them with winter weather essentials packed into 100 new and convenient backpacks.

provided; beds are not available. [Find links to articles about the warming centers on our website.](#)

## 75-Bed Men's Seasonal Overflow Shelter Moved in One Day!

Columbus House has operated New Haven's Seasonal Overflow Shelter in the Hill neighborhood for over 20 years. Previous locations were over a mile from our main building, posing logistical challenges for clients, staff and volunteers – especially during winter storms. We are thrilled to announce that a grant from the Connecticut Office of Policy & Management has made it possible for us to renovate a building located just steps from our main building – transforming it into a safe and warm shelter for 75 men that includes brand new restrooms and showers. The new space enhances safety, accessibility, and convenience for our staff, volunteers, and most importantly – for those seeking shelter. We are grateful to all who have made this endeavor a reality – including our clients who helped move mattresses and disassemble beds. A special shout-out to BOND Brothers who volunteered to help make the one-day move possible!



Top: Former Overflow . Bottom: Employees from BOND Brothers, a construction management company with local offices in New Haven, pose with Columbus House staff for a moment during the one-day move of the 75-bed Men's Seasonal Overflow Shelter.

## ¿Puedes hablar español?

Columbus House Case Managers are learning Spanish! Thanks to the generosity of the Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) Foundation, 22 of our staff are enrolled in an 18-week course with Luisa Piemontese, PhD, Professor of Spanish at SCSU (back row, left). Our staff asked to learn Spanish to better serve our Spanish speaking clients. We are grateful for the SCSU Foundation's support and to Profesora Piemontese for filling this critical need.



## Neighborhood Builder Grant Awarded

Columbus House received major recognition and funding from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation through their Neighborhood Builder award – an honor that bestows both leadership development and general operating support to the recipient. During our Annual Meeting in December, Carol Heller, Senior Vice President, announced this prestigious distinction and the \$200k grant award. Columbus House is one of 66 organizations nationwide to receive the award that benefits high-impact nonprofits, and confirms Bank of America's investment in Columbus House as a leader in ending homelessness.

[Read more](#)



## Do you bank with Ion? You can help us win \$\$ with the click of a button!

Voting has begun for the 10th Annual Ion Bank Community Awards Program, which means that all Ion Bank customers can help Columbus House earn much need financial support! We will receive a \$25 donation from the Ion Bank Foundation for **every vote** cast for Columbus House. Voting is open to all Ion Bank customers through March 31, 2019! [Visit IonBank.com](http://IonBank.com) to [vote](#).

One vote per customer. For accounts with multiple owners, each owner may vote. Customers with multiple accounts may only vote once. Each customer can vote for only one organization.



## Inspiration at the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is a yearly celebration of everyone who helps make our work of ending homelessness possible. Our 2018 Annual Meeting on December 6 honored Paul Cuozzo, West Haven-based Watson, Inc. and Kingdom Love Center Ministries for their dedicated and selfless support and continuing commitment to our mission. We also bid a fond farewell to retiring board members Adam Frank, Margaret Middleton and Dr. Jeanne Steiner, D.O. Guest speakers Chrissy Varholak and Stephanie DeMusis shared their experiences with the clients we serve in emotional and inspirational messages that moved the crowd to its feet with standing ovations. [Watch Stephanie share her story](#) and [view photos from the Annual Meeting](#).



**Thank you to our Annual Meeting Sponsors**  
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**Associate Sponsors:**

**A-1 Toyota**

**St. George Roman Catholic Church**

**Save the Dates!**



**Serving for Columbus  
House Tennis  
Tournament  
March 16th**

Join us for a fun evening of tennis to support our work to end homelessness.

**Rock to Rock  
Earth Day Ride  
April 27th**

Ride with or support the Columbus House Green Team to raise money for our green initiatives.

**The Big Sleep Out  
on the Guilford Green  
April 27th**

Sleep out on the Guilford Green to raise awareness and funds to help end homelessness.

**Many thanks to some of our partners who have gone above and beyond helping us to end homelessness since our January E-News:**

Anonymous  
Big Lots Foundation of The Columbus Foundation  
Sam Sager & Julia Browne  
Peter & Ann Bruchansky  
Janet Caligan  
City Missionary Association of New Haven  
Connecticut Container Corp.  
Martin Echewa  
Farmington Bank Community Foundation Inc.  
David & Pam Harding  
Patrick & Nancy Kennedy Family  
Knights of Columbus  
John H. & Ethel G. Noble Charitable Trust  
Kat Taylor  
Fred Ulbrich Memorial Fund

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Your donation to Columbus House may be eligible for a match from your employer.  
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