Dear Friends,

When we opened Columbus House in 1982, we had only a few paid staff to launch a very ambitious effort to provide emergency beds and food for 32 homeless individuals. The only way we got this effort off the ground was through volunteer support. A picture still sits on my bookshelf today of that early group of staff and volunteers who laid the groundwork for the work we do now 32 years later.

Having just ended the Abraham’s Tent season, I am acutely aware of the hundreds of volunteers who support this particular program. Abraham’s Tent is a collaborative program with congregations across the Greater New Haven area that provides 12 men with shelter, meals and companionship within social halls of these congregations, for 3 of the harshest winter months. This act of love enables Columbus House to make room for all who need shelter when temperatures are at their lowest and the risk to people who are homeless is at its highest.

Some of you participate in Meal Serving Groups with local congregations that have been with us from the early days, providing dinner, and many times breakfast, 365 days a year. Many of you help us with upkeep of our buildings, act as greeters in our family shelter, work with office staff and help with special events. All of this enables Columbus House to do more for the clients we serve, and offers an avenue for volunteers to be a part of the work we do day in and day out.

As we celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Week, our hats are truly off to you all, and there are hundreds of you who touch Columbus House and the lives of clients in so many ways. Thank you for being a part of our mission of ending homelessness.

With deep appreciation,

Alison Cunningham
Executive Director

“A picture still sits on my bookshelf today of that early group of staff and volunteers who laid the groundwork for the work we do now 32 years later.”

– Alison Cunningham, Executive Director

Look inside for a special celebration of our volunteers!
Hats off to our volunteers!
You give time...Columbus House volunteers contribute more than 1,000 hours of service a month!

You give talent...Columbus House volunteers serve on our Board of Directors; prepare meals nightly (and many breakfasts) at our main and overflow shelters in New Haven; paint our buildings; plant vegetable gardens, trees, shrubs, and flowers; seal driveways and parking lots; renovate electrical wiring and plumbing; move furniture; clean units at our Middlesex Family Shelter; assist students in our Employment and Enrichment Center; greet our clients; help with office tasks; serve as interns; host Abraham’s Tent; provide clinical services; transport food; assist staff in conducting a Vulnerability Index Survey and a Point in Time Count; provide musical performances and other entertainment for our clients; serve on committees; lend a hand at special events; and decorate our sites for the holidays...just to name a few!

You make a difference...Columbus house volunteers save an estimated $130k in food and food related costs annually. Columbus House is able to put those savings towards moving people out of homelessness.

You change lives...Volunteers bring with them a selfless spirit, an infectious enthusiasm for helping others. That spirit instills renewed hope in our clients and renewed commitment in our staff.

Eternally grateful for your services that you provide, not only to feed the homeless, but to save souls as well, from a spirit within that is worth a passion for life.”
– Christopher

Without our volunteers we would have a bunch of folks in apartments with no furniture. Our volunteers assisted those moving from homelessness to having a true home. For that, we are forever grateful!”
– Rebekah, Manager, Permanent Supportive Housing
Save the Date!

Friday, June 27, 2014

Higher Ground
GOLF TOURNAMENT
to benefit Homeless Veterans,
their families & others in need

Orange Hills Country Club
389 Racebrook Road, Orange, CT

Scramble Format • 18 holes of golf with cart
Registration: $125 / Golfer (Student & Parent $90 discount)
Lunch only: $25 / Person
Lunch Hosted at
The Bear & Grill
Prizes:
Putting contest
Longest Drive
Closest to the pin
Reserve your place now!
Call (203) 795-9749

www.columbushouse.org

JOIN US! MAY 3, 2014
for our
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER!

LIGHTING a FIRE to END HOMELESSNESS
a PIG ROAST HONORING CASEUS

FOOD BY CASEUS
dancing
craft beer
Cocktails by
ordinary
MUSIC
SILENT AUCTION
CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS
BY COMMON GROUND

4‘til 8 pm at COMMON GROUND 358 Springside Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut 06515

Current sponsors:

$75/ADULT ★ $30/CHILD ★ RSVP BY APRIL 24th

For more info & tickets go to:
www.columbushouse.org/pigroast
or contact Sheree at (203) 401-4400 x138 or sdimario@columbushouse.org

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