

# the way home

## An Update from the Interim CEO



Cindy Fox, Interim CEO, addresses guests celebrating the completion of the third building in our Homeless:Housed initiative with Yale School of Architecture's (YSOA) Jim Vlock Building Project. YSOA Dean Deborah Berke looks on.

**A**S WE NEAR THE END OF THE YEAR, Columbus House is aligned to meet our goals in terms of finances and delivering person-centered services to our neighbors who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. We continue to provide vital programs that help people maintain their independence, and are preparing to open our Seasonal Winter Shelters in New Haven and Wallingford as well as our Winter Warming Centers in Middletown and Hamden. These programs will, quite literally, save lives during the coldest days of the year.

We are able to do this thanks to you, our supporters, and our highly skilled and capable staff and board. Our search for a new Chief Executive Officer is well underway. With the help of DRG Search, we are confident that we will soon have a new person at the helm who will help us continue carrying out our mission of ending homelessness.

Thank you for your continuing support and for making a positive impact on those we serve.

*Cindy Fox*

Interim Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer

## Life Saving Programs Open for the Winter Season



Volunteers Carl, Dayo, and Jennifer serve dinner at our new Overflow Shelter on the Columbus House campus in New Haven.

**W**ITH WINTER APPROACHING and colder weather settling in, Columbus House will care for our most vulnerable residents by opening the seasonal shelters and warming centers. The **New Haven Men's Seasonal Overflow Shelter** is scheduled to open on November 18 and will provide vital services through May 5<sup>th</sup>. This shelter is now directly across the street from our New Haven Shelter & Services building. The seasonal accommodations at our **Wallingford Emergency Shelter** will begin on December 3 and will remain open through

April 5<sup>th</sup>. Both of these winter programs provide safe and warm accommodations as well as case management and housing services – designed to help our neighbors find and maintain permanent housing. These two seasonal shelters alone can help an additional 125 people stay safe during the coldest months of the year.

The **Warming Center in Middletown** will open its doors on November 18<sup>th</sup> and remain operational through April 5<sup>th</sup>. **The Hamden Warming Center** is slated to open on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and remain open through February 24<sup>th</sup>. The Warming Centers provide life-saving refuge from the harsh outdoor elements and enable Columbus House staff to engage with those who are experiencing homelessness and get them connected to services and a pathway to independence.

For 12 weeks each winter, various congregations and houses of worship participate in **Abraham's Tent**, where they provide shelter, hearty meals and fellowship for 12 men who otherwise would stay at our New Haven Shelter. The program starts on December 16 at Temple Beth David (Cheshire) and ends on March 29<sup>th</sup> at Orange Congregational Church.

We are grateful to you, our supporters, who help make these winter programs possible – from volunteer meal servers and toiletry drive participants to financial donors, congregants and community partners. Thank you for making a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. ■

# Your Recent Grassroots Events Raised Over \$75,000!

## SUPPORTING THE WALLINGFORD EMERGENCY SHELTER



**ONE STEP AT A TIME**, Chris Ulbrich helped raise over \$25,000 as he made his way north on the Appalachian Trail from Connecticut through Massachusetts to the Vermont border. Hiking over 185 miles in 24 days during the month of July, he endured torrential rains and a heat wave, all to raise awareness and critical funds for the Wallingford Emergency Shelter.

Friends and supporters spent a weekend volunteering at the Columbus House information table during **Celebrate Wallingford** in early October. We

discussed our work in and impact on the community while attendees played an interactive game to help them understand some of the causes of homelessness. Many of those who volunteered during the event are also regular meal serving volunteers at the Wallingford Emergency Shelter and were able to personally relay their experiences and gratitude for the opportunity to help their neighbors.

The second annual **Silver Trek** event also took place in October, where teams competed to solve 12 timed challenges at

various businesses located in Silversmith Park. This event raises awareness for our work while promoting the businesses who participated. Challenges were family-friendly and tested mental and physical abilities. Mayor Dickinson was on hand to congratulate the winning team and thank Tarn Granucci and *Wallingford Magazine* for sponsoring the event as well as Jim Cooke and Silversmith Park who matched the team contributions. This year, \$1,400 was raised for the Wallingford Emergency Shelter! We are grateful to everyone who helped to make this event a fun success.

## SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS



The **23rd annual Higher Ground Golf Tournament** raised over \$2,200 for our programs for Veterans, thanks to our friends at Orange Congregational Church (OCC). With their support and volunteer efforts, golfers enjoyed a great day of golf, a raffle, tiki bar drinks and a delicious lunch back in July. OCC also surprised former CEO Alison Cunningham with thoughtful signs around the course thanking her for her decades of service. We are grateful to everyone who made this annual tournament a success!

Sikorsky, Lockheed Martin and Teamsters Local 1150 hosted the **9th annual Homerun for Heroes** baseball game in August, a yearly event that benefits non-profits serving Veterans

in CT. Pre-game activities, between inning events and fireworks added to the enjoyment of the day as supporters watched the Hartford Yard Goats win against the Trenton Thunder at Dunkin Donuts Park in Hartford.

In September at Lake of Isles in North Stonington, Enterprise Builders held their **8th annual Charity Golf Tournament**, and the Veterans Columbus House serves are a beneficiary of this year's event. Guests enjoyed a round of golf, dinner and a raffle, and learned how their support makes a direct, positive impact on each individual Veteran we serve. ■

PHOTOS TOP L-R: Chris Ulbrich poses for a selfie on his Trek to End Homelessness; Mayor William Dickinson Jr. (center) joins Tarn Granucci (left) & Jim Cooke (2nd from right) in presenting Cindy Fox, Columbus House Interim CEO with proceeds from Silver Trek; Volunteer Stephanie DeMusi (left) joins Catherine DiTuri, Development Director, in raising awareness at Celebrate Wallingford

PHOTOS BOTTOM L-R: Proceeds from the 9th annual Homerun for Heroes are presented to the benefiting agencies; Dave Rubelmann, volunteer organizer of the Higher Ground Golf Tournament stands with the Hole-In-One Prize; The Presentation of Colors by the US Marine Corps, 4th Division, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines of Plainville, CT and the singing of the National Anthem by Captain Kevin McCarthy of the West Hartford Police Department at Enterprise Builders Charity Golf Tournament (photo courtesy of Jeff Crandall Photography).

**Would your group like to create a fun event to benefit Columbus House? Contact Catherine at 203-401-4400 x 150 or [cdituri@columbushouse.org](mailto:cdituri@columbushouse.org)!**



## Working to End Youth Homelessness

100 Day Challenge Moves 379 Youth into Homes



**T**OGETHER WITH PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES, Rapid Results Institute, and many other cohorts in ending homelessness across the state, we celebrated Connecticut's success in housing 397 youth and young adults during the 100 Day Challenge to End Youth Homelessness that ended in August. A Sustainability Workshop was held at The Lyceum in Hartford where Columbus House staff joined in planning to keep the momentum going as we strive to meet our goal to end youth homelessness by June of 2020. ■

## Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy

Ella Stanley receives AFP Award



L-R: The Stanley family, Ed, Teddi, Ella, and Elizabeth celebrate Ella's Award at AFP's Annual National Philanthropy Day Awards Breakfast.

**C**OLUMBUS HOUSE VOLUNTEER **ELLA STANLEY**, who organized the grassroots fundraiser The Big Sleep Out (BSO) for two years in a row, received the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) CT and Fairfield County Chapters 2019 Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award (ages 5-17). Ella was selected due to the positive impact her creation of the BSO has had, for the leadership role she has taken in her community, and for encouraging others to get involved. Columbus House is grateful to Ella and her family who have volunteered and supported our work in many capacities over the years. ■

## BRAND NEW PARKAS & UNDERWEAR NEEDED!



### New warm winter parkas

Please contact Sheree for sizes & more information



**New men's boxers & women's underwear**  
(men's sizes m-xl, women's sizes 7-12)

## Winter Wish List

**D**uring the winter months, our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness need basic items to stay safe, warm and dry. Thanks to you and a cadre of caring supporters, we can provide vital supplies to those we serve. Right now, we need your help in attaining the following – especially **BRAND NEW PARKAS** and **UNDERWEAR**:



- **New men's & women's sweatshirts & sweatpants** (sizes m-xl in neutral colors)
- **Gift cards** (\$5 Dunkin Donuts; \$25 Stop & Shop, Big Lots, Walmart, CVS & Walgreens, etc.)
- **New men's & women's warm winter gloves & hats** (no knit gloves please)
- **New men's & women's thermal underwear** (sizes lg-2xl)
- **New twin size blankets** • **New bath towels**

## PLEASE RING BEFORE YOU BRING!

We appreciate your generosity and care for our neighbors, and welcome your contributions. With our clients best interest at heart, we ask that donation drop-offs be scheduled in advance so we can arrange a time that least disrupts the schedule of those staying with us. The best time to drop-off is M-F, between 10 AM & 2 PM. Please contact Sheree at 203-401-4400 x138 or [sdimario@columbushouse.org](mailto:sdimario@columbushouse.org) to schedule during and outside these times.

## SAVE THE DATES!

### December 3, 2019 GIVING TUESDAY

Join the global effort in making a positive impact for non-profits by making an online, 100% tax-deductible gift to Columbus House on this special charitable giving day.

### December 5, 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Celebrate the work of Columbus House and everyone who makes it possible! Dr. Richard Cho, CEO, CT Coalition to End Homelessness, is our guest speaker. The 2019 John S. Martinez Community Service Award will be presented to A-1 Toyota, Dave Rubelmann and The Spring Glen Church, UCC. Special recognition will also be given to former CEO Alison Cunningham. Sincere thanks to our Table and Associate Sponsors (to date):



Henry Lord

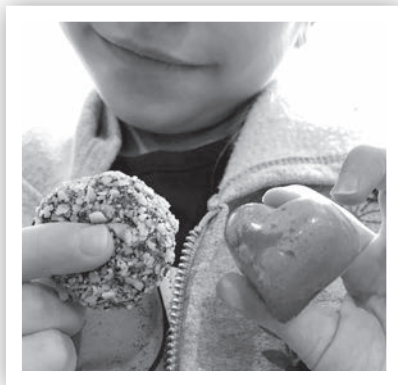
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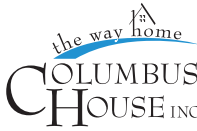


### March 22, 2020 CHOCOLATE TO THE RESCUE

Eat chocolate to help end family homelessness! Taste some of the region's best chocolate creations and vote for your favorites while perusing a wide array of silent auction items to benefit the families who stay at our Middlesex Family Shelter. Chocolate artisans to date include: Chip in a Bottle, ION Restaurant, MELT Chocolatier, Tall Order Treats and Tschudin Chocolates & Confections.

Contact 203-401-4400 x131 or [pphonyothee@columbushouse.org](mailto:pphonyothee@columbushouse.org) regarding these events, or visit [www.columbushouse.org/events](http://www.columbushouse.org/events)

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## Stay Connected!

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## Celebrating the Third of Five Buildings in HOMELESS:HOUSED



**T**HE THIRD BUILDING in the Homeless: Housed collaboration with Yale School of Architecture is almost complete, and will provide three one bedroom apartments with private outdoor space for those who have experienced homelessness. Friends and supporters as well as the students who designed and built the homes gathered in September for an open house celebration. Finishing touches are being added so the new residents can move in on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Learn more and watch a video of the home at [www.columbushouse.org/homelesshoused](http://www.columbushouse.org/homelesshoused)

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