As 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

As 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 5th. 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 5th. 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 18th and remain operational through April 5th. The Hamden Warming Center is slated to open on January 3rd and remain open through February 24th. 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 29th 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.
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!

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 hosted 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.

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!
Working to End Youth Homelessness
100 Day Challenge Moves 379 Youth into Homes

Together 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

Columbus 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!

During 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 warm winter parkas
Please contact Sheree for sizes & more information

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

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

Winter Wish List

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 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):

blumshapirc
Henry Lord
Yale

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 regarding these events, or visit www.columbushouse.org/events

www.columbushouse.org

Celebrating the Third of Five Buildings in HOMELESS:HOUSED

THE 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 15th.

Learn more and watch a video of the home at www.columbushouse.org/homelesshoused

INSIDE:
A Message from the Interim CEO | Winter Programs Awards | Events | and more!