Thank you for helping to end homelessness!

Columbus House April E-News

A Message of Thanks from Cindy Fox, Interim CEO

I hope that you and your family are safe, and that this virus has not entered your home. If it has, I do hope those impacted have recovered or are on their way to a full recovery. And for those who have lost loved ones, I am so sorry.

Like many of you, I’m fortunate. I can work from home with my family beside me. Every day I think about what my life would be like if I didn’t have family right here with me, if I didn’t have a home to retreat to, if I didn’t know where my next meal would come from or if I would survive another night on the streets or in a crowded shelter during this pandemic. For thousands of people across Connecticut, that is their reality each night.

We’ve witnessed tremendous suffering and pain, but we’ve also experienced incredible generosity and kindness. While so many of you are dealing with working remotely, layoffs and furloughs, having your kids attend classes from home; no daycare; illness in your family and the uncertainty that this virus has brought upon us, you have still managed to send notes of encouragement to our staff who are on the front lines everyday making sure those we serve remain safe. Your financial and in-kind contributions made it possible for us to quickly move over 130 people out of the shelters and into local hotels. You also made it possible to move 79 people from the shelters directly into their own apartment (in just over 30 days!). This is unprecedented and could not have happened without your support.

It’s been about five weeks since the Governor’s executive order mandating that Connecticut residents “Stay Safe – Stay at Home.” As an essential lifeline to the most vulnerable in our community, Columbus House does not close. **We strive to stay safe – but cannot stay at home.** We will continue to do everything in our power to keep those we serve from contracting this deadly virus.

On behalf of all you have helped keep safe, I thank you for your partnership and I hope that, someday real soon, the effects of COVID-19 will be behind us.

Sincerely,
Cindy

It’s Volunteer Appreciation Month – Thank You Volunteers!

Vital to our operations, volunteers make an impact every day. During this pandemic, they’ve adapted to our evolving needs to ensure our clients have food and the basic supplies needed to get through the crisis – while adhering to all of the CDC guidelines we’ve become so accustomed to. Our gratitude for our volunteers is unyielding, and we are grateful for all that they do. View photos and see just some of the ways our volunteers have continued their support during these trying times.
Chocolate to the Rescue
Online Auction Coming Soon

We’re excited to bring you Chocolate to the Rescue in a new way this year – virtually! As we all adjust to the "new normal," we hope you’ll enjoy some online perusing of wonderful auction items that were generously donated for our annual event. From the comfort and safety of your home you can view, bid, and purchase exciting items ranging from Tiffany champagne flutes (what better way to drink mimosas at home?) to gift cards for local eateries (still offering takeout during the pandemic!) and YES, even CHOCOLATE! Stay tuned via email and on social media for more details and dates. All proceeds will benefit our Middlesex Family Shelter.

Thank you to our Sponsors!

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Middlesex Health

Expediter
Alera Group
Anthem BCBS Medicare
National Equity Fund
Webster Bank
Workers Compensation Trust

Pastry Chef
Beirne Wealth Consulting
Fusco Management Co., LLC
The Flood Law Firm, LLC
Ben Ledbetter, Jr., & Deborah Freedman

Ride (or Move) Virtually with the Columbus House Green Team

Though we can’t ride together for the Rock to Rock Earth Day Ride, we can come together virtually to make our community greener while staying safe. Join the Columbus House Green Team to help raise support for our Green Initiatives. **You can fundraise now through April 25** and move however you’d like now through May 31. Bike, hike, walk or exercise as you wish – solo or with your immediate household members. You can even create a virtual activity using an online meeting app like Zoom! Bring everyone together by sharing your efforts, photos and videos on social media. There are lots of prizes, registration
is as little as $5, and The Devil's Gear is matching every $50 raised with $10! When you raise funds for Columbus House’s Green Initiatives - like energy efficiency and recycling – you help us save money for our programs to help people out of homelessness.

Let's Come Together While We’re Apart

We need your support now more than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought us many unbudgeted expenses - from additional cleaning supplies and food to technology upgrades to work remotely and extra shifts for front-line staff. But there are many silver linings. Our volunteers, supporters, and partners have remained dedicated by our side. All of those we serve are in a safe, distanced setting. And, in just over one month, Columbus House moved over 79 clients into permanent homes of their own! Your gift during The Great Give will be matched by part of a $100k incentive fund and there are plenty of other cash prizes you can help us win. Every dollar given will go further to help us continue our life saving services, and every gift, large or small, will make a great impact.

Many thanks to our wonderful supporters who made additional contributions as we took measures to move clients out of the shelters while keeping staff safe during the pandemic:

Anonymous (2)
James & Melissa Barra
Richard & Alice Baxter
BL Plastic Slitting & Converting
Lawrence Kenney & Janice Elliott
Amy & Steve Eppler-Epstein
Ben Ledbetter, Jr. & Deborah Freedman
Albert & Susan Gobel
David & Joanne Goldblum
Dr. Cary Gross
William & Alexa Gunther
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation
David & Barbara Keiser
Patrick & Nancy Kennedy Family
Barton C. Kenney
Liberty Bank Foundation
Robert Farrell & Mary-Jean McGarrity
Thank you to some of our partners who have gone above and beyond helping us to end homelessness since our January E-News:

A-1 Auto Service Inc.
AAA Northeast
Anonymous (3)
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Richard & Alice Baxter
Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
Citizens Bank
Community Foundation of Middlesex County
Congregational Church of North Madison
Connecticut Mental Health Center Foundation
Carol Bailey and Laurie Desmet Charitable Fund
Dr. Peter & Maureen Herbert
Art and Mary Hunt
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
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Check us out on Instagram! @columbushousect

Your donation to Columbus House may be eligible for a match from your employer. Click to find out!

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