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Edible Arrangements came on board as Title Sponsor this year and even brought their signature fresh fruit bouquets to the event. “We believe it’s important to support organizations like Columbus House and the Middlesex Family Shelter,” explained Tariq Farid, CEO of Edible Arrangements.

Newcomers Jordan Caterers took home 3 of 4 awards for their “Campfire Delight” (decadent drinking chocolate; dark chocolate budino, with graham cracker and bourbon marshmallow cream; sea salted chocolate bourbon caramel bites; and dark chocolate cherry stout cake).

Employment & Enrichment Center Graduation

Congratulations to our six clients that graduated from the Columbus House Employment & Enrichment Center (EEC) on Tuesday, February 19, 2013! EEC is a rigorous 60-hour program that focuses on gaining self-reliance, confidence, and self-esteem. Classes cover a broad range of subjects from ‘Introduction to Computers,’ ‘Interviewing Skills,’ ‘Creative Writing,’ and ‘Starting Your Own Business.’

Pictured: Alison Cunningham, Columbus House Executive Director, (right) presented certificates of graduation at the ceremony. EEC is supported by a generous contribution from United Way of Greater New Haven and The Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration.
Our friends at Guilford Savings Bank once again provided sponsorship and their invaluable volunteer auction team. Shore Publishing renewed their support as Print Media sponsor and did a tremendous job publicizing the event. Super Wash Laundry, a longtime Columbus House supporter, also joined us as a new event sponsor.

Dedicated volunteers Sandra Trahan and Lina McGlinchey organized an array of silent auction items for guests to peruse as they sipped champagne, or cardamom and vanilla bean infused hot chocolate. David DiMario and Chris Kristan filled the ballroom at the Water’s Edge Resort with beautiful music as guests relished in premium chocolate creations from luscious “Truffle Shots” to “Al’s Three Chocolate Chili” (yes, chili!).

Committee member Quentin Phipps oversaw the judging for the “Critics Choice” awards. Meanwhile, guests voted for their favorite chocolate creations on the “People’s Choice” ballot. Master of Ceremonies, Jim Masters announced the winners.

We hope you were able to experience the 11th Annual Chocolate to the Rescue! If not, please plan on attending next year’s event.

Chocolate to the Rescue directly helps families in housing crisis. In just over two months in 2013, our 7-unit Middlesex Family Shelter has already assisted 10 families, including 15 children. One family of a mother with two children came to our shelter after going through a divorce and losing her job. Unable to pay rent, she faced a painful eviction. We are happy to say that this mom has risen from these difficult circumstances and is now employed and on the road to regaining stable housing for herself and her children. Success stories like this are only possible because of the help of our generous supporters.

Thank you to our retiring board members

Joe Pajor has been on the Columbus House Board of Directors since 1997. During his tenure, he has served as Chair of the Columbus House Building Committee which worked to secure funding and construct the current shelter and administrative building located at 586 Ella T. Grasso Boulevard. Joe has been Treasurer and Chairman of the Board of Directors and has served on numerous committees including the 25th Anniversary, Annual Event and Development Committees.

Joe’s career spans over 40 years in hospital finance and he is currently the Administrative Director, Revenue Cycle, at Norwalk Hospital. Joe serves on the Connecticut Healthcare Financial Management Association Board of Directors as past President.

John Schaetzl According to John, he has been on the Columbus House Board of Directors “for a long, long, long time.” (Since 1997) During his tenure, John has served on the Columbus House Building, Finance, Home Front, Annual Event and Investment Committees and was the first Chair of the Development Committee.

While serving on the Columbus House board, John has worked for the Pharmaceutical Industry, managed investments for General Electric and now advises foundations and governments on ways to improve access to medicines, emerging market economic development, corporate governance and environmental sustainability.

We thank Joe and John for their dedication and know they will stay involved.
We are very excited to welcome Letticia Brown-Gambino to the Columbus House family as our new Director of Programs and Services. Ms. Brown Gambino holds a Master of Science degree in Counseling, is a Licensed Professional Counselor (L.P.C.), and has provided service and program management experience to the supportive housing community in Connecticut for more than 15 years. Her experience ranges from creating and directing a multi-agency supportive housing services team collaboration in Bridgeport, among the first CSH Supportive Housing Demonstration Projects, to clinical supervision for staff working with persons who are chronically homeless.

Read more about Ms. Brown-Gambino at www.columbushouse.org
April is Volunteer Appreciation Month!

We are so grateful to the many wonderful people who volunteer their time, talent, and energy to Columbus House. From our meal servers and event volunteers to our Abraham’s Tent hosts, committee members, and our amazing Board of Directors, we value each and every one who helps fulfill our mission. To show our gratitude, Columbus House hosts a special Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon by invitation each year.

If you would like more information about our volunteer program, please contact Bruce Markot at (203) 401-4400, ext. 131 or email bmarkot@columbushouse.org.

Bank of America awards Columbus House $10,000

Bank of America continues to be a vital partner in helping Columbus House to find solutions to ending homelessness. We are pleased to announce that Columbus House was recently awarded a $10,000 operating grant for our main shelter in New Haven. L-R: Marley Williams, Bank of America and John Brooks, Director of Development, Columbus House

Thank you Bank of America!

Do’s Inspirational Art

On January 29th, Claire’s Corner Copia held an ‘Artists Reception’ for Do Walker (Do rhymes with You), their ‘artist in residence’ for the month. Do has received services from Columbus House and was a participant in last year’s Abraham’s Tent. Now living in his own apartment, he has a safe, stable place to concentrate on his art. Do’s exhibit at Claire’s was an inspirational and colorful collection of pastels like “Journey for Truth,” pictured above. Enjoy Do’s artwork in full-color, by visiting his website at www.dozpainter.com. Do’s journey was also featured in “The number of people we can help through N2N is incredible” by Cara Rosner of United Way of Greater New Haven at www.uwgnh.org.