NEW VETERAN HOUSING
Shepherd Home

THE STATE OF CT ENDED CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS IN 2015, achieving and maintaining “functional zero” to ensure that every Veteran who is experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness has access to the support they need to move into and maintain permanent housing. Columbus House actively works to uphold this accomplishment. To that end, we began the restoration and preservation of Shepherd Home to turn it into 32 units of permanent, supportive housing with a preference for Veterans. Shepherd Home is a 1920’s era nurses quarters located on the CT Valley Hospital campus in Middletown.

Plans call to renovate the historic 32,000 square foot vacant structure into 26 one-bedroom and six studio apartments and will feature components to honor the Veterans who reside there. It is conveniently located at the corner of Bow Lane and Eastern Drive so residents can easily access public transportation, retail stores and community services. Columbus House, with St. Vincent de Paul Middletown, will provide supportive services to the residents to help them maintain their housing, increase their independence, improve their quality of life, and reconnect them to the community.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in March to celebrate the commencement of the restoration and we were delighted to have CT State Representative of the 100th District, The Honorable Matthew Lesser, and the Mayor of Middletown, The Honorable Daniel Drew, in attendance among other community partners and supporters. Shepherd Home is scheduled for completion by January 2019 and we look forward to welcoming Veterans to their new home.

COLUMBUS HOUSE was an early adopter of the “Housing First” model which quickly and successfully connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing, often avoiding the stress of sleeping in a shelter or on the streets. With the security and stability of a home, clients are able to work with our Case Managers on finding a job, restoring their health and becoming contributing members of the community while working to overcome the issues that contributed to their homelessness.

As part of this approach, and in response to the severe lack of affordable housing in New Haven, Columbus House has partnered with the Jim Vlock Building Project at Yale for the HOMELESS:HOUSED project. This five-year housing initiative, now in its second year, engages first-year graduate students from Yale School of Architecture to design, pre-fabricate, and build five two-unit homes, which will provide Columbus House with ten units of permanent housing for families and individuals. Each year, the students meet with homeless and formerly homeless clients. Designs are based on their input.

All homes will utilize vacant lots in New Haven, are made from sustainable building materials including concrete flooring, metal roofing, LED lighting, custom-designed Pella windows, and solar panels to decrease utility costs; and can be replicated. The first home was completed before the holiday season began in November 2017; both the individual resident and the family (mom, dad and 18-month old) who moved into their new homes are doing well!

The second building, a duplex which will be located at 41-43 Button Street, is in progress! Designs from four different student teams were submitted, the final selection was made, and the students are now working on construction at Yale Campus West. As with the first house, this one will be ready to occupy by the fall, and will provide safety and security to the single adult and small family who will call it home.

Second Home Underway in the HOMELESS:HOUSED Building Initiative

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This enables younger generations to learn about the issues surrounding homelessness, design homes specifically for those who have experienced homelessness, and strengthens their ability to lead the future of the architecture industry.
Quentin was released from prison in 2012 with “absolutely nothing.” He applied for numerous jobs, but could not get hired. He had no family or friends to turn to. It was summer and warm enough to sleep outside, but the weather would soon change. Quentin found himself thinking, “Should I return to the fast life?” His answer to himself was insistent, “No. Wait. I can’t go back.” Instead, he fell into a “routine” of homelessness – eating in soup kitchens, seeking abandoned buildings and cars to sleep, and washing up in public restrooms. He prayed to God that things would change.

While telling his story to state legislators in Hartford in February to appeal for the continued funding for the Department of Housing programs that help to end homelessness, Quentin broke down into tears.

After gaining his composure, he explained that in 2013, while resting on a park bench in New Haven, a Columbus House Outreach & Engagement Case Manager approached him with a business card. He soon entered the shelter and participated in programs designed to help break the cycle of homelessness and gain his independence. He explained, “In 2017, after six and a half brutal years of homelessness, I was given a housing voucher and I am grateful for it. Today I am safe. Today I’m able to get up every morning and give back. Today I feel like I am somebody.”

In April, Quentin joined advocates to tell his story, once again, to legislators during the 2018 Homelessness and Housing Advocacy Days in Hartford.

We are grateful to Quentin for sharing his experience and to all our supporters involved, $16,000 was raised to support our work to end homelessness for families with children in Middlesex County. Learn more and see the winning participants at cOLUMbushouse.org/chocolate18

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTICIPANTS:
Chip in a Bottle (winner) | Eddy’s Bake Shop | Fascia’s Chocolates
ION Restaurant | Marjolaine Pastry Shop (winner) | Perk on Main
Purple Carrot Foods (winner) | Sweet Harmony Cafe & Bakery
Sweet Sage Bakery | Tschudin Chocolates & Confections (winner)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:
Expediter Beirne Wealth Consulting Services, LLC | Guilford Savings Bank
Middlesex Hospital | Rose & Kiernan
Pastry Chef Edible Arrangements | Ben Ledbetter, Jr. & Deborah Freedman
Webster Bank
Chef de Partie CBP, an Alera Company | Engineered Handling Systems, Inc.
Fusco Management Co., LLC | Norman Needleman & Jacqueline Hubbard
People’s United Bank

Quentin met with lawmakers in Hartford to appeal for the continued funding of programs that end homelessness. He also joined us and over 120 partner agencies and client advocates in April for the 2018 Homelessness & Housing Advocacy Days. Camille Roach, Columbus House Case Manager, worked with Quentin to help him prepare to speak to legislators.

Thanks to YOU, over $30K was raised to help end homelessness during these spring events!

16th Annual Chocolate to the Rescue
Close to 200 people gathered at the inn at Middletown for the 16th annual Chocolate to the Rescue event to benefit our Middlesex Family Shelter. Thanks to all involved, $16,000 was raised to support our work to end homelessness for families with children in Middlesex County. Learn more and see the winning participants at cOLUMbushouse.org/chocolate18

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Rock to Rock Earth Day Ride
This year, the Columbus House Green Team had nine cyclists who rode over 60 miles in the Rock to Rock Earth Day Ride on April 28. They raised $3,757 during this event that supports our greening efforts. Interested in riding next year? Learn more at cOLUMbushouse.org/rocktorock18

The Big Sleep Out
Engaging her peers, local religious institutions, prominent community members and a variety of supporters, Guilford High School student Ella Stanley organized “The Big Sleep Out” on the Guilford Green in April. Close to 75 registrants participated in workshops, attended speaker panels and partook in activities that increased their awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness. Most participants, including State Representative Sean Scanlon (Branford, Guilford), slept overnight on the green, without tents, and awoke to rain. This first-time grassroots fundraising event raised over $6,000! A big thank you to St. George Roman Catholic Church and to everyone who participated!

The Great Give
Over $7,000 was raised for Columbus House through this exciting 36-hour on-line giving challenge hosted by the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven on May 1 & 2. Thank you to all for your support!
YOU’VE PROBABLY HEARD THE TERM many times from your alumni association or maybe from one of your favorite charities but wondered what, exactly, is planned giving? Is it only for the wealthy? Do I have to die before my favorite charity will benefit from my gift? What’s a CRUT and what does probate court have to do with my gift? Too often, the information you receive is overly technical or it tends to focus on the impact you can make after you die. How depressing!

A “Planned Gift,” quite simply, is one that requires a bit more planning on your part than your regular annual, monthly or periodic financial contribution and is one that you can make now.

ANYONE CAN MAKE A PLANNED GIFT.
Planned gifts can benefit Columbus House right away or sometime in the future and may result in substantial tax benefits for you. When considering a planned gift, you should take into account the following:

1. Your family’s financial needs now and in future years
2. Your desire to provide an inheritance for your children, grandchildren or other family members
3. Your desire to make a larger gift to Columbus House (as well as your other favorite charities)

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PLANNED GIFTS:
1. Current Gifts:
Examples of planned gifts that you can make right now that will benefit Columbus House today include contributions of stock, required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA account (provided you are at least 70½ years old), gifts of life insurance policies, gifts of real estate, or a cash contribution that is significantly larger than your annual contribution.

2. Future Gifts:
Examples of planned gifts that you can set up now that will benefit Columbus House sometime in the future include a bequest in your will, naming Columbus House as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy, pension or retirement plan, or the creation of a charitable trust.

The most common type of planned gift is a bequest in your will naming your favorite charity (Columbus House) as a beneficiary. After making arrangements for your family, you can instruct that Columbus House receive a certain dollar amount or a percentage of your assets. It’s easy to add these instructions to your existing will (an addendum) without paying to redo your entire will. If you don’t have a will (don’t worry, it is estimated that over 50% of Americans don’t), now might be a good time to put together a simple will either with an on-line will kit or with an attorney so that you don’t leave important decisions about your assets up to the state of Connecticut!

Please remember, you don’t have to choose between providing for your family and making a planned gift to Columbus House. All of your objectives can be accomplished with a properly thought-out charitable giving strategy. And, you do not have to be wealthy in order to make a planned gift. All it takes is some time spent with your family and/or advisor discussing what is most important to you and how you want to create a “legacy” gift to Columbus House so that together, we can continue our work of ending homelessness – one life at a time.

Let’s talk about how you can have a greater impact today. Please contact John Brooks at 2013-401-4400 x108 or jbrooks@columbushouse.org and we’ll discuss how to include you and your family in the Columbus House Legacy Society.

SPOTLIGHT ON GIVING:
What Is “Planned Giving” anyway?

Shepherd Home continued from page 1

Columbus House is the project developer working with an experienced design and construction team who will restore the Shepherd Home’s exterior and interior. Partners include Brad Schide, LLC, DeMarco Management, Enterprise Builders, Northeast Collaborative Architects, and St. Vincent de Paul Middletown.

Funders include: CT Housing Finance Authority, CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, CT Department of Housing, National Equity Fund, US Park Service, CT Department of Economic Development – Historic Preservation, Middletown Housing Authority, Corporation for Supportive Housing, CT Trust for Historic Preservation, Eversource and the Home Depot Foundation.
SAVE THE DATE!
SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

July 13, 2018
THE HIGHER GROUND GOLF TOURNAMENT
Enjoy a fun day of golf, a delicious lunch and tiki bar while benefiting local Veterans and families in need. All ages and skill levels are welcome to play, and you could win a new car! Join us for nine- or 18-holes or just lunch at the Orange Hills Country Club. Thank you to Orange Congregational Church for hosting this annual event. Information and sign-up forms are available at www.columbushouse.org/golf

August 11, 2018
HOMERUN FOR HEROES BASEBALL GAME
Join Sikorsky Aircraft at Hartford Yard Goats Stadium for an evening of baseball, fireworks, and more to support our Veterans!

Stay Connected!
facebook.com/columbushouseinc
@ColumbusHouseCT

Columbus House Goes Greener!
Solar panels were installed on the roof of our New Haven Shelter building in April thanks to a grant from the State of Connecticut’s Office of Policy & Management. Our New Haven Shelter is the third Columbus House facility to be solarized, joining our Annex building (next to our New Haven Shelter) and our 17-unit supportive housing apartment building, Val Macri, also in New Haven.

INSIDE:
Quentin’s Story | New Housing for Veterans
HOMELESS:HOUSED Year Two | and more!