Columbus House February E-News

Chocolate to the Rescue is an experience for the taste buds! Indulge in chocolate delicacies, vote for your favorites, bid on silent auction items, sip cider from Spoke + Spy Ciderworks, and mingle with friends all while supporting Columbus House's Middlesex Family Shelter. Join master of ceremonies Jim Masters and guest judges Lee White, Dave Brooks, and Alan Thayer on March 22, 2020 from 1:00 – 4:00 P.M at the Inn at Middletown. Sound like the perfect afternoon? It is! This year’s chocolatiers include veteran favorites Chip in a Bottle, ION Restaurant, Marjolaine Pastry Shop, MELT Chocolatier, Perk On Main, Sweet Sage Bakery, Tschudin Chocolates & Confections and newcomer Patterson Family Chocolates. Purchase tickets, sponsor the event, and learn more at columbushouse.org/chocolate.

Serving for Columbus House Raises Almost $6K

On Saturday, February 1, Bruce & Kim Cha and Jim & Melissa Barra hosted the fifth annual Serving for Columbus House Tennis Tournament at Yale University: Cullman-Heyman Tennis Center. The event sold out with a record number of participants and spectators enjoying a fun afternoon of competition in support of our work to end homelessness. Congratulations to the Champions of the tournament, Jonah Feldman and Ryan Feldman, and to the Finalists, Sam Kim and Joe Gentile. Many thanks to all who made the tournament a huge success!

Thank you to our Sponsors!

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Partnership Keeps Veterans Out of Homelessness

A distraught U.S. Marine Corps Veteran arrived at one of Columbus House’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) offices in October 2019. He was going through a painful divorce, had just lost his job, and was close to losing his apartment. His financial benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs did not fully cover his rent and basic needs. A Columbus House SSVF Case Manager immediately enrolled him into the SSVF program and created a plan to keep him out of homelessness. To avoid eviction, the Case Manager contacted the landlord and explained that SSVF would cover back rent and a limited number of future rent payments. On top of all this, the Veteran’s car was in disrepair. Without a reliable vehicle it would be difficult for the Veteran to attend important medical appointments or find new employment, putting him in jeopardy of homelessness once more. The Veteran’s Case Manager reached out to APK Charities, a new Columbus House partner that provides funds for necessities outside of SSVF’s scope. The request to cover the cost to repair the Veteran’s car was approved. With his housing stabilized and vehicle fixed, the Veteran secured new employment and successfully left SSVF within 90 days. He is happy, employed, and making his medical appointments. This wonderful outcome is only possible because of our dedicated supporters, the VA’s essential funding, and the compassion and commitment of APK Charities to those who have served our country. Thank you!

To date, we have raised over $25,000 through the Alison Cunningham Growth & Independence Fund. Please consider contributing to honor Alison’s legacy. Learn more: www.columbushouse.org/acgi

Allison Batson is a Game Changer

This year, United Way of Greater New Haven is celebrating their centennial anniversary. As part of this milestone they are presenting 100 Game Changer Awards to people who have made a great impact in our community. We are thrilled to announce that Allison Batson, Columbus House Board Member, was the first to be named a Game Changer by United Way! Allison makes a tremendous difference for those experiencing homelessness by serving on our board and as a volunteer. She is also the founder of Dinner for a Dollar – a ministry of Grace & St. Peter’s Church in Hamden that serves around 60 people every Friday night of the year. This inexpensive and nutritious home cooked meal not only provides sustenance for those struggling with food insecurity, but for anyone who would like to enjoy dinner, conversation, and companionship with
their neighbors. Allison hopes to soon expand this program to additional locations and envisions eventually serving every night of the week. Congratulations Allison, and to United Way for their 100th Anniversary!

Do you bank with Ion?

You can help us win $$ with just a click of a button! Voting has begun for the 11th annual Ion Bank Community Awards Program, which means that all Ion Bank customers can help Columbus House earn much needed financial support! We will receive a $25 donation from the Ion Bank Foundation for every vote cast for Columbus House. Voting is open to all Ion Bank customers through March 31, 2020! To vote, visit IonBank.com and find us in the Social Services & Basic Needs category.

One vote per customer. For accounts with multiple owners, each owner may vote. Customers with multiple accounts may only vote once. Each customer can vote for only one organization.

Support Us With Target Circle

We are honored and excited to announce that we have been chosen to participate in a special charitable giving campaign, sponsored and funded by Target. And you have the chance to help direct a portion of Target’s donation to us!

Now through March 31, vote for us through the Target Circle program to help determine how Target’s donation will be divvied up. Find out more about Target Circle here.

We’re asking our supporters to help us make the most of this incredible opportunity. Every vote counts to help us receive a portion of the available Target funds as we continue our work to end homelessness.

Don’t forget, as you earn more votes, you can keep voting multiple times during the campaign! Thank you for your support, and we encourage you to share your support for us (and your thanks to Target) on social media throughout the duration of the voting!

Save the Dates!

Visit www.columbushouse.org/events for updates on these and other exciting events to help end homelessness.
Many thanks to our wonderful supporters who went above and beyond with in-kind donations and drives to make the holidays special at Columbus House!

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www.columbushouse.org