

Columbus House May E-News



Middle photo: Jane Montanaro, Executive Director of Preservation Connecticut; Sean Donadio, Principal at Northeast Collaborative Architect; and Carl Rodenhizer, Columbus House Chief Real Estate Officer. Photo by Ian Christmann Photography.

Shepherd Home Restoration Recognized with Award of Merit

Creating affordable housing is a key component to ending homelessness and a core part of our mission. While we have built numerous homes over the years, the restoration of Shepherd Home remains one of our proudest achievements. This ambitious transformation of a vacant 1925 nurses' quarters into 32 units of supportive housing for Veterans experiencing homelessness was honored with an Award of Merit at the 2024 Connecticut Preservation Awards ceremony on May 9. Chief Real Estate Officer, Carl Rodenhizer, accepted the award alongside the project team whose expertise and hard work made this remarkable restoration possible.

Many thanks to Preservation Connecticut for the recognition and congratulations to Carl, Northeast Collaborative Architects, Martinez Couch, GNCB, RZ Design, and Enterprise Builders on this well-deserved honor!

[Learn more about Shepherd Home on our website!](#)



Angel, a Veteran living at Shepherd Home, and his wife Patti recently shared their heartfelt story. [Learn how you helped make a difference just when they thought all hope was lost.](#)



Penelope Raises Over \$5k at Annual Lemonade Stand

On April 7, Penelope celebrated her birthday with her 4th Annual Lemonade Stand, raising an impressive \$5,000 for Columbus House. Supported by her family, friends, and a generous 40% match from her father's employer, Best Buy, Penelope's efforts have contributed over \$15,000 to end homelessness over the past four years. This young philanthropist's dedication and generosity continue to inspire us all!

Learn more about Penelope's effort by [watching her John S. Martinez Community Service Award acceptance speech](#) at our 2023 Annual Meeting and visiting her [Instagram page](#).



Rick and Alan of Spice320 took both the Critics' and People's Choice awards for Most Creative Chocolate Creations with their journey of spices and chocolate from around the world.

Chocolate to the Rescue Raises \$22K

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all who participated, attended, sponsored, volunteered, and donated auction items for this 21st annual event on April 14th at the Crystal Ballroom in Middletown! The vital funds you raised for our Middlesex Family Shelter help provide a safe space for families experiencing homelessness as they get on the path to a permanent home.

Visit our [website](#) to see the winners, participants, sponsors, a link to photos, and more!



Sarah Hoffman, Chief Development Officer, joined the WNNH Great Give Radiothon to share how your support make a difference – click to watch!

Thank You, Great Givers!

Over 130 supporters like you contributed over \$22,000 to Columbus House during The Great Give, a 36-hour online giving event! Every donation was partially matched by grants from The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven or The Valley Community Foundation. Your generosity helps provide essential services to 2,300 people each year, including individuals, families, youth, seniors, and veterans, to prevent or end homelessness.

[Watch the video](#) to learn how your gift makes a great impact.



Summer Wish List

As the season changes, our neighbors experiencing homelessness face new urgent needs.

Can you help? Visit our updated [wish list](#) to see all the necessities we're collecting.

For more information, questions, to organize a drive, or to schedule a drop-off, please contact Sheree at sdimario@columbushouse.org or 203-401-4400 x138.

Thank you for your support!



"My father was able to leave a legacy that has so far ensured that none of his daughters has experienced homelessness in spite of addiction, illness, cancer, divorce, and other challenges." – Shelly Saczynski

Have you protected your family and your legacy from the unforeseen?

It's never too soon to start planning your legacy. Visit our [website](#) for a free comprehensive toolkit to jumpstart your estate planning. After ensuring your loved ones are cared for in your plans, we hope you will keep Columbus House in mind as well.

Our long-time friend and supporter, Shelly (pictured right, with her father and sister), recently shared how her father's legacy was the inspiration for including Columbus House in her estate plans. Be on the lookout for Shelly's story in our upcoming print newsletter!

Your Advocacy Made an Impact at the Capitol



Thanks to the dedication of our partners, supporters, and staff, a one-time ARPA allocation of \$4.5M was awarded to Connecticut's homeless services sector as the 2024 legislative session closed on May 8. This positive step forward proves your efforts have put us at the forefront of lawmakers' minds, and we are so grateful. But our work is far from finished.

We ask that you continue your impactful outreach to lawmakers as we prepare to fight for adequate and permanent funding during the 2025 legislative session. Follow us on social media or on our [website](#) for advocacy alerts.

In the News

→ [CT Must Address Housing and Homelessness \(Read in the CTMirror\)](#)

→ [Penelope's Lemonade Stand \(watch on FOX61\)](#)

Save the Dates

Sunday, June 30, 2024: Guilford Rotary Lobster Fest

Friday, August 9, 2024: OCC Columbus House Scramble

Sunday, August 18, 2024: Homerun for Heroes

Saturday-Sunday, October 5 & 6, 2024: Celebrate Wallingford

Thursday, December 5, 2024: Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 30, 2025: Chocolate the the Rescue

[Visit our website more information on these and other events!](#)



Looking for a career that makes a difference helping others? Join our team! [View & apply](#) for open positions at Columbus House now!

Thank you to *some* of our partners who have gone above and beyond helping to end homelessness with their financial support from March 25 – May 29, 2024.

American Eagle Financial Credit Union

Anonymous (2)

Scott & Robin Chasse

Mary Dolan

John L. & Pauline E. Huwiler Memorial Fund

Michael & Pamela Jordan – Penelope's Lemonade Stand

Liberty Bank

Liberty Bank Foundation

Dwight & Maureen Lopes

M&T Charitable Foundation

Middlesex United Way

New London Elks 360

NFP

Savings Bank of Danbury Foundation

St. George Catholic Church

Ellen Taylor
The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
The Israel & Adele Gordon Fund

We apologize if we inadvertently left out your name.

DONATE

Your gift to Columbus House literally saves the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors. Each year, you help give 2,300 people – including seniors, families with children, and Veterans – the tools and support they need to end or prevent their homelessness.

We are grateful for your dedication to our mission: to serve people experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk by providing life-saving outreach, shelter and housing and by fostering their personal growth and independence. We advocate for and create affordable housing to end homelessness in our communities.



Federal Employees – did you know you can give to Columbus House through the Combined Federal Campaign? Visit cfcgiving.opm.gov/welcome click “Find A Charity” and enter our number - 99082.



Double Your Donation

Will your employer match your gift to Columbus House? Click to find out!



Legacy Giving

Make a lasting impact on ending homelessness with planned giving.



Donate Your Car

Donate your old clunker – running or not – to help end homelessness!



Working to End Homelessness



www.columbushouse.org