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Chocolate to the Rescue!

An Event to Benefit the Middlesex Family Shelter

Sunday, March 30, 2025 | Crystal Ballroom, Middletown

Columbus House is honored to host **Chocolate to the Rescue**, an event to benefit the **Middlesex Family Shelter** where families experiencing homelessness are provided with emergency shelter and services to help them move into affordable homes. Now in its 22nd year, this signature event attracts some of the finest chocolatiers in the area and as many as 150 guests from Middlesex and New Haven Counties, the Shoreline and beyond.

Guests will enjoy some of the best chocolate creations in the region and will vote for their favorites. While satisfying their chocolate cravings, they will also spend time browsing great auction items. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Middlesex Family Shelter, a program of Columbus House.

THE NEED:

There is an unprecedented number of families experiencing homelessness in our state as a result of rising eviction rates and a critical lack of affordable housing. *On December 31, 2024, there were 222 people, including 37 children, on the Middlesex Meriden and Wallingford homeless by-name list.* This includes 42 families. The homeless by-name list is a measure of people currently experiencing homelessness in Connecticut, though this list is not comprehensive as it leaves out those who have not yet reached out for assistance.

THE SOLUTION:

Since 1988, the **Middlesex Family Shelter** has been providing emergency shelter and a robust array of programs and wrap-around services for families that address the root causes of their homelessness. We also connect them to community resources so they can find – and maintain – housing they can afford, while remaining together as a family. The shelter is comprised of six two-level townhomes on a quiet cul-de-sac, where approximately 20 families (about 60 people with over half of them youth) are served each year.

Since 1982 Columbus House has been working with city, state and federal agencies along with a continuum of non-profit service providers to help move our neighbors out of homelessness. Our mission is: *"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."*

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AUCTION DONATION FORM

In support of the Middlesex Family Shelter, we are happy to donate the following item(s):

Auction Item Description:

Estimated Retail Value: \$ _____

Restrictions (if any):

Donor name exactly as it should appear on auction bid sheet:

Contact information:

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS:

You can mail auction items and completed Auction Donation Forms to:

Development Department
Columbus House, Inc.
586 Ella T. Grasso Boulevard
New Haven, CT 06519

Questions? Contact:

Sarah Hoffman
Chief Development Officer
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