

Columbus House April E-News



Working to End Homelessness



Rock to Rock is Saturday!

Join us this Saturday at East Rock Park and help support our green initiatives. Choose your own adventure – from a 60-mile metric century to a two-mile family ride or a hike around the base of East Rock – you can help Columbus House conserve energy, and make our operations more environmentally friendly.

[Learn more!](#)



The Great Give is Coming!

Your gift goes further to help end homelessness during the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven's 36-hour online giving challenge. All gifts will be matched by a portion of a \$100k pool and we have generous anonymous donors who will match the first \$5k in donations to Columbus House! Look for an email on May 3 with a link to give and share with your friends, family, and co-workers. Thank You!

Join us June 1 to Celebrate John!

You're invited to celebrate John Brooks, former Chief Development Officer, who retired in March after serving Columbus House for 19 years. Join us at the Playwright in Hamden on Thursday, June 1 between 5:00-8:00 PM and help us thank him for his longtime commitment to ending homelessness.



Appetizers will be served, a cash bar will be available. **RSVP's are required as space is limited. Call 203-401-4400 x131 to confirm your reservation.** Want to honor John's tradition of caring for our neighbors? **Make a gift** in his honor!

Proposed State Budget Leaves Out Homeless Service Providers



Please join Columbus House advocates' push for help from the state legislature. We ask our leaders to "Rescue the Homeless Response" in collaboration with partner agencies across the state. We face a historic staffing crisis driven by increases to the minimum wage and inflation that threaten our ability to provide essential services people in crisis depend on. We are honored to work on behalf of this community and depend on the community's resources to make that work possible. Early draft budgets from the Governor and Appropriations Committee do not provide the resources necessary to maintain the homeless response. If you do not want to see services to people experiencing homelessness cut in your community please consider joining our advocacy efforts. [Learn more here.](#)

In light of the rise in homelessness in CT, the clearing of an encampment in New Haven, and the chronic underfunding of our critical services, Margaret Middleton, CEO, penned an Op-Ed piece which was published in the New Haven Independent. Please read "[Don't Like Encampments? Fund Solutions](#)" and consider joining us in our [advocacy](#) work to Rescue the Homeless Response System today.



We Mourn the Loss of Karen Lenois

One of our most dedicated and longterm volunteers, Karen Lenois ensured our neighbors were cared for. As a meal service captain through St. Paul VI Hamden (St. Rita's Church) she provided vital nutrition to our guests and recruited others to assist her. She was responsible for lobbying to have Columbus House included in the Archbishop's Appeal, oversaw countless drives for vital supplies, involved her students in making handmade cards, and was famous for making the holidays special – all for the clients we serve. Karen was an unyielding source of hope and compassion for people

experiencing homelessness and she is greatly missed. Karen's family created a fund in her memory to benefit those at our New Haven Shelter. To donate, call 203-401-4400 x131.



We Mourn the Loss – April Moss

We are deeply saddened by the passing of April Moss, a kind, compassionate and dedicated nurse in our Medical Respite program. Constantly expressing concern for our most vulnerable neighbors, April's tender care and professional healing improved the lives of those experiencing homelessness. She provided hope to our clients, and spread light throughout our New Haven Shelter as a beloved colleague. Our sincere condolences go out to her family, friends, and everyone who was touched by her presence.

Congratulations to Our Staff in New Positions!



We're excited to announce some recent staff promotions! Lilla Bryan-Hemmings has taken on the role of Chief Financial Officer after 22 years of service in the Finance Department. Gladys Bradley moved into the Director of Finance seat after 15 years in the department. Aimee DeMusis is now the Director of Veteran & Middlesex Emergency Services, and John Sanford moved into the role of Senior Manager, New Haven Emergency Services. Columbus House is proud and grateful to have such committed, mission-driven staff – congratulations to all! *(Clockwise from top left: Lilla, Gladys, John, Aimee)*

Chocolate to the Rescue Raises 20K!



For the first time since 2019, friends gathered in-person to support our Middlesex Family Shelter during the 20th annual Chocolate to the Rescue event. Close to \$20,000 was raised to provide emergency shelter and wrap-around services for families experiencing homelessness while guests indulged in a chocolate tasting. So grateful to our chocolate participants, sponsors, guests, and everyone who made this event a success! *(pictured: Sweets By Jenna)* [Click for winners, link to photos, & more from our sponsors.](#)

Thank you to our chocolatiers!

Bear's Smokehouse
Chip in a Bottle
LiLu's Customized Catering
MELT Chocolatier
Perk on Main

Sweet Harmony Cafe & Bakery
Sweet Sage Bakery
Sweets By Jenna
Tschudin Chocolates

Thank you to our sponsors!

Executive Chef



Sous-Chef



Expediter

M&T Charitable Foundation
 National Equity Fund
 Nutmeg Consulting LLC
 Webster Bank

Pastry Chef

Allison Batson
 Christina Lindstrom & Scott Daigle
 Carla and Rudy Zimmermann

Serving for Columbus House Tennis Tournament



Welcoming old friends and new, the “Serving for Columbus House” tennis tournament in March was a great success! Thanks to sponsors, donors and players, almost \$9,000 was raised for our programs to end homelessness. We are grateful to all who supported this event, and especially to Dr. Bruce & Kim Cha and Jim & Missy Barra for organizing this annual event.

Thank you to our sponsors!

Title Sponsor



Court Sponsors



Champion Sponsors

James & Melissa Barra
 Ironwood Capital
 Jennifer & Mike McCleery



Check out our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages as we share gratitude for our amazing Volunteers! #WeLoveCHVolunteers



Join Us!

Save these Dates:

Aug 6, 2023: Homerun for Heroes

Oct 7-8, 2023: Celebrate Wallingford

Dec 7, 2023: Annual Meeting

Stay tuned for more information on these and other events on our [website!](#)



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.

Thank you to **some** of our partners who have gone above and beyond helping to end homelessness with their financial support from 2/11/23 through 4/13/23.

Anonymous
Community Foundation of Middlesex County
William Kohlhepp & Peggy Dillinger
Peter Danick & Maureen Donovan
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
GSB
Joseph C. Stevens Fund
Patrick & Nancy Kennedy Family
Liberty Bank
Dwight & Maureen Lopes
M&T Charitable Foundation
Joyce Mailhouse
Middlesex United Way
Clifford Monges
Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust, Inc.
NewAlliance Foundation
NFP
Andrew & Terry Osmun
John Nixon III & Shawna Reed

St. George Catholic Church
The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
The Jane and William Curran Foundation
The Naomi Charitable Fund
Frank & Regina Thomas
Stacy Neal & Katherine Thomas
Ulbrich Stainless Steels & Special Metals
Vector Business Group Corp.
Workers' Compensation Trust

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 over 2,800 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.

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



www.columbushouse.org

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