

# Columbus House March E-News

Chocolate to the Rescue is Sunday, April 14!



Get your tickets now!

Indulge in delicious chocolate creations, vote for your favorites, witness a panel of experts vote for theirs, and bid on exciting auction items – like two roundtrip tickets courtesy of Avelo Airlines – all while supporting our Middlesex Family Shelter! [Learn more, get your tickets](#), and join us on April 14 at the Crystal Ballroom in Middletown from 1-4 PM.

Thank you participants and sponsors!

## Participants

Bear's Smokehouse  
LiLu's Customized Catering  
MELT Chocolatier  
Perk On Main  
Spice320  
Sweet Harmony Cafe & Bakery  
Sweet Sage Bakery  
Sweets by Jenna

## Executive Chef



**LIBERTY**  
BANK  
Be Community Kind.™

## Sous-Chef

American Eagle  
FRESH COTTON UNION



**NFP**

Workers' Compensation  
**trust**

**WebsterBank**

**Expediter:** Alera Group, Inc., Middlesex Health

**Pastry Chef:** Sean Duffy, Price Chopper, John Stachniewicz, Suburban Commercial, Carla and Rudy Zimmerman



## A Letter from Robin, Interim CEO

My name is Robin Jenkins, and I recently joined Columbus House as Interim CEO. I arrive with over 20 years of experience, specializing in interim leadership roles. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your continued support of Columbus House and the communities we serve. [continue reading](#)



## Penelope's Lemonade Stand is April 7

Since 2021 Penelope has raised over \$10,000 for our work to end homelessness through her birthday lemonade stand. Please help Penelope celebrate this year by attending her lemonade stand on April 7, or by making a donation through one of the links on her flyer. Penelope was honored at our 2023 Annual Meeting with a John S. Martinez Community Service Award – learn more about her inspiring story by [watching her acceptance speech](#). You can also learn more on her [Instagram page](#). Thank you!

Click image to for details and how to support Penelope!



## Serving for Columbus House Tennis Tournament Raises Close to \$8K

On March 16, twenty-five tennis enthusiasts gathered at the Yale Indoor Tennis Courts for some fun and friendly competition to support our work to end homelessness. Thanks to the players, generous sponsors, and co-hosts Bruce & Kim Cha and Jim & Missy Barra, close to \$8,000 was raised to help our neighbors facing homelessness!

# Harte



## Ten Weeks, Ten Lives Transformed

We extend our deepest gratitude to the 18 communities of faith who participated in this year's reimagined Abraham's Tent program. During the coldest weeks of the year – January 8 to March 14 – they provided 10 men at our Wallingford Emergency Shelter with food, fellowship, and compassion, making a great impact for our neighbors who would otherwise been left out in the cold.

One man left Abraham's Tent early to move into his own apartment!

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Smart Family Foundation of New York whose thirteen years of support has made this vital program possible.

See our Abraham's Tent volunteers in action on [Facebook!](#)

Learn the history of the Wallingford Emergency Shelter and Abraham's Tent [in a wonderful article by Joe Pajor](#), volunteer and former Board Chair.



## Advocacy Update

Homelessness is skyrocketing – there are currently over 5,000 people without homes in our state – but [lawmakers have yet to include increased funds for our vital work in the budget](#). This legislative session runs through May 8, and we can't give up now. Together, we must continue to push for these crucial investments in our historically underfunded homeless response system. [Learn more and advocate now!](#)

## Rising Leaders: Congratulations and Welcome to Our Team!



Cathleen, Don, Sarah, and Sakinat

Since joining Columbus House in 2016 as Senior Manager of Permanent Supportive Housing, **Cathleen Meaden** has helped to improve the quality and efficiency of our programs with compassionate leadership. In September, she took on the newly created role of Chief Operating Officer to further her dedication to further advance the mission of Columbus House.

**Don Smith** joined us in December as Director of Data Quality and Management. Don's experience and passion for aggregating and managing performance metrics promises to yield impactful results for our data-driven work.

**Sarah Hoffman**, former Grants Administrator, was promoted to Chief Development Officer at the beginning of March. Sarah's perseverance was instrumental in the success of our fundraising efforts while she served as Acting Chief Development Officer. Her promotion is not only well-deserved, but a great benefit for Columbus House.

**Sakinat Yusif**, who will be moving into the role of Director of Emergency Services in New Haven on April 1st, has a rich background in mental health garnered from previous experience, including her position as the Respite and Recovery House Manager here at Columbus House.

Want to join our caring team? [View & apply for open positions now!](#)

## In the News

- [DeLauro Secures Over \\$16 Million For Local Projects in Government Funding Package](#)
- [Columbus House gets OK to build new shelter in New Haven, allowing couples to stay together](#)
- [David Fink: Good people in CT working to end homelessness](#)

## Save the Dates

**May 1 & 2:** The Great Give

**August 18:** Homerun for Heroes

Thank you to **some** of our partners who have gone above and beyond helping to end homelessness with their financial support from January 1 – March 24, 2024.

Advanced Diagnostic Pain Treatment Centers  
James & Melissa Barra  
Community Foundation of Middlesex County  
Connecticut Mental Health Center Foundation  
CT Turnaround Management Association  
Peter Danick & Maureen Donovan  
Endodontics, LLC  
First Congregational Church of Guilford  
First Presbyterian Church of New Haven  
Frontier Communications Employees' Community Services Fund  
George Harte Nissan  
Aden & Laura Goldblum  
David & Joanne Goldblum  
Raymond Happy  
Linda Harris  
Dr. Peter & Maureen Herbert  
John L. & Pauline E. Huwiler Memorial Fund  
Joseph C. Stevens Fund  
Patrick & Nancy Kennedy Family  
Barton C. Kenney  
Knights of Columbus  
Korean Clergy Assc. in Connecticut  
Dean Macchio  
Middlesex United Way  
Morgan Stanley Global Impact Funding Trust, Inc.  
NewAlliance Foundation  
David I. Newton  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
John & Lupi Robinson  
Select Equity Group Foundation  
St. George Catholic Church  
The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven  
The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region  
The First Baptist Church of Wallingford  
The Flood Law Firm, LLC  
The Jane and William Curran Foundation  
Pamela Torola  
Town Fair Tire Foundation  
Ulbrich Stainless Steels & Special Metals  
Kathy Umlauf  
United Church on the Green  
United Way of Greater New Haven  
Vector Business Group Corp.  
Dr. Sten H. Vermund & Dr. Pilar Vargas

Webster Bank  
Workers' Compensation Trust  
YNHH, Community & Government Relations  
Matthew Zegarek and Samantha Smith

*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](https://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](http://www.columbushouse.org)

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