

the way home

We're CARF accredited!

THREE PROGRAMS of Columbus House have earned the highest level of accreditation from CARF International for quality of service: *Supportive Services for Veteran Families/Rapid Re-Housing*, *Permanent Supportive Housing* and *Medical Respite*. Each program was awarded a three-year accreditation from CARF – The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, demonstrating Columbus House's dedication to meeting international standards for program quality, measurability and accountability, and its commitment to continuously pursuing excellence.

All of Columbus House's programs utilize "person-centered" and "housing first" philosophies, with the belief that people are better able to effectively access services they need to regain their independence after they are housed. The staff of Columbus House works with clients to get them into housing and access the services they need to stay housed indefinitely.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families/Rapid Re-Housing (SSVF/RRH) provides up to 90-days of services for Veterans and their families who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless in New Haven, Middlesex, and New London counties. *SSVF* offers financial assistance, Rapid Re-Housing, and benefit and employment services. The program is managed by a Veteran. *RRH* moves people directly from instances of homelessness into their own rental unit by providing short-term financial assistance in the form of initial rent, security deposits, and/or utility assistance.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) provides over 400 people per year with case management and supportive services so those who were once homeless and are now housed can remain in their homes. Clients across New Haven and Middlesex counties are served as well as residents of The Jefferson in New Britain. Last year, 98%



of those in our PSH programs maintained or improved their living situation.

Medical Respite is an innovative program that provides recuperative care to those who are homeless and exiting the hospital. Based out of our New Haven Shelter, referrals come directly from Yale New-Haven Hospital and the VA Hospital in West Haven. The 12-bed program includes 24-hour supervision, referrals to healthcare providers, transportation, and case management. In addition, the program lowers public healthcare costs by reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and readmissions.

We are grateful to our dedicated staff for achieving this milestone. ■

Winter Wish List

or 203-401-4400 x 138 to schedule a drop off or for suggestions on how to run a wish list drive!

People experiencing homelessness need items to help them stay safe, warm, and dry this winter. Can you help? Please contact Sheree at sdimario@columbushouse.org



New men's & women's winter gloves & hats
Hand warmers (such as HotHands brand)
New men's & women's sweatshirts & sweatpants (sizes medium, large & x-large)

New men's & women's underpants (men's sizes med, lg & x-lg, women's sizes 7 – 12)
Gift cards (\$5 to Dunkin Donuts, \$25 to Stop & Shop, Big Lots, Walmart, Kmart, CVS & Walgreens)



We also need 60 NEW yoga-style mats for the Middletown Warming Center!

Open House Raises Over \$19,000 for our Wallingford Emergency Shelter



COMMUNITY CAMARADERIE was evident during the Open House at our Wallingford Emergency Shelter (WES) on October 26, 2018. A strong showing of supporters, including Mayor William Dickinson, representatives from United Way and the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce, gathered to benefit the individuals and families who rely on the emergency shelter, food, case management and services we provide to help them address the issues that contributed to their homelessness and to help them remain stably housed and again become contributing members of the community.

The family shelter at WES comprises four two-bedroom townhouses (The Martin B. Rubin Family Center and the Fred Ulbrich Jr. Family Center) which operate year round, providing shelter and services for up to 35 households per year. Three of the four family units are reserved for Wallingford residents and the fourth is reserved for a Veteran family. The seasonal shelter opens this year in December and runs through mid-April. Services include access to benefits, connections to medical and behavioral supports, job training, financial assistance, ongoing case management support and specialized services for those permanently housed to reduce their risk of becoming homeless again.

We are grateful to everyone who supported this event, including our generous sponsors! ■

Gold Sponsors

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JIM COOKE

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First Congregational Church of Wallingford
Gaylord Specialty Healthcare
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
The John Boyle Decorating Center

Bronze Sponsors

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Joe & Kathleen Pajor
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
The Schegg Group
Thurston Foods Inc.
Wallingford Funeral Home

Breakfast fare generously provided by:

Alyssa's Cakery
Center Street Luncheonette
Choate Rosemary Hall
Colony Diner
Dee Popolizio
Starbucks of Wallingford

Tent & chairs donated by: Taylor Rental
Chairs donated by: St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Event Task Force:

Brittany Barbaro, Matt Cammarota,
Tarn Granucci, Joe Pajor, Jack Selmecki,
Wes Ulbrich, Nickie Whitehouse

Winter Programs

Each winter, thanks to our generous supporters and partners, Columbus House is able to provide safe, warm accommodations, along with case management and housing services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. If you are interested in volunteering to serve meals or run drives to support these programs, please contact Sheree at 203-401-4400 x 138 or sdimario@columbushouse.org. Thank you to all who make these life-saving programs possible!

Men's Seasonal Overflow Shelter

Serves an additional 75 men per night in New Haven providing meals and case management.

Abraham's Tent Program

A different house of worship hosts twelve men for a week, providing beds, meals, and fellowship.

Wallingford Emergency Shelter

Offers beds, meals, and case management for approximately 50 single adult men and women throughout the winter (16 per night).

Middletown Warming Center Columbus House will partner with St. Vincent de Paul Middletown, South Congregational Church, Church of the Holy Trinity, and Saint John Church to manage a warm space for those seeking refuge from the cold.



Beds are ready to welcome guests at our Wallingford Emergency Shelter this winter.

Charitable Giving and the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT, signed into law in December of 2017, affects the income tax of both businesses and individuals and the federal estate tax on the estates of certain high-net-worth individuals.

Many donors as well as those of us in the non-profit community wondered what impact these new changes would have on charitable giving. During the course of the year, we received numerous questions from our supporters regarding their charitable giving to Columbus House (and to their other favorite charities). Some were a bit confused and thought that perhaps they could no longer make charitable contributions because they read that they may not be able to itemize. In fact, the standard deduction was raised to \$12,000 for single filers and to \$24,000 for couples filing jointly. For those who traditionally itemize their deductions – including gifts made to charity – the increased standard deduction may, in some cases, eliminate the need to itemize for many taxpayers. If the total amount of itemized deductions is greater than the new standard deduction, you may still want to itemize.

As is always the case with questions relative to the tax implications of charitable giving, please seek the counsel of a qualified financial adviser. Your situation is unique and the new tax law will impact each of us according to our own financial circumstances.

The need for your support is greater now than ever before and whether you continue to itemize or take the new standard deduction, you can still make charitable contributions to Columbus House.

As we pointed out in our last issue of “The Way Home,” there are many ways to make a gift to Columbus House and the new tax laws may have created more opportunities for you to do so.

- Did your take-home pay increase due to a new, lower tax bracket? If so, please consider adding the difference from last year to your annual contribution.
- If you plan on itemizing, and your deductions are close to the new standard deduction, consider increasing your contribution so your charitable deduction helps you exceed the standard deduction amount.
- Are you at least 70½ years old and own one or more Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's)? If you don't need the income that the IRS requires you to withdraw (Required Minimum Distribution), consider a Charitable Rollover directly from your IRA to Columbus House. (You and your spouse could each contribute up to \$100,000 annually without any income tax liability.) Please contact your IRA provider for exact instructions.

- Another strategy that may greatly reduce the income tax liability on your family is to make Columbus House the beneficiary on one or more of your retirement plans. This way, you can leave other assets, not subject to income tax, to your loved ones.

- Do you have stock that has significantly increased in value over the years? Consider making gifts of appreciated securities. You can still save capital-gain taxes by giving the securities to Columbus House provided that you have owned them for more than a year. This is a key part of the tax law that has not changed.

- Of course, one of the easiest and most significant gifts you can make is to create a bequest in your will or trust. You can provide for your family while ensuring that your support for Columbus House continues.

Let's talk about how you can make a greater impact today. Together, we can continue working toward our vision of ending homelessness – one life at a time. Please contact John Brooks at 203-401-4400 x108 or jbrooks@columbushouse.org and we'll discuss various gift options that work best for you while helping the most vulnerable in our community. ■

Thank you!

The New Haven Seasonal Overflow Shelter Has a New Home!

For over 20 years Columbus House has operated the city's Seasonal Overflow Shelter for men in the Hill neighborhood of New Haven on Cedar Street. Located over a mile from the main shelter building on Ella T. Grasso Boulevard, the Cedar Street locations posed logistical challenges for clients, staff and volunteers – especially during winter storms. We are excited to announce that this winter, those seeking life-saving shelter during the coldest months of the year will be staying in a newly renovated facility within walking distance from the Boulevard shelter! A grant received through the Connecticut Office of Policy & Management made it possible to renovate a building just steps away and transform it into a warm, updated space for 75 men. The new space will enhance safety, accessibility, and convenience for our staff, volunteers and most importantly – for those seeking shelter. The move will allow Case Managers to connect with clients in a more time-efficient manner and will provide

greater access to programs and services. Meal service volunteers and kitchen staff will be able to transfer food to the shelter with ease. The newly renovated space is equipped with brand new restrooms and showers. We are grateful for your support in helping us improve services to our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. ■



Volunteers from New Life Worship Center serve up kindness and compassion at the New Haven Seasonal Overflow Shelter every Tuesday night during the season.

SAVE THE DATE!

November 27, 2018 GIVING TUESDAY

Join us for this global day of online charitable giving and help kick-start our Homeless for the Holidays campaign!

December 6, 2018 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Celebrate all who make Columbus House possible as we announce the recipients of the John S. Martinez Community Service Award at the New Haven Lawn Club. Complimentary breakfast buffet. RSVP required (see below).

March 24, 2019 CHOCOLATE TO THE RESCUE

Eat Chocolate. Help End Family Homelessness! Join us at the Inn at Middletown to enjoy the region's finest chocolate, bid on an array of silent auction items, witness judging by a panel of culinary experts, and vote for your favorite chocolate creations – all while supporting our Middlesex Family Shelter!

Contact 203-401-4400 x131 or pphonyohee@columbushouse.org regarding these events, or visit www.columbushouse.org/events

www.columbushouse.org



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Second of Five Duplexes in HOMELESS:HOUSED Complete



FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS throughout the community gathered to celebrate the completion of the second two-unit home in the Homeless:Housed collaboration with Yale School of Architecture on October 15, 2018. This five year project provides Columbus House with ten units of affordable, permanent housing for families and individuals, designed specifically for those who have experienced homelessness. Through the Jim Vlock Building Project at Yale, first-year graduate students design, pre-fabricate and build five two-unit homes after meeting with homeless and formerly homeless clients and base the home designs on their input. The first home was completed in November 2017 and soon after was occupied by an individual resident and a family (mom, dad and now two children). Residents for the second home on Button Street are now preparing to move in.

INSIDE:
CARF Accreditation | Open House Raises \$19,000
Winter Shelters Open | and more!

Watch videos, take virtual tours, and learn more at www.columbushouse.org/homelesshoused