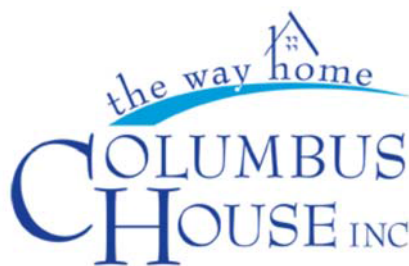


Thank you for helping to end homelessness!



## Columbus House February E-News

### Chocolate to the Rescue!

Do you want to try a variety of delicious chocolate treats while simultaneously helping to end family homelessness? You can if you attend Chocolate to the Rescue! The 16th annual event benefits our Middlesex Family Shelter and takes place on Sunday, March 18 from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Inn at Middletown. For only \$35 (\$40 at the door) you can indulge in a scrumptious selection of sweets from 10 different establishments plus bid on an exciting array of silent auction items!



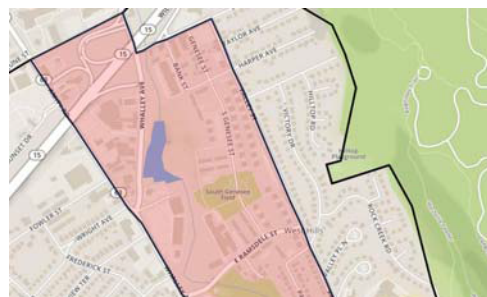
Participants include: Chip in a Bottle, Eddy's Bake Shop, Fascia's Chocolates, ION Restaurant, Marjolaine's Pastry Shop, Perk on Main, Purple Carrot Foods, Sweet Harmony Cafe & Bakery, Sweet Sage Bakery, and Tschudin Chocolates & Confections.

Many thanks to our sponsors for making this event possible! Expediter: Beirne Wealth Consulting Services, LLC, Guilford Savings Bank, Middlesex Hospital, Rose & Kiernan; Pastry Chef: Edible Arrangements, Ben Ledbetter, Jr. & Deborah Freedman; Chef de Partie: Engineered Handling Systems, Inc., Fusco Management Co., LLC, Norman Needleman & Jacqueline Hubbard, People's United Bank.

[Get your tickets today at www.columbushouse.org/chocolate](http://www.columbushouse.org/chocolate)

### Point-In-Time Count

The evening of January 23rd was an unseasonably warm, damp evening in Connecticut, and was the night of the Annual



Point-In-Time (PIT) Count. Mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the PIT is an annual census of those experiencing homelessness conducted across the country. The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness is the lead agency in the state, and Columbus House, along with The Connection, co-chaired the Greater New Haven count. The resulting PIT data is crucial to secure the funding needed to house and help maintain stable housing for those we serve.

Volunteers spread out across the state, with the aid of homeless service provider staff, searching areas where people have been known to, or could potentially be living: outdoors, in abandoned buildings, or places unfit for human habitation. [Continue reading](#)

## Art Helps Heal

Recently, Allahna Torres, a Post University graduate student completing her Master's in Human Services, came to Columbus House to run a women's Healing Journey Group as her practicum. Allahna's goals for the project aligned with Columbus House's mission of fostering the personal growth and independence of those we serve, as well as with our TAG (Trauma and Gender) values. For weeks, Allahna met with a self-elected group of Columbus House's female guests. Through the use of the Beyond Trauma curriculum, and theory- and research- based exercises, she encouraged participants to "realize the strengths they already have and teach them new skills to help them heal."



[Continue reading about the activities and experiences the participants engaged in.](#)

## New Tax Cuts and How They will Affect Your Contributions to Columbus House

As the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) went into effect on January 1, 2018, it may have left you asking "How will this new law impact the amount of taxes I will owe; what impact will it have on my take-home pay and how will I treat my contributions to Columbus House (and the other charities I support) since the standard deduction for single and joint filers has risen to \$12,000 and \$24,000, respectively?"



Many of the new regulations have pretty confusing terms like Chained CPI-U, Qualified Charitable Contributions, (QCD's), Charitable Stacking (or Lumping), Individual & Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), carried interest, nonrefundable credit for dependents, Pass-Through Business Tax Relief and many others.

Each of us will have to review and evaluate our situation to determine how the new tax law will impact us, preferably with a trusted advisor. If you are like most people who make charitable contributions, you're motivated to provide an end to an injustice, help find a cure for a disease, protect the vulnerable, save the environment, support education, or make sure the arts survive and flourish. In short, you want to make a difference!

Fortunately, you can still do that. With every change comes opportunity. Please review your financial and tax situation. Maybe your take-home pay has increased. If so, please consider donating that increase to Columbus House. Proceeds from life insurance policies, distributions from IRA's and pension plans are but a few ways you can continue to contribute while possibly retaining favorable tax benefits.

Remember - the tax laws have changed but the need for your support remains. Please contact John Brooks, Chief Development Officer at 203-401-4400 x 108 if you have any questions about your contribution, how it is used or the work that we do to one day end homelessness. Thank you!

## Thank You for Making our 2017 Annual Meeting a Success

During our Annual Meeting, we thanked and celebrated all those who assist with our mission of ending homelessness. Insights Speaker, Hershel, left our guests inspired with his account of experiencing homelessness. Keynote speaker Sharon Kugler, Yale University Chaplain, shared encouragement and hope, quoting the essay, "We Were Made For These Times," by Clarissa Pinkola Estes. We presented the 2017 John S. Martinez Community Service Award to Stephen Peterson, Liberty Bank and North Guilford Congregational Church, and bid farewell to retiring Board members Mark Fopeano and Cathy Velez. We are grateful to our generous event sponsors for their support. The event took place on December 7, 2017 at the New Haven Lawn Club.

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Health

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[Watch Hershel's insights speech and find a link to "We Were Made for These Times"](#)

[View photos from the Annual Meeting on Facebook](#)

## Serving for Columbus House Tennis Tournament

On January 27th, about 50 tennis enthusiasts enjoyed a fun night of competition at the Tennis at Yale University: Cullman-Heyman Tennis Center, all in support of our programs to end



Harte

homelessness. Thank you to the participants, volunteers, sponsors, and co-hosts who made the 3rd annual "Serving for Columbus House" Benefit Tennis Tournament a success, raising close to \$7,000 to support our work! Special thanks to Dr. Bruce Cha and Jim and Melissa Barra for hosting this fun event! Title Sponsor: Harte Nissan; Court Sponsor: Endodontics; Champion Sponsors: Robin & Tam Le, and Dennis & Cathy Cha; Friend Sponsors: Argiro Family, Jim & Melissa Barra, Custom Engraving, Halsey Associates, Mike & Jennifer McCleery, and James Sachs.

## Mark your calendars!

**March 18, 2018**

[Chocolate to the Rescue!](#)

Inn at Middletown, 1:00-4:00 PM



**April 28, 2018**

[Big Sleep Out](#)

Guilford Green

5:00 PM - 8:00 AM Sunday, April 29



**April 28, 2018**

[Rock to Rock](#)

Cycling fundraiser



**May 1 & 2, 2018**

[The Great Give](#)

A 36-hour online-giving event

**Ongoing!**

[Sit Ups For Columbus House](#)

Join Amanda Craig and her friends by raising awareness and funds for Columbus House while getting in shape!

## Looking to do a Drive?

Get your friends, family, and colleagues together for fun fundraising by holding a "drive" for Columbus House. You can help by making [Welcome Kits](#) for those entering permanent, supportive housing. Or you can collect items from our [Wish List](#) - basic necessities for clients in our shelter - of which we are always in need.

Please remember to give us a ring before your bring!

Questions and donation delivery times should be directed to [sdimario@columbushouse.org](mailto:sdimario@columbushouse.org) or (203) 401-4400, ext.138, before arriving with donations. We would also like to hear from you if you are interested in running a drive.



## **Many thanks to some of our partners who have gone above and beyond helping us to end homelessness**

(November 16, 2017 - February 21, 2018)

A-1 Auto Service Inc.  
Norman & Margery Andrews  
Anonymous  
Eric Baum & Danielle Antin-Ozerkis  
Beirne Wealth Consulting  
BIC Corporation  
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Webster Bank  
Werth Family Foundation  
Pam Werth  
Yale-New Haven Health System, Community & Government Relations  
Yale University Library Staff Association  
Yale University, Office of New Haven & State Affairs

## Donate

Columbus House | 203-401-4400 x131 | [info@columbushouse.org](mailto:info@columbushouse.org)  
[www.columbushouse.org](http://www.columbushouse.org)

STAY CONNECTED:



Columbus House Inc., 586 Ella T. Grasso Blvd., New Haven, CT 06519