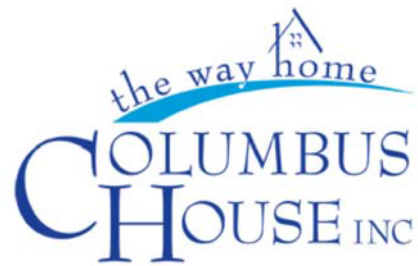


Thank you for helping to end homelessness!



## Columbus House January E-News

### You gave Sophie a safe place to call home for her birthday

In January of 2016, Sophie feared that she and her children would be living on the street. She was "couch-surfing" with her four children after escaping years of trauma and abuse, but had run out of places to stay. She came to Columbus House's Middlesex Family Shelter where she began to rebuild her family's lives. We are happy to report that, on Sophie's birthday in the fall of 2016, the family moved into their own apartment. Thanks to your support, we are able to continue to provide Sophie and her children, and many families like them, with the services they need to maintain stability and stay together in their new home.

[Read Sophie's story](#)



Thanks to you, Sophie and her four children are no longer homeless.

### Chocolate to the Rescue is Sunday, March 26, 2016!

You can help families experiencing homelessness while enjoying the region's finest chocolate at our 15th Annual Chocolate to the Rescue! Sample mouthwatering chocolate delicacies from local restaurants, bakeries, caterers, and chocolatiers; observe judging from a panel of culinary experts; bid on an array of silent auction items; and vote for your



Support our family shelter on March 26th

favorite chocolate creation! All proceeds benefit our Middlesex Family Shelter. This year's goal is to raise \$22,000 for the family shelter. Thank you to our Expediter sponsor **Guilford Savings Bank**, for making this event possible!

[Learn more, BUY TICKETS, or sponsor Chocolate to the Rescue!](#)

## Thank you for giving hope this holiday season

Without your support, our work to provide lifesaving shelter, housing, and services for people who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless would not be possible. Thank you to all who gave financial contributions during our Homeless for the Holidays campaign, raising over \$160,000 to continue our mission to end homelessness for every person we encounter. Your gift, in any amount, at anytime, makes an impact. [You can still make your gift today.](#)



Webster Bank Community banking executives (not all pictured) spent a day decorating our Wallingford Emergency Shelter for the holidays. They supplied the decor, shopped for the children staying in the family units, wrapped the gifts, and provided a meal as well!

Thank you, also, to the many individuals and groups who made this holiday season extra special for those we serve by conducting drives, serving holiday meals, providing gifts, decorations, and more.

[Click HERE for a list of these very special folks!](#)

## Connecticut achieves extraordinary milestone toward goal of ending chronic homelessness

On January 12, 2017, Alison Cunningham, Columbus House CEO, joined Gov. Malloy and others as he announced that we, as a state, have matched each person who is verified as chronically homeless with housing, and have the systems in place to house anyone who is newly verified within 90 days. We are proud to be part of this unprecedented work. Together, with our many wonderful partners across the state, and you, our supporters, we are getting closer to ending homelessness for all.



(l-r) Commissioner Evonne Klein, Department of Housing; Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services; Governor Dannel Malloy; Lisa Tepper Bates, ED, Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness; Cathy Zall, ED, New London Homeless Hospitality Center; Alison Cunningham, CEO, Columbus House

[Read Alison Cunningham's address on this important accomplishment](#)

**Looking to do a drive for Columbus House? Here are the items our clients need most:**

- New socks
- New men's boxer underwear (sizes medium, large & x-large)
- New women's underwear (sizes 7 through 12)
- New t-shirts (all sizes, for men & women)
- New sweatshirts
- New sweatpants
- ChapStick
- Hand warmers
- Men & women's deodorant
- Full size toiletries (dry shampoo, shaving cream, disposable razors, aftershave, shampoo, soap, toothpaste)
- Travel soap, wash cloths, bath towels & toothbrush holders
- \$25 Stop & Shop gift cards
- \$25 Walmart gift cards
- Gift cards to Big Lots, Kmart
- Gift cards to CVS & Walgreens
- New twin bed blankets
- Pocket planners (small checkbook size)



All questions about items you would like to donate 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.

**[Visit our online wish list to learn more about our ongoing needs](#)**