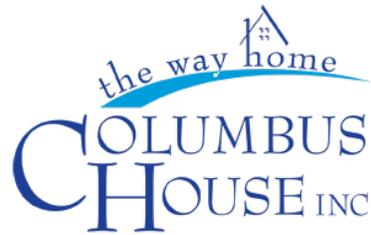


Thank you for helping to end homelessness!



Columbus House December E-News

Highlights from the Annual Meeting



John (back center), who told his story of homelessness, stands with Columbus House supporters (l-r) Stephen Peterson, Elizabeth Kozarec, Francine Wainer, Teddi Stanley, and Tony Sicignano



Jim Barra, Board Chair (l), and Dr. Richard Cho (r), CEO of CT Coalition to End Homelessness, presented Alison Cunningham, former CEO, with the John S. Martinez Community Service Award

Alison Cunningham, former Columbus House CEO, A-1 Toyota, Dave Rubelmann and Spring Glen Church were all presented with the 2019 John S. Martinez Community Service Award for their unyielding commitment to our mission during our Annual Meeting. The event is a celebration of everyone who makes the work of Columbus House possible, and this year we were captivated by John, a client who has been permanently housed for three years and still receives services that help him maintain his housing. We also welcomed guest speaker Dr. Richard Cho, CEO of Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness to the event – both proffered messages of resilience and hope, providing inspiration and validation of our work. Close to 250 supporters gathered for this heartwarming breakfast, and we are grateful to everyone who attended, sponsored and assisted – during the event and throughout the year. Special thanks to Rev. Bob Bergner for playing the piano and adding to the ambience! You can support the continuing work of Columbus House by participating in the [Alison Cunningham Growth & Independence Fund](#). [View photos](#) and listen to [John's inspirational story](#).

Thank you to our
Table Sponsors:



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Thank you to our Associate Sponsors:

A-1 Toyota | Ironwood Capital | St. George Roman Catholic Church | WinnCompanies

Seasonal Shelters and Warming Centers Provide Hope

The New Haven Men's Seasonal Overflow Shelter and our Wallingford Emergency Shelter are now open, providing vital shelter, meals, and case management services designed to help our neighbors find and maintain permanent housing. These two seasonal shelters alone can help an additional 125 people stay safe during the coldest months of the year. The Middletown Warming Center is also open and the Hamden Warming Center is slated to open January 3 - these Centers provide life-saving refuge from the harsh outdoor elements and enable Columbus House staff to engage with those who are experiencing homelessness. Abraham's Tent, a winter program where various houses of worship provide a week of shelter, meals and fellowship for 12 men who otherwise would stay at our New Haven Shelter, started on December 16 at Temple Beth David (Cheshire). The program ends on March 29 at Orange Congregational Church. We are grateful to you for helping make these winter programs possible and for making a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. Without your support, dozens of people with no place to go would be outdoors – cold and alone. It is only with your help that we can keep these seasonal programs open.



Photo top: Columbus House staff give out socks donated by Bombas at the Overflow Shelter Bottom: Volunteers serve a meal at the Wallingford Emergency Shelter

Home for the Holidays

A 6 x 13 foot hole in the ground was once “home” for Maurice, and was where he spent Christmas last year, trying to avoid rats that had also taken up residence there. Thanks to your support he is now in a safe, warm apartment of his own – out of the harsh winter elements, starting to lead a life of independence. You help many people like Maurice connect to the services they need to get and remain housed so they do not have to experience homelessness during the holidays – or any day. But our work is not done. [Read Maurice's story](#) and renew your commitment to save lives with a [gift](#) to the Homeless for the Holidays campaign.



This was Maurice's home for the holidays last year.

Life Saving Work Persists

“Growth and evolution are a part of our culture,” said Cindy Fox, Interim CEO, during our Annual Meeting. She was reflecting on how our work in the community persists while the search for a new CEO continues. With competent staff and leadership, our programs and services keep progressing and expanding to better serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Our

stock of affordable housing has increased with the acquisition of Nehemiah properties in Middletown (now know as Peterson Properties) and the third building in our Yale School of Architecture collaboration – to date these projects have added 34 new units of housing for families and individuals. New collaborations are in progress to provide additional Rapid Rehousing services, expand our outreach to people in New Haven and Middletown suffering from the opioid crisis, and to help 100 Veterans per year find employment and receive support services to remain housed. We will also expand our Employment and Enrichment services in January to assist people in securing stable employment which will help them to remain housed.



Cindy Fox, Interim CEO (center), with Malynda Mallory, Director of Emergency Services (left), and Lisbette De La Cruz, Senior Manager of Outreach and Engagement, at our 2019 Annual Meeting

Thank You for Making Thanksgiving Special

We are so thankful for the outpouring of support that was extended to those we serve at Thanksgiving. The day before the holiday, members of Sound Affect vocal ensembles treated our New Haven Shelter guests to a lively performance of seasonal and uplifting songs. St. George Roman Catholic Church donated complete turkey dinners and congregants volunteered Thanksgiving morning, serving breakfast at the New Haven and Overflow Shelters. Volunteers from Spring Glen Church served a traditional turkey dinner at the New Haven Shelter while at the Overflow Shelter friends and family of Munger Construction-Branford, led by Lisa Salvo, provided and served the holiday meal.

KBE Building Corporation donated 40 complete Thanksgiving meals (Gifts of Gobble) and Marcum, LLP, partnering with The Hometown Foundation, Bozzuto's Inc., and @sparky18888, provided 50 turkey vouchers to those we serve. The four families we serve at Meriden Commons received food baskets with gift cards for turkeys donated by The United Way of Meriden and Wallingford. Also, Bond Brothers Southern New England Team held a food drive for those we serve and delivered them right to our New Haven Shelter.

We also welcomed students from Quinnipiac University School of Health Science who joined us for three days. They decorated the main dining room and Medical Respite area of our New Haven Shelter for the holidays, organized donations and helped prepare for our Annual Meeting.

Thank you to everyone who made Thanksgiving a little brighter for those with no place to spend the holiday.



Check out our
Fall Newsletter!



Save the Dates!

Visit www.columbushouse.org/events

for updates on these and other exciting events to help end homelessness.



Chocolate to the Rescue March 22, 2020

Enjoy the region's finest chocolate while helping families with children experiencing homelessness.



Serving for Columbus House February 1, 2020

Join us for a fun evening of tennis to support our work to end homelessness.



Rock to Rock Earth Day Ride April 25, 2020

Ride with or support the Columbus House Green Team to raise money for our cost-saving green initiatives!

Many thanks to some of our partners who have gone above and beyond helping us to end homelessness since our October E-News:

A-1 Auto Service Inc.
Aldo DeDominicis Foundation
Anna Fitch Ardenghi Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
Anonymous
Association of The US Army Connecticut Chapter
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Richard Lolatte & Julia McNamara
Joesph G. Altonji & Cynthia E. Nethercut
New Haven Lions Club
Richard Nolen-Hoeksema
Fred & Helen Robinson
Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation
Smart Family Foundation
St. George Roman Catholic Church
The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
The Foote School
The Guilford Rotary Club
The New York Community Trust
Stacy Neal & Katherine Thomas
Trinity Church on the Green
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United Illuminating Holdings Corp. Foundation
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