

## Columbus House February E-News



### Working to End Homelessness

#### Farewell to John Brooks, Chief Development Officer



After serving Columbus House for 19 years, John is retiring. John propelled fundraising efforts throughout his tenure by building lasting relationships and ensuring Columbus House is known as a leader in ending homelessness. John will be greatly missed by colleagues, supporters and friends, but we are delighted that he will have time to spend with his new grandson and still serve as a volunteer. You will have the chance to say goodbye to John in person during a summer event – stay tuned for details! [Read more about John's almost two-decades of dedication to our mission in a recent letter to staff and board members.](#)

#### Rescue the Homeless Response System



The Connecticut legislative session is in full swing and Columbus House is on the ground with our statewide partners to *Rescue the Homeless Response System*. We are asking the state to permanently invest \$50M in our sector to combat the 40% rise in homelessness since the onset of the pandemic, pay our life-saving staff a living wage, and ensure that crucial cold weather programs continue to run. There are two pivotal appropriation committee hearings on February 27 and 28 and we need YOUR voice! [Learn more, watch our staff testify, and make your voice heard now.](#)

## Columbus House Wins Highly Competitive Federal Grant



We are thrilled to announce that Columbus House will receive over \$3.7M from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This highly competitive grant will help 50 individuals and 11 families move into permanent supportive housing and bring a licensed clinical social worker to our team. Margaret Middleton, CEO (right), joined Richard Cho, HUD Senior Advisor – Housing and Services (left), Dr. Mehul Dalal, City of New Haven Community Services Administrator (middle) and others to celebrate the award. [Read more in the New Haven Independent.](#)

## We Mourn the Loss of Quentin "Q" Williams



Columbus House is deeply saddened by the loss of our friend Quentin, who went by "Q," and was a great advocate for those experiencing homelessness and other low-income members of our community. For years, Q served as a volunteer at our annual Chocolate to the Rescue event (pictured here with his wife Dr. Carrissa Williams) and many of our staff were fortunate to work alongside Q in support of our clients in Middletown. We miss his optimistic energy and monumental smile. Our hearts go out to all who knew him.

## Chocolate to the Rescue is Back!



Join us for Chocolate to the Rescue! The event benefits our Middlesex Family Shelter and takes place on Sunday, March 26, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM at the Crystal Ballroom in Middletown. Sample decadent chocolates from ten local participants, vote for your favorites with a panel of expert judges, and bid on silent auction items – all while helping families experiencing homelessness.

[Sponsor, support, and buy tickets now!](#)

[Thank you to our chocolatiers!](#)

[Andie's Cookies](#)

[Bear's Smokehouse](#)

[Chip in a Bottle](#)

[LiLu's Customized Catering](#)

[MELT Chocolatier](#)

[Perk on Main](#)

Sweet Harmony Cafe & Bakery

Sweet Sage Bakery

Sweets By Jenna

Tony's Flour Shop

Thank you to our sponsors!

**Executive Chef**



**Sous-Chef**



**Expediter**  
National Equity Fund

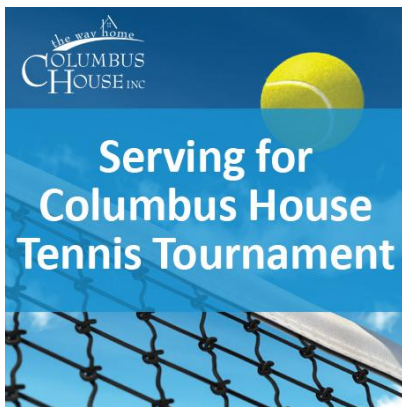
**Pastry Chef**

Allison Batson



Join Us for More Events

Serving for Columbus House Tennis Tournament



On Saturday, March 4, enjoy a fun evening of tennis to support our work to end homelessness! Tickets are only \$50 per player. The event takes place from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM at the Yale Indoor Tennis Courts, Cullman-Heyman Tennis Center, 279 Derby Avenue, West Haven.

Register by March 1 – choose between Doubles Tournament or Friendly Play:

**Register to play, sponsor or support!**

Thank you to our sponsors!

**Title Sponsor**



**Court Sponsors**



**Champion Sponsors**

James & Melissa Barra  
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LLC



## Save the Dates:

**April 29, 2023:** Rock to Rock Earth Day Ride

**May 3 & 4, 2023:** The Great Give

Stay tuned for more information on these and other events on our [website!](#)



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.

Thank you to **some** of our partners who have gone above and beyond helping to end homelessness with their financial support from 1/7/23 through 2/10/23.

Advanced Diagnostic Pain Treatment Centers  
AVANGRID  
BAR  
Rev. David Carey  
Drs. Keith Churchwell & Leslie Douglas-Churchwell  
Community Chest of New Britain and Berlin, Inc.  
Connecticut Mental Health Center Foundation  
Estate of Lee White  
George Harte Nissan  
Robert & Barbara Hauser  
John H. & Ethel G. Noble Charitable Trust  
Middlesex Health Systems, Inc.  
Middlesex United Way  
Lewis Silletto  
The Flood Law Firm, LLC  
The Mark R. Fusco Foundation  
The Westville Synagogue  
Tito's Handmade Vodka  
Yale Hunger & Homelessness Action Project

*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 over 2,800 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.

**Will your employer match your gift to Columbus House?  
Click to find out!**



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

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