

# the way home

News from  
COLUMBUS HOUSE  
Fall 2024

## Celebrating Our Collective Impact

Thanks to the determination and resilience of our clients, your compassionate support, and the dedication of Columbus House's team, 444 people found a place to call home last year. This remarkable outcome, achieved amid Connecticut's affordable housing crisis and rising costs of living, reflects the effort of everyone involved. With your partnership, Columbus House staff provided person-centered services to 2,122 individuals, including families, Veterans, and older adults, between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. You are integral to our vision to end homelessness and together, we continue to work toward a future where everyone has a safe, affordable home. Explore our 2023-2024 Impact Report by scanning the code at left or visiting [www.columbushouse.org/impact](http://www.columbushouse.org/impact). ■



Scan to read!

550



people living in places unfit for human habitation reached by Outreach & Engagement Teams

443



people were provided with safe shelter and case management services

90%



of people in Permanent Supportive Housing maintained or improved their situation

444

people placed in housing across all programs!

## Every Vote Counts!

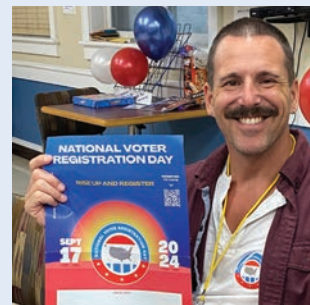
A National Voter Registration Day event was held at Columbus House's New Haven Shelter, giving both clients and staff the opportunity to ensure they are ready to vote in the November 5th elections.

We were fortunate to have support from our friends Ed, Melissa, Nichole, and students from Dwight Hall at Yale, Yale Divinity School, and Yale School of Management. Over two shifts, volunteers worked until 8 P.M., assisting with voter registration checks and helping people register online or via paper forms. They also visited our Medical Respite program to ensure those residents were ready to vote. Thanks to their efforts, 13 people registered!



Thanks to the many volunteers who joined us on September 17th to help clients and staff get ready to vote on election day!

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this important, non-partisan effort a success. Together, we are empowering our community to participate in shaping its future. ■



## OCC Golf a Great Success!



Falisha, her children, and Mary, their Columbus House case manager.

### Falisha's Story

“When I first arrived at the shelter... sorry if I start crying... I was really stressed out and overwhelmed, and I kind of took it out on Mary... but she was understanding...”

A dedicated single mom of three, Falisha has faced overwhelming challenges. From living in her car while pursuing her dream of working in the medical field, to finding stability at Columbus House, Falisha has worked tirelessly—and continues to push forward every day—to create a brighter future for her family.



Scan to read Falisha's journey!

Learn how Falisha's determination, her case manager Mary's guidance, and the support of generous donors like you helped her family secure a safe home and a promising future. ■

The fall foliage provided a stunning backdrop at Orange Hills Country Club on October 18 for the annual Orange Congregational Church (OCC) golf tournament. Columbus House extends heartfelt thanks to OCC, Dr. Dan Davis and his family for organizing the event, as well as to the nearly 100 golfers, volunteers, sponsors, and prize donors, including A-1 Toyota's \$25K towards a new car. After the game, a lively luncheon at Orange Ale House celebrated the winners of the course contests and of the many exciting raffle prizes.



Since its inception over two decades ago, this event has raised more than \$70,000 to support vital services for our neighbors facing housing instability. We are deeply grateful to our dedicated partners at Orange Congregational Church for their enduring support of our mission. ■

## Enriching Summertime Activities



Thanks to so many of our wonderful volunteers, our guests enjoyed classic meals this past summer. In July, the Knights of Columbus-Saint Paul VI Council #14664 and St. Paul VI Parish (1,2) grilled cookout classics, while Trinity Church on the Green (3) hosted a 4th of July barbecue. Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield treated Veterans at Harkness House to an outdoor meal, while the Barque Eagle Sea Cadets performed a color guard ceremony and a moment of silence for those lost on 9/11 (6-8).

Yale New Haven Hospital nurse Mary Pat and our own Respite staffer Carleton brought plenty of fun and creativity to our Medical Respite clients this summer! Guests painted bright, cheerful rocks to spread some joy around our New Haven Shelter (10) and got into some friendly competition with lively games of corn hole (9). They also had a blast whipping up tasty dishes using fresh basil they grew from seed (4-5)! ■



## The Power of Monthly Giving: Jan's Story

**A**t Columbus House, we rely on the generosity of our supporters to help neighbors facing homelessness all year round. One of the most impactful ways to make a difference is through monthly giving, which ensures a steady, reliable stream of support for our mission. Jan, one of our dedicated monthly donors, recently shared her heartfelt reasons for choosing to give this way.

“My support for Columbus House started with an end of the year donation because I always let the words ‘feed the hungry, heal the sick...’ guide my giving each year and a donation to Columbus House made sense. But when I began to think of the overwhelming need, I realized a once-a-year gift wasn’t enough, and I wanted to make a greater commitment to the work they do.

I was asked why I support Columbus House and why I started giving monthly. The answers that come to mind are: Because I care. Because I can. Because it feels like there’s so much I can’t do to help. Because people matter. Because no one decides to be homeless, no matter the reasons. Because the needs are constant, year-round, not just at the holidays when so many are

**“Because I care. Because I can. Because it feels like there’s so much I can’t do to help. Because people matter. Because no one decides to be homeless, no matter the reasons.” – Jan**

moved to help. Bitter cold winters with subzero wind chills, sweltering hot summers with heat indexes over 100 aren’t just the evening news—they compound every reason a person is homeless. They double, triple the threat to human life. I think of the words of Mother Teresa, ‘Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.’ These are the reasons why I am a monthly donor.”

Just as Jan has found fulfillment in her commitment, we invite you to join our community of monthly givers and help us continue providing critical services—because your support matters, every day.

Please complete the monthly sustainer box on the enclosed envelope, visit [www.columbushouse.org/donate](http://www.columbushouse.org/donate), or contact Phalakorn at 203-401-4400 x131 or [pphonyothee@columbushouse.org](mailto:pphonyothee@columbushouse.org) to join Jan in making a great impact on homelessness. ■

## Preparing for Life-Saving Winter Services



**C**olumbus House staff are preparing to provide additional warm, safe accommodations, along with case management and housing services, for our neighbors without homes this winter.

A 40-bed family triage center will open near our main New Haven shelter in December and run until April. We’ll

also reopen the Hamden Warming Center at The Keefe Center, offering refuge from January until April. Our New Haven Shelter will be open 24/7 during the cold months. Please stay tuned on social media and make sure you are signed up for our e-mails for updates on our winter programs.

These vital cold-weather programs put considerable pressure on our already limited resources. Your support—whether through donations, volunteering, or wish-list contributions—makes a huge impact. Please use the enclosed envelope or go to [columbushouse.org](http://columbushouse.org) to make a donation.

To provide meals, run drives, or inquire about other volunteer opportunities to support these programs, please contact Sheree at 203-401-4400 x 138 or [sdimario@columbushouse.org](mailto:sdimario@columbushouse.org). Thank you! ■

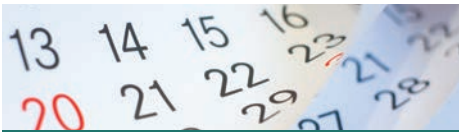
## Three Programs Re-accredited for Service Excellence



**I**n late spring, a team of surveyors from CARF International (The Commission on Accreditation

of Rehabilitation Facilities) conducted an on-site assessment, reviewing three of our key service areas: Rapid Re-Housing and Homeless Prevention Programs, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Medical Respite. The surveyors confirmed that these programs continue to deliver the highest quality of care, making a significant positive impact on the lives of the clients we work with.

We are honored to have received another three-year accreditation—CARF’s highest recognition—thanks to the dedication of our staff and the support of our partners and donors, whose generosity makes this achievement possible.



## Save These Dates!

Tuesday, December 3, 2024  
**Giving Tuesday**

Thursday, December 5, 2024  
**Annual Meeting**

Sunday, March 30, 2025  
**Chocolate to the Rescue**

For the most up-to-date information on these and other events, visit [columbushouse.org/events](http://columbushouse.org/events)

We're hiring our next  
**Chief Executive Officer!**

### Learn more:

[www.imsearch.com/open-searches/columbus-house-inc/chief-executive-officer](http://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/columbus-house-inc/chief-executive-officer)

### Looking to Volunteer?

Visit [columbushouse.org/volunteer](http://columbushouse.org/volunteer) to learn more.

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







Serving Hartford, Middlesex, New Haven, & New London counties

### Address Service Requested

Help us reduce our postage costs!  
If you receive more than one copy or are listed incorrectly, let us know.  
Call (203) 401-4400, ext. 131 or email [info@columbushouse.org](mailto:info@columbushouse.org).

### Stay Connected!

-  @columbushouseinc
-  @columbushouseCT
-  @columbus-house-inc
-  @columbushouseCT

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 13  
New Haven, CT

## 2024 Annual Meeting On Dec. 5

Join us on **December 5, 7:30 A.M. at the New Haven Lawn Club** as we celebrate the past year's successes, reflect on the challenges, and look ahead to new solutions in our mission to end homelessness.

**Terence Floyd**, Vice President and Senior Social Impact Specialist at Wells Fargo, who also chairs the boards of Partnership for Strong Communities, Building Neighborhoods Together, and the LISC Local Advisory Committee, will keynote. With over 20 years of experience in community development, including affordable housing and minority lending, Terence offers deep insights into Connecticut's affordable housing crisis.

**Caroline Beltre**, a Columbus House board member will share meaningful insights on homelessness.

We will also honor the **2024 John S. Martinez Community Service Awardees**. Congratulations and our deepest gratitude to the following outstanding recipients:



The **Saint John XXIII Parish Midnight Run** has profoundly supported our neighbors facing homelessness year-round, especially during winter and the pandemic.

For 14 years, the **Smart Family Foundation** has improved lives through their dedication to Abraham's Tent and our work in New Haven.

A decade-long supporter of Columbus House's mission, **The Jones Family** is dedicated to homelessness solutions through educational initiatives and vital donations.

*The event is free to attend, but registration is required. Please RSVP to Phalakorn at 203-401-4400 x131 or [pphonyothee@columbushouse.org](mailto:pphonyothee@columbushouse.org). ■*

**Learn more at [www.columbushouse.org/annualmeeting](http://www.columbushouse.org/annualmeeting). Sponsorships are available!**

**Inside:** Impact Report • Vote! • Falisha's Story • Summer Fun • Monthly Giving Story • Winter Programs...& more!