



Columbus House August E-News

Farewell to Alison

After attending her final and somewhat emotional board meeting, Alison Cunningham, Columbus House's CEO for the past 21 years, locked her office door for the last time on August 5th. She leaves behind a legacy of creating solutions to end homelessness and will begin at Yale Divinity School in the fall where she will place her next philanthropic stamp on society – guiding students interested in becoming nonprofit leaders. In a letter on her last day, Alison praised staff for their inspiring dedication, compassion, enthusiasm, and energy, and gave a little advice, "Stay true to the mission... "Keep the clients at the center of all that you do" and "Keep believing that someday we will end homelessness and be proud of the work that you are doing to help us reach that goal." Chief Financial Officer, Cynthia Fox, is serving as interim CEO. We are conducting a national search for our next leader with the help of [DRG Search](#), a recruiter with an established record of finding experienced, talented nonprofit leaders. An event celebrating Alison will be held on September 19th from 5:30 – 8:30 pm at Spring Glen Church in Hamden and YOU are invited! Please save the date and be on the lookout for your invitation!



Columbus House employees bid farewell to Alison with a special hootenanny-themed all-staff meeting on July 19th

24 Day Trek to End Homelessness

Having braved heatwaves, days of downpours, possible bear encounters (but thankfully none!), and losing 10 pounds, Chris Ulbrich emerged from the wilderness in Vermont on July 25th after a 24-day, 185-mile trek on the Appalachian Trail. Though he fell shy of his initial 256-mile plan, he announced he will complete his Trek in the next 12 months. Together, with his many wonderful supporters, Chris exceeded his goal of raising \$20k for the Wallingford Emergency Shelter — reaching over \$25k! What's more, Chris matched the first \$10K! We are grateful to Chris and all who joined and supported him on his journey. You are truly making a difference for the families and single adults who receive emergency



Chris Ulbrich of Ulbrich Stainless Steels & Special Metals in Wallingford, completed a 24 day

[There's still time to support Chris's Trek!](#)

100 Day Challenge to End Youth Homelessness

As part of a statewide effort to end youth homelessness by 2020, Columbus House was proud to join the 100 Day Challenge which took place from May through August. Alongside our partners, Columbus House staff worked tirelessly to move as many youth (ages 18-24) out of homelessness as possible. Together with Youth Continuum in New Haven County, WFC (Women and Families Center) and The Connection in Middlesex County, we helped 91 young people, some with dependent children, move into safe, stable homes of their own. Outreach activities in this coordinated effort included cookouts aimed at engaging youth in need. Both the New Haven and Middlesex county events were well attended. Free food and giveaways were available, and many service providers were on-hand to assist. Local school staff and law enforcement attended and committed to support our mission as we continue this vital work to end youth homelessness. Follow us on social media to stay apprised of our continued efforts, including more fun events being planned for the fall!



Columbus House joined partners in Middlesex and New Haven counties for the first ever cookouts aimed at reaching youth in need during the 100 Day Challenge to End Youth Homelessness

33 New Affordable Homes

A mother and sole caregiver of two children with disabilities, a formerly homeless Veteran, a family displaced by Hurricane Maria, and an individual who participated in our Abraham's Tent program are all living in their own safe, affordable homes thanks to our wonderful supporters and partners in ending homelessness!



Peterson Properties

With your support, we have recently added to our stock of affordable, supportive housing in Middletown with the purchase of five properties formerly owned by the Nehemiah Housing Corporation. They will now be known as Peterson Properties to honor the legacy of our late and beloved Chief of Real Estate, Chris Peterson, whose life work was to create affordable housing for those in need. The properties, some of which will be renovated over time depending on specific needs, will provide 27 affordable apartments for families and single adults.



Mather Street Apartments

In Hamden, residents began moving into 77 newly constructed units at Mather Street apartments this summer. Thanks to a partnership with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, the CT Department of Housing, Regan Development Corporation, DeMarco Management, and the Town of Hamden, 6 of the apartments have been set aside for those previously experiencing long-term homelessness. Columbus House is proud to be providing on-site case management and services for those tenants. All of these beautiful, brand new apartments are now occupied.

Enhanced Services Help

Sustain an End to Veteran Homelessness

Earlier this summer, Columbus House entered into an agreement with APK Charities to provide financial assistance to eligible Veterans and their families. Through our Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, Columbus House case managers will determine if the Veterans they serve are eligible to receive additional support through APK Charities Direct Assistance Program. Support will be provided for qualifying medical, housing and transportation costs as well as certain expenses related to service animals.

Additionally, we recently received a \$259,037 Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) grant from the U.S. Department Labor which will allow us to provide intensive workforce reintegration services for Veterans. We are proud to add these two new partnerships to our already robust array of programs for Veterans.



Never Falter Never Quit

APK Charities was established in honor of US Army Special Forces Captain Andrew M. Pedersen-Keel (fondly known as "PK") who was killed in action while leading a Green Beret Special Forces Team in Afghanistan in 2013

Higher Ground Golf Tournament

Thank you to everyone who made the 23rd annual Higher Ground Golf Tournament a success for our programs that support Veterans! On Friday, July 12, a dedicated group of Orange Congregational Church volunteers organized and managed the event where both nine and 18 holes of golf were played, a delicious lunch and Tiki bar drinks were enjoyed, and prizes were won. We are so grateful to all the generous sponsors, volunteers, and golfers who made the day a success! The event was held at Orange Hills Country Club.



Our friends at Orange Congregational Church surprised Alison Cunningham with signs honoring and thanking her for her dedication to ending homelessness at the Higher Ground Golf Tournament

Homerun For Heroes

On Saturday, August 3, 2019 employees and friends of Sikorsky, Lockheed Martin, and Teamsters Local 1150 gathered for the 9th Annual Homerun for Heroes Hartford Yard Goats baseball game which benefited organizations serving Veterans throughout Connecticut, including Columbus House's programs for Veterans experiencing homelessness. The Yard Goats played the Trenton Thunder at Dunkin' Donuts Park in Hartford, CT. Guests enjoyed pre-game activities, on-field and between-inning events, and a fireworks display after the game. Thank you to all who came out in support of our Veterans!



The 9th annual Homerun for Heroes baseball game raised \$125,000 to support seven Veterans charities, including Harkness House - a program of Columbus House

Save the Dates!

Visit www.columbushouse.org/events

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



New Haven Craft Beer Festival
August 24th

Enjoy unlimited samples of 30 local & regional breweries with 60 different beers on tap. A portion of the proceeds to benefit Columbus House.



Celebrate Alison Cunningham
September 19th

We're having a party to honor Alison Cunningham's tireless work and dedication to ending homelessness and you're invited!



Enterprise Builders Charity Golf
Tournament
September 30th

Join us at Lake of Isles, North Stonington, CT, for a great day of golf in support of those who've served our country.



Celebrate Wallingford
October 5th & 6th

Visit our table and learn about our work to end homelessness during Celebrate Wallingford - a two-day event full of food, fun, and entertainment in Wallingford, CT.



Silver Trek
October 19th

Grab a team and solve timed challenges at Silversmiths Park on the Quinnipiac River. Benefits our Wallingford Emergency Shelter!



Annual Meeting
December 5th

Join us for a complimentary buffet breakfast as we celebrate you and all who make Columbus House possible! Stay tuned for details.

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

- Anonymous
- Barton C. Kenney
- Chris Ulbrich
- City of Middletown
- Congregation Mishkan Israel
- Cooke Properties LLC

Dr. Jean O'Brien Lowery
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
First Presbyterian Church
Fred Ulbrich Memorial Fund
Hodgson/Leventhal Fund
James & Melissa Barra
James H. Napier Foundation
Masonic Temple Corp
Melville Charitable Trust
Middlesex United Way
New Haven Ecology Project, Inc.
Peter & Ann Bruchansky
Robert Farrell & Mary-Jean McGarrity
Santander Bank
Shalom United Church of Christ
Silversmith Park, Inc
TD Charitable Foundation
The Bussmann Family Foundation
The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
The Curran Foundation
The Ethel & Abe Lapidés Foundation
The Keiser Foundation
The Renee B. Fisher Foundation Fund
United Way of Greater New Haven
United Way of Greater Waterbury
United Way of Meriden and Wallingford
Wadsworth Family Foundation



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