

the way home

news from Columbus House

14th Annual Chocolate to the Rescue!

raises nearly \$23,000 for
Middlesex Family Shelter

Eight restaurants, six judges, and over 200 friends came out to make this year's Chocolate to the Rescue a huge success. Our gratitude goes out to all who helped raise nearly \$23,000 for our Middlesex Family Shelter!

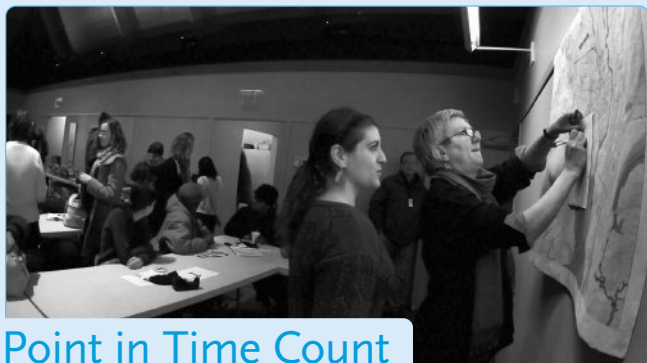


Newcomers Jordan Caterers took home 3 of 4 awards for their "Campfire Delight" (decadent drinking chocolate; dark chocolate budino, with graham cracker and bourbon marshmallow cream; sea salted chocolate bourbon caramel bites; and dark chocolate cherry stout cake).

Edible Arrangements came on board as Title Sponsor this year and even brought their signature fresh fruit bouquets to the event. "We believe it's

important to support organizations like Columbus House and the Middlesex Family Shelter," explained Tariq Farid, CEO of Edible Arrangements.

continued on page 2



Point in Time Count

Each year the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development coordinates a "point-in-time" count measuring the scope of homelessness on a single night in January. In 2012, there were an estimated 4,209 individuals experiencing homelessness in Connecticut including 1,303 with children.

Pictured: Betsy Branch, Columbus House Patient Navigator and Elise Quaranta, Director of Behavioral Health Services Marrakech, Inc., review a map of New Haven before joining 195 local volunteers for this year's count. photo credit: David McCarthy

Employment & Enrichment Center Graduation

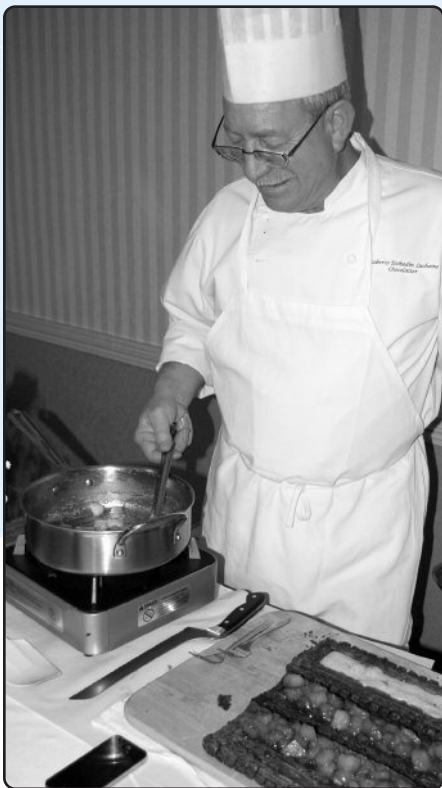
Congratulations to our six clients that graduated from the Columbus House Employment & Enrichment Center (EEC) on Tuesday, February 19, 2013! EEC is a rigorous 60-hour program that focuses on gaining self-reliance, confidence, and self-esteem. Classes cover a broad range of subjects from 'Introduction to Computers,' 'Interviewing Skills,' 'Creative Writing,' and 'Starting Your Own Business.'



Pictured: Alison Cunningham, Columbus House Executive Director, (right) presented certificates of graduation at the ceremony. EEC is supported by a generous contribution from United Way of Greater New Haven and The Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration.

inside

Welcome	
Leticia Brown-Gambino	2
Remembering	
Margaret Allman	3
Retiring Board Members	3



Four-time participant, and past favorite Tschudin's won People's Choice Award for Most Creative Chocolate Creation – "Chocolate Jumps Ship – Mad Experiments in Chocolate Textures and Tastes" was comprised of chocolate puff pastry with almond cream filling topped with caramelized apples, a taste of caramel flan, and a chocolate flourless cake with a dollop of whipped cream.

Our friends at Guilford Savings Bank once again provided sponsorship and their invaluable volunteer auction team. Shore Publishing renewed their support as Print Media sponsor and did a tremendous job publicizing the event. Super Wash Laundry, a longtime Columbus House supporter, also joined us as a new event sponsor.

Dedicated volunteers Sandra Trahan and Lina McGlinchey organized an array of silent auction items for guests to peruse as they sipped champagne, or cardamom and vanilla bean infused hot chocolate. David DiMario and Chris Kristan filled the ballroom at the Water's Edge Resort with beautiful music as guests relished in premium chocolate creations from luscious "Truffle Shots" to "Al's Three Chocolate Chili" (yes, chili!).

Committee member Quentin Phipps oversaw the judging for the "Critics Choice" awards. Meanwhile, guests voted for their favorite chocolate creations on the "People's Choice" ballot. Master of Ceremonies, Jim Masters announced the winners. We hope you were able to experience the 11th Annual Chocolate to the

Rescue! If not, please plan on attending next year's event.

Chocolate to the Rescue directly helps families in housing crisis. In just over two months in 2013, our 7-unit Middlesex Family Shelter has already assisted 10 families, including 15 children. One family of a mother with two children came to our shelter after going through a divorce and losing her job. Unable to pay rent, she faced a painful eviction. We are happy to say that this mom has risen from these difficult circumstances and is now employed and on the road to regaining stable housing for herself and her children. Success stories like this are only possible because of the help of our generous supporters. ■



Our Title Sponsor, Edible Arrangements, brought their signature fresh fruit bouquets to our 11th Annual Chocolate to the Rescue!

Thank you to our retiring board members

JOE PAJOR has been on the Columbus House Board of Directors since 1997. During his tenure, he has served as Chair of the Columbus House Building Committee which worked to secure funding and construct the current shelter and administrative building located at 586 Ella T. Grasso Boulevard. Joe has been Treasurer and Chairman of the Board of Directors and has served on numerous committees including the 25th Anniversary, Annual Event and Development Committees.

Joe's career spans over 40 years in hospital finance and he is currently the Administrative Director, Revenue Cycle, at Norwalk Hospital. Joe serves on the Connecticut Healthcare Financial Management Association Board of Directors as past President.

JOHN SCHAEZTL According to John, he has been on the Columbus House Board of Directors "for a long, long, long time." (Since 1997) During his tenure, John has served on the Columbus House Building, Finance, Home Front, Annual Event and Investment Committees and was the first Chair of the Development Committee.

While serving on the Columbus House board, John has worked for the Pharmaceutical Industry, managed investments for General Electric and now advises foundations and governments on ways to improve access to medicines, emerging market economic development, corporate governance and environmental sustainability.

We thank Joe and John for their dedication and know they will stay involved. ■

REMEMBERING A FRIEND

Margaret Allman

Earlier this year, Columbus House learned of the passing of one of our long time supporters, Margaret Allman, of New Haven. Margaret attended Hill House High School and then went on to earn a Bachelors Degree in Science at Albertus Magnus, a Masters at Yale School of Nursing and yet another Masters at the University of California, Berkeley. She worked at Fort Monmouth, NJ as a laboratory assistant during World War II in the Signal Corps.

She was Assistant Professor and Chairman of the Medical-Surgical Nursing Department of the University of Bridgeport College of Nursing and was elected to the Board of Trustees of Albertus Magnus College.

She taught at the Southern Connecticut State University School of Nursing since it's inception in 1972 up until her retirement.

Margaret was a socially conscious woman with numerous interests. She traveled extensively as a faculty advisor to foreign nursing students from developing countries under a World Health Organization fellowship. She also enjoyed taking the Metro North into New York City.

Dedicating herself to others throughout her lifetime, it was no surprise that Margaret bequeathed her assets to various universities and charitable organizations. What was a surprise was the amount that she left to Columbus House. We recently received the proceeds of her bequest to tally over \$337,000.

We are humbled and extremely grateful for Margaret's incredibly generous legacy to Columbus House. The funds will be used to support the "The Solutions Fund," a \$500,000 fund to support Columbus House's



efforts to move quickly on new housing opportunities and new program development.

We hope Margaret's gift will inspire others to consider a bequest or an outright gift to Columbus House so that together, we may one day realize our goal of ending homelessness. If you are interested in learning more, please contact our Development Director, John Brooks, at (203) 401-4400 ext. 108. ■



"We are so thrilled to welcome Ms. Brown-Gambino to our Columbus House family as the new Director of Programs and Services. Perfectly aligned with our mission, she has extensive experience with those experiencing homelessness and is well versed in the development of supportive and affordable housing, a necessary component to fostering independence in those we serve." ~ ALISON CUNNINGHAM, ED

Columbus House welcomes Letticia Brown-Gambino Director of Programs and Services

We are very excited to welcome Letticia Brown-Gambino to the Columbus House family as our new Director of Programs and Services. Ms. Brown Gambino holds a Master of Science degree in Counseling, is a Licensed Professional Counselor (L.P.C.), and has provided service and program management experience to the supportive housing community in Connecticut for more than 15 years. Her experience ranges from creating and directing a multi-agency supportive housing services team collaboration in Bridgeport, among the first CSH Supportive Housing Demonstration Projects, to clinical supervision for staff working with persons who are chronically homeless.

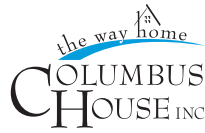
Read more about Ms. Brown-Gambino at www.columbushouse.org

We Appreciate YOU!

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month!

We are so grateful to the many wonderful people who volunteer their time, talent, and energy to Columbus House. From our meal servers and event volunteers to our Abraham's Tent hosts, committee members, and our amazing Board of Directors, we value each and every one who helps fulfill our mission. To show our gratitude, Columbus House hosts a special Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon by invitation each year.

If you would like more information about our volunteer program, please contact Bruce Markot at (203) 401-4400, ext. 131 or email bmarkot@columbushouse.org.



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Bank of America awards Columbus House \$10,000



Bank of America continues to be a vital partner in helping Columbus House to find solutions to ending homelessness. We are pleased to announce that Columbus House was recently awarded a \$10,000 operating grant for our main shelter in New Haven. L-R: Marley Williams, Bank of America and John Brooks, Director of Development, Columbus House

Thank you Bank of America!

Do's Inspirational Art

On January 29th, Claire's Corner Copia held an 'Artists Reception' for Do Walker (Do rhymes with You), their 'artist in residence' for the month. Do has received services from Columbus House and was a participant in last year's Abraham's Tent. Now living in his own apartment, he has a safe, stable place to concentrate on his art. Do's exhibit at Claire's was an inspirational and colorful collection of pastels like "Journey for Truth," pictured above. Enjoy Do's artwork in full-color, by visiting his website at www.dozpainter.com. Do's journey was also featured in "The number of people we can help through N2N is incredible" by Cara Rosner of United Way of Greater New Haven at www.uwgnh.org.