

NEWS,  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
AND  
NEW BEGINNINGS  
FROM  
CHRYSALIS CENTER

# Building Connections

WINTER 2020

## Combatting Hunger In Our Community



Every day more than 100,000 individuals living in Greater Hartford go to bed hungry; 40,000 of these are children under the age of 18. In a state listed as one of the wealthiest in our country, this number is shocking. In 2013, former President Barak Obama designated the North End of Hartford as a "Promise Zone," a term specified for high poverty communities chosen for preferential funding consideration to "create jobs, increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, reduce violent crime and improve health outcomes."

Chrysalis Center is committed to helping these families. Our Freshplace program is an innovative client-choice/fresh food/case management food pantry which addresses these critical issues.

It serves as an alternative to traditional food pantries by addressing the root causes of hunger and focusing on developing long-term skills and capabilities, rather than giving short-term assistance.

Freshplace's mission is to build long-term food security and self-sufficiency by providing up to 100 families living in the North End of Hartford with access to fresh and nutritional foods and case management services. Freshplace seeks not only to alleviate hunger, but to help individuals and families achieve stability and self-sufficiency, giving them a better chance of eliminating hunger in their household.

We invite the community to join us on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 from 5:00-7:00pm at our Annual Empty Bowls event which directly benefits Freshplace. Empty Bowls is an international grassroots initiative focused on combating hunger in our communities.

Tickets are \$20 (adults), \$5 (children 3-12) and free for those under 2. Each ticket includes a bowl of delicious soup, salad, beverage and dessert. Guests also leaves with a handcrafted bowl, donated by local artisans to remind them of all the empty bowls throughout the world.

Advanced registration is required, and all ages are invited to join us! Tickets can be purchased online at [www.chrysaliscenterct.org/events](http://www.chrysaliscenterct.org/events) or call 860-263-4418.

For more information or sponsorship information, please contact Sarah Mitchell at [smitchell@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:smitchell@chrysaliscenterct.org) or call 860-263-4418.

### JOIN THE FIGHT TO END HUNGER



### EMPTY BOWLS DINNER

Wednesday,  
March 25, 2020  
5:00 - 7:00 pm  
Chrysalis Center  
Hartford, CT

## New Faces At Chrysalis Center!



### **Judith Gough**, *Chief of Staff*

Chrysalis Center is pleased to introduce Judith Gough as Chief of Staff. With more than 30 years of experience in management of community mental health and supportive services, Judy comes to us with a strong knowledge of mission focused programs and services along with organizational strategies, assessment and evaluations. Judy most recently served as CEO of Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation which provides housing assistance and supportive services to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Judy earned a Master's Degree in Community Mental Health from Trinity College, Burlington, VT. At Chrysalis Center, Judy's responsibilities include oversight of all Chrysalis Center programs, Freshplace, management of La Cocina and operation of the TCC.

### **Chef Peter Hamme**, *La Cocina*

Chrysalis Center's La Cocina Culinary Arts Training Program is proud to welcome Chef Peter as the new Program Manager! Chef Peter brings more than 30 years of culinary experience to Chrysalis Center. As a former owner/chef to several Connecticut restaurants, he sees the importance of growth, expansion, training, and education for those enrolled in Culinary Arts Training at Chrysalis Center and those working in La Cocina. Chef Peter is excited to be here and loves seeing the happy faces of clients and staff. He is looking forward to creating menus for La Cocina Catering!



### **Commissioner Kevin Sullivan**, *Board of Directors*

Welcome to Commissioner Kevin Sullivan, who has joined the Board of Directors of Chrysalis Center. Commissioner Sullivan has been a longtime friend and supporter of Chrysalis Center, having served as Honorary Chair of the 2018 Butterfly Bash with his wife, Carolyn Thornberry. Recently retired as Commissioner of the Department of Revenue Services, Commissioner Sullivan served as Connecticut's 106th Lieutenant Governor and is a well-known face in the political arena, been President Pro Tempore in the State Senate and Mayor of West Hartford. Commissioner Sullivan has served on numerous college and other non-profit boards, including Chairman of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Partnership for Strong Communities, a statewide nonprofit policy and advocacy organization dedicated to ending homelessness, expanding the creation of affordable housing, and building strong communities in Connecticut. He received his BA from Trinity College and JD from UConn School of Law.

## A Night of Laughter to Benefit St. Philip House

**T**hank you to everyone who attended the 8th Annual Comedy Night to Benefit St. Philip House, a program of Chrysalis Center, held this past November. It was a wonderful event benefiting those living with HIV/AIDS and their families. With more than 100 people in attendance, comedians Kareem Blue and Adam Parisi kept the crowd laughing. Thank you to event sponsors: Petit Family Foundation, Manafort Brothers, Plainville Funeral Home and Yarde Metals for making this event possible.



## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT: MEET KEVIN

**K**evin is a participant in Chrysalis Center's EARN Program (Employment and Recovery Network). After living many years with challenges and barriers to employment, including lack of support around him and health complications, Kevin found his way to Chrysalis Center. He immediately began working with a case manager to gain employment training and credits his case manager with helping to motivate him and give him the confidence he needed when he was down. Kevin now has a wonderful job through the YWCA of Greater Hartford and beams when he talks about it. "It's a team effort. They (the EARN Team) made me a better person and made me want to help myself. I now have the motivation to work towards my goals."



# Holiday Celebrations at Chrysalis Center

**C**lients, staff and volunteers enjoyed the holiday season in many ways... from attending our Annual Family Holiday Party to visiting with Veterans at the Phelps Village Open House and picking out a beautiful tree at the Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale - it was a wonderful season of love and celebrating all the good in life!

Thank you to our amazing volunteers and supporters who helped to make the season brighter for so many! A special thank you to The Hartford, for their longtime sponsorship of the Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale.



## Holiday Thank You

**A** BIG THANK YOU to the following companies and community organizations who made the holidays brighter for our clients and families! Chrysalis Center is so grateful for the many who donated toys, food, household items, and more. Your gifts provided joy to so many!

Thank you to:

All Saints Orthodox Church  
 American Freedom Defenders  
 Annunciation Parish  
 Aspen Re  
 Disabled American Veterans  
 Enfield Women's Club  
 Greater Hartford Realtor's Association  
 Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Grants  
 Lamar Advertising Company  
 Manchester Emblem Club

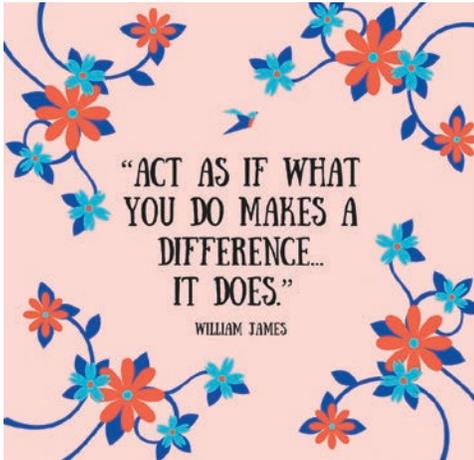
Manchester Elks  
 Pratt & Whitney  
 Rockville Elks  
 Rockville Exchange Club  
 SMC Partners  
 St. Mark the Evangelist Church  
 Talk of Connecticut/ The Whale 102.9  
 The Hartford  
 Tri Town Gymnastics  
 Travelers  
 Travelers Chorale



University of Hartford, The Women's Advancement Initiative  
 University of Hartford, Office of Student Engagement & Inclusion  
 University of Hartford Baseball Team  
 Valentine the Clown and Friends  
 West Hartford Park Road Association  
 And our many individual and family donors!

## UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE

### Volunteer Appreciation Reception - April 21st



#### We love our volunteers!

Every year more than 600 individuals give their time and talent to support Chrysalis Center's mission and clients. We are so grateful for the time they give to help impact our clients' lives.

To celebrate and thank these wonderful volunteers, Chrysalis Center is hosting its Annual Volunteer Reception on Tuesday, April 21 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm at Chrysalis Center's TCC (Training and Conference Center), 255 Homestead Ave, Hartford.

If you are a Chrysalis Center volunteer, we invite you to join us for this wonderful celebration!

Please RSVP by emailing Nancy Sherman, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, [nsherman@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:nsherman@chrysaliscenterct.org) or call 860-263-4419.

### Donation Creation - May 2020

#### A month-long food drive with a twist!

*Are you a company looking to build team spirit while doing something fun and meaningful?*

*A school group looking for a community project?*

*A group of friends who want to give back?*

Then sign up your team for Chrysalis Center's Donation Creation Food Drive!

We are especially looking for college and high school teams to join us this year!

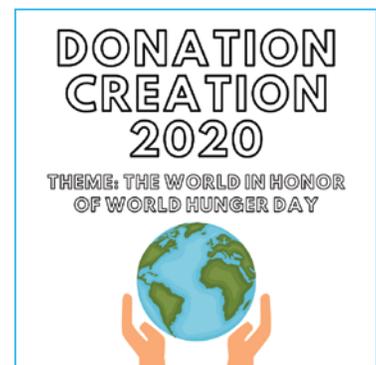
Donation Creation is a month-long food drive (nonperishable items only) to benefit Freshplace, our innovative, client-based/fresh food/case management food pantry, serving up to 100 families living in the North End of Hartford. Teams are challenged to create a sculpture using only nonperishable food items, which are then donated to Freshplace.

**NEW** this year is a theme! **"WORLD"** in honor of World Hunger Day on May 28.

Be creative. Use the word **WORLD** in your creation, such as "Out of this World", "Feed the World" or make a giant world out of nonperishable food items! Prizes awarded for Top Can Design, Facebook Fan Favorite and Most Cans Collected.

**WHEN:** May 1- June 1, 2020, with winners announced in early June.

**HOW:** Sign up & receive instructions by emailing Nancy at [nsherman@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:nsherman@chrysaliscenterct.org) or call (860) 263-4419.



## Ways to Support Chrysalis Center

Chrysalis Center welcomes and appreciates your support! Whether it's volunteering your time to help our clients, donating in-kind food and other items to our families in need or supporting us financially. Your support is greatly appreciated!

For more information on how you can make a difference please contact us:

**To VOLUNTEER:** Nancy Sherman, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, [nsherman@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:nsherman@chrysaliscenterct.org)

**To HOST A FUNDRAISER or COLLECTION DRIVE:** Sarah Mitchell, Development Associate, [smitchell@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:smitchell@chrysaliscenterct.org).

**To DONATE or EVENT SPONSORSHIP:** Adria Giordano, Director of Development, [agiordano@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:agiordano@chrysaliscenterct.org).



**Chrysalis Center Real Estate Corporation (CCREC)** is a 501(c) (25) tax exempt real estate holding corporation for Chrysalis Center, Inc. and was established in 2003. The principal activity and sole purpose of CCREC is to hold real estate. Chrysalis Center Real Estate Corporation holdings include The Social Innovation Hub on our main campus, Hudson View Commons, Cosgrove Commons, Liberty Gardens, Legion Court, St. Philip House, Clover Gardens, The Elms, Phelps Village and our satellite commercial office space in Waterbury.

Chrysalis Center created the real estate holding corporation to do more in the community, by providing individuals and families with safe, decent, affordable housing.

## The Elms

Chrysalis Center Real Estate Corporation is proud to announce the opening of The Elms, a nine unit apartment building for formerly homeless Veterans located in Bristol.

The building, formerly owned by St. Vincent DePaul, was a reconstruction creating four one-bedroom units and five efficiencies designated for permanent housing for homeless Veterans preferred/homeless individuals. The new building offers safe, affordable housing and case management services for its residents, provided by Chrysalis Center, Inc.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Monday, August 26th onsite with a reception following at Better Half Brewing in Bristol. The Elms is fully occupied with nine Veterans living there, including two who are originally from Bristol.

### ***Dignitaries in attendance at the Ribbon Cutting ceremony included:***

Seila Mosquera-Bruno  
Commissioner, State of Connecticut  
Department of Housing

Miriam Delphin-Rittmon  
Commissioner, State of Connecticut  
Department of Mental Health and  
Addiction Services

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
US Senator

The Honorable Ellen Zoppo-Sassu  
Mayor, City of Bristol

Mr. Salvatore Vitrano  
General Counsel, Bristol Housing Authority

Ms. Donna Dognin  
Executive Director  
Veterans Strong Community Center

Members of the Bristol City Council

Members of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce

Chrysalis Center & CCREC Board Members



Pictured (L to R) – Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Sharon L. Castelli, CEO, Salvatore Vitrano, Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon

# Courtland Arms



Chrysalis Center's latest development is Courtland Arms, a full renovation of a 24-unit apartment building, which started in the winter of 2018. The long-abandoned building is in the heart of Downtown New Britain and was built in 1924, having been accepted for Historic Preservation. The building has many historic features of the 1920's Art Deco period found in its moldings, floors, casement design and façade details.

CCREC is conducting a reconstruction to restore the original footprint of the building to 24 one-bedroom affordable apartments. Four units will be set aside for homeless Veterans. The building will also house offices, meeting rooms, a restored lobby and be fully handicapped accessible. An adjacent lot was purchased to provide adequate parking for the development. The renewed Courtland Arms building will play a vital role in restoring a long vacant property in the Downtown Business District. It will be a valued asset for the City strengthening the economic and social health of the community. Construction is anticipated to be completed by Fall/Winter 2020.





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Case Management/Services Coordination:  
Mental Health (Adults)

Community Integration:  
Mental Health (Consumer-Run)

*Chrysalis Center is an Affirmative Action Employer Committed to Fostering Diversity in the Workplace*

Funded in part by **DMHAS, DOC, DOH, CT-NSP, HOPWA – City of Hartford and HUD**

Chrysalis Center accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover. Please visit our website to donate online, purchase event tickets, or sponsor a fundraising event. The Chrysalis Connection is a publication distributed by Chrysalis Center, Inc., a non-profit charitable organization serving the Connecticut area. For more information, or to add a friend to our mailing list please contact Adria Giordano, Director of Development at (860) 263-4425 or by email at [agjordano@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:agjordano@chrysaliscenterct.org).

# Building Connections

*Join Us and Help Support Chrysalis Center!*

## EMPTY BOWLS

Wednesday, March 25, 2020 5 - 7 pm

**TCC (Training & Conference Center) – 255 Homestead Avenue, Hartford, CT**

Join us in the fight to end hunger. All ages invited to enjoy a delicious dinner and leave with an artisan handcrafted bowl for \$20. To purchase tickets visit [www.chrysaliscenterct.org/events](http://www.chrysaliscenterct.org/events)

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 5 - 7 pm

**TCC (Training & Conference Center) – 255 Homestead Avenue, Hartford, CT**

Join us for a celebration of our volunteers, recognizing their hard work and accomplishments over the last year. For more information contact Nancy Sherman, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator [nsherman@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:nsherman@chrysaliscenterct.org)

## DONATION CREATION

May 1 – June 1, 2020

Looking for a fun group activity that's for a great cause? Have a competitive side? Want to make a difference? Then join Chrysalis Center's "Donation Creation Canned Food Drive and Contest" and help us fill our shelves in Freshplace. One lucky winner will receive our Top Can award! To sign up email [nsherman@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:nsherman@chrysaliscenterct.org)

## Chrysalis Center Board of Directors

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Sharon L. Castelli

Please be sure to like us on social media & check our website for more details!

