



# TRANSFORMING LIVES

Chrysalis Center's Quarterly Newsletter

SUMMER 2020

## SUMMER AT CHRYSALIS CENTER - COVID-19 UPDATE



In light of the Governor's June 17th "Reopen Connecticut" Phase 2 initiative, Chrysalis Center welcomed back staff onsite earlier this summer. As essential workers, we kept our doors open from day one, with most staff working remotely to ensure clients received the basics: food, housing, and other critical needs. Our Freshplace food pantry was in high demand as the need for food increased.

In May, we enthusiastically welcomed back clients onsite as well, with half capacity. This past month we renovated our patio, giving staff the space to meet with clients face to face while wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Resuming in-person services has reduced feelings of isolation and anxiety that many clients are facing during the pandemic.

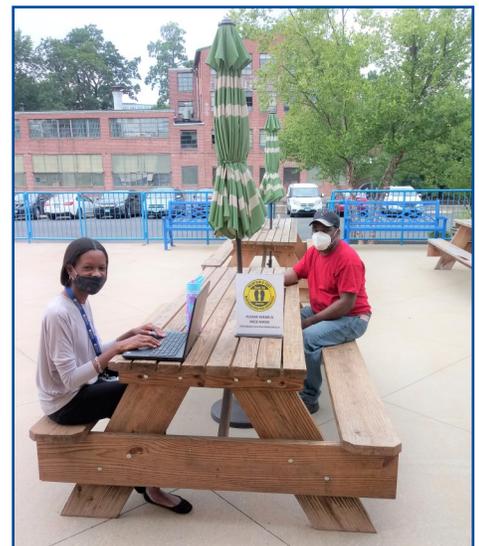
Chrysalis Center also began welcoming small numbers of volunteers back to campus helping in our critical food programs: Freshplace, Urban Roots Hydroponics Grow Center, the Butterfly Boutique and assisting in all our gardens. The volunteer program is adhering to CDC Guidelines and only allowing volunteers who are 18 or older.

Creativity is our middle name and with the TCC closed during this pandemic, Chef Peter began preparing "dinners to go" through our La Cocina Catering program, providing ready-made entrees and sides throughout the week and on special occasions. Our beautifully renovated patio was the backdrop to our first Dinner @Dusk featuring foods grown in our outdoor gardens and Urban Roots Hydroponics Grow Center.

We are grateful for the support and generosity of our community as we navigate the necessary changes to keep everyone safe and our doors open. We truly are ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. For more information on how you can help make a difference and transform lives please visit: [www.chrysaliscenterct.org/donate](http://www.chrysaliscenterct.org/donate)

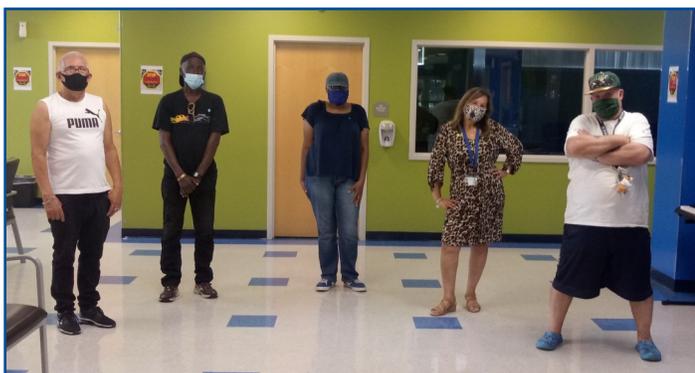


Chef and Assistant Chef prepare salads for Dinner@Dusk.



Left: REC Staff and clients ready to start the day.

Right: Our "new" face-to-face meetings.



## Sharon Says: Updates from Chrysalis Center's CEO



*Dear Friends,*

*As we enter into the sixth month of this pandemic, I continue to hope you and your loved ones are safe, secure, and finding joy despite the many challenges we have endured since early spring. As the colors of summer fade into fall, I am proud of the work our staff continues to provide for thousands of individuals and families across the state - from food, housing, and other critical needs ensuring they receive basic needs and feel safe and secure through these unforeseen times.*

*Earlier this week I was taking a walk through our Recovery and Empowerment Center and was met with smiles from our clients who are overjoyed to be back. Reestablishing in-person meetings is critical for our clients mental health and overall wellbeing.*

*We are taking extra safety precautions - including wearing masks, social distancing and meeting outside with our clients.*

*Our ability to continue providing the highest level of care throughout this time is in part due to the generous donations we received from our supporters and community partners, including receiving COVID-19 Emergency Relief grants to allow us to purchase additional food for clients and PPE for clients and staff. On behalf of the clients, staff, and Board of Directors, I would like to thank the following foundations and companies for these emergency funds:*

- *Aronson Family Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving*
- *Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut*
- *Community Foundation of Greater New Britain*
- *CT Community Foundation/United Way of Greater Waterbury*
- *Eversource Foundation*
- *Gackstatter Foundation*
- *Hartford Foundation Public Giving*
- *Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation*
- *William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund*
- *United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut*

*Thank you again friends.*

*Be well and stay safe,*

*SLC*

## NEW FACES AT CHRYSALIS CENTER: MEET BRIAN BONDS

Chrysalis Center is pleased to welcome Brian Bonds as Chief Program Officer. Brian's responsibilities include oversight of HEARRT (Housing, Employment, Alternatives and Risk Reduction Team) and many of our supportive housing projects. A UMASS Boston alumni with a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from Cambridge College, Brian comes to us with a wealth of experience working in various areas of human services. He has been in the field for more than twenty years throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts. We are excited to have him here at Chrysalis Center!



## Eversource Hartford Marathon Official Charity Member



**Do you like to run? Walk? Support Chrysalis Center?** Join us this year for the 2020 Eversource Hartford Marathon! Chrysalis Center is honored to be one of the official charities! The Eversource Hartford Marathon will be held virtually from October 8 through 11.

There are races for all abilities – from a Virtual 5K to a Virtual Marathon. Runners, walkers and supporters, from anywhere, can participate in any one of the race dates they choose.

\* To register as a member of the Chrysalis Center Team and help fundraiser for us, visit [www.chrysaliscenterct.org/events](http://www.chrysaliscenterct.org/events) and follow the link to register.

## #DONATIONCREATION2020 A SUCCESS!

#DonationCreation2020 may have looked a little different this year because of COVID-19 but the community came through in a huge way! Fourteen teams embraced this challenge and together collected 4,339 food items and other critical items (toiletry and personal items) to help fill the shelves of Freshplace! In addition more than \$3,000 was raised.

We are grateful to the following teams for joining us this year and ensuring that our families are fed throughout the summer:

- Beth & Friends
- CAN-gineers (GEI Consulting)
- Cohen's Condiment Collection
- The Cole Team
- Giordano Family
- Helping Hands Team
- Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
- Jeeps Feeding Families
- Kathy's Team
- LeBlanc Family
- Siddell Family
- SMC Partners
- Socceropolis
- Whittlesey



## AMAZON WISH LISTS MAKE IT EASY TO HELP



During these social distancing times, Chrysalis Center has created three Amazon "Wish Lists" to make it easy for anyone to help donate food or other items for our clients in need. With zero contact, this is a perfect way to help make a difference! Whether you want to host a food drive for our Freshplace food pantry, purchase kitchen items for families moving into a new home for the first time, or toiletry items for individuals in need, you can now do it safely and easily.

Visit our website, [www.chrysaliscenterct.org/give/non-monetary-gifts](http://www.chrysaliscenterct.org/give/non-monetary-gifts) to view our Amazon "Wish Lists" and help make a difference today! At Amazon check-out select, Chrysalis Center Gift Registry Address as the preferred shipping address. (255 Homestead Ave, Hartford, CT 06132) Thank you for your help!

Any questions, please contact Sarah Mitchell at (860) 263-4418 or [smitchell@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:smitchell@chrysaliscenterct.org).

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Butterfly Bash: A Virtual Experience



Chrysalis Center is excited to announce this year's **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Butterfly Bash** will be held *virtually* on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 - 8:00pm. As our signature fundraising event, we invite everyone to join us as we raise critical funds and awareness for the organization.

This year's event celebrates the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Chrysalis Center and proceeds will be directed to Freshplace, our onsite innovative fresh food and case management food pantry, which serves individuals and families living in the poorest neighborhoods of Hartford. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Freshplace remained opened, serving not only members of the program but offering food to every client at Chrysalis, as we saw a significant increase in the need for food.

Since March, Freshplace has provided more than 30,000 meals throughout the state to those in need!

NOW more than ever, your help is needed as we continue to see an increased need for food.

The event will be live streamed beginning at 7pm, and all registered guests will receive a private link to join in the fun! Guests will enjoy a wonderful evening filled with passionate client stories, amazing silent and live auction items and a delicious three course dinner provided by La Cocina Catering, our onsite social enterprise – all from the comfort of their own home! We are thrilled to have Renee DiNino from iHeartMedia returning as our Master of Ceremonies.

To purchase a ticket, become a sponsor or bid on auction items visit [www.chrysaliscenterct.org/events](http://www.chrysaliscenterct.org/events)



## Client Spotlight: Paulie

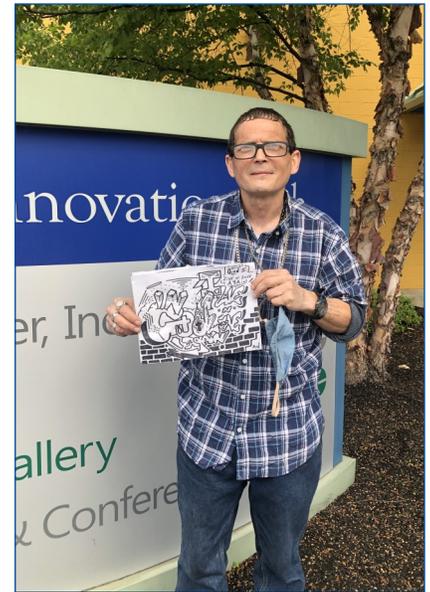
*"I express myself through my art. If something happens to me or bothers me, I make something. It helps calm me down."*

*- Paulie, Chrysalis Center client*

A member of Chrysalis Center since 1998 and self-proclaimed "graffiti artist", Paulie has been painting and drawing since he was young. He says it helps him get through challenging times. He often draws his feelings and situations he experiences. By participating in Chrysalis Center's art programs, he finds himself more at peace and recently created a "COVID-19" pen and ink drawing and is honored to see many of his drawings hanging in his caseworker Danielle's office.

Paulie's artwork will be auctioned off at this year's Butterfly Bash.

To help support Paulie's art and other programs at Chrysalis Center visit [www.chrysaliscenterct.org/give/make-a-gift/](http://www.chrysaliscenterct.org/give/make-a-gift/)



## Volunteer Spotlight: Helping Our Gardens Grow

Chrysalis Center volunteers have been busy this spring and summer helping our GARDENS GROW! In May, we partially reopened our Volunteer Program welcoming back small numbers of volunteers to prep and plant our raised vegetable and herb gardens at Railway Gardens on our main campus and in the Food Forest at Cosgrove Commons, as well as in Urban Roots, our Hydroponics Grow Center which produces lettuce, basil and herbs. These gardens provide an array of nutritious and delicious produce for Freshplace clients, are used in La Cocina's kitchen and sold at the Homestead Farmers' Market.

A special thank you to our garden volunteers: Jill, Katy, Charmaine, Vicki, Sal and the "Starbucks crew" Kevin, Christina, Kimberly and Al, who helped give their time, energy and green thumbs to keeping our gardens beautiful and thriving. Tomatoes, squash, green beans, herbs, peppers, sweet potatoes and cucumbers are just some of what was grown this summer!

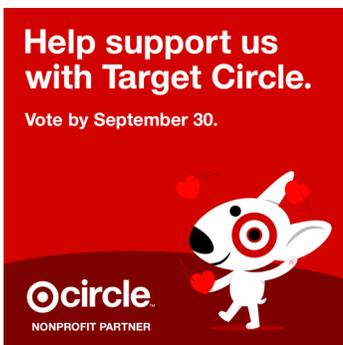


## Shop at Target and Support Chrysalis Center

Chrysalis Center is excited to announce we have been selected to participate in a special charitable giving campaign, sponsored and funded by Target. NOW YOU have the chance to help direct a portion of Target's donation to us!

Now through September 30<sup>th</sup>, vote for Chrysalis Center through the Target Circle program to help determine how Target's donation will be distributed. We are asking our supporters to help us make the most of this incredible opportunity. Every vote counts towards Chrysalis Center receiving a portion of the available Target funds. This will help us continue our mission to provide supportive services to assist people in need to transform their lives.

To vote and find out more about Target Circle here: [www.target.com/circle](http://www.target.com/circle)





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*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.

Transforming Lives Chrysalis Center's Quarterly  
 Newsletter is a publication distributed by  
 Chrysalis Center, Inc., a non-profit charitable  
 organization serving the Connecticut area.

For more information or to join our mailing list  
 please visit [www.chrysaliscenterct.org](http://www.chrysaliscenterct.org).

## Join Us and Help Support Chrysalis Center

### HOMESTEAD FARMERS' MARKET

**Every Wednesday now through October 7, 2020 | 2 - 5pm  
 255 Homestead Avenue, Hartford Upper Parking Lot**

Chrysalis Center's Homestead Farmers' Market is open to the public throughout  
 the summer every Wednesdays from 2-5pm through October 7.  
 Seasonal fruits, vegetables and baked goods will be available.

### EVERSOURCE HARTFORD MARATHON – VIRTUAL EVENT

**Thursday, October 8, 2020 through Sunday, October 11, 2020**

Be a part of the Chrysalis Center team! A portion of the event registration will  
 be donated to Chrysalis Center. To register to be a member of the Chrysalis Center  
 Eversource Hartford Marathon team, make a donation,  
 or sponsor a marathon participant.

Visit [www.chrysaliscenterct.org/events](http://www.chrysaliscenterct.org/events) and follow the event registration link.

### VIRTUAL BUTTERFLY BASH

**Thursday, October 15, 2020 | 7 – 8pm**

Save the date and join us "virtually" for the 16th Annual Butterfly Bash!  
 This year's signature fundraising event for Chrysalis Center will be raising much  
 needed funds to support Freshplace food pantry. For more information  
 email [Adria Giordano](mailto:Adria.Giordano@chrysaliscenterct.org), Director of Development & Communications  
 at [agiordano@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:agiordano@chrysaliscenterct.org)

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