



Getting Help...Getting Better...Giving Back.

Volunteer Voice

Monthly Newsletter for and about Chrysalis Center Volunteers

January 2021

Chrysalis Center's mission is to provide supportive services to assist people in need to transform their lives.

Getting Help...Getting Better... Giving Back.



Happy New Year to all of Chrysalis Center's wonderful volunteers! I hope you all are having a great holiday season. 2020 was a very interesting year, to say the least; however, our volunteers stepped up and helped out when it was possible for them to do so. Some who cannot yet volunteer in person, due to being in a high risk category for COVID-19, participated in virtual volunteering so that they could help out without putting their health at risk. It was great to see the volunteers, clients and the community rally together to get through some challenging times. We truly could not have helped as many clients as we did if it were not for our team of dedicated volunteers. We are so grateful and look forward to working with you all in 2021!

This month's Volunteer Voice features our hard-working Board of Directors and our wonderful partner organization, The Hartford, in our Volunteer Spotlights. We also highlight the volunteers who gave of their time and worked outside in the cold, rain, and snow at our Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale in December.



Get Involved

Top volunteer opportunities this month.

For more info, or to sign up for a shift, contact Nancy Sherman at nsherman@chrysaliscenterct.org

As a reminder, volunteers must be 18 years of age or over and, in keeping with CDC Guidelines, not at high risk for COVID-19, including the following: those who are immunocompromised, over 60, showing symptoms of COVID-19, or living with or caring for someone in any of those categories. In addition to safety measures which have been in place since the onset of the pandemic, we have increased our safety precautions, including face masks worn in all public areas, temperature taken upon entry and PPEs handed out upon entry if needed.

Urban Roots

Looking for an ongoing volunteer with some gardening/plant experience (it does not necessarily have to be experience with hydroponics) to help in Urban Roots, our hydroponic grow center, in which lettuce and basil are grown in water. You will help with planting, harvesting and maintaining the plants.

Where: Chrysalis Center, 255 Homestead Avenue, Hartford

When: Monday - Friday between 8:00 am and 12:00 pm (one day a week or every other week).

Freshplace

Seeking regular volunteers to help out in Freshplace, our onsite fresh food pantry, on Friday mornings from 9:00 am - 11:00 am beginning in mid-January and on Thursdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm beginning in late January.

Freshplace provides nutritious food and case management services to individuals and families living in the poorest neighborhoods in Hartford.

Volunteers must be 18 or older.

Where: Freshplace, Chrysalis Center, 255 Homestead Avenue, Hartford

When: Friday mornings from 9:00 am - 11:00 am, beginning in mid-January or Thursdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm beginning in late January

Virtual Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering with Chrysalis Center has never been easier. We offer an assortment of "virtual" remote volunteer opportunities for all ages! You can make toiletry kits, birthday boxes, craft kits or come up with your very own idea.

Where: You choose!

When: Whenever it is convenient for you

For a complete list of volunteer opportunities, please visit the volunteer section of Chrysalis Center's website, <https://chrysaliscenterct.org/get-involved/volunteer/>



Volunteer Spotlight - Individual - Chrysalis Center's Board of Directors

As the governing body of the organization, Chrysalis Center's Board of Directors are the fiduciaries who steer the organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance, and financial management policies. They are wonderful stewards of the organization, volunteering their time and talent year-round to help Chrysalis Center advance our mission. Thank you to our wonderful Board Members. We are truly grateful for your dedication and commitment to helping us transform lives!

Thank You to our Board of Directors



Jean Wagner
Chair



Thomas Kennedy
Vice Chair



Robert Lowry
Treasurer



Karen D'Arco
Secretary



Bridget D'Angelo



Jordan Fogel



Rosendo Garza, Jr.



Frank Giguere



Christopher McKinnon



Kevin Sullivan



Sharon Williams



Volunteer Spotlight - Corporate - The Hartford

The Hartford has been a great partner with Chrysalis Center over the years. Company employees have generously donated their time and talents and the corporation has supported Chrysalis Center financially in a number of our events and programs.

Each year, on or around September 11, employees volunteer at nonprofit organizations, including Chrysalis Center, through The Hartford's National Day of Service and Remembrance. This year, the company restructured this volunteer program so that employees could participate in virtual projects for area organizations. Ten employees made around 130 toiletry kits for clients in our various programs! They were greatly appreciated because the recipients do not have the funds to purchase them on their own.

In the past (prior to COVID-19), The Hartford has sponsored a "Fight Against Hunger", during which the employees built raised beds for Railway Gardens and donated fresh food from an on-site community garden to Freshplace food pantry. This past year, since the employees were not physically at The Hartford during the gardening season, the company donated the seedlings it

purchased from Knox, Inc. to Chrysalis Center to use in our gardens. We were able to harvest tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, just to name a few!

The Hartford also is a generous sponsor of the Butterfly Bash, the Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale, and La Cocina Culinary Arts Training Program.

We are so grateful for our partnership with The Hartford and look forward to accomplishing more great things together in the future!



(photo taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic)



Annual Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful volunteers!



On December 5, volunteers braved the cold, rain and snow to help Chrysalis Center give out free trees to neighborhood families (we gave out 43 complimentary trees!). Members of the public also came to purchase trees and wreaths to help to decorate their homes..

Christmas tree and wreath volunteers helped families pick out their trees and move them out to their cars. We also had volunteers who worked at tables giving out fun items to the children who came by that day (and put together bags of goodies for them!). Thank you to our volunteers, Kiet, Ana, Tiago, Kian, Rebeca, Frankie, Gabriella, Jackie, Abby, and Jeff.

Everyone who visited the event had a great time and the smiles were evident,

even with the masks on! We could not have done it without the dedication of our volunteers! We also give a big thank you to The Hartford for being the annual sponsor of Chrysalis Center's Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale.

Additional Ways to Support Chrysalis Center...

Share the Warmth Winter Donation Drive On-Going Throughout the Winter Months

Share the warmth this holiday season! We are collecting new items to help our clients and their families, many who are moving into their first home this winter! To view wish lists visit www.chrysaliscenterct.org/give/non-monetary-gifts
To arrange a drive or any questions please contact Sarah Mitchell at smitchell@chrysaliscenterct.org

Virtual Comedy Night to Benefit St. Philip House Tuesday, January 12, 2021 | 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Life is better when you're laughing with Sea Tea Improv! Join us, from the comforts of your own home, for Comedy Night to benefit St. Philip House, a program of Chrysalis Center, which supports those living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Tickets now available - Click Here!

Virtual Empty Bowls Dinner

March 24, 2021 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Save the date! Proceeds benefits Freshplace, our innovative fresh food pantry, which provides fresh and nutritious food and support services for families living in the poorest neighborhoods in Hartford.

For more information or to become an event sponsor contact Sarah Mitchell at smitchell@chrysaliscenterct.org

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Amazon Smile Benefits Chrysalis Center

Shop via smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to Chrysalis Center!

Simply join AmazonSmile and select Chrysalis Center as your favorite organization and .5% of all eligible purchase made year round through smile.amazon.com will be donated - no fees, no extra cost.

About Chrysalis Center

Chrysalis Center is a private, non-profit, socially innovative, multiservice organization that serves individuals and their families living in the State of Connecticut. Chrysalis Center helps those living in poverty, Veterans, men, women, children, and young adults who are struggling with mental health, addiction, HIV/AIDS, homelessness, and those returning from incarceration.

Find more information about how Chrysalis Center provides supportive services to assist people in need to transform their lives at: Chrysalis Center.

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