



Volunteer Voice

Monthly Newsletter for and about Chrysalis Center Volunteers

October 2020

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 early Halloween to all of Chrysalis Center's fabulous volunteers! It's a "treat" to work with you all (sorry, I couldn't resist!) and we SO appreciate everything that you do for our organization and our clients. October's Volunteer Voice will introduce you to Michele, a new staff member whom many of you will meet, celebrate some young people who are doing their part to help Chrysalis Center through virtual (remote)

volunteering, and outline some ways that you can help support Chrysalis Center through events and activities.

Volunteer opportunities



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

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.

Gardening Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers at the end of October to help clean up and prepare our outside gardens in Hartford for the fall/winter season. No gardening experience is required.

Where: Various locations in Hartford

When: Monday - Friday between 8 am and 12 pm

A regular (every week or two weeks) volunteer with some gardening/plant experience (it does not necessarily have to be experience with hydroponics) is needed for Urban Roots, our hydroponic garden. The volunteer would be assisting with planting, harvesting and maintaining the plants (lettuce, microgreens and basil).

Where: Chrysalis Center, 255 Homestead Avenue, Hartford

When: Monday - Friday between 8 am and 12 pm

Landscaping/Grounds Volunteers

Do you like working outdoors? If so, we have just the volunteer opportunity for you! We are looking for individuals to help keep our grounds beautiful!

Responsibilities include: weeding, trimming bushes and various outdoor maintenance projects.

Where: Chrysalis Center, 255 Homestead Ave, Hartford.

When: Monday - Friday, any time between 9 am and 3 pm.

For a complete list of volunteer opportunities (including our new virtual opportunities), please visit the [the volunteer section](https://chrysaliscenterct.org/get-involved/volunteer/) of Chrysalis Center's website, <https://chrysaliscenterct.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Volunteer Spotlight: Aarohi, Hannah and Sarah

To kick off our new remote volunteer opportunities, **Aarohi, Hannah and Sarah** made beautiful garden signs for our food forest and Railway Gardens. The signs in the food forest help the residents of Cosgrove Commons, who utilize the forest for fruits and vegetables, make choices about what to pick for themselves. At Railway Gardens, the signs guide staff and volunteers who pick produce for use at the Homestead Farmers Market, in La Cocina Catering, and in our Freshplace food pantry.

Aarohi made the Railway Gardens signs as her Girl Scout Silver Award project and Hannah and Sarah took time out of their summer to make signs for our food forest.

Thank you so much for your hard work, girls! The signs are FABULOUS!





Meet Michele!

Those of you volunteering in Freshplace and the gardens will notice that there is a new face! Michele Labbadia began work at Chrysalis Center on September 1 in the role of Coordinator of Urban Farming. She brings TONS of farming and agriculture experience to the role and has AWESOME plans for Railway Gardens and the Urban Roots hydroponic garden located at our main campus at 255 Homestead Avenue and the food forest at Cosgrove Commons, a supportive housing site in the South End of Hartford. Because Michele has plans to expand Chrysalis Center's gardens, there will be an increased need for gardening volunteers in the coming year! Michele also works with Jon Mitchell in Freshplace.



Below are some fun facts about Michele:

- Fall is her favorite season.
- Her household includes 2 dogs, 1 cat and 3 goats.
- She loves gardening and farming because it connects her with the earth and centers and grounds her. It's her peace, where she feels most at home. She loves seeing a garden grow from seeds or a flower bed grow and change seasonally.

Please join us in welcoming Michele to the Chrysalis Center family!

There is still time to purchase your tickets!



Virtual Butterfly Bash

Thursday, October 15, 2020, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

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. Ticketholders will be treated to a delicious 3-course meal provided by La Cocina Catering, enjoy a program featuring passionate client stories, and bid on fabulous auction items. To purchase tickets, view/bid on auction items or make a donation, visit www.chrysaliscenterct.org/get-involved/events/. For more information email Adria Giordano, Director of Development & Communication at agiordano@chrysaliscenterct.org.

JOIN TEAM CHRYSLIS CENTER FOR THE 2020 VIRTUAL EVERSOURCE HARTFORD MARATHON!



Are you a runner or walker looking for a way to give back to Chrysalis Center? Join Team Chrysalis Center in the 2020 Virtual Eversource Hartford Marathon. Runners/walkers can choose from several distances: 5k, 10k, 1/2 marathon, and full marathon. Best of all, this year, it can be done according to your schedule, anytime between October 8 and October 11, and in the location of your choosing. If running or walking is not your cup of tea, you can always make a donation, sign up to raise funds only, or sponsor a runner to benefit Chrysalis Center. To participate or make a donation, please go to <https://chrysaliscenterct.org/event/join-team-chrysalis-center-for-the-ever-source-hartford-marathon/>.

Check out La Cocina Catering's new online ordering site! It is not just for events - bring home a delicious dinner for the family or pick up something for yourself! Of course, we would love to cater any parties or meetings that you might be planning, too.



La Cocina Catering is a social enterprise initiative of Chrysalis Center which provides individuals with training and job readiness skills to become employed in the culinary arts and hospitality fields, helping them become economically independent.



DID YOU KNOW?

La Cocina Catering is online!

Order from our cafe-to-go, family dinners, specialty baked goods, and Chef's special pesto! Easy one stop shopping, let us do the cooking! Order today!



www.chrysaliscenterct.org/online-ordering/

Additional Ways to Support Chrysalis Center...

Homestead Farmers' Market

Every Wednesday through October 7, 2020 | 2 - 5 pm

255 Homestead Avenue, Hartford Upper Parking Lot

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

Jazz Brunch

Sunday, October 11, 2020 | 11:30am - 2:00 pm

Join us for a Jazz Brunch on Sunday, October 11 on Chrysalis Center's heated back patio. Proceeds benefit La Cocina Culinary

Arts Training Program, which serves as a job readiness program for individuals in the community. Seating is limited. To reserve your seat today RSVP to events@chrysaliscenterct.org or call 860-263-4400.

Virtual Comedy Night to Benefit St. Philip House

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 | 6:30 - 7:30 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.

Proceeds to benefit St. Philip House, a program of Chrysalis Center, to support those living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Tickets available shortly.

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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