



# Volunteer Voice

*Newsletter for and about Chrysalis Center Volunteers*

***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 Volunteer Appreciation Month!***



Volunteers are the backbone of all nonprofit organizations. Volunteers give their time, energy, and talent to help those in need without looking for anything in return.

April has nationally been designated as Volunteer Appreciation Month. During April, Chrysalis Center recognized the 200 plus volunteers who help keep the organization going with their time and talent.

At any time, Chrysalis Center volunteers can be found helping out in the Freshplace food pantry, La Cocina Catering, Urban Roots Hydroponic Grow Center, Railway Gardens, the Food Forest, Homestead Farmers' Market, The Recovery and Empowerment Center, and many supportive housing sites.

Chrysalis Center loves their volunteers and would like to personally thank ALL the volunteers who dedicated their time and talent to help Chrysalis Center clients transform their lives!



## **Spring is in the Air**

There's nothing like the fresh smell of spring! The warmer weather brings a lot of gardening opportunities at Chrysalis Center! Last year, Chrysalis received grant funding for our offsite "Food Forest," located on 2 acres of land, behind our Cosgrove Commons housing in Hartford. The grant allowed us to fully transform this piece of land into a self-sustaining, multipurpose garden, providing fruit and nut trees, shrubs, herbs, vines and perennial vegetables. Chrysalis Center is seeking volunteers to help the gardens thrive by assisting with planting and harvesting produce, as well as general upkeep.





## **Tomatoes & Peppers & Eggplants, Oh My!**

Our hydroponic grow center is expanding! With half of our lower level already built out and producing a variety of lettuce and herbs used in La Cocina, our Homestead Farmers Market and Freshplace; Chris Verni, Urban Farming Coordinator, with the help of some amazing volunteers, has transformed the other half of the lower level to house 10 hydroponic bucket grow systems. This new system will allow for the production of vertical growing vegetables all year round.



## ***Get Involved***

Top volunteer  
opportunities this month.

### **Spring/ Summer Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **Homestead Farmers' Market**

An open-air, Connecticut-grown farmers' market is open to the public from June through October, located on Chrysalis Centers main campus in Hartford. During the markets open hours, volunteers help provide customers with an exceptional shopping experience, and represent Chrysalis Center helping to grow relationships within the community.

## Railway Gardens & Food Forest at Cosgrove Gardens

Chrysalis Center has gardens on its main campus, and a two-acre Food Forest at Cosgrove Commons, our supportive housing site, both located in Hartford. Volunteers help the gardens thrive by assisting with planting and harvesting produce, as well as general upkeep.

## Supportive Housing Programs (Locations Vary)

Chrysalis Centers housing residents love summer BBQ's, bingo, and other activity nights. These events are held at our various housing locations. Throughout the season Chrysalis Center looks for volunteers and groups who are interested in hosting a fun event and give back to our amazing residents.

Visit our website to find full listing of our ongoing opportunities.

Or contact Volunteer & Outreach Manager, Chelsey Logan at [clogan@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:clogan@chrysaliscenterct.org)

Volunteer Opportunities



## Volunteer Spotlight - Corporate - UCONN, Alternative Spring Break



Thank you to UCONN for partnering with Chrysalis Center for your Alternative Spring Break! 13 students (pictured above) joined us during their spring break to help in our Freshplace Market. Students helped to sort and stock donations, prepare the market for other incoming produce, and learned about all the services we provide. We are so excited that UConn



selected Chrysalis as one of their organization to help during their week of service. We hope to work with you again soon!

## Group Opportunities

Chrysalis Center has opportunities for groups of all sizes to come together to help the community while team building. Chrysalis Center is always excited to work with existing partnerships and grow new relationships within the community. Volunteers, such as employees from Nassau Financial Group (pictured to the right) lent a hand sorting and stocking weekly food donations, and learned all about the work that goes into the daily operations of Freshplace. Chrysalis Center will work with groups to find the best project based on groups interests, group size and desired schedule.



## Upcoming Events

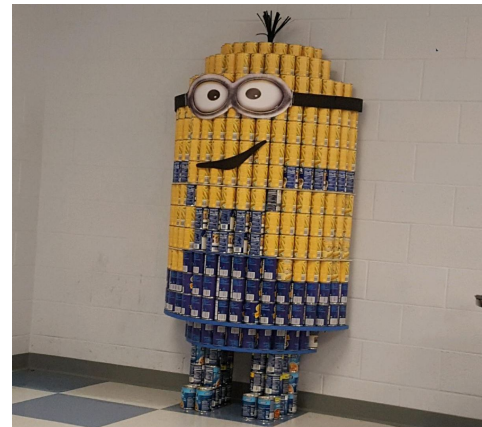
### Donation Creation

April 1- June 1, 2023

Donation Creation is a food drive with a twist! We invite students, friends, families, businesses, community groups, and organizations to create a team and collect nonperishable food items for Freshplace, Chrysalis Center's innovative food pantry. Your donations help to feed individuals and families who experience food insecurity in Connecticut.

Teams are encouraged to create a sculpture with the donations. Once your sculpture is complete, take a photo and send it to us to be entered into the 'TOP CAN' contest!

*\*\* Teams are encouraged to make a sculpture, but it is not required for participation. \*\**



***To Register your team and receive a donation creation tool kit:***

Contact Irene Mackey, Development Manager at [Imackey@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:Imackey@chrysaliscenterct.org)



## Homestead Farmers' Market

The Homestead Farmers Market will be held Wednesdays mid-June — mid-October, from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. located on Chrysalis Center's main campus at 255 Homestead Avenue in Hartford. The Homestead Farmers' Market offers fresh produce, vegetables, and herbs grown onsite in Chrysalis Center's gardens and Urban

Roots Hydroponic Grow Center, fresh baked goods made by La Cocina, and features guest vendor items weekly from local farms!

Check out Chrysalis Center's social media pages for weekly updates.

## Butterfly Bash

Mark your calendars for October 19th, 2023. Amazing auction items and mission focused programming makes the Chrysalis Center Butterfly Bash the can't miss event of the year!

We can't wait to see you at this years Butterfly Bash, being held at The Society Room.

If you would like to join Chrysalis Center's Honorary Committee, or become a Sponsor please contact Lauren Schleicher, Director of Development & Communications by email [lschleicher@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:lschleicher@chrysaliscenterct.org) or phone 860-263-4425.

# SAVE THE DATE

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Chrysalis Center Butterfly Bash



Thursday, October 19, 2023  
Society Room, Hartford



## ***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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