



# TRANSFORMING LIVES

Chrysalis Center's Newsletter

SPRING 2023

## Thrive and Dine



On Tuesday, February 28, the Social Enterprise Accelerator, "Tenacious Ten" and "Super Six" came together for the Thrive and Dine event to connect, share and learn.

Because of this accelerator, Chrysalis Center has successfully expanded our La Cocina Culinary Arts Training program while developing job training skills for individuals, as well as offering event space through the TCC (Training & Conference Center). These programs have resulted in generating revenue to help support Chrysalis Center's mission.

This three-year program began in October 2018 when the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Nonprofit Support Program (NSP) launched the Social Enterprise Accelerator, designed to help

organizations expand beyond traditional grants and donations by generating additional revenue through social enterprise: selling a product or service that complements their mission and supports the financial sustainability of the organization. Of the 49 agencies that began the program, 38 completed the workshop series, 32 applied and 10 were accepted for additional business plan development, implementation support and fundraising coaching through October 2021. In 2022 a second cohort of six was chosen to engage in the process.

The Social Enterprise Accelerator is provided in partnership with No Margin, No Mission, a national consulting firm dedicated to helping nonprofits increase their earned income and entrepreneurial capacity.



**Chrysalis Center Staff from Left to Right:**  
Sharon Castelli, CEO, Judy Gough, Lauren Schleicher, Lynda Waldron, Justin Calabrese, Danielle Zercie, and Chesley Logan



**Thrive and Dine Tenacious Ten and Super Six**



## La Cocina & TCC: Delicious Food that Helps Transform a Life!



La Cocina Catering is a unique culinary experience that offers more than just delicious food. La Cocina Catering is a social enterprise that supports the local community, specifically by providing job opportunities and training for individuals facing employment barriers, including those most vulnerable to homelessness and incarceration.

La Cocina Catering is known for its creative and flavorful dishes that blend traditional flavors with contemporary cooking techniques and ingredients. From classic American cuisine to your Italian, Mediterranean, and Far East favorites, every bite is a burst of flavor that will leave you wanting more.

From accommodating special requests to offering both delivery and pick-up options, it's no wonder that our La Cocina Catering customers are extremely pleased with their experiences.

*"Thank you so much for catering for us, yet again, last night! As usual the food was outstanding. That lasagna was heavenly!"* - Leadership of Greater Hartford.

What's even better is that by choosing La Cocina Catering, you're not only supporting Chrysalis Center, but you are also making a positive impact on the lives of those in your community. So next time you're looking for a caterer in Greater Hartford, please consider La Cocina Catering for a delicious and socially responsible experience.

Looking for an event space? The Training & Conference Center (TCC), Hartford's premier training and conference facility, is housed on Chrysalis Center main campus in Hartford. This historic former Sealtest Dairy building offers businesses, corporations, and groups, a unique and technologically advanced conference facility designed to meet every need.

All funds generated through the catering program and through rental of the organization's TCC, help further the organization's mission, while helping to solve the problem of poverty through employment training.

*"TCC was wonderful to work with. Responded immediately to emails, came back with great suggestions. The food was outstanding, great selections, very fresh, facility is spotless."* - Hartford Food and Nutrition Services

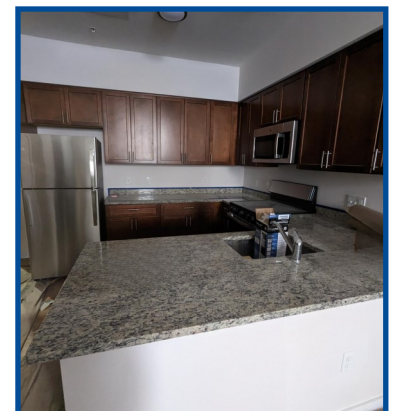
Ready to book the TCC or place a catering order? Contact our Foodhub Director, Danielle Zercie at 860-263-4400 or [events@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:events@chrysaliscenterct.org)



## Murray on Main

Chrysalis Center Housing Development Corporation's Murray on Main housing project in Willimantic is really starting to come together! CCHDC began construction Murray on Main in July of 2022. It is on target to open in late 2023 as affordable housing for 16 individuals, along with a meeting space and community room.

The building, once completed, will have 2 two-bedroom units, 1 efficiency unit and 11 one-bedroom units. Murray on Main will be a valuable asset to the economic growth of the City of Willimantic!



## Volunteer With Us!



**Volunteers from The Hartford**

Volunteers are a vital part of supporting Chrysalis Center's mission to help transform lives. Whether it's individual or groups, community service or corporate team building, we have a variety of opportunities to volunteer at Chrysalis Center that can help make a difference in the life of just one person or in the well-being of the larger community.

We make every effort to match your schedule and interests with the needs of our clients. We look forward to having you become part of our Chrysalis Center family of volunteers!

Opportunities include volunteering at the Homestead Farmers' Market, assisting at Freshplace, gardening at one of our various gardens, helping out in our Hydroponics Grow Center, assisting at one of our events, hosting a food drive, or another type of collection drive for Chrysalis Center or teaching a class to help clients in our Recovery and Empowerment Center. The possibilities are endless!

Email our Volunteer and Outreach Manager, Chelsey Logan at [clogan@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:clogan@chrysaliscenterct.org) for more information.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Chrysalis Center is so grateful for all of our wonderful volunteers who have helped Chrysalis Center by donating their time or donating items collected to benefit our existing programs and services. Volunteering at the Chrysalis Center shows that you acknowledge the value of our mission. Thank you for giving your time and talent to help others!



**Bud and Kathy Devlin and Saint Peter Claver Church donation of winter clothes and household items.**



**Angel's of Edgewood generously donated new PUMA shirts to our clients**



Thank you to our Turkey Day Volunteers who spent the day meeting clients and handing out food! Otis Elevator Co, Cooperative Systems, PayHub, CVS Health, Amazon.com GEI Consultants, Inc., University of Hartford and Lindberg & Ripple.



**Travelers Choral donated 2,100 pounds of Non-perishable food for Freshplace**



## Happenings in the REC



The Recovery and Empowerment Center (REC) members have been busy these last few months. In February we celebrated Valentine's Day, Black History Month, our clients had presentations by UCONN students regarding nutrition, and Goodwin University students about dental hygiene.

In March, the fun doesn't end! The REC is hosting Women's History Month, and Saint Patrick's Day Shamrock Celebrations!

REC members have countless options of engaging activities to choose from every day.

Our members love attending life skills classes, afternoon gym, and music appreciation classes, as well as weekly Jeopardy, bingo, and various arts and crafts activities.

REC member Ronnie says "I have been a member for three years. I like coming to the REC because it keeps me out of trouble. The groups I enjoy here are Coffee Talk, and the Men's Group because I learn a lot of new things and play bingo with my friends."



## Client Spotlight—Meet Mark



Mark joined the Community Transitional Services (CTS) Program at Chrysalis Center in July of 2022. Mark was released directly from incarceration to the CTS program, where he met Case Manager, Sasha Powell. Mark was incarcerated for 10 years and being away from the outside world greatly affected his mental health.

After moving into his new apartment, Mark had some medical concerns, and he needed to find the necessary medication as soon as possible. Sasha stepped in by showing him how to get to and from the pharmacy and local shops in his area.

Mark began to get acquainted with life after incarceration and regaining his independence, and Sasha assisted him every step of the way by helping him prioritize his tasks and find stable employment at Crown Market. Mark expressed how grateful he was to find a job he likes that pays him well. He feels like he can finally start living the life he envisioned.

Mark has come a long way and while he has hit a few bumps in the road, he never quit or gave up on himself. Mark hopes to one day become a licensed painter and be his own boss. He continues to receive support from Chrysalis Center, his son, and a few friends he has made in the community. During a recent case management session, Mark credited Sasha for helping him see his potential, and transform his life in just a few short months.

## Save the Dates!

### SAVE THE DATE

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



Thursday, October 19, 2023  
Society Room, Hartford



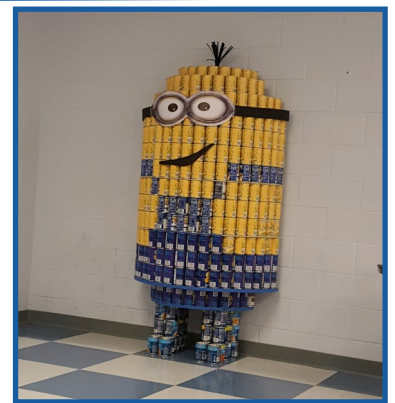
Mark your calendars for **October 19th, 2023**. Amazing auction items and mission focused programming makes the Chrysalis Center Butterfly Bash the can't miss event of the year!

We can't wait to see you at this year's 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.

## Donation Creation is Back! Kicking off April 1st

Donation Creation is a food drive with a twist! We invite you to create a team of family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, classmates, community organizations, or pretty much anyone you can think of - to collect nonperishable food items for Chrysalis Center's Freshplace Food Pantry! Teams are encouraged to create a sculpture with their donations for a chance to be entered and win the 'Top Can' contest! Have questions or want to sign up? Email Irene Mackey, Development Manager at [imackey@chrysaliscenterct.org](mailto:imackey@chrysaliscenterct.org)



## Homestead Farmers' Market to Open Mid-June



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!

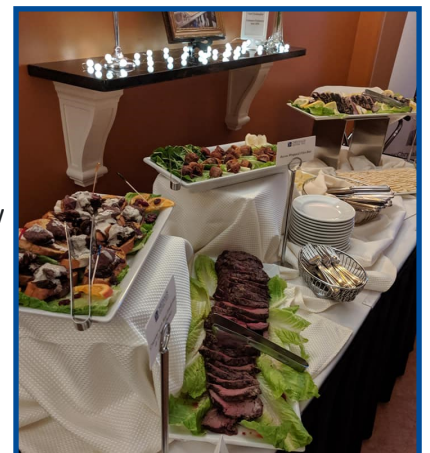
## Summer Solstice Festival: Taste Our Mission™ — June 14th

Join us on the Freshplace patio located on Chrysalis Center's main campus, June 14th from 5:00 pm—7:00 pm for an evening of food, fundraising and festivities.

Taste and savor the unique ingredients grown at our Urban Roots Hydroponic Grow Center, Railway Gardens, and the Food Forest at Cosgrove Commons.

Enjoy a client art show, local live music, curated cocktails, fresh ingredient hors d'oeuvres, and raffle prizes!

Summer Solstice Festival: Taste Our Mission™ is chaired by Carol Larco-Murzyn.





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**Accredited by the Commission  
on Accreditation of Rehabilitation  
Facilities (CARF) for:**



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,  
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and **HUD**

Chrysalis Center accepts MasterCard, Visa,  
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our website to donate online, purchase event  
tickets, or sponsor a fundraising event.

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