

Getting help ... Getting better ... Giving back

The Chrysalis Connection

Chrysalis Center Moves to its New Home!



Pictured at the ribbon-cutting ceremony are (left to right): Maryellen Shuckerow, Chrysalis Center Director of Development and Community Relations; John Motley, Capital Campaign Co-Chair; Linda Kelly, President, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; Steven Ruth, Chrysalis Center board member; Charles Agnano, former Chrysalis Center board member; James Christopher, Chrysalis Center board member; Carolyn Phillips, President, Chrysalis Center Board of Directors; Lt. Governor Michael Fedele; Sharon Castelli, Chrysalis Center Executive Director; Mayor Eddie Perez; Richard Matteson, former Chrysalis Center board member; and Susan Scherer, Capital Campaign Co-Chair.

Chrysalis Center held a grand opening February 4 at its new headquarters building at Homestead Avenue and Woodland Street in Hartford's Upper Albany neighborhood.

The agency purchased the building, formerly the Sealtest dairy plant, in 2002 and launched a \$6.3 million capital campaign to renovate the facility. The building, known as Chrysalis Commons, now houses the agency's administrative staff, as well as core services for Case Management, Supportive Housing, Employment Services, and Recovery and Empowerment. The agency moved its operations to the new location from six rented sites in Asylum Hill.

"We couldn't be more pleased to finally be in our new home," says Chrysalis Center's Executive Director Sharon L. Castelli. "We are extremely grateful to the Greater Hartford funding community – foundations, corporations, and individuals – who have made our dream of having a place to call our own a reality." Castelli adds, "We are pleased to bring new life to a formerly vacant building in an impoverished area of the city."

Thank you to each and every donor who contributed to the project!

Mental Health First Aid

Would you know what to do if a friend, family member or co-worker experienced a mental health emergency? Perhaps you have training in first-aid or CPR, but would you be able to recognize warning signs that someone's mental health was at risk?

Chrysalis Center Recovery Specialist Liz Gerhard is participating in Mental Health First Aid instructor training to enable her to teach individuals who don't have clinical training to help someone in immediate need of mental health support or referral. The purpose is to give laypersons the tools to respond to psychiatric emergencies until professional help arrives, and to improve people's mental health literacy.

Once Liz completes her training, she will offer 12-hour classes for employees at community healthcare agencies, family members of those with mental illness, first responders such as police officers, and interested community members who wish to attain certification in Mental Health First Aid. If you'd like to join a class, call Mary Feliciano, Associate Assistant, at 860-263-4413 or email her at mfeliciano@ChrysalisCenterCT.org.

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Chrysalis Center Has Received Grants from:

Aetna Foundation

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Congregational Church

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Seven Homeless Veterans Move to New Housing in Rockville

It's a sad fact that many of our region's homeless individuals once proudly served their country in the military. Fortunately, seven of these homeless Veterans are moving to newly renovated apartments in Rockville, CT.

Working with a private developer, Chrysalis Center arranged for the renovation of a former carriage house on the grounds of a mansion. The building was transformed into seven apartments to house individuals served by the agency's Veterans Support Services. Veterans will not only receive stable housing, but also support services to help them maintain their housing, increase skills and income, and achieve their individual goals. Chrysalis Center staff will ensure that all participants are connected to appropriate resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment as well as physical healthcare.

Veterans Support Services are funded in part by Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Freshplace to Open in Summer 2010



Freshplace, a new fresh food pantry housed at Chrysalis Commons, will begin serving patrons this summer. The project is a partnership between Chrysalis Center, the Junior League of Hartford and Foodshare. Freshplace will initially serve 100 individuals and families in the impoverished Upper Albany neighborhood as well as people receiving Chrysalis Center services. The project will grow over time to serve more people.

Freshplace will provide fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy and meats, as well as staple items.

Patrons will be able to select items that best meet

their family's needs. Freshplace will not only help to alleviate hunger, but will also address the root causes of hunger to help individuals and families achieve stability and self-sufficiency. Each patron will develop a Freshstart plan and receive referral and linkage to resources for job training/education, housing, employment, entitlement benefits, physical and mental healthcare, household financial management, nutrition education, child care and legal assistance.

Chrysalis Center provides operations management as well as space for the new food pantry. The Junior League of Hartford provides funding and volunteer resources, and Foodshare provides fresh foods. In cooperation with researchers at the University of Connecticut, the project's collaborators will evaluate the impact of this innovative model to address hunger in our community.

To make a contribution to this exciting new project, please send a check payable to Chrysalis Center, Inc., P.O. Box 320613, Hartford, CT 06132. Be sure to indicate your donation is for Freshplace. You may also donate online at www.ChrysalisCenterCT.org. For more ways to help, please see the article on the Walk Against Hunger on the back page of this newsletter.

Chrysalis Center Receives Three-Year Accreditation

Chrysalis Center has been accredited by CARF (Commission for the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) for a period of three years for its Community Case Management (and Supportive Housing) Services and Community Integration Services. The latest accreditation is the third consecutive Three-Year Accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded to Chrysalis Center.

This recognition represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's

substantial conformance to CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served.



255 Homestead Avenue
P.O. Box 320613
Hartford, CT 06132
860-263-4400 Fax: 860-761-3103

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Community Integration Services

*Chrysalis Center is an Affirmative
Action Employer Committed to
Fostering Diversity in the Workplace.*

www.ChrysalisCenterCT.org

**Chrysalis Center provides supportive services to assist people in need to transform their lives.
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Walk Against Hunger To Support Freshplace

Chrysalis Center and the Junior League of Hartford have a fundraising goal and we hope you will help. We aim to raise \$20,000 to support Freshplace, our new food pantry, through contributions to the Walk Against Hunger. Here's how you can help:

- Participate in the 3-mile walk on **Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 1 p.m. in Hartford. Be sure to designate Freshplace as your benefitting agency.**
- Recruit friends, family, and co-workers to form a team of walkers.
- Ask friends, family and co-workers to sponsor you. They can pay by cash or check made to Foodshare or pay online by credit card.
- For more information, or to sponsor a walker, visit www.foodshare.org and click on 'Walk Against Hunger'. Register to walk as an individual or on a team, or click on "Find a Walker" to sponsor a participant walking for Freshplace. If you don't know a Freshplace walker, but would like to sponsor one, enter the name Lisa Beede.

*Join us for a cookout at 255 Homestead Avenue following the walk!
Questions? Contact mshuckerow@ChrysalisCenterCT.org.*



Chrysalis Center accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover. Please visit our website to see how you can now use these credit cards to support Chrysalis Center with donations and purchases of fundraising items and event tickets.

Mark Your Calendar for the Sixth Annual Butterfly Ball

Join us for the Sixth Annual Butterfly Ball on **Saturday, October 2, 2010** at the Farmington Marriott. You'll enjoy dinner, dancing, and bidding on great auction items -- all to support Chrysalis Center's mission to provide supportive services to assist people in need to transform their lives.

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The Chrysalis Connection is a publication distributed by Chrysalis Center, Inc., a non-profit charitable organization serving the Greater Hartford area. If you know of someone who would like to be on our mailing list, or for more information, please contact Lisa Beede, Editor, Chrysalis Center, Inc. at P.O. Box 320613, Hartford, CT 06132 or call (860) 263-4418.