

## Volunteer of the Month – Youth Challenge

Youth Challenge began 50 years ago. They have been a mainstay in Asylum Hill for decades and have helped thousands of men and women regain control of their lives by breaking free of drugs and substance abuse.

Like many nonprofit organizations, especially those providing living space for their clients, COVID made what is always a difficult task much harder. Keeping their doors open, continuing to provide treatment for their live-in clients and at the same time keeping them safe and protected from this pandemic, made their work all the more challenging. But they prevailed. So as things began to return to normal, they made the decision to turn outward to the broader community. Vaccines had already been made available to every client and staff member, so they turned to the neighborhood around them.

They partnered with the Hartford Health Dept. to administer vaccines to any in the neighborhood who wanted. Given their position in the neighborhood as long time members who “help the hurting” they’re able to reach many of those who are still hesitant and not quite ready to trust some of the others administering vaccines.

It's hard to know what it takes to get someone to make the choice to get this vaccine that many of us know will help all of us to be safer. In addition to organizing, scheduling and publicizing the event, they reached out to a long time partner, World Vision in East Hartford. They often donate clothes and other useful items that can be given away, and this time was no exception.

Anyone who got the shot got their choice of items on the table, and that's in addition to the free ice-cream sandwich provided by Ice Cream for a Dream.

While the event was inadvertently cut short, they'll be back for those who got their first shot to get their second, and hopefully a few more will stop by then and get their first shot. We're not really safe until everyone is safe. For more photos go to: <https://bit.ly/YCvaccine>

Also Please see the other article about Malta House of Care for additional opportunities. to be vaccinated.

