

Hands On Hartford, in partnership with others, strengthens community in Hartford by responding faithfully to people in need through programs that change lives and renew human possibility.

Toy Shoppe Celebration

Thank you to Avon Old Farms School, UnitedHealthcare, First Church of Christ Simsbury, ESPN, Infoshred LLC and to our many volunteers who made this year's Toy Shoppe Celebration a great success! 100 families "shopped" for gifts for nearly 300 children, and the party had it all: Santa Claus, a great DJ and dancing, pizza & salad, arts & crafts and games, a gift wrapping station and plenty of gifts and toys for all. Be sure to check out our Facebook page for photos of the event.



Christmas Day and New Year's Day Holiday Meals

The community is invited to two free holiday events, both of which will take place at Hands On Hartford's Center for Community, 55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106:

Christmas Day Meal: Monday, December 25, doors open at 10:30 am and meal is served at 11:30 am. Great food (maple brown sugar glazed ham and more), gifts for adults and children, and lots of love!

New Year's Day Meal: Monday, January 1, doors open at 10:30am and meal is served at 11:30am. Toys for kids, games for all, and a delicious barbecue beef brisket meal.



**Come on by and spread the word!
For questions, call 860-728-3201.**



Faith In Action

A youth group from Westminster Presbyterian participated in a “Dash for a Difference” with our Community Engagement team, volunteering at Keney Park, Community Meals and exploring the Hartford Public Library. Here, some of the kids are shown with Herb Virgo of Keney Park Sustainability Project, in Keney Park’s greenhouse. We applaud youth getting involved in the Hartford community!



During Union Baptist Church of Hartford’s “Lean In With Love” weekend, members created over 350 greeting cards with messages of inspiration and love to add to the Turkey & Fixings bags given to our pantry families for Thanksgiving. Union Baptist Church also worked with Foodshare and the Wilson Gray YMCA, spreading their service and commitment to the Hartford community across the city.

HARDENCO
-Quality, locally made apparel, vintage goods & more
-Food from the Butcher & Red

Hands on Hartford
-Locally made crafts, artwork & more
-Crepes, coffee & more from Cafe Fifty-Five

Hog River Brewing Co.
-Locally made crafts, artwork and more.
-Food from Craftbird Food Truck, Faddy's Donuts
-Hog River Beer
-X-mas Tree Farm!

The Dirt Salon
-A huge selection of locally made goods, crafts, artwork and more.
-Food from the Let's Start from Scratch

-KNOW GOOD Holiday Bazaar 2017-

We saw old friends and new at the KNOW GOOD Holiday Bazaar on December 9. The Café at Fifty-Five had special Saturday hours, and vendors were stationed at Hands On Hartford’s Center for Community, as well as Hartford Denim Company/Hardenco, Hog River Brewing and The Dirt Salon. Despite the snowy day, we were delighted to host intrepid shoppers, give a few tours of our Center, and the coffee and cappuccino were flowing! We hope to participate in similar community events in coming months.

We all have our hands on Hartford!



Joey Batts stopped by with a great donation from this year's "Hip Hop for the Homeless" event here in Hartford! Joey is shown here with Molly Reynolds, our new Administrative and Operations Systems Coordinator.

A beautiful Monday morning gift! Friends from **Barnum Financial Group** brought a donation of 385 pounds of food from **Foundation For Life, Inc.** and stayed for a tour of our Center for Community. What a tremendous amount of good Foundation for Life does for our community!



Thank you to the staff at **Origins** at West Farms Mall! In exchange for a gift of warmth for Hands On Hartford, they gave customers a wonderful mini-facial. What a great way to celebrate the holiday season—doing good and feeling good!



We're delighted to share the news that **Walmart Hartford** has given us a Community Grant to support our MANNA Community Pantry and weekend Backpack Nutrition Program for kids! So grateful to count this community minded organization as one of our partners in strengthening community in Hartford.



Many thanks to **Christian and Jennifer Sager** for donating a lovely wreath and this tree so beautifully decorated by **Connecticut Girl Scout Troop 67793**, both from the **Wadsworth Atheneum's** Festival of Trees.



The Hartford Rotary Club responded within *minutes* to our call for help in replacing the can opener at Community Meals. With their help we can now open many giant cans a day with speed and ease. Thank you Hartford Rotary for your partnership in making our work easier!



Be sure to visit the Café at Fifty-Five and check out our **new menu**, including an expanded selection of breakfast items available all day.

Did you know we also have a **full catering menu**, which includes a broad selection of breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack items with an emphasis on

our ability to customize our selections to fit groups from a handful to hundreds, and accommodate your budget. Catering is available on-site in our renovated historic space, or we can deliver anywhere in the greater Hartford area.

For more information about catering your event, contact Molly Reynolds, 860-706-1537, or mreynolds@handsonhartford.org.

Café at Fifty-Five Volunteer Opportunity: Seeking volunteers Tuesday through Friday, 11:30am—3:30pm, to help keep our kitchen and café sparkling clean and sanitized. For more information, contact Laura Suroviak, lsuroviak@handsonhartford.org or 860-706-1522.

Hands On Hartford Programs

- **MANNA Food Programs:** Community Meals, Community Pantry, and Backpack Nutrition Program
- **HOH Neighborhood Services:** homelessness prevention, Operation Fuel, economic stability and health & nutrition services
- **HOH Housing:** supportive housing services
- **Faces of Homelessness** Speakers' Bureau
- **Community Engagement:** volunteer placement, customized community service projects and immersions.

For information about volunteering and customized service projects, contact Wanda at wguzman@handsonhartford.org, 860-706-1507.

For more information about our programs, financial and in-kind support, contact Kate at kshafer@handsonhartford.org, 860-706-1505.



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