

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.

Volunteer Recognition Event

In April, we had the opportunity to thank and honor our many volunteers at the annual Volunteer Recognition Event. The amazing Keith Rhoden (shown at right) was the winner of the R. Regner and Carolyn S. Arvidson Exemplary Volunteer Award. Other awards given:

- School: Quinnipiac University
- Faith Group: Westminster Presbyterian Church of West Hartford
- Corporate: The Hartford
- Civic: Rotary Club of Hartford
- Family: The Goodman and Howe Families
- Superhero: Andrew May, Peter Collette, Nury Ceden0 and Israel Aguilera

Be sure to check out our album on Facebook for more photos of the event. We are grateful to all of our volunteers for the love and care they give to our Hartford neighbors.



Easter Meal for the Community

What a joy it was to celebrate Easter with the many friends and families who joined us that day. We were joined by 3 dozen volunteers and served 160 guests a delicious and bountiful meal, there were snacks and treats and fruit too numerous to count, and nearly 50 kids enjoyed their Easter baskets thanks to the generosity of the West Hartford Newcomers and Neighbors Club. There were lots of smiling faces and many folks offered heartfelt thanks when they left. We echo those heartfelt thanks to everyone involved for putting your caring into action once again.



Wine and Beer Tasting with Coach Jim Calhoun

We were thrilled to welcome Coach Jim Calhoun to the Hands on Hartford Center for Community at the May 9 Wine & Beer Tasting event to raise funds for our MANNA food programs. Coach Calhoun shared reflections on his career and life of service and a good time was had by all! Thank you to our sponsors (Fiduciary Investment Advisors, CSH, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, The Audio Store and Naek Construction Company), to Beverly Matthews for terrific photos (all posted on Facebook), to Wild Vines Specialty Wines and to all of our food sponsors; and most heartfelt thanks to our guests!



Faith In Action

In mid-April we had the opportunity to participate in Asylum Hill Congregational Church's Partnership Sunday. It was a wonderful chance to share our work and to thank the congregation for their long term and generous support of Hands On Hartford programs. Asylum Hill Congregational Church has recently started partnering with us to refer folks to our Neighborhood Services program and this collaboration means more of our Hartford neighbors will receive assistance vital to their health and well-being.



Foodshare's 35th Annual Walk Against Hunger

We had lots of fun, and more important, raised a lot of money to support our MANNA food programs at this year's Walk Against Hunger! Individuals, businesses, faith groups and more joined Hands On Hartford on a sunny day at Dunkin Donuts Park to fight hunger and food insecurity. We started our planning for this year's Walk with spirit days—here we are (right) sporting our favorite schools-and-sports attire (check out Facebook for crazy hat day).



On the day of the Walk we were visited by many of the folks who helped support us, including these two lovely young ladies (left). And of course, superstar Walk fundraiser and Hands On Hartford board member, Lisa Cameron, didn't miss her opportunity to pose with one of her colleagues and Larry the Stag! We are so grateful to all of the walkers and teams who joined us—your support is vital to the strength and success of the MANNA Community Pantry, Community Meals and the weekend Backpack Nutrition Program.



Welcome New Team Members

We welcomed our new Volunteer Coordinators, Edith Tresner (left) and Katie Thibault (right), shown here with Wanda Guzman, Program Manager—Community Engagement. Edith and Katie jumped right in planning and coordinating volunteer events, conducting volunteer orientations and managing volunteer placements. Feel free to reach out to them about opportunities, events and immersions! You can reach them at 860-706-1522 or volunteering@handsonhartford.org.



We all have our hands on Hartford!



Thank you to our good friends from Hartford Stage who donated and served lunch with long-time HOH volunteer Nancy Jacobs from Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford at our Community Meals Program!



Farmington Bank brought over a collection of 3,376 diapers for the pantry—such a great help to young families struggling to make ends meet.



To celebrate Earth Day, Whole Foods hosted a food drive at its West Hartford and Glastonbury stores, and altogether customers donated over 750 pounds of food, and \$165 in cash donations. With an increased focus on health and nutrition in our food pantry, stocking our shelves with organic food like this makes a great difference!



Before the semester wrapped up, students from Trinity College's Greek Life Community brought a donation of 365 pounds of food for the pantry. This is in addition to the 40 backpacks of food the Trinity College community service group donates for the kids Backpack Nutrition Program every week of the year!



It was great to see the Hands On Hartford team join the crowd at the Capitol for AIDS Awareness Day in April, meeting with legislators to continue efforts to promote awareness and continue to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS in Connecticut.

Does your employer have a matching gifts program?

Many employers match financial donations to charitable organizations like Hands On Hartford, or make gifts to match volunteer hours. You may be able to double the impact of your gift! Questions? Contact Kate at kshafer@handsonhartford.org or 860-706-1505.



The **Café at Fifty-Five** is open Tuesday-Friday, 7:30am-2:30pm, here at 55 Bartholomew Avenue in Hartford.

Caterers Who Care provides on-site and off-site catering, including 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.

Our **Community Kitchen** also operates as a shared use kitchen, where members may use the kitchen and all of its equipment on an hourly basis—ideal for small culinary businesses and start-ups.

The Café, Caterers Who Care and Shared Use Kitchen all support Hands On Hartford direct service programs.

For more information contact Molly Reynolds at 860-706-1537 or mreynolds@handsonhartford.org.

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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