

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.

50th Anniversary Celebration



Oh what a night! Thank you to everyone who joined us at our 50th Anniversary Celebration. With nearly 400 people in attendance, the evening was a great success. Special thanks to Chion Wolf for acting as MC, Mayor Luke Bronin for his words of congratulations, Chef Tyler Anderson for his energy, down-to-earth honesty and great generosity, John Merz for his awesome auctioneering, Spectrum in Motion Dance, and J. Stan McCauley for our anniversary video. We were especially happy to honor our founders and thank them for their work that has touched so many lives over the past 50 years.

And to our guests, winning bidders and sponsors - you have launched us into a bright and impactful future!

Corporate Dash for a Difference

On October 4, 2019 nearly 200 volunteers from businesses throughout Hartford participated in a Dash for a Difference, an innovative community service initiative to foster team building and explore Hartford's historical and cultural gems through a friendly corporate competition. Sponsored by Prudential Financial, in partnership with Hands On Hartford, Dash for a Difference offers a mix of experiences to both celebrate Hartford and engage with the city's diverse populations. Service opportunities included:

- Outdoor work at neighborhood parks
- Participating in classroom activities with schoolchildren
- Serving lunch to seniors
- Creating toiletry kits for several basic needs organizations
- Painting at an after school youth program and senior living facility

The winning team, a group from Aetna, then chose one of the non-profit stops, Burgdorf Community Garden, to receive a \$500 award.



The winning team from Aetna

Faith In Action

Our Community Engagement team organized an interfaith volunteer event for youth, sponsored by the Muslim Coalition and the Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ. The youth collected 356 pounds of food, and \$116 at Stop and Shop. While at the store students took turns doing a SNAP challenge, planning a week's meals on a budget of \$31.50. After the food drive they came back to Hands On Hartford, unloaded and weighed the food and had a discussion about the food drive experience. They capped off the day with a Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau presentation,. The students said the entire event was inspiring, educational, and fun, and they want to do it again.



A youth group from Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford did an immersion project with our Community Engagement team, painting herb pots for our Sprouts for Kids initiative, and volunteering at the Daybreak adult day care center playing bingo, making bead jewelry and serving lunch. We're so impressed with their kindness, love and care for the community.



Turkey Distribution

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving was “Turkey Day” at Hands On Hartford! Thanks to Foodshare's amazing turkey collection, the generosity of the greater Hartford community, and donations from so many of our friends, 350 of our pantry families picked up a turkey, potatoes, squash and bags filled with all the fixings for a plentiful Thanksgiving dinner.

Thanksgiving Meal

Our Thanksgiving community meal took place on Thanksgiving Day, with over 200 of our Hartford neighbors as our guests. We were pleased to welcome Governor Ned Lamont and Attorney General William Tong and their families, who rolled up their sleeves to work alongside our awesome team of volunteers to serve our Thanksgiving meal. We are so grateful for this caring and giving community, on Thanksgiving and all year.



We all have our hands on Hartford!



What a joy it is to see our community coming together with such generosity! Thank you to Joe Barber and friends from Trinity College who donated 480 pounds of food for the MANNA Community Pantry.



The Hartford Federation of teachers ran a food drive at Hartford schools and collected over 1,100 pounds of food for the Backpack Nutrition Program. Then a number of members joined the team here to pack up backpacks for the kids. Thank you for your hard work!



We can't say enough how grateful we are to our friends at Travelers for this huge donation (well over 5,000 pounds) of Thanksgiving food and gift cards, and to all of our wonderful volunteers for moving it all in!



Our good friends from Virtus Investment Partners donated almost 700 pounds of food. Thank you for sharing this bounty with our Hartford neighbors!



On behalf of our friends at Keney Park, the Wilson-Gray YMCA, Milner School and Daybreak Adult Day Center, we thank the team from ESPN who volunteered their time and energy at the end of October in a Dash for a Difference.



Ralph Gagliardo (shown) and Coordinator Anne Goshdigian of Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau gave a presentation to the 6th-8th graders and faculty at Hamden Hall Country Day School.

Consider Joining the Hands On Hartford Team

We have both volunteer opportunities and job opportunities available and we love to welcome people to the team.

Check out our most recent volunteer opportunities on our website:

Handsonhartford.org/become-a-volunteer/find-an-opportunity/

Or contact our Volunteer Coordinators at volunteering@handsonhartford.org or 860-706-1522.

And we have several job openings, which you can review here:

Handsonhartford.org/about/job-opportunities/

Please share this information with anyone you know looking for a great community-oriented team.



Hands On Hartford Programs

- **MANNA Food Programs:** Community Meals, Community Pantry, and Backpack Nutrition Program
- **HOH Neighborhood Services:** homelessness prevention, Operation Fuel, 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 or joining our Legacy Society, 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. **Check out our catering menu at our website!**

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

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.



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