Hands on HARTFORD
Caring in Action

JUNE NEWS - YOU KEEP US GOING!



ANOTHER GROWING SEASON!

Growing for Good and Expanding Access

We are thrilled to share that for the third year in a row, our friends at **Voya Financial Group** have partnered with us on revitalizing our **Community Garden**. It's a big task and one that this hardworking group enthusiastically requests year after year and we are so happy to have their assistance.

This **team of 24** worked hard to do the work that many find challenging, including: clearing tons of weeds; pruning returning perennials; adding heavy bags of organic soil and fertilizer, planting new seeds & seedlings; decorating and labeling dozens of rocks in English & Spanish for plant identification; assembling plant cages; and, as if that wasn't enough, attaching a privacy screen to our side fencing.

Our **9 raised beds and 12 planter containers** benefited tremendously from their hard work and positive energy.

Following their project, they also enjoyed a delicious lunch on our back picnic tables, next to the garden, prepared by our very own Gather55 restaurant! And in honor of their hard work, financial support and commitment over the years, we were happy to honor them with a **Group Volunteer award**.

We've already started harvesting some produce to support our Community Pantry, Gather55 restaurant, and onsite housing tenants! We are so grateful for Voya's ongoing commitment to support our programs and help us bring **healthy, local, garden-fresh produce** to our Hartford neighbors experiencing food insecurity.





SAFE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION



We are proud to be a 2026 **Housing For Everyone** grant recipient during the program's 20th Anniversary year, thanks to the **TD Bank Charitable Foundation!** This generous grant will help us advance as housing instability continues to impact communities across the country and right here in Hartford. This grant will enable us to keep individuals and families safely housed, prevent evictions before they occur, and help families develop long-term stability.

HOH IN ACTION

CHAMPIONING COMMUNITY



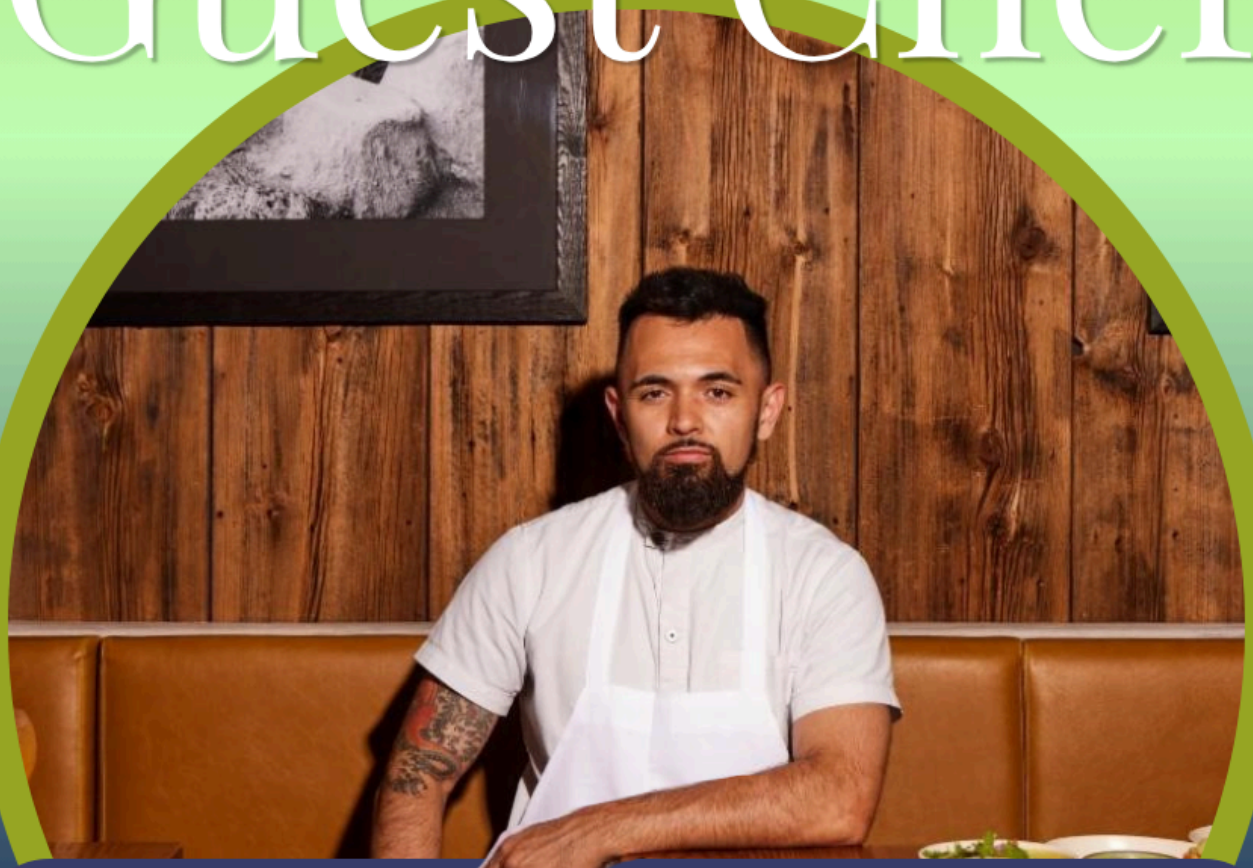
Our Homeless Outreach team has been awarded the David R. Kennedy Community Champions Award during the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness' 23rd Annual Training Institute. This recognition represents far more than an award, it reflects the commitment, compassion, and relentless advocacy shown every day by those working to serve our community's most vulnerable neighbors.

We are deeply grateful for our partners

- Harriott Home Health Services
- Hartford HealthCare: Neighborhood Health & Street Medicine
- Charter Oak Health Center
- Connecticut Harm Reduction Alliance (CTHRA)

Gather55

Guest Chef



June Menu

Chef Ryan van Grouw

Executive Chef, No Mames

Crab Tostada
Blue Crab, Avocado, Corn Salsa, and Coconut

Street Corn Enchiladas
Chipotle, Jalapeño, Queso Fresco, and Crema

Coconut Tres Leches
Grilled Pineapple, Meringue, and Chili Lime Salt





MARATHON OF MISSION

After hosting a pull-up challenge fundraiser for Hands On Hartford, what better way to deliver the donation than by literally **running it to Hands On Hartford in an ultramarathon**? These dedicated co-founders of **UConn Calisthenics, Justin and Hunter,** did just that on behalf of their team! From **UConn Storrs to HOH**, these dedicated athletes and former co-captains showed how hard work and heart can overcome hardship. **28 miles later**, we are beyond grateful and equally amazed by their efforts! This thoughtful gift of **over $1,400** will help us continue fighting food insecurity in our city.



FAITH IN ACTION

SHARING & CARING

We were honored to be invited to **Temple Sinai** in Newington to share information about our programs, services, volunteer opportunities, and commitment to community engagement during their Shabbat service. HOH's Kelly Dougherty truly enjoyed connecting with their congregants, Rabbi Bennett, and Cantor Lipton at Shabbat dinner. We are so grateful for their new partnership and generous support, including a financial gift and close to 600 diapers for our Community Pantry.

HOH HAPPENINGS



A holiday weekend never goes out of style at Hands On Hartford! We hope you all enjoyed your **Memorial Day** gatherings just as much as we did!

At this year's meal, we were prepared to greet our guests with enough smiles and meals to go around. After serving **357 guests** a delicious meal of **cheeseburgers, hotdogs, corn, mac & cheese, salad, and cookies**, we were reminded the significance of coming together.

Together we shared stories with our guests, took part in musical performances, and even had hula hoop contests! Leaving everyone **full and fulfilled!**

Thank you to **Talcott Financial Group** for your **sponsorship**. We can't wait to see you all again at our next holiday meal.

HANDS ON HARTFORD IS HIRING!
CLICK HERE TO VIEW OPENINGS



About Hands On Hartford

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.

We are committed to increasing food security and nutrition, improving health and providing housing while we engage volunteers and connect communities.

How Can I Help?

Make a donation! You will be a part of a network of donors, volunteers and staff who work together to provide food, housing and related services for families who are struggling to make ends meet. To make a financial donation, visit our website at www.handsonhartford.org and click "Make a Donation Now," or mail your check to Hands On Hartford, 55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106 or contact Donna Colliton at dcolliton@handsonhartford.org for more in-kind donation ideas.

Request a matching donation from your employer! Many employers will match all or part of your donation - a great way to double your impact.

Leave a legacy. Ensure your long-term impact on this community by including us in your estate plan, making qualified charitable distributions from your IRA, gifts of appreciated stock, or include us as a contingent beneficiary of your life insurance. Contact Director of Partnerships & Support, Donna Colliton, at dcolliton@handsonhartford.org or 860-706-1538, to explore planned giving ideas and to join our Legacy Society.

We are grateful for our community and the love, care, compassion and support we see every day.

Click Here to Support Our Mission!