

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.

Thank you for getting us to our goal!

To our many friends who made a financial gift to Hands On Hartford this summer, **thank you!** *Your support* has gotten us to our summer giving goal. *Your support* will make an immediate difference in the lives of our Hartford neighbors. *Your support* is changing the way our world looks! We are so grateful that you are part of the Hands On Hartford team!



THANKYOU for fresh, healthy food

THANKYOU for safe, supportive housing

THANKYOU for improved health

Kitchen Programs News

Marcel Touponse, Kitchen Programs Manager and Chef Extraordinaire, joined the Hands On Hartford team in March of this year, and since then the Hands On Hartford kitchen has really been hopping! Word has spread far and wide about Caterers Who Care, our full-service catering business. We now have 27 Shared Use Kitchen members. The Café at Fifty-Five is growing in popularity with the advent of some fabulous daily specials. All of these programs support our basic needs services focused on food, health support and housing. Please read on to hear more about “all things kitchen” at Hands On Hartford.



HARVEST SUPPER

6:00 - 8:30 pm October 4, 2018
55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Featuring food provided by Hands On Hartford's Chefs and Shared Use Kitchen Members, beer tastings donated by Hog River Brewery, wine, music and more!



The Café at Fifty-Five

The core team at The Café at Fifty-Five is always ready to welcome patrons with a smile, a fresh cup of coffee, and some of the best breakfast and lunch choices around! In addition to a full standard menu, daily and weekly specials are always fun to try. This week's specials include Chimichurri Salmon with vegetable couscous, and the "55 Panini" (ham, brie, apple and Dijon on whole grain bread), among other things! Specials are posted weekly on Facebook and our menu is on our website.

When you stop by the café, you will often see our Board Chairperson, Donna Manocchio, setting up shop at her usual table, meeting with friends of the agency (and her own friends too). Folks often come in with their laptops

to get a little work done while they're enjoying a cappuccino or a cup of iced tea. We encourage support of our pay-for-a-neighbor program, so that everyone can enjoy the café. And helping out in the café can be a great volunteer opportunity too.

The Café at Fifty-Five is open Tuesdays through Fridays, from 7:30am until 2:30pm.



The Café Team: Daryl Granville, Chef Marcel Touponse, and Kathleen Reynolds

Caterers Who Care



Hands On Hartford's catering business has really taken off since Chef Marcel took the helm. Molly Reynolds takes care of all the booking arrangements and is a master at coming up with menus that work for any event or meeting size, and any style or budget. Chef Marcel's expertise in the kitchen has brought rave reviews—we are so lucky to have him! Some of the feedback we've received: "the catering was flawless and delicious" ... "everything looked beautiful and all

of the treats were enjoyed by everyone in attendance" ... "the food was fabulous and it was beautifully laid out." In one recent month, we filled 32 catering orders—19 of them off-site (and delivered with our hot-cold catering truck) and 13 of them onsite here at 55 Bartholomew in our Conference and Community Rooms.

Catering is available throughout the greater Hartford area, seven days a week, and has been utilized by diverse groups—corporate and faith groups, for engagement and graduation parties, for training sessions, retreats and orientation sessions. We also cater many of the customized service projects and immersions led by our Community Engagement Team, as well as Hands On Hartford events, like the Volunteer Recognition Event.

Our full catering menu is on our website, and Molly Reynolds can be reached at 860-706-1537 or at mreynolds@handsonhartford.org.

Shared Use Kitchen Members

We currently have twenty-seven culinary businesses which are members of our Shared Use Kitchen. The kitchen is used around the clock and we are delighted that we are able to support the operation and development of so many small businesses. The Shared Use Kitchen dovetails perfectly with our mission of strengthening community in Hartford.

Shared Use Kitchen Members operate a wide range of culinary businesses: vegan catering, chicken wings, bakers and pastry chefs, garden products, food trucks, cocktails, teas, and so much more.

A number of our Members have offered to further support Hands On Hartford's work and showcase their culinary talents by providing food for the upcoming Harvest Supper on October 4. Chantal Thomas of Amazing Ackee (shown at right) will be making her incredible vegan ackee patties for the event.

For more information about the Shared Use Kitchen, contact Molly Reynolds at 860-706-1537 or at mreynolds@handsonhartford.org.



Kitchen to Pantry Initiative



Supported by **AmeriCorps VISTA Member Kelvin Rosado**, our Kitchen-to-Pantry initiative is currently staffed by a team of volunteers from **Temple Beth Hillel in South Windsor**. Every Monday, they head for the kitchen to clean, chop and package produce for our MANNA Community Pantry. Much of the produce they work with is older or slightly bruised, but they preserve the best of it and compost the rest. If we're able to pick up a delivery of whole pineapples or butternut squash from Foodshare, they'll peel and cube it, and our pantry families are so happy to be able to take

home this delicious and nutritious, easy-to-eat fresh food! This initiative was kicked off by a grant from **Foodshare** and has been supported by grants from the **Rotary Club of Hartford**, **Ahearn Family Foundation**, the **Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation**, and a myriad of others who care about health and nutrition. We are also grateful for a grant from DEEP's **RecycleCT** which has enabled us to launch our composting system with **Blue Earth Compost**.



Fresh and Frozen Food Donations

Because our kitchen boasts three big walk-in coolers, we are able to accept large donations of fresh produce and foods that may need to be frozen. At the right is a great donation from Waldingfield Farm, a local organic farm. Recently, we received a donation of 980 pounds of frozen chicken from a trucking company that had excess product on board. Those walk-in coolers sure come in handy!



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Labor Day Community Meal: Join the team and volunteer at our Labor Day holiday meal, Monday, Sept. 3. Volunteer hours are 9am-2pm at 55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford. This is a great opportunity for families, groups and individuals. Help decorate, prep and serve a delicious meal, visit with guests and entertain kids. For information, contact Edith or Katie at 860-706-1522, etresner@handsonhartford.org or kthibault@handsonhartford.org.

Holiday Meals are another great Hands On Hartford Kitchen use, and are headed up by the talented and much-appreciated Chef Kim Bunton.



Corporate Dash for a Difference

Are you looking for a great volunteer opportunity for your business team? Consider the **September 21 Dash for a Difference!** Sponsored by **Prudential** and Hands On Hartford, the Dash is a city-wide competitive event combining community service and learning all about Hartford's rich culture and history! Teams of 10 compete for points and have fun. **Registration deadline August 17.** For more information visit our website or contact Wanda Guzman, wguzman@handsonhartford.org, 860-706-1507.

Greeter Wanted: A great opportunity to change the lives of our guests (and yours): Greet and register guests at our Community Meals program on Monday evenings, 5:15-7:00pm, 45 Church Street, Hartford. Ideally, we are looking for a longer term (6 month) commitment. For information, contact Edith or Katie at 860-706-1522, etresner@handsonhartford.org or kthibault@handsonhartford.org

Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau is gearing up for the fall! We just completed a speaking event during the Rockville United Methodist Church youth immersion project, and we are looking forward to several events at UCONN in Hartford. **Faces of Homelessness speakers travel to diverse audiences across Connecticut and hold speaking events where we share our firsthand experiences with homelessness, emphasizing what it's like to be homeless and the causes of homelessness.** Our mission is to educate, empower, involve and make change around the issue of homelessness. For more information, contact facesofhomelessness@handsonhartford.org.

