

Founded in 1969 as Center City Churches

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.



Back to School at Hands On Hartford

We have seen a great outpouring of support here at Hands On Hartford from folks who have collected and donated school supplies for the children participating in our programs. Thanks to the generosity of many, we are not only able to include a “healthy helping” of school supplies in our first Backpack Nutrition Program delivery of the school year, but we were also able to give backpacks filled with school supplies to children of our MANNA Community Pantry families. Many thanks to

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Med IQ, Lorie Beekley, Axis Insurance, HYPE in partnership with one of Leadership Greater Hartford’s QUEST groups, National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Fiduciary Investment Advisors, Plan B Restaurant, and Progressive Insurance.

We are also glad to participate in the **Burns Elementary School** "Welcome Back" event. Team members Bianca Almanzar and AmeriCorps VISTA Kelvin Rosado gave out sun glasses, back to school supplies, pens, and information about our food pantry and Labor Day meal for the community.



HARVEST SUPPER

To benefit Hands On Hartford’s food and nutrition programs

6:00 - 8:30 pm October 4, 2018

55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Tickets \$100; VIP Tickets \$150

**purchase online at <https://harvestsupper.brownpapertickets.com>
or contact kshafer@handsonhartford.org**

Enjoy great cuisine from Chef Marcel of The Café at Fifty-Five and Caterers Who Care, and these Shared Use Kitchen Members: Amazing Ackee; Chef Renee of Simply Fresh; Cousins Maine Lobster; Fit and Trim Nutrition; Refined Twist; Loafing Around; Brown Butter Creations; Superpower Foods; and Sarah’s Creative Treats.

Exciting auction opportunities including a week on Bantam Lake; Backyard BBQ for 50; African Safari for two; Sea Kayaking Adventure; and two tickets to *Hamilton* at the Bushnell!



Faith In Action

United Methodist Church of Hartford, one of our founding congregations, donated over 1,200 pounds of food to the MANNA Community Pantry as they temporarily suspended operation of their West End Food Pantry, in a wonderful and caring way of continuing to care for those in need. We are so grateful for this partnership.

An energetic youth group from **Rockville United Methodist Church** participated in a three-day immersion designed by our Community Engagement team, learning about and serving the Hartford community. Their service included cleaning up the Parkville neighborhood, hosting a very successful food drive for the pantry, serving at Community Meals, and hosting a Faces of Homelessness speaking event.

Our friends from **Saint Patrick—Saint Anthony Church** took up a collection of peanut butter, jelly and soup (all big favorites with our pantry families) and donated over 2,000 pounds (that's two tons!) of food to the pantry. It was so exciting to see all the cars filled with food as they drove up to the pantry doors. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed.



Rockville United Methodist Church immersion

Customized Service Projects and Immersions with Hands On Hartford

From corporate groups looking to make an impact on the City of Hartford to faith groups seeking to connect more deeply with those in need, the Community Engagement Team at Hands On Hartford has broad experience creating customized service projects and immersions. We work in partnership with other non-profits, schools and parks across Hartford to give folks a deep understanding of both the assets and needs in the city and the opportunity to connect and help in a meaningful way. For more information, contact Wanda Guzman at wguzman@handsonhartford.org, or 860-706-1507.



Fond Farewells



AmeriCorps VISTA members with Wanda Guzman, center-left

Over the past month, we said farewell to some valued Hands On Hartford team members. Our three AmeriCorps VISTA members who were a part of the Hartford Thrive! Project, Serika Walker (VISTA Leader), Kelvin Rosado (Food Access VISTA) and A.J. Wyman (Community Engagement and Faces of Homelessness VISTA) have finished their service years and moved on to their next adventures. Don't miss the heartfelt reflections from A.J. and Serika posted on the Hands On Hartford Website.



Deborah Maddox says goodbye to Stephanie Boyce

Housing Case Manager Stephanie Boyce, who has been with the agency for over five years, has a new position with another agency, but fortunately she's close by and promises to stay in touch. Stephanie had a huge impact on many lives as she supported our Housing Program tenants, and we will all miss her. We wish all of these members of the extended Hands On Hartford family the best of luck in all they do.

We all have our hands on Hartford!



Volunteers served a hearty meal to 185 of our Hartford neighbors on **Labor Day**, offering a warm welcome and a respite from the heat of the day.



Our friends from **Axis Insurance** spent their Day of Caring donating and preparing bags of school supplies to be given to the kids in our weekend Backpack Nutrition Program.



Employees from **Smith Brothers USA** worked hard indoors and out getting the campus of Breakthrough Magnet School ready for the school year.



A warm welcome at the recent Halal meat distribution event, which was a collaboration among **Hands On Hartford; the Muslim Coalition of CT; the CT Conference, United Church of Christ; and Islamic Relief USA.**



We were grateful to have a number of energetic volunteers from **The Hartford** helping at our Center for Community on September 11, including these folks who did some serious cleaning in our Backpack Nutrition Program room to get us ready for the school year.



Our guests at Community Meals were treated to a fabulous dinner from **The Firehouse Smoker**, obtained and served by our incredible “hands on” **Board of Directors** and their families.

Fifty for Fifty!

Hands On Hartford, founded in 1969 as Center City Churches, is about to begin celebrating our **50th anniversary!** As a part of this celebration, and to launch us into the next 50 years of caring in action, we are reaching out to engage 50 Hands On Hartford Legacy Society members—and you could be one of them! For more information about the Legacy Society, contact Barbara Shaw at bshaw@handsonhartford.org or 860-706-1502.

If you have made arrangements to leave a bequest to Hands On Hartford in your trust or will, please let us know so that we can include you in special Legacy Society events and communications!



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. **Check out our new catering menu at our website!**

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.

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.



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Check out Amazon Smile – for all Amazon.com shoppers, start your shopping at smile.amazon.com. Select Hands On Hartford as your charity, and you're off and running! .5% of eligible purchases will go to Hands On Hartford.



55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: 860-728-3201 - Fax: 860-549-8550

www.handsonhartford.org