

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.

Fifty Years Changing Lives

2019 marks Hands On Hartford's 50th year changing lives in Hartford! This will be a year of honoring our legacy, celebrating our fifty years of service and strengthening our commitment to the community. We are already deep into planning a special anniversary celebration and fundraiser which will take the place of our traditional Harvest Supper event in the fall. All of our programs will celebrate the anniversary in creative ways—stay tuned to see what our team thinks up! And we will be recognizing those who worked so hard in the early years to create the agency, including our founding congregations.

Here's a brief history of Hands On Hartford for those who are less familiar with our beginnings: Hands On Hartford was founded as Center City Churches in 1969. The agency was founded by the members of eight congregations in downtown Hartford to pool resources and to help their congregants put their faith into action: Central Baptist Church, Christ Church Cathedral, Church of the Good Shepherd, Emanuel Lutheran Church, First Church of Christ/Center Church, First Presbyterian Church, South Park Methodist Church (merged with United Methodist Church) and St. Peter's Church.

Over the years, the agency created Connecticut's first supportive housing program for people living with AIDS; Hartford's first and only group home for adults who are mentally ill; Hartford's first soup kitchen; Hartford's first fuel assistance program for the working poor; Connecticut's first weekend senior nutrition program; and Hartford's most comprehensive after-school tutoring and arts education program for elementary school children. In 2006, Center City Churches became the Hartford affiliate of the national/international HandsOn Network which is now Points of Light. The agency changed its name to Hands On Hartford in 2007.

In 2016, Hands On Hartford moved into a new agency home in the Parkville neighborhood of Hartford, called the Hands On Hartford Center for Community. For the first time, the agency's food, housing and supportive services were under the same roof with the administrative offices.

We're excited for all this year has to bring, and grateful to be celebrating with all of our friends and partners.



Barbara A. Shaw, Executive Director

Upcoming Events: mark your calendars—more details coming soon!



Thursday, March 7, 5:30-7:30pm:
Volunteer Recognition Event



Saturday, April 27: **Foodshare's Walk Against Hunger**



Sunday, April 21: **Easter Sunday Community Meal**



Monday, May 27: **Memorial Day Community Meal**

Faith In Action

A wonderful group of people from all faiths and backgrounds gathered at the Farmington Valley American Muslim Center to pack up packages of fortified oatmeal. 23 cases (that's almost 5,000 servings) arrived at Hands On Hartford, and will be given to our MANNA Community Pantry families and the kids in our Backpack Nutrition Program. This was a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event and was a true reflection of his dream for social and economic justice for all, and we are so grateful for this generous support.



New Menu at The Café at Fifty-Five

Be sure to check out the new menu at The Café at Fifty-Five. Featuring classics like the grilled cheese panini, the Florentine Crepe and the Caesar Salad with grilled chicken, with tremendous new offerings including an assortment of smoothies, the mouth-watering bacon, brie and fig jam panini, a sweet chili Asian slaw wrap with tofu, and of course, breakfast offered all day! The Café is open from 7:30am till 2:30pm, Tuesday through Friday. You can all ahead with your order at 860-706-1523.



New Hands On Hartford Board Members

We are delighted to welcome five new members to the Hands On Hartford Board of Directors: **Daniel A. Arsenault**, a resident of Hartford, is Legislative Program Manager and Public Information Officer with Connecticut Department of Housing; **Christopher D. Brechlin**, a resident of Meriden, is Senior Program and Data Analyst with Connecticut Housing Finance Authority; **Brian Neary**, a resident of Simsbury, is Vice President and Chief Operational Risk Officer, Enterprise Risk Management with Hartford Financial Services Group; **Nitza M. Rivera**, a resident of Vernon, is Vice President of Human Resources with Aetna Health (a division of CVS); and **William D. Wilcox**, a resident of West Hartford, is Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, Distribution, at Prudential Financial.

We all have our hands on Hartford!



Hartford Stage's "Tiny Tim's Holiday Food Drive" brought in 839 pounds of non-perishable foods, plus cash donations too!



Many thanks to our friends at Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina, LLP who stopped by with this great collection of socks, hats and gloves!



Howard Shafer helped unload 19 boxes of new kid's books donated by customers of the Glastonbury Barnes & Noble!



The Bloomfield Youth Services Youth Action Club donated 30 backpacks filled with gifts of warmth (hats, socks, gloves, handwarmers) & toiletries kits & 30 heat-seats.

The Greater Hartford Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.



Don't miss the Greater Hartford Chapter of Jack and Jill Legacy High Tea - 60th Anniversary to benefit the Jack and Jill Foundation and Hands on Hartford—Feb 9, 2-5pm. Details are on their Facebook page.



We're grateful to the South Windsor High School SADD Club, who donated warm new socks for the folks we serve!

Volunteer Opportunities:

There are a number of interesting volunteer opportunities posted on our website (<http://www.handsonhartford.org/become-a-volunteer/find-an-opportunity/>), including Foodshare pick-up and delivery person, Halal food sorter, and a one-time opportunity to help unload a large food donation (on Monday, February 4). For more information about any of these opportunities, call our Volunteer Coordinators at 860-706-1522 or email them at volunteering@handsonhartford.org.



Is your group interested in a customized service project or immersive service learning experience? Contact Wanda Guzman, wguzman@handsonhartford.org or 860-706-1507.

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!**

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.

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.

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