

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.

Hope for Love and Justice

In early June, Executive Director Barbara A. Shaw shared her thoughts and perspectives, heartache and anger over racism and ongoing injustices for Black people and other people of color, who are also being terribly and

disproportionately affected by homelessness and the coronavirus during these challenging times in a blog post you can read here: [With an Aching Heart and a Renewed Commitment.](#)

This was also a major topic of discussion and planning at our most recent management team meeting, resulting in some upcoming training sessions being planned by our Cultural Competency Committee.

If you have thoughts you would like to share or ideas for better listening, learning or acting at Hands On Hartford, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can reach Barbara at bshaw@handsonhartford.org.



Sunday, October 4, 2020—save the date for our first ever virtual celebration.

NOT just another zoom call—more details to come!

Now seeking..... silent auction items, sponsors, advertisers and guests. More information on tickets will be available in coming weeks. Mark your calendars today and join us in supporting the folks in our community who turn to us for help every day. **For more information contact Kate Shafer at kshafer@handsonhartford.org**



Foodshare's **Walk Against Hunger** will be a virtual event this year, from September 13-19, 2020. Hands On Hartford is now seeking walkers and teams to support our MANNA food programs and we have lots of great ideas about making this a **safe, fun, family-friendly event that you can do this summer or in September**. Join our team or form your own! Check out these ideas on our website under "Upcoming Events."

Contact Geoff Luxenberg at 860-706-1507 or gluxenberg@handsonhartford.org for more information.

Faith In Action

We would like to thank all of the wonderful faith groups who have been so kind and generous in their support over the past few months! In addition to the amazing support shown by the faith groups highlighted in our [Spring Newsletter](#) we'd like to raise up the following additional faith-based friends who have reached out with special financial support to help our Hartford neighbors during these challenging times: **Kehilat Chaverim, Center Church/First Church of Christ in Hartford, Trinity Episcopal Church Wethersfield, Christ Community Presbyterian Church, Church of Christ Congregational in Newington, Ellington Congregational Church, St. Andrew Church in Rocky Hill, First Church in Windsor, First Church West Hartford, First Church in South Windsor, Avon Congregational Church, Rocky Hill Congregational Church, and Congregational Church in South Glastonbury.**

Welcome!



Britt'ny Bettis-Allen has joined us as our new Program Assistant for Neighborhood Services assisting with the Community Pantry and Backpack Program. Welcome Britt'ny!



We are delighted to welcome **Jackie Kasinskas**, a LISC AmeriCorps member who will be working with our Community Engagement team and MANNA food programs.

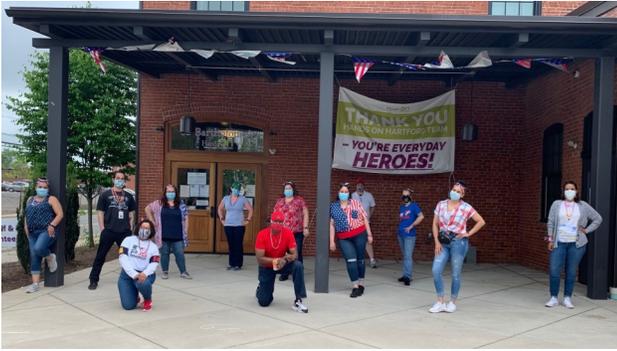


Jenna Sencabaugh has been with us as an MSW intern since the Fall and is continuing through the summer as an Administrative and Development Assistant.



Here's Donessia Harris, Program Assistant for our Community Meals and Day Program. We invite you to read her story about the power of a helping hand—and the story of someone who DIDN'T become homeless—in our blog post here: [The Power of a Helping Hand](#)

We all have our hands on Hartford!



We were happy to welcome 190 guests to our annual **Memorial Day** meal! We celebrated this day of remembering those who served, by serving our community with a great meal and practical gifts for all.



Our wonderful friends **Tyler Anderson and Melanie Stepka of Terreno** in Hartford made hundreds of individually packed meals to give to families and kids through our pantry.



Thank you **Tabatha Cosme** for lifting our spirits and keeping us together! Her project gave staff, volunteers and pantry visitors the opportunity to join together with personal messages and a shared sentiment - "Together We Stand - This Too Shall Pass."



So very grateful for all of the beautiful hand-sewn face masks our community has been donating to keep our staff, volunteers, clients, and guests safe. Thank you all! These are from **Sewing Face Masks - Farmington Valley CT.**



Here's a helpful and generous project— our very good friends collected and donated **over 200 umbrellas**, along with 480 rain ponchos, 16 travel mugs, and a food donation!



Thank you to one of our wonderful community partners, **Day-Break At Farmington LLC** - food, cleaning supplies and 3 boxes of gloves - we very much appreciate this support!

WANTED: Food Drive Hosts

Friends, neighbors, community groups, faith groups, business groups—here's a great opportunity to come together to help one another. We are challenged to keep our MANNA Community Pantry shelves fully stocked and we could really use your assistance. If you can host a food drive, we have lots of great ideas about how to make it a success and we'd love to work with you.

Just contact Katie Thibault or Geoff Luxenberg at volutneering@handsonhartford.org, or 860-706-1522 (Katie) or 860-706-1506 (Geoff). Thank you in advance for helping keep our community strong.



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 Geoff at gluxenberg@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 now for curbside delivery, Tuesday-Friday, 12pm—6pm, here at 55 Bartholomew Avenue in Hartford. Starting July 14, the Café will have appropriately distanced indoor and outdoor seating as well as take-out, with seating available 8am—3pm, and take-out available until 6pm, Tuesday—Friday. Order online through the café website, www.cafeatfiftyfive.org



Catering is also available for larger groups. Contact Molly Reynolds at mreynolds@handsonhartford.org or 860-706-1537 for more information.

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.

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