



## July 2021 News

### Won't you walk for the folks we serve?

Join us for the annual Connecticut Food Bank/Foodshare **Walk Against Hunger** this year on Saturday, September 18th at 10 AM at Dunkin' Donuts Park in Hartford! To register to join our Friends of Hands On Hartford team or create your own team to help us raise money visit: [www.foodsharewalk.org](http://www.foodsharewalk.org). When registering, be sure to choose Hands On Hartford as the benefitting agency. If you are not able to walk with us in person on September 18th, you can still join our team and raise money to knock hunger out of the park!

If you would like more information or need help registering, please do not hesitate to contact Geoff Luxenberg at [gluxenberg@handsonhartford.org](mailto:gluxenberg@handsonhartford.org).



### 20 Events This Year and Counting

From school, corporate, and faith groups, to non-profit and government partners, our **Faces of Homelessness Speakers Bureau** has spoken to audiences at 20 events so far this year. Faces of Homelessness is a Hands On Hartford program where speakers with lived experience with homelessness share their story to educate the public about homelessness, break down stereotypes, and inspire meaningful action.

The events this year have been both virtual and in-person, allowing us to reach audiences that range in size from 10 to over 100 people, averaging about 70 people at each event. Through virtual events we have reached audiences in 4 different continents, inspiring global action.



Recently at our first in-person event in 2021, audience members from **Church of Christ Congregational in Newington** gave wonderful feedback noting how inspired they were by the speaker they had heard. One audience member wrote that "It was incredible. It was the

best speech/story I have ever heard." Other audience members said that it was "Very eye-opening" and "Really impactful."

Some of our groups have even connected a Faces of Homelessness speaking event with an action such as a food drive, donation drive, volunteering with us, or packing bags for our Homeless Outreach Program.

If you are interested in organizing a Faces of Homelessness speaking event or would like to learn more, contact Geoff Luxenberg at [gluxenberg@handsonhartford.org](mailto:gluxenberg@handsonhartford.org).

## Join us as a home host for our Fall event

Would you like to host your friends or family in your home to watch our virtual **Hands & Hearts Together**? Join us with your guests on Sunday, September 26, 5:30 - 6:30pm for an engaging and entertaining evening with the Hands On Hartford family. Gourmet CT Grown supper packages for this event are created by **Ani's Table**, and these beautifully packaged meals make the host's job easy! If you are interested in being a home host, please contact Molly Reynolds at [mreynolds@handsonhartford.org](mailto:mreynolds@handsonhartford.org) or 860-706-1537. For more information about the event, go to [www.handsonhartford.org/about/hands-hearts-together-2021/](http://www.handsonhartford.org/about/hands-hearts-together-2021/)



## Independence Day Holiday Meal

We celebrated the 4th of July this year with another holiday community meal! Did you know that since March 2020 we have held 9 major holiday events for the Hartford community? On Independence Day this month, there were 190 meals of BBQ chicken, ice cream, and more served to the delight of all who attended. Thank you to all of the volunteers who spent the day with us serving our community - we are so grateful for all that you do!



## Shared Kitchen Business Spotlight



Congratulations to our shared kitchen user, **Courtney Powell** of **GRDN KTCHN LLC**, for winning the reSET Food Incubator Program's pitch event! GRDN KTCHN is a pop-up business that offers vegan soul and comfort food. To view a menu and order, or find GRDN KTCHN at an event near you, visit <https://grdnktchn.square.site/>.

## Faith In Action

This wonderful group from **JTConnect - Jewish Teen Learning Connection**, did a big clean-up day with us at Keney Park in Hartford. Things are looking great over there - be sure to go check it out. From hosting Faces of Homelessness events to food donations and more, we are so grateful for all that this organization does for our community!



## Points of Light Civic Circle



One person can spark a movement for change. Whether donating formally or informally to advance a cause you're passionate about, there are many ways to engage in responsible contributing. To learn more, read the latest issue of **Points of Light's Civic Life Today: Donate**. [www.pointsoflight.org/civicle/](http://www.pointsoflight.org/civicle/)

## Special Thanks for Gifts of Food and More

We have the most amazing **Board of Directors!** In addition to all the time, talent, and treasure they bring every day, they served our Community Meals guests a meal of delicious pizza, salad, and more. They donated the food, and here are **Bobbi Schmidt** and **Sharon Ware** putting their hands on Hartford in the kitchen.



Thank you to **Sue Chatfield** and the **Rotary Club of Wethersfield-Rocky Hill** for packing and delivering snack packs to support our homeless neighbors through HOH's outreach initiative. We are so appreciative of your generosity!



Check out these awesome snack bags!  
Special thanks to **Princess Ortega** for taking the initiative to create these bags to support our homeless outreach team. We appreciate your dedication to our Hartford neighbors!



## We're Hiring!



Are you looking for a rewarding job with other friendly and dedicated team members? We are currently seeking applicants for several full time positions, including 2 housing case manager positions and a program support specialist position. For more information visit our website (<https://www.handsonhartford.org/about/job-opportunities/>).

## Interested in Volunteering?

For information on available volunteer opportunities, contact Jackie Kasinskas at [volunteering@handsonhartford.org](mailto:volunteering@handsonhartford.org) or call 860-706-1522



## 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?

**Go shopping!** If you're an online amazon shopper, be sure to start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select Hands On Hartford as your charity. That way .5% of eligible purchases will automatically go to Hands On Hartford.

Or use the Amazon app and follow the instructions below!

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=)
3. Tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
4. Select "Hands On Hartford" as your charity
5. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile

**Make a donation!** You will be 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](http://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 Kate Shafer at [kshafer@handsonhartford.org](mailto:kshafer@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.

**Add us to your estate plans.** Contact Executive Director Barbara Shaw to explore planned giving ideas and to join our Legacy Society. [bshaw@handsonhartford.org](mailto:bshaw@handsonhartford.org) or 860-706-1502.

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

