



## October 2021 News

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### Celebrating the Walk Against Hunger

We had lots of fun at this year's **Connecticut Foodshare Walk Against Hunger** raising funds and awareness to fight hunger and food insecurity. And we were so very happy to be able to reconnect in person with so many walkers that day. Thank you to everyone who walked for Hands On Hartford. It was a great team effort! Final results are coming soon, but we are confident that we exceeded our goals for the event and we have our community to thank for that. And we send special thanks to **Berkshire Bank, Murtha Cullina, Akin Gump and Robinson + Cole** for sponsoring us this year!

Stay tuned for next year's Walk, **which will be in the Spring of 2022.**





## Faith In Action

We are very excited to welcome a **new intern** to Hands On Hartford, **Abdou Moujahed**, who is a teacher from Tunisia and comes to us as a part of the **"Peacebuilders Program"** at the Hartford International University for Religion and Peace (f/k/a the Hartford Seminary). He'll be serving at our Community Meals Day Program and in the MANNA Community Pantry. One of the projects he'll be working on in the pantry is to enhance and promote our pantry options for families following a Halal diet.

Our connection to Abdou kicked off with a visit from the new group of students in the HIU's Masters of Arts in International Peacebuilding, who joined us to serve breakfast and visit with guests at our Community Meals Program. They were incredibly



engaged and we can tell already that Abdou has a great passion for this work and compassion for the people we serve.



## Welcome New Staff & Interns!

**Annelyse Cyr**

*Case Manager Housing Services*



**Ryan Scheiding**

*Case Manager Housing Services*



**Nyshama Allen**

*BSW Intern for Community Meals*



We are delighted to welcome several new staff and interns to our HOH team!

Our team is steadily growing and we couldn't be happier!

**Welcome Annelyse, Ryan, Nyshama, RaShane,  
Jessica and Stephanie!**



**RaShane Sands**

*Custodian*



**Jessica Saxton**

*Administrative & Human Resources Coordinator*



**Stephanie Plateroti**

*Community Engagement Intern*

We also congratulate and celebrate six of our staff members who will be transitioning to new and exciting roles here at Hands On Hartford: Janet Bermudez, Director of CQI and Staff Development; Abbie Kelly, Director of Housing; Bianca Almanzar, Coordinator of Neighborhood Services; Molly Reynolds, Manager of Shared Kitchen and Cafe/Catering; Stephanie Boyce, Manager of Homeless Prevention and Outreach; and Liz Pantoja, Assistant Manager of Housing. (And Stephanie and Liz both originally came to Hands On Hartford as social work interns!)

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## Special Thanks for Gifts of Food and More

On September 11, 2021, the **Trinity College Women's Ice Hockey team** came together with our **Community Engagement team** to participate in a neighborhood clean up as part of their "**Do It Day**". It was also the "National Day of Service and Remembrance", which is a day to honor the victims, and those who stepped up to the call to service, by keeping alive the spirit of unity and service that arose in the immediate aftermath of the September 11th attacks. Thank you, TCWIH, for spending your afternoon with us serving our community!



Our friends at The Hartford also honored 9/11 Day by donating kits and other helpful items for our Homeless Outreach Team to share with folks they encounter - we've received over 130 of these kits which are such a gift!



We are still basking in the glow of exceeding our goals for our "**Hands and Hearts Together**" fundraiser. There were so many folks who helped us get there. Here are two: **Diane Dailey** who made this beautiful quilt (trust us, the picture doesn't do it justice), and her daughter **Renee**, who donated a boat cruise and enlisted a friend to donate some jewelry to the auction (and is a fierce bidder too)! They are also great cooks and awesome volunteers who recently prepared lunch for our Community Meals guests. Thank you **Renee** and **Diane**!



Community Collaboration is the best! Volunteer **Andrew May**, the Hands On Hartford truck, **Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity** and the **City of Hartford's #RetaintheRain** program. 45 rain barrels were delivered to Hartford homeowners who will save money and help the environment at the same time.



For everyone who attended **Farm Aid** this year, you know there was lots of New England farm involvement including these new friends at **Salvation Farms**, who donated all the produce they didn't end up using for the benefit of folks visiting the MANNA Community Pantry. Every day our pantry families share how glad they are to be able to put fresh fruits and veggies on the table - thank you to Farm Aid for making this connection!



## Points of Light Civic Circle



**Points of Light**, of which Hands On Hartford is an affiliate, recently released the ninth and final issue of Civic Life Today, a magazine examining the multitude of ways a person can engage. This issue, focused on voting, brings the many ways to get engaged, and important aspects of the democratic process, to the forefront. Read it now at: [www.pointsoflight.org/civiclife/vote/](http://www.pointsoflight.org/civiclife/vote/)

## 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.

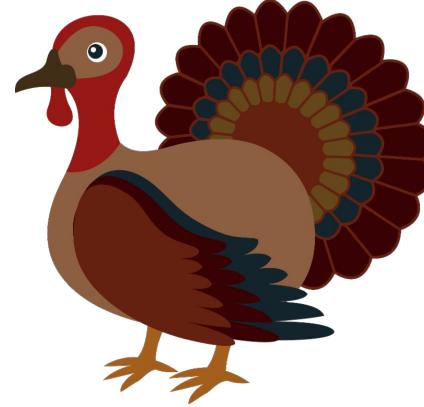
We are committed to increasing food security and nutrition, improving health and providing housing while we engage volunteers and connect communities.



## How Can I Help?

We are looking for nonperishable food donations to fill 400 bags for our upcoming MANNA Turkey Distribution. Items needed are:

- Canned veggies
- Canned fruit
- Canned Gravy
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Cornbread mix
- Canned Cranberry Sauce
- Boxed stuffing



Questions? Just reach out to Tabatha at [tvasquez@handsonhartford.org](mailto:tvasquez@handsonhartford.org) or Kate at [kshafer@handsonhartford.org](mailto:kshafer@handsonhartford.org)

**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, click "Donate Now" or mail your check to Hands On Hartford, 55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. Our inkind donation wish-list is [HERE](#)

[\*\*DONATE NOW\*\*](#)

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.**



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