



October 2022 News

Hands and Hearts Gathered Together

We are filled with joy and gratitude reflecting on last month's **Hands & Hearts Together** celebration. How wonderful it was to be with everyone! The dancers from **CONNetic Dance** were captivating, the **Voices of Hartford** singers brought the audience to its feet, and we had great fun with the live auction. We were delighted to hear meaningful words from **Chef Tyler Anderson** and from our top sponsors. Volunteer emcees - our own **Geoff Luxenberg and Stef Robles** from reSET - kept things fresh, great connections were made, and we are proud to report we far surpassed our fundraising goal bringing in well over \$200,000 to support our Hartford neighbors!

We want to thank our dedicated volunteers, auction item donors, Board of Directors, bidders and donors, staff team, and all who attended, along with everyone who participated from afar, for joining so many hands and hearts to create a place at the table for all of our neighbors here in Hartford!

If you want to view or share our video, it's at <https://youtu.be/Vw-W7l4kmRo> or search for Hands On Hartford on YouTube. And keep an eye on our Facebook page for more photos.



Huge thank to all of our generous Hand & Hearts Sponsors, especially to our **Lead Sponsor, Travelers**—we couldn't do this without you!

Gather55 - dinner update

Gather 55 is now open Wednesday through Saturday for dinner, with seating from 5:30 to 8:30pm. Find out more at www.gather55.com.

Read what people are saying about Gather55 on Open Table: "The fixed price 3 course dinner menu from a renowned Connecticut chef provided options for everyone's taste. The food was absolutely incredible from start to finish. The restaurant location is seeped in history and character with the décor bringing you around the world in street art. The service was incredible. The food came out well paced and fresh while the drinks were refreshed as needed. The staff are paid hourly to ensure they get fair wages for their fantastic work. There will be a new chef creating their art in the kitchen every couple months so you never tire of the assorted delicacies offered. If all that wasn't enough, the restaurant is a charity that helps all people enjoy this high end experience with 20% of the reservations for each evening not needing to pay. It allows everyone to be able to experience this delightful restaurant without worry or judgement. I highly recommend reserving a table at Gather55."



Faith In Action

We were absolutely thrilled to welcome these caring, compassionate and hard-working peacebuilding students from **Hartford International University of Religion and Peace** to Hands On Hartford last month! Plus, we have two peacebuilding interns with us longer term - **Paul Mdumi** and **Jacob Muthana**. Stay tuned for more information and to meet them!



You are invited....

What? A virtual open house with Hands On Hartford's Co-Director of Housing, Stephanie Boyce, and Renato Salomao, Manager of Homeless Prevention and Outreach

Why? Hear about the Homeless Outreach Program and how we're working to connect folks to services and permanent housing (and any other questions you may have)

When? Tuesday, November 8, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Where? By Zoom - please contact Kate Shafer at kshafer@handsonhartford.org or 860-706- 1505 and we'll send you the Zoom link.



A few of the Hands On Hartford Homeless Outreach Team Members

New Staff Spotlights & Staff Updates



Stephanie Boyce,
*Co-Director of Housing (formerly
Manager of Homeless Prevention
and Outreach)*



Renato Salomao,
*Manager - Homeless
Prevention & Outreach*



Jennifer Chamorro,
Outreach Case Manager



James Edwards,
Day Cook



Anna Bella D'Amico
Gather55 Greeter



Kaleb Garrett
Peacekeeper/Janitor



Nicole Bornhorst,
*Community Engagement Program
Specialist*



Andréa Fleming,
*Gather55 Front of House
Restaurant Lead*



Angela Sanchez,
*Gather55 Front of House
Server*

Hands On Hartford is Hiring!

Hands On Hartford staff are dedicated, caring, hardworking people who like to have fun while making a difference in our community. With great benefits, staff recognition and support, we value teamwork, compassion and community.

Check out these open positions and help us spread the word:

- Homeless Outreach Case Manager (Full Time – focus on clients aged 60+)
- Peer Support Homeless Outreach Specialist (Part Time)
- Housing Case Manager (Full Time)
- Facility Tenant Assistant 3rd Shift (Full Time nights)
- Staff Accountant (Full Time)
- Gather55 Cook (Part-Time evenings)



Find out more about these positions and how to apply on our website: www.handsonhartford.org/about/job-opportunities/

Look Who Has Their *Hands* on Hartford!

We were thrilled to join with dozens of other nonprofits last month in celebration of the **Travelers Championship's** amazing results - they raised over **\$2,500,000 for charities this year!** BirdiesForCharity was a huge support to HOH this year and we are grateful to everyone who participated, to Travelers Insurance and to Webster Bank for their matching funds too.



This special gift was brought to us by **Wellspring Community Center** - over 100 pounds of halal ground beef from Embrace Relief! They have recently celebrated the Islamic holiday tradition called the Feast of Sacrifice, also known as Eid al-Adha. The most important aspect of this tradition is to give away two-thirds of the meat as donations to neighbors and people in need. Huge thanks to everyone who made this generous donation possible.



How amazing is this!?! Our friends at **The Hanover Insurance Group** donated 1,150 pounds of food for the backpack nutrition program PLUS 220 backpacks and school supplies - what a wonderful gift for kids in Hartford!



Great energy and great community spirit was shared by this **CVSHealth Aetna** team, who joined us for a day of service. They heard from a Faces of Homelessness speaker, helped pack backpacks for our Backpack Nutrition Program and learned about all of the other work being done here at our Center for Community. Huge thanks to all!



We heard the sounds of Holiday music being played at Gather55, courtesy of the **Music Moves Hartford Choir**, who practice here every week! It's never too soon to get ready for the holidays - although it sure does contrast with the gorgeous summer-like weather we've been having this autumn. We all love this program; music heals the soul.



Our good friends from **AVANGRID** were in the house recently volunteering and helping to get Gather55 set up for its special re-opening day, including table construction! They also participated in a tour of our Center for Community, learning more about the work going on here. We love our volunteers and this amazing partnership .



Thanks to our friends at **BNY Mellon** for volunteering this month in our Food Pantry, our Backpack Program and at Gather55! We are so grateful for these friends for generously donating their time to help support our programs. They also enjoyed the presentation from the Faces of Homelessness Speaker Bureau.



New Volunteer Opportunity

How would you like to be a **food drive ambassador for Hands On Hartford?** Totally flexible hours and you would be in charge of contacting local businesses to inquire about whether they would like to host food drives to support our MANNA Community Pantry and Backpack Nutrition Program. We're looking for help in making new connections, bringing signage and collection bins/boxes when needed, and arranging for donation deliveries. Interested? Contact volunteering@handsonhartford.org for more information. Skills you'll gain in this position will be a great resume-builder or volunteer internship opportunity as well.



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.



Hands On Hartford | 55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

www.handsonhartford.org | 860-728-3201