

July 2023 News

Make your gift today

Creating Connections, Changing Lives



We are excited to invite you to join us in supporting Hands On Hartford's annual celebration, ***Hands & Hearts Together***, being held once again at the beautiful **Hartford Marriott Downtown on September 21, 2023 from 5pm – 9pm**

The night will begin with a **reception**, including hors d'oeuvres, wine & beer and light music followed by a delicious **sit-down dinner, silent online auction, live auction, engaging speakers and lively, interactive entertainment provided by Hartford's premiere talent- Hartford's first Troubadour, Khaiim Kelly and the Bap Pack!** You won't want to miss this fun and engaging evening!

The theme for this year is ***"Creating Connections, Changing Lives"***. We are celebrating the many ways Hands On Hartford works to create the connections that change so many lives within our resilient community. From connecting our most vulnerable neighbors to supportive housing, life-saving health services and nourishing food programs, to inspiring meaningful friendships in our Gather55 restaurant (open to all, regardless of ability to pay), to further connecting the broader community to our events and programs; together, we provide opportunities to connect diverse communities to our services and to one another, ultimately changing lives.

Tickets are on sale NOW and early bird pricing is available through August 31!

Your attendance and donations are instrumental in providing vital services to our community; all funds raised go to supporting our many food, housing and health initiatives, including our MANNA Community Food Pantry, kids' Backpack Nutrition Program, Homeless Outreach and Day Center programs, Neighborhood

Services, Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau, Community Engagement activities, and our Gather55 restaurant (open to all, regardless of ability to pay).

There are a variety of ways you can support our event, including bidding in our online auction (link will be live on September 1 and you do not need to attend to bid or win), helping us spread the word, inviting your friends, donating an auction item or program ad, sponsoring our event, bidding in our live auction (you may designate a staff member to bid in your place if unavailable) and/or especially attending!

We hope we can count on you to help make this year's event the best yet!

YOU'RE INVITED!

HANDS ON HARTFORD'S

"HANDS & HEARTS TOGETHER" ANNUAL GALA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023
5:00PM
@HARTFORD MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN



HANDS & HEARTS
together creating connections,
changing lives

*An engaging and
entertaining evening
with friends of
Hands On Hartford,
new and old, as we join
hands and hearts,
creating connections
and changing lives!*

CLICK **BELOW FOR TICKETS & MORE INFO**
EARLY BIRD PRICE AVAILABLE UNTIL AUGUST 31!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
DONNA COLLITON@HANDSONHARTFORD.ORG**



HANDSONHARTFORD.ORG

CLICK HERE TO BUY TICKETS!

Celebrating National Civility Month

Hands On Hartford's DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging) Committee recently hosted a gathering with staff to honor **National Civility Month**, coming up in August.

HOH staff were encouraged to share words of inspiration centering around civility, which were then posted on a board in a high traffic hallway to remind everyone to always treat one another with kindness and respect.

Civility promotes understanding and respect, fosters a positive work culture and improves communication.

The DEIB Committee is led by a DEIB Consultant, 2 HOH Board members and several HOH staff. The Committee's purpose is to create a more diverse, equitable and inclusive organization and to provide staff fun, engaging and educational opportunities to explore these subjects.

Past activities have included **multi-cultural potlucks, sound healing and wellness workshops** (in honor of Mental Health Awareness month), **bi-monthly themed fun-fact boards**, and a variety of other interactive activities.



You Helped Us to Exceed Our Expectations!

With your help, we achieved our goal for **CT Foodshare's Walk Against Hunger!** Thank you all so much! The **Hands On Hartford Friends & Family Team**, comprised of many staff, businesses, volunteers, schools and faith groups, led the pack in funds-raised for a third year in a row, altogether raising nearly 20% of the total funds CT Foodshare's event generated from all the agencies involved. Incredible! We couldn't have done it without all of your support, so **thank you, thank you, thank you!** Hands On Hartford's kids' Backpack Nutrition Program and MANNA Community Food Pantry will greatly benefit from these funds.





Faith In Action

We are so grateful for all of our faith communities who rotate sponsoring our Monday night community meals. We want to give a great big shout-out to **Allen Chapel AME Church, Christ Community Presbyterian Church, Christ Church Cathedral, First Church of Christ in Glastonbury, Kehilot Cheverim, Northwest Catholic High School, and Trinity Episcopal Church of Wethersfield!**

We appreciate all of the volunteers, from these faith communities, who help supply and serve Monday night meals for our Hartford neighbors experiencing food insecurity.



Gather55's Newest Dinner Guest Chef!



"I am here at Gather55 because I want to help out with this incredible project. As a chef, nourishing comes first and it's also true at Gather55. I'm lucky to be part of this mission. Bon Appétit!"

-Jeff Lizotte
Chef/Owner, Present Company

A Simsbury native, Chef Jeff has honed his craft at the renowned bistro, "La Tupina" in Bordeaux, France, "La Bastide Saint-Antoine" in Grasse, France, the three Michelin-starred "Le Bernadin" in New York

City and, as the executive chef at the iconic "ON20" in Hartford, CT. **He was nominated for his first James Beard award in 2017 and in 2019, he was awarded the Connecticut Restaurant Association, Chef of the Year.** He is now the Chef/Owner of the renown CT restaurant, Present Company.

We are so fortunate and honored to add a few of Chef Jeff's delicious dishes to the the Gather55 summer menu, which include a **Roasted Corn and Mushroom Toast, Crispy Confit Chicken and a Blueberry Lemon Pound Cake!** They have all been well received thus far and will stay on our menu through at least September 2nd.

[MAKE A RESERVATION HERE](#)



Save the date!

Hands On Hartford

Invites you to a **FREE** Labor Day Holiday Meal!

Monday, September 4, 2022

Doors open: 10:00am

Meal served: 11:00am—1:00pm

Indoor and outdoor seating, or take food to go!

Located at:

Hands On Hartford's Center for Community
55 Bartholomew Ave, Hartford, CT
(Off of Park Street two blocks west of Pope Park)

- **A delicious meal offering:** BBQ Pulled Chicken Sandwich or Veggie burger, Baked Beans (vegetarian option available), Coleslaw, Chips, & Strawberry Whipped Cream Dessert
- **Activities:** Corn Hole & Sidewalk Chalking

Bus passes available in case of inclement weather

For more information, call 860-728-3201
or visit our website: handsonhartford.org



Thank you to Talcott Financial Group for your sponsorship!



If interested in volunteering at our Labor Day meal, please email Nicole at nbornhorst@handsonhartford.org.

Welcome to our new HOH Staff Members!



Sabrina Betts,
Human Resources Coordinator



Donna Colliton,
Director of Partnerships & Support



Hector Ortiz,
*Case Manager, H.O.P.E.
(Homeless Outreach
Prevention for Persons
who are Elderly)*



Devon Richards,
*Case Manager,
Homeless Outreach*



Nathalie Vargas,
*Community Engagement
Program Specialist*

Positive Projects & Partnerships

We are thrilled to give you all a heads-up about **"Heads Up! Hartford"**, a summer camp uniting urban and suburban youth to improve our communities while developing as leaders.

This wonderful group of budding leaders not only recently hosted a huge food drive, **collecting over 1,500 lbs of food for our MANNA Community Pantry**, they also unloaded and organized all of the food and then stocked and sorted our shelves according to the **SWAP system (Supporting Wellness at Pantries)**.

This group also heard from one of our **Faces of Homelessness Speakers** and asked very insightful questions.

Finally, this wonderful group created **art**



for an upcoming community art exhibit at the Mandell JCC with the theme of "Community."

What an engaged and involved group of young leaders who are so very thoughtful about the impact they have on this community!



An enthusiastic group of employees from **Conning**, a leading global investment management firm with a long history of serving the insurance industry, recently completed a service project with us.

Among the activities, they heard from a speaker from our **Faces of Homelessness Speakers Bureau** about their lived-experience with homelessness.

They then headed out to Keney Park to contribute to the **Keney Park Sustainability Project** by landscaping and planting flowers to help beautify the area.

And back in May, they gathered a team to raise funds and walk for us in this **CT Foodshare's Walk Against Hunger**.

They've done a fantastic job supporting our work and community and we are so grateful for their hard work and heartfelt contributions!



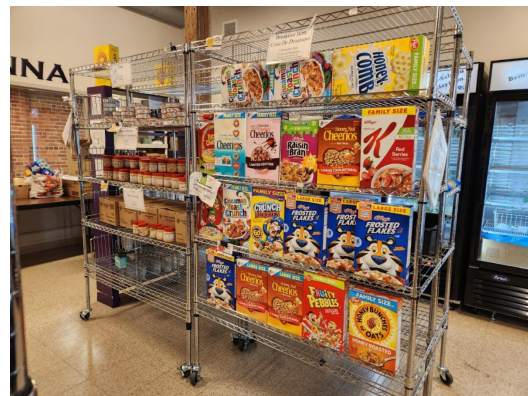
Roggi's Auto Service has been an HOH hero for quite some time (ever since early 2022). Led by the efforts of Roggi's Auto Business Office Manager, the wonderful **Paulette Dwyer**, Roggi's keeps stepping up when our pantry is most in need.

Paulette reached out stating Roggi's wanted to, once again, hold a food drive for us and asked what we were most in need of. We advised we desperately needed breakfast foods, as our shelves have become harder and harder to keep stocked with popular items as supply chain issues have only increased.

Paulette showed up just a month later with **104 boxes of cereal**, thanks to the generosity of Roggi's Auto Service customers. She then returned a few weeks later with another **182 lbs of food!**

We are so appreciative of our small businesses, like Roggi's Auto Service, who are committed to helping support their community.

Thank you Paulette & team!



Two dynamic, hardworking teams of Hands On Hartford supporters and volunteers (our dedicated **Board of Directors and Friends of Hands On Hartford members**), along with the Hands On Hartford Development team, gathered recently at HOH to finally meet in person, share in fellowship and learn about the efforts both are contributing to support our HOH agency. They then discussed opportunities for collaboration. We are so grateful to have these amazing leaders as wonderful ambassadors and strategic planners for Hands On Hartford.



Pantry Donations Needed!

We hate to sound like a broken record, but the tune unfortunately hasn't changed. With the increase in folks experiencing food insecurity and **over 800 households now relying on our pantry each month to help keep food on the table for**



their families, in addition to growing food chain supply issues, inflation and the loss of government benefits for many, we are in an ongoing need for help from our community to assist in keeping our pantry shelves stocked.

We are most in need, today, of:

- Soup
- Cereal or Oatmeal
- Beans
- Canned veggies
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Pasta Sauce
- Snacks
- Beverages
- Full-size toiletries

Thank you for the support!

Contact Kelly Dougherty at
kdougherty@handsonhartford.org
 with questions.

Hands On Hartford is Hiring!

Hands On Hartford staff are dedicated, caring, and 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:

- **Housing Case Manager (Full Time)**
- **Tenant Assistant (Part Time)**
- **Program Manager-Community Engagement (Full Time)**
- **Program Support Specialist (Full Time)**

Find out more about these positions and how to apply [HERE](#).

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?

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 and click "Make a Donation Now," or mail your check to Hands On Hartford, 55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.



Or contact Donna Colliton at dcolliton@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.

Leave a legacy. Ensure your long term impact on this community by including us in your estate plan, making qualified charitable distributions from your IRA, gifts of appreciated stock, or include us as a contingent beneficiary of your life insurance. Contact Executive Director, Barbara Shaw, at bshaw@handsonhartford.org or 860- 706-1502, to explore planned giving ideas and to join our Legacy Society.

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



Visit our website



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

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