2016 Annual Report
Creating Community
Hands On Hartford Board 2016

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Executive Director

The Hands On Hartford Center for Community
Dear Friends,

2016 was a whirlwind year at Hands On Hartford—a year of movement, creativity, stretching and growing! Our hearts were touched by the connections we share and the ways in which we all make a difference to each other in this wonderful community. With the steadfast support of our generous donors – grants from governmental agencies and private foundations, faith groups, businesses and civic groups and individuals — we have made a huge difference to thousands of our Hartford neighbors.

We started the year with a bittersweet farewell to our old homes at Peter’s Retreat and South Congregational Church and, with joy in our hearts, moved into the new Center for Community in the Parkville neighborhood of Hartford. Our tenants settled into beautiful, fully equipped apartments and our whole team has become closer. That spirit of collaboration and connection is invigorating! Our food and housing assistance programs are strong and stable. We have been able to increase the numbers of folks we serve as well as the types of assistance we provide. And working together from a central location has enabled us to implement new programs and initiatives, including a Kitchen-to-Pantry Produce initiative and the opening of the Café at Fifty-Five.

We continue to engage thousands of volunteers in this work. Volunteers from all walks of life, including program participants, join us every day — helping us move, working directly with clients, staffing the Café and more. Our Community Engagement team continues to bring hundreds of volunteers to dozens of partner nonprofits, schools and parks all across Hartford, with a huge show of strength and caring.

Looking forward, we are now positioned to make an even greater impact in Hartford. This year, we begin planning for our 50th anniversary. We are excited to share with you the joy of that celebration and our continued commitment to increasing food security, improving health and providing housing support while we engage volunteers and connect communities.

With warmest regards,

Barbara A. Shaw, LCSW
Executive Director

Rev. Dr. Karen Bailey-François
Chairperson, Board of Directors

HANDS ON HARTFORD was founded in 1969 as Center City Churches. 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.
THE MOVE, AND NEW INITIATIVES

At the beginning of February 2016, we moved to our new home at 55 Bartholomew Avenue in Hartford. Tenants settled into new apartments on the second floor, and the MANNA Community Pantry, Backpack Nutrition Program, Housing Services, Community Engagement team and administrative offices all moved together in one day (thanks to expert planning and implementation led by Pamela Fitzgerald, Director of Finance and Administration). This move brought to fruition a dream adopted in our 2013 Strategic Plan. We celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, bringing together community and government leaders, staff, board members, volunteers, donors, clients and friends.

This move has positioned us to be able to serve more of our Hartford neighbors, and has also allowed us to pursue some exciting new initiatives making use of our new space. With the advice of Karen Karp & Partners, our community kitchen and café space is now home to The Café at Fifty-Five, open for breakfast and lunch 4 days a week. The Café is a unique community space that is staffed in part by volunteers, employs folks with barriers to employment, and offers a pay-for-a-neighbor program. In addition to the Café, the kitchen is used to receive, heat and package meals for the weekend Senior Community Café program; for our Kitchen-to-Pantry produce initiative (lightly prepared produce for distribution to our food pantry families); for holiday community meals; and as a shared use kitchen for local entrepreneurs and new businesses.

The Community Gardens at the back of the building are planted, tended and harvested by volunteers and tenants, and produce an abundance of herbs and vegetables for the enjoyment of the tenants at 55B and food pantry families.

Measuring Services and Outcomes

In 2016 we implemented a new data system in collaboration with Mercy Housing & Shelter Corporation. This system will allow us to track service impacts more deeply and track client service eligibility and gaps more accurately. It streamlines coordination of services and care, so that we can report on the impact of our work more efficiently and completely, allowing us to provide the most impactful services and to access funding that comes with rigorous evaluation requirements.
**MANNA Food Programs and Neighborhood Services**

The MANNA Community Pantry increased the number of households served in 2016 to an average of 462 per month. We were able to provide a steady supply of fresh milk, eggs and produce throughout the year. Many of these folks also took advantage of our Neighborhood Services like security deposit assistance, health screenings, nutrition education, as well as training and employment opportunity assistance. The weekend Backpack Nutrition program for kids, Senior Community Café weekend program, and our Community Meals soup kitchen and day shelter are going strong with the helping hands of many volunteers.

**Hands On Hartford Housing Programs**

In addition to onsite apartments at 55 Bartholomew, Hands On Hartford continues to provide intensive one-on-one supportive housing assistance to dozens of folks here and around Hartford, enabling individuals and families facing serious health issues to stay safely housed and to continue to receive life-sustaining care. Hands On Hartford tenants are easily able to access our other services (for example, the food pantry), volunteer their time with us and, in some cases, are employed by Hands On Hartford. We took over coordination of an integrated healthcare and housing program, offering patient navigation services to a similar group. We also continue to offer tenant assistance to folks living at George Beach Apartments in Hartford. As a member of the Greater Hartford Coordinated Access Network, we help to evaluate homeless individuals to ensure that those most in need of housing are given priority and that all are treated fairly.

**Community Engagement and Faces of Homelessness**

We established a Community Engagement task force to improve volunteer recruitment, retention, training and skills. We implemented special volunteer leader positions in the Community Pantry; volunteer leaders work with other volunteers to stock shelves and shop with clients, freeing up staff time to work one-on-one with clients to deliver other services and referrals. In May, we organized a corporate Dash for a Difference sponsored by Prudential, with over 160 people from six businesses participating. Along with several thousand volunteers, we worked with dozens of other nonprofits, schools and parks on volunteer projects throughout the year. Finally, the Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau continued to host educational and impactful speaking events, where speakers shared their lived experience with homelessness.
HARTFORD THRIVE! PROJECT: YEAR TWO

In 2016, the Hartford Thrive! Project, a collaborative initiative led by Hands On Hartford and staffed by AmeriCorps VISTA members concluded its first year and started its second year. Hartford Thrive! VISTAs served at Hands On Hartford, Center Church, Journey Home, Village for Children and Families, Connecticut Association for Human Services, and Hartford Community Loan Fund. Their work is focused on building capacity around anti-poverty programs and initiatives.

This energetic and creative group of AmeriCorps VISTA members worked to achieve some highly impactful accomplishments during the year. The following are just a few examples. Jesse Graves opened the new Café at Fifty-Five, including an employment and training program for folks with barriers to employment. Melinda Knebel worked to develop a Governance Committee for the Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau, including leadership roles for speakers to ensure the success of that program once it is no longer supported by a VISTA member. Kim Kleszczynski developed a curriculum and implementation plan for a volunteer leadership program to help sustain volunteers at Hands On Hartford direct service programs.

Other AmeriCorps VISTAs involved in the Hartford Thrive! Project at Hands On Hartford focused on building support for our Backpack Nutrition Program, building capacity in our Community Engagement Program, accessing increased amounts of healthy and fresh food for our MANNA food programs, supporting transitional housing residents as they moved to independent housing supported by Hands On Hartford Housing services, and development of self-sufficiency initiatives and connections via our Neighborhood Services area.

At Journey Home, VISTA efforts were focused on improving economic opportunity for individuals facing housing injustice and instability. At Village for Families and Children, Connecticut Association for Human Services, and Hartford Community Loan Fund, VISTA efforts were focused on improved economic opportunity and financial stability. Finally, at Center Church, VISTAs created the Warburton Resource, Outreach and Collaboration Center and No Freeze Welcome Center engaging volunteers and assisting those in need of shelter.

The Hartford Thrive! Project is funded in part by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service.
**Events and Celebrations**

2016 was a year filled with celebrations, events and fun for the whole community. Here are a few illustrations.

The Wall of Recognition, created by Art Connection Studio, was unveiled at a “Sneak Peek” celebration for donors to the special Campaign, “Moving Together, All Hands On.”

Sister Beth Fischer poses with her R. Regner Arvidson Exemplary Volunteer Award at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Event.

The Community Meals crew braved the rain at Foodshare’s Walk Against Hunger.

The Independence Day community meal was fun (and tasty) for friends and families from all across the Hartford community.

Guests enjoyed live music, a wide range of auction items and soup and salad from local chefs at our annual Harvest Supper fundraiser.

Families had fun and “shopped” for over 500 kids at the Toy Shoppe Holiday Celebration in December.

We also hosted holiday community meals on New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition to a large city-wide Corporate Dash for a Difference, we organized smaller Dashes and dozens of customized service projects, a Housing holiday party, Days of Service for MLK Jr. Day and 9/11 Day, a Back-to-School Barbecue and more!
Hands On Hartford Programs in 2016, BY THE NUMBERS

**MANNA Community Pantry**
- **1,021** households served
- **173,672** lbs of food distributed

**Senior Community Cafe**
- **31,522** meals served or delivered

**Community Meals**
- **24,577** meals served
- **1,504** individual guests

**Backpack Nutrition Program**
- **8,900** backpacks delivered
- **310** children participating

**Supportive Housing and Homelessness Prevention**
- **149** individuals received housing/support

**Faces of Homelessness**
- **27** speaking engagements
- **1,067** audience members

**Community Engagement**
- **2,817** volunteers
- **31,940** hours of service

PROGRAMS THAT CHANGE LIVES — ACROSS THE HARTFORD COMMUNITY

2016 Financial Report
In 2016, Hands On Hartford, Inc. was the steward of gifts, grants and fees in the amount of $3,104,499.* These charts illustrate the sources and distribution of support.

**Income**
- 37% Government
- 20% In Kind
- 15% Foundation Grants
- 11% Private Donations
- 7% Contracted Services
- 4% Program Income
- 2% Events
- 2% Religious
- 1% Service Projects
- 1% Corporate

**Expenses**
- 43% MANNA
- 37% Housing
- 6% CIHHN
- 4% Community Engagement
- 4% Hartford Thrive
- 3% Café at Fifty-Five/Community Kitchen
- 3% 55B Apartments

*This figure includes in-kind contributions of $613,435 in food, gifts for program participants, volunteer time and operational space. A copy of the agency's 2016 audit by Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C. is available by calling our office at 860-728-3201.
Financial & In Kind Support

Thank you for your support!

Grant funding and donors are listed in categories based on cash and stock gifts during 2016, pledges designated to Hands On Hartford through United Way, and State and Federal employee campaigns (unless reported to us as anonymous).

**GUARDIAN ANGELS ($25,000 +)**
- Peter & Catherine Benner*
- Grace D. Cassell Trust
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- HUD Community Development Block Grant through the City of Hartford
- HUD Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS through the City of Hartford
- Peter & Mary Fran Libassi*
- Lincoln Financial Foundation Inc.
- M.A.C. AIDS Fund
- North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
- State of Connecticut Department of Housing
- State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- State of Connecticut Office of Policy & Management Nonprofit Grant Program
- Travelers
- UIL Holdings Corporation

**ARCH ANGELS ($5,000 - $24,999)**
- Anonymous Number 46 Fund+
- Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation & other funds+
- J. Walton Bissell Foundation
- Center Church / First Church of Christ Hartford
- Central Baptist Church, Hartford
- Christian & Nicole Coleman*
- Crosskey Architects LLC*
- Emanuel Lutheran Church, Hartford
- Ensworth Charitable Foundation
- ESPN
- The Hartford
- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation
- Carol Hunt
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- George A. and Grace L. Long Foundation
- Donna Manocchio & David Lewis
- Owenoke Foundation
- PNT Data Corp.
- Prudential
- S. A. Johnson Family Fund+
- Samuel Roskin Trust
- SMB Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- Beth Schiro Fund+
- Bobbi & Phil P. Schmidt*
- George Schmidt
- Howard & Catherine Shafer
- TJX Foundation
- Travelers Community Connections Matching Gifts Program
- Trustees of the Warburton Chapel
- Vernon D. & Florence E. Roosa Family Fund+

**ANGELS ($2,500-4,999)**
- Aetna Foundation
- Anonymous Number 47 Fund+
- Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford
- Avon Old Farms School
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Harold & Joyce Buckingham
- Leroy Butler & Holly Williams
- Lisa & Matt Cameron*
- Carris Reels Inc.
- Farmington Bank Community Foundation
- First Church of Christ Congregational Glastonbury
- First Church of Christ Simsbury
- First Presbyterian Church, Hartford
- Foodshare
- Immanuel Congregational Church, Hartford
- Jack and Jill of America
- Jacob P Kinney
- Joan & Ken Kuehl
- William and Alice Mortensen Foundation
- Naek Construction Company, Inc.
- The Phoenix Companies, Inc.
- Charles Nelson Robinson Fund
- Rocky Hill Congregational Church
- Barbara A. Shaw
- Swindells Charitable Foundation Trust
- Webster Bank
- XL Catlin

**SUSTAINERS ($1,000 - 2,499)**
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- Ayco Charitable Foundation
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- Bank of American Employee Giving Campaign
- Holly Billings and Marianne Nelson
- Rachel Graves
- BlumShapiro Consulting
- Congregational Church in South Glastonbury
- Connecticut Credit Union Charitable Foundation
- Sean Datcher
- First Congregational Church Bloomfield
- Nathan & Claudine Fox
- Harry E. Goldfarb Foundation
- Rev. Pamela Haller
- Hartford County Bar Foundation
- Henry Hall Charitable Trust
- Home Depot Foundation
- Rev. Bryan Hooper & Baylah Tesser-Sherman
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CREC Student & Family Relations
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