2015 Annual Report: Building Together!
Hands On Hartford Board 2015

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Executive Director

Barbara A. Shaw, LCSW
Dear Friends,

As we reflect back on 2015 at Hands On Hartford, we are filled with gratitude for the support and teamwork of staff, volunteers, donors and friends, and for the connections we have created and maintained with our Hartford neighbors.

We broke ground at 55 Bartholomew Avenue on a rainy Thursday in April 2015 and spent the remainder of the year in weekly meetings working with an incredible design and construction team as the building was transformed into the new Hands On Hartford Center for Community and the 55B Apartments. At the same time, we engaged friends and donors in our special campaign in support of the building, “Moving Together, All Hands On,” along with other fundraising efforts designed to support the creation and furnishing of a large commercial kitchen and, of course, all of our existing programs.

In preparation for the move, we worked intensively with the residents at Peter’s Retreat, preparing them for permanent supportive housing, and collaborating to ensure that we preserved the strong sense of family and community that has always been at the heart of Peter’s Retreat.

Along with the excitement of future plans, we continued to maintain the strength and depth of our existing services and programs – serving thousands of neighbors through our supportive housing, homelessness prevention and MANNA food programs, along with some exciting new initiatives like education and employment opportunity assistance. The Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau is still going strong, sharing the reality of homeless experiences. Our energetic Community Engagement team connected even more volunteers (over 3,400!), led more customized service projects and was especially successful in engaging volunteers to share their special skills in support of those we serve.

It was an exciting year. Each day we were guided by our mission of changing lives and renewing human possibility and by our commitment to supporting people to live lives of joy, purpose and dignity.

With warmest regards,

Barbara A. Shaw, LCSW  
Executive Director

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

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

HANDS ON HARTFORD, founded in 1969 as Center City Churches, provides direct services to people in need by promoting community engagement and volunteerism. Our vision is to bring agencies, volunteers, congregations, community organizations, donors and businesses together to make a significant impact on our community.
Serving Neighbors

Ms. B is a single mother, working and going to school, with an infant daughter. She was staying with a relative and longed for her own apartment, but had no extra money for a security deposit. We were able to take care of her security deposit, work with her on her budget and help her obtain a variety of services. She enrolled in our diaper bank and food pantry, where she gets extra groceries monthly. She is especially appreciative of the fresh produce, milk, and eggs, helping her to give her daughter a healthy diet as she grows.

From food to housing support to security deposit and utility assistance, we placed special emphasis on comprehensiveness of services in 2015. Our goal is to promote housing stability and food security for the thousands of individuals we serve across the City of Hartford. All of our programs stress the dignity of the individual served: meals at the soup kitchen are served restaurant-style; our food pantry utilizes a full-choice shopping model; our weekend children’s meals are delivered in colorful, unmarked backpacks; and our housing support services encourage individuals to take responsibility and control over their own lives.

Engaging Volunteers

“Volunteer work is a transformative experience ... shattering stereotypes and making connections....”
- a Hands On Hartford volunteer
Connecting Communities

For over 14 years, JoAnn Ciccaglione and the South Windsor Teen Center visited, worked and played with our Peter’s Retreat residents every other week. As we honored her at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event in 2015, we made special note of the bonds formed between the residents and not only JoAnn but also the many teens who joined her over the years.

Hands On Hartford is a place where the distinctions that separate volunteers and clients, community partners and staff are blurred by their common commitment to alleviate suffering caused by poverty in Hartford. In 2015, we stayed true to this vision, connecting community members through our Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau and Feet on the Street events; at our fall Harvest Supper; in the spring during Foodshare’s Walk Against Hunger; and at our December Toy Shoppe Celebration. Volunteers and staff connect with guests at Community Meals, and we assist our clients to connect to other community resources and events through our Assistance & Advocacy program. In addition, we collaborated with dozens of area nonprofits, schools, government agencies, businesses and faith groups to provide vital assistance to our Hartford neighbors.

Community Engagement truly is about the transformative power of volunteering. Beyond the traditional model of volunteering, our community engagement program invites deeper understanding of and genuine relationships with the people affected by systemic social problems. Central to our mission is the idea that all of us – those in need and those who seek to address those needs – are part of the same community, and that by working together, all of us – clients, guests and volunteers – will be served. In addition to our own programs, in 2015, we engaged volunteers from faith groups, businesses and schools across the City of Hartford, in a broad range of activities. Working with children, cooking and serving meals, cleaning up parks, running food drives and visiting with seniors are only a few of the ways our volunteers put their hands on Hartford. We also coordinated thousands of hours of skilled volunteer work; for example, nursing students employing their expertise in conducting basic health screenings for over 400 clients.
**Breaking Ground**

On April 7, 2015, we officially broke ground at the future Hands On Hartford Center for Community. Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman and Commissioner Evonne Klein from the CT Department of Housing attended and spoke at the groundbreaking, highlighting the State of Connecticut’s commitment to affordable housing. This project involved weekly construction team meetings throughout the year; intensive planning with Peter’s Retreat residents around transition to independent living; behind-the-scenes work on project funding sources, including our special campaign, “Moving Together, All Hands On,” and work on obtaining tax credit approvals; staff planning and community and client outreach to ensure that services and volunteer involvement will continue seamlessly; and myriad decisions around space design, interior décor, kitchen equipment, security systems, and more. The Center for Community is designed to house the MANNA Community Pantry, Backpack Nutrition Program, Volunteer Action Center, neighborhood and housing services staff, administrative offices, large commercial kitchen, and 13 supportive housing apartments.

**Hartford Thrive!**

The Hartford Thrive! Project is a collaborative initiative led by Hands On Hartford and involving eleven AmeriCorps VISTA members, with a goal of expanding community efforts to meet the needs and build sustainability in the areas of economic opportunity and access to healthy food for our Hartford neighbors. Six VISTAs at Hands On Hartford worked on the Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau, child nutrition, community engagement, access to fresh produce, housing support and expanding neighborhood services. Other VISTAs worked with Center Church in the area of housing justice; with Journey Home on improving economic opportunity for individuals facing housing injustice and instability; with the Village for Children and Families on family financial stability; and with the Connecticut Association for Human Services on a Youth Money Skill curriculum. Led by Wanda Guzman, and supported by Logan Singerman, these eleven energetic and creative young people touched the lives of individuals across the City of Hartford and worked to implement lasting programs and initiatives to address and ameliorate the effects of poverty.
2015 Financial Report

In 2015, Hands On Hartford, Inc. was the steward of gifts, grants and fees in the amount of $2,453,201.* These charts illustrate the sources and distribution of support.

*This figure includes in-kind contributions of $394,586 in food, gifts for program participants and operational space. It does not include thousands of hours of volunteer time donated during the course of a year, an essential contribution to the operation of Hands On Hartford’s services. A copy of the agency’s 2015 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 2015, 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 +)
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation*
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
Koopman Share of the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving*
Lincoln Financial Foundation Inc.
M.A.C. AIDS Fund*
North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
Prudential Foundation
State of Connecticut Department of Housing*
State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services*
The Travelers Companies, Inc.*

**Arch Angels**
($5,000-24,999)
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Peter & Catherine Benner*
Stephen Burner*
Leroy Butler & Holly Williams*
Center Church / First Church of Christ Hartford
Central Baptist Church
Congregational Church in South Glastonbury*
Emanuel Lutheran Church
Ensworth Charitable Foundation
Fund for Greater Hartford
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Rev. Bryan Hooper & Baylah Tessier-Sherman*
Carol Hunt
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Melville Charitable Trust
Naek Construction Company, Inc.
North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
Owenoke Foundation
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S. A. Johnson Family Fund
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Howard & Catherine Shafer
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Stanley D. & Hinda N. Fisher Fund
Tariq Farid Foundation
Travelers Community Connections Matching Gifts Program
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UIL Holdings Corporation
Vernon D. & Florence E. Roosa Family Foundation Memorial Fund
Maurice Wyman & Family

**Angels ($2,500-4,999)**
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Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Bank of America Matching Funds
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**Sustainers ($1,000-2,499)**

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- Aldo DeDominicis Foundation
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- Karen & Don Bailey-François*
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- Crosskey Architects LLC
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- Ellington Congregational Church*
- Elwyn V. and Elsie H. Harp Family Foundation Fund
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- First Church in Windsor, UCC
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- First Church of Christ Congregational, West Hartford
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- Subway Regional Technology Resources, Inc.
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- XL Catlin Insurance
- YMCA of Greater Hartford

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- Wayne Carroll
- Vincent & Lillian Castro*
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- Choice Merchant Solutions, Inc.
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- Rachel K. Black Corporation
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- Richard and Alice Baxter Fund
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- Tom Rocheleau
- Rotary Club of Hartford
- Shipman & Goodwin

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- K & G Masonry LLC
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- Karen Laskarzewski
- Zhao Liu
- Miss Porter's School
- Rev. Jane Mountain
- National Geographic Society

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- The Travelers Employees Club
- United Health Care SVS Inc
- UnitedHealth Group
- Martin Velazquez
- VOYA
- Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Brewster & Judith Perkins
Beverly Peterson
Raymond James Charitable Endowment Fund
Molly Rees Gavin
Michael & Nancy Rion
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St. Peter Claver Roman Catholic Church
James & Susan Trelease
UBS Financial
Vendor Program at 505 Hudson Street
David & Nancy Wadhams
Waterford Group Charitable Foundation
Cynthia Watts Elder
Cheryl Zeiner

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Aetna Foundation
Brad Allison & Marcy Balint
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Avon Congregational Church
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Connecticut Children’s Asthma Center
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Olayinka Oni-Orisan
Rocco & Joanne Orlando
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William & Carolyn Rock
Dr. Eric & Jane Rosenberg
Rosie-Blake's Chocolates
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Marilyn Santos
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Rusty & Tonya Spears
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Alvin & Lesley Thompson
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Tunxis Community College
Pamela Rose Vollinger & Gary Vollinger
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Cathie & Don White
Brooke & Ted Whittemore
Gayle Wilcox
Margaret Wilcox
Nancy & Frank Wildt
Bob Wilgoski
Paul Williams
Solomon & Katie Wohl Foundation

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Amanda Albert
Amy Allen
Joyce Allen
Amazon Smile
Barbara & Ray Andrews
Carolina Arenas-Orozco
Ivan Backer
Joseph Clifford Barber
United Way of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey
University of Hartford Staff Association
Jay Vaillancourt
M. & F. Vandrilla
Mickey Verma
Frederick & Selby Wajcs
Walmart
Amy Watts
Bonnie Whelan
Whittlesey & Hadley, P.C.
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W. Joe Wilson*
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All Waste
Sharon Allen
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American Ecumenical Church
American School For the Deaf
Jacob Aparicio
The Armistead Group
Art Connection Studios*
Asylum Hill Quilters
Bar Taco
John Barry & Tammy Brayton

Corrin Behm
Ryan Benevento & Alexandra Budnick
Berkshire Bank
Jon Blair
Bouvier Insurance
MaryRose Boysen
Scott Brackett
Brake the Cycle of Poverty
Terri Buganski
Barbara Butterworth
Calvary Fellowship
Cedar Grove Church

Centralized Infractions Bureau
Charities of Hope
Cheshire YMCA
John & Joan Chesnes
Church and Main Deli Cafe
Church Army USA
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Cigna
Citizens Energy/CITGO Program Shelter Assistance
Peter Coletta
Alexia Colon
Community Partners in Action
Connecticut IB Academy
Connecticut Science Center
Tabatha Cosme
Meghan Cranouski
Stephanie Crouse
Crump Insurance

CT Convention Center
CT Office of Governmental Accountability
Cub Scout Pack 180
Rita Decker Parry
Alaine Doolan
Ted Efremoff
El Shaddai Christian Church
Karen Emerick
Feed Our Children Now
Feeding Children Everywhere
Fiduciary Investment Advisors
Sr. Beth Fischer
Flagg Road United Church of Christ
Stacey Flammini
Virginia Fontanez
Ethan Freund
Geissler’s Supermarket
Gengras Center
Pedro Gomez
Don Goodman & Annie Kelleher Goodman
Ethan Goodman
Steven Gray
Jennifer Griffin
Grunberg Management
Shannon Hallen
Hands On Hartford Team Members
Allison Hansgate
Christine Hart
Hartford Hospital
The Hartford

Hartt School Community Division
Heads Up Hartford
High School Inc.
Hinckley Allen LLP
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church
Home Depot - West Hartford
Hot Table Panini
Douglas & Nancy Howe
IRS Taxpayers Advocate Office
Jade Marketing Group
Erilz Jansen
Calida Jones
Jeff Jones
Joseph Merritt Company
JTConnect
Kappa Sigma Fraternity
Kristina Kasheta
Michelle Kayser
Kelser Corporation
Kids Care Dental
Elizabeth & Eamonn Kilmartin
Corinne Lapointe
Laurie LaRocca
LAZ Parking
Maurice Lewis
Lymo Construction Co.
John Lynch
Lyons Tool & Die Company
Catherine Maclean
Pamela Majidy
Manchester Community College
Jan Rosow
Annalee Wells
In Honor of Clients & Friends of Robinson & Cole, LLP
Robinson & Cole, LLP
In Honor of Liz Aubin
KK Meyer
In Honor of Jessica Bartolini & Jay Patras
James D. Bartolini
William & Elizabeth Cox
John & Soledad DePastino
In Honor of Lindsay Becvar
Rachel K. Black Corporation
In Honor of Rachel Black & Corey Graves
Thorsten Behrens
Bethany Bello
Rachel Black
Debbie & Doug Blaylock
Elizabeth Della Penna
Jennifer Gaudette
Christine Maulucci
Jordan Millette
Paul & Robin Millette
Liza Trombley
In Honor of Anita Carpene & Robert Lentz
Amy & James Goldman
In Honor of Fred & Kate Dauser
Kathleen McLaughlin
In Honor of Lemmy Figueroa
Melanie Tinkham
In Honor of Jay Krusell
John & Beverly Krusell
In Honor of Joan Kuehl
Jay Chin
Cathie & Don White
In Honor of Ben LaRocque
Ken & Heidi LaRocque
In Honor of Donna Manocchio
Rev. Mia Douglas
In Honor of Paul Pellegrini
Daniel Archambault
Dale & Alfred Fritze
Cindi Lee Morin
Bob & Pat Zambrello
In Honor of Paula Pouliot
Norman & Janet Hutchins
In Honor of George Schmidt
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In Honor of Kevin Sullivan
Connor Sullivan
In Honor of Mary Jane Sullivan
Herbert Max
In Honor of Patriots Super Bowl Champion
Daniel Teixeira
In Honor of Lauren Tatanus
Alexandra Pierlott
In Honor of Dan Teixeira
William Adehlph
In Honor of Prudential Volunteers at CM
Helen & Henry Frye
In Honor of David & Nancy Wadhams
Sarah & Scott Seiler
In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. George Zeiner
Cheryl Zeiner

We are grateful to Donna Manocchio and our friends from Asylum Hill Congregational Church for helping us honor memories and space at the Peter’s Retreat building as we prepared to transition residents and housing support services to a new location.

Special thanks to:
- South Congregational Church
- Christ Church Cathedral
- Center Church (First Church of Christ, Hartford)
for their generous sharing of space and mission.

*Donor contributed to the special campaign, “Moving Together, All Hands On.”

We make every effort to ensure the completeness and accuracy of these lists. We apologize for any mistakes, misspellings, or omissions and ask that you contact Kate Shafer, Communications Manager at 860-706-1505 to correct any inconsistencies.
In Memoriam
This report is dedicated to Aldene Burton, community activist, change maker and beloved friend to many.

Aldene Burton
1951 - 2015

Nate Fox, Aldene Burton and a representative of the National Coalition for the Homeless after the signing of the Connecticut Homeless Persons’ Bill of Rights

A member of Brake the Cycle of Poverty speaking with Aldene Burton at a Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau Event