2017 Annual Report:
Keeping it Fresh!
Hands On Hartford Board 2017

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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.
Dear Friends,

2017 was a fresh-filled year at Hands On Hartford! We started the year taking a fresh look at our impacts and sustainability through a strategic planning process supported by Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. As a result, our focus over the next several years will be to strengthen our most impactful programs with a renewed focus on health support, as we continue to provide food and housing services; deepen service learning in our volunteer projects and immersions; and improve sustainability by further development of our board, fund development, collaborative efforts, and mission-aligned ventures that generate income to support all of our programs.

We welcomed many fresh new faces to the extended Hands On Hartford team: staff members, donors, volunteers, Board members, and collaborative partners. Be sure to take a look at the end of this report for a list of the many groups and individuals who supported our work in 2017, to whom we are so very grateful.

We doubled our efforts at providing our neighbors who struggle economically with fresh foods. Engaging volunteers in the Kitchen-to-Pantry project, we chop and package fresh produce for the food pantry. With support from donors, we provided more fresh fruit for children through the Backpack Nutrition Program. We harvested fresh herbs and vegetables from our raised bed gardens for the benefit of tenants, pantry families and café patrons here at 55 Bartholomew Avenue.

Fresh kitchen news in 2017 included our Shared Use Kitchen, through which we supported over a dozen culinary businesses in their quest to bring fresh food to the community, including several urban farmers who developed and produced value-added products. We rolled out the new Caterers Who Care to provide all kinds of fresh and tasty catered meals to business, nonprofit, faith and family groups across the Hartford area.

Finally, in the housing area, we added some fresh new supportive housing to our mix through a partnership with Zezzo House Corporation; and we took a fresh approach to the Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau, improving sustainability by bringing on a coordinator with lived experience of homelessness.

Thank you to all of our donors, collaborators, neighbors, interns, service members, friends, staff, board, guests, participants and tenants who helped us to keep it fresh in 2017.

With warmest regards,

Barbara A. Shaw, LCSW
Executive Director

Donna K. Manocchio
Chairperson, Board of Directors [Incoming]
NEW INITIATIVES

Caterers Who Care launched in 2017, providing delicious, healthy and reasonably priced food weekdays, evenings and weekends. A growing number of these Hands On Hartford catered events occurred off-site across the Greater Hartford area, and many were held at Hands On Hartford’s historic Center for Community. Caterers Who Care supplied breakfast, lunch, dinner, appetizers, beverages and desserts to a variety of businesses, faith groups, non-profits and private event attendees, with proceeds supporting other Hands On Hartford programs.

The Café at Fifty-Five celebrated its first anniversary in the fall. Known for Great Food, Great Coffee and Great Neighbors (and oh-so-low prices), the Café operates Tuesdays through Fridays, 7:30am—2:30pm, with expanded hours for special events. Full and part-time jobs were created, along with volunteer opportunities for 34 folks throughout the year, who provided over 1,000 hours of service to the community.

Our Shared Use Kitchen rolled out in 2017, starting with our first kitchen user, Jen Acuna’s baking business, Loafing Around LLC. The Shared Use Kitchen enables local culinary enterprises to launch and grow their businesses in our 1,700 square foot licensed, fully-equipped commercial kitchen. Fifteen businesses that range from bakers to caterers to food trucks to food manufacturers realized their vision, and provided a range of delicious meals and products to the community.

New Pantry Initiatives in 2017 focused on increasing health and nutrition for our pantry families. We implemented the SWAP (Supporting Wellness at Pantries) system in January. This stop-light system ranks food based on salt, sugar and saturated fat content, helping (and encouraging) clients to make healthier food choices in the pantry. The Kitchen-to-Pantry Initiative was also implemented in 2017. With the help of an AmeriCorps VISTA member, volunteers clean, chop and package donated produce, salvaging the best portions of the produce and providing healthy and easy-to-prepare produce for the food pantry.
MANNA FOOD PROGRAMS AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

What’s new and fresh? The MANNA Community Pantry increased the number of families served in 2017 to an average of well over 500 per month. We became an Operation Fuel site and helped 91 households access utility assistance. We implemented the Kitchen-to-Pantry and SWAP initiatives, described earlier. Special Backpack Nutrition Program enhancements included four pieces of fresh fruit each month, and kid-friendly art and nutrition books. We served as a winter shelter triage center at Community Meals, assisting folks connect to shelter. The Senior Community Café program wrapped up in September, and participants were given the opportunity to sign up for pantry services.

HANDS ON HARTFORD HOUSING PROGRAMS

What’s new and fresh? The CT Department of Housing announced $4,400,000 in funding for the new Powerhouse Apartments to be developed here at 45 Bartholomew. We took over services for Zezzo House, 18 units of supportive housing in Hartford. Serving 118 individuals throughout Hartford last year, we continue to provide intensive one-on-one supportive housing assistance, enabling folks facing serious health issues to stay safely housed and to continue to receive life-sustaining care. This year also saw the successful completion of the Social Innovation Fund (SIF), a 5-year national demonstration of the effectiveness of supportive housing for high-cost health care users experiencing homelessness.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

What’s new and fresh? The Community Engagement team engaged over 2,300 volunteers who completed nearly 33,000 hours of service to the Hartford community in 2017. In addition to five Dash for a Difference events, we hosted six immersion events with an emphasis on connection and service learning. We saw an increase in skill-based volunteering, with 15,795 hours provided. Survey results indicated that we have been successful in improving our education of volunteers around issues of poverty, food insecurity and homelessness, and the Hartford community in general. In November, we hosted a Service Learning Summit, sponsored by Prudential, addressing servicing learning and increasing volunteer impact. The event was attended by 22 different non-profit, faith, school and business groups.
HARTFORD THRIVE! PROJECT:
YEAR THREE

In 2017, the Hartford Thrive! Project, a collaborative initiative led by Hands On Hartford and staffed by AmeriCorps VISTA members concluded its second year and started its third year. Hartford Thrive! VISTAs served at Hands On Hartford, 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.

The four VISTA members who served at Hands On Hartford achieved a variety of results, including improving our volunteer systems (Community Engagement VISTA); implementing the Kitchen-to-Pantry initiative and engaging volunteers in that effort (Food Access VISTA); hosting Faces of Homelessness events and working toward sustainability of that program; and developing a client ambassador program at our Community Meals soup kitchen (Faces of Homelessness/Community Meals VISTA); taking a strong leadership role with all the Hartford Thrive! VISTAS and heading up planning for the Day of Sharing and Caring described below (VISTA Leader).

At Journey Home, VISTA efforts were focused on SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery). 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.

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

FACES OF HOMELESSNESS SPEAKERS’ BUREAU

Anne Goshdigian, a Faces of Homelessness speaker, came on board as a Co-Coordinator of the Speakers’ Bureau, working with AmeriCorps VISTA A.J. Wyman. In addition to outreach efforts to schedule more speaking events, one of Anne’s and AJ’s main focuses in 2017 was recruitment of new speakers. The Hands On Hartford board sponsored a special speaking event in March, and we hosted a Faces of Homelessness Appreciation Event in April. The Speakers’ Bureau was also instrumental in implementing a Day of Sharing and Caring in the fall, an event to honor folks in Hartford who experience homelessness.
EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Holiday Meals, Recognition Events, Celebrations and fundraising events to support Hands On Hartford services—2017 was a very eventful and celebratory year!

Award winner Nancy Jacobs with HOH Program Manager Janet Bermudez at the Volunteer Recognition Event

A spirited “Tabatha’s Walkers” team at Foodshare’s 34th annual Walk Against Hunger

Speaker Ralph Gagliardo inspires great generosity at the 7th annual Harvest Supper fundraising event

Santa keeps the kids smiling at the Toy Shoppe Holiday Celebration

Guests enjoy themselves at the Memorial Day Community Meal
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2017 Financial Report
In 2017, Hands On Hartford, Inc. was the steward of gifts, grants and fees in the amount of $3,221,534.* These charts illustrate the sources and distribution of support.

*This figure includes in-kind contributions of $212,769 in food, gifts for program participants, volunteer time and operational space. A copy of the agency's 2017 audit by Whittlesey is available at our website, handsonhartford.org, or by calling our office at 860-728-3201.

**Connecticut Integrated Health and Housing Neighborhoods

**Hands On Hartford Programs in 2017, BY THE NUMBERS**

**MANNA Community Pantry**
- 1,189 households served
- 198,173 lbs of food distributed

**Senior Community Cafe**
- 10,186 meals served or delivered

**Community Meals**
- 25,192 meals served
- 2,620 individual guests

**Backpack Nutrition Program**
- 9,385 backpacks delivered
- 228 children participating each week

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

**Faces of Homelessness**
- 40 speaking engagements
- 1,204 audience members

**Community Engagement**
- 2,338 volunteers
- 32,777 hours of service

**Shared Use Kitchen**
- 15 small businesses supported

**Income**
- 37% Government
- 18% In Kind
- 18% Foundation Grants
- 9% Private Donations
- 7% Contracted Services
- 6% Program Income
- 3% Events
- 1% Religious
- 1% Corporate

**Expenses**
- 40% MANNA
- 38% Housing
- 6% CIHHN**
- 3% Community Engagement
- 2% Hartford Thrive!
- 7% Café at Fifty-Five/
  Community Kitchen
- 4% 55B Apartments
Financial & In Kind Support
Thank you for your support!

Grant funding and donors are listed in categories based on cash and stock gifts during 2017, gifts designated to Hands On Hartford through United Way, and employee campaigns (unless reported to us as anonymous).

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Westminster Presbyterian
Bonnie Whelan
Whole Foods Markets
Constance Williams
Diane Williams
Melissa Williams
Carolyn Wynne
XL Catlin Insurance
Aaron Hinze
Nancy Jacobs
Kahlil James
Michelle Jarvis
June J. Jenkins
Jasmine Jimenez
Amber Jones
Janet K. Jones Bann
Alexander Judd
Kathleen M. Kervick
Larnetta King
Alexandra Klindienst
Kaitlyn Q. Kyle
Frank H. Lambert
Mary-Elizabeth Laskarzewski
Cathy Leonard
Ryan Lessard
Drew Lancaster
Carina Lipari
Sarah Litty
Theresa M. MacNaughton
Chuck K. MacNaughton
Sara Makula
Shelbi Malley
Tasha Marrero
Alba M. Martinez
Andrew C. May
Jeanette Medina
Ashley F. Mercer-Schwitter
Omayra Montalvo
Kristi Mullings
John E. Munoz
Carmen Murillo
Donna Murphy
Estelle Murphy
Roselanda Muscade
Brian Neary
Enid E. Negron
Jonathan A. Ney
Karen H. Olivera-Gonzales
Kevin O’Neal
Loreen A. O’Neil
William Orme
Jaime G. Ortega
Stephen Osborn
Elizabeth Pace
Christina J. Paliglou
Victoria K. Palmer-Lavoie
Melodye A. Palmesi
Silja Pandaran
Faith Parrish
Beverly Peterson
Gordon C. Plouffe
Clyde Proch
Andrew Purisi
Alejandro Quintero-Martinez
Mary Quirion
Rosemary Rainey
Janet Ramos
Keith Rhoden
Carrie Rinaldi
Janet Ritchie
Lawrence Roeming
Lykisha S. Royes
Tatiana M. Sanchez
John Sarlo
Jonathan Schaefer
William Scheideman
Catherine Scheideman
Tiffany M. Serrano
Kate Shafer
Howard Shafer
Barbara A. Shaw
Samuel D. Shaw-Wilgoski
Kim M. Sibiga
Amy Lynn Sobel
Linda M. Spiers
Deborah A. Stewart
Donna Taylor
Sally Terrell
Keegan Terry
Logan Terry
Karen Thompson
Wolverton Thompson
Ammeris J. Torres
Anne M. Tranberg
Lisa M. Vooyos
Hunter N. Vooyos
Jeffrey A. Vooyos
David A. Wadhams
Serika Walker
Bill Warner-Prouty
Imari-Ashleigh Watkis
Bonnie L. Whelan
Lynn M. Williams
Annette Wright
John A. Wyatt
Yotzi Yodha
Valery C. Zapata
Harold & Joyce Buckingham
Elizabeth & Eddie Bull
Eleanor Caplan
Carole Carlson
Ann Carta
Bob Cave
Deborah Guier Chamblee
Leon & Jean Chameides
Margaret Collins
David & Marjorie Comstock
Timothy & Leslie Craine
Robert & Kathleen Davidson
Catherine Dougan
Shirley Dudley
Robert & Gladys Dunn
Anne Eglington
Edwin Felske
John French
J.C. David & Sara Hadden
Harper & Whitfield, P.C.
Eleanor Hayes
Maureen & Michael Hicks
Lucia Kelly
Andrew & Elizabeth Kressley
Charles & Joan Leach
H. Lee Levins
Billie Levy
Laverne Mahoney
Linda McDowell
James & Deborah McIntosh
Donna Morrison
Lisa Olsson-Ravicz
Paul & Ilse Orth
Mary Pruss
Claire Pryor
Jan Rosow
Ruth Schloss
Frank Self
Barbara A. Shaw
Karen, Sandra & Barbara Sheperd
Alan & Rosalind Spier
Carolyn Staley
Dorothy & George Stone
In Memory of Barbara Hamilton
Diane Bigelow
In Memory of Lance Jefferson
Janet Bermudez
In Memory of Albert J. Lebrun, Jr.
Mary Burkhardt
In Memory of Edward Levine
Diane Bigelow
In Memory of Frank and Delores Manocchio
Stephen & Maria Ward
In Memory of Frank Manocchio
Donna Manocchio and David Lewis
In Memory of R. Sherwood Marchant
Shirley Dudley
In Memory of Lois and Edward Maxwell
Danielle Maxwell
In Memory of Rev. Gary Miller
Pamela Palmer
In Memory of Rev. Dr. Stanley Sandberg
Kenneth and Karin Stetson
In Memory of Rev. John H. Stadlander
Abby Stadlander
In Memory of Rev. Donald Steinle
James Scaramozza and Michelle Brophy
We are grateful to Christ Church Cathedral for donating the kitchen and dining area that houses our MANNA Community Meals program.

In anticipation of the celebration of Hands On Hartford’s 50th anniversary, deepest thanks to Paul & Kathy Christie who have established the Hands On Hartford 50th Anniversary Fund!

Carolyn’s kindness and dedication are missed by us all.