2018 Corporate Dash for a Difference

On September 21, Hands On Hartford and Prudential sponsored the 2018 Dash for a Difference. Over 200 people on teams from Prudential, Aetna, Travelers, Global Atlantic, ESPN, Webster Bank and Slalom Consulting volunteered at parks, schools, community centers and nonprofits all across Hartford, and explored cultural and historical sites along the way. One example of the feedback we heard: “we saw the city’s beauty … the day left us all questioning how we can do more … by the end of the day new friendships were forged among us all.” (Julie Misenti, Aetna)

Did you know: you don’t have to wait for another community-wide dash to enjoy the benefits of a Dash for a Difference. Our Community Engagement team can customize Dash events for business, school, faith or civic groups for as few as 30 team members. These events are great opportunities for team-building, making a difference in the community, and orienting folks new to Hartford to all the city has to offer. Contact Wanda Guzman for more information: 860-706-1507 or wguzman@handsonhartford.org.

2018 Harvest Supper

Thanks to the generosity of so many, this year’s Harvest Supper was a great success! Guests enjoyed healthy harvest cuisine, much of it donated by our Shared Use Kitchen Members (like Simply Chef Renee with her fabulous Harvest Hash, shown at right), along with our own Chef Marcel’s always-delicious offerings. Our speakers, University of Saint Joseph’s Sister Beth Fischer and USJ nursing school graduate Meghan Chasse inspired us all. We are so grateful to our sponsors, those who donated auction items (and the winning bidders), all of our guests, everyone who made donations, and the volunteers who helped the evening run so smoothly.
Faith In Action

Sister Beth Fischer, a Sister of Mercy, is the University of Saint Joseph liaison to the Wellness Center on Church Street, a partnership with the Franciscan center for Urban Ministry at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church. Among the programs served by the Wellness Center Outreach are Hands On Hartford’s MANNA Community Meals and Neighborhood Services & Community Pantry. She and USJ graduate and nurse-volunteer Meghan Chasse spoke at our recent Harvest Supper about the inspirational work they do with our Community Meals guests. It was moving to hear how much their spirits are lifted up from the health support work they do and the connections they make.

The Community Meals program would not be possible without the generous gift of space provided by Christ Church Cathedral, one of our founding congregations. Our partnership with Christ Church Cathedral around this program (various incarnations of which were the Nutrition Ministry, Soup and Services, Cleo’s Place, Center for Hope, and now MANNA Community Meals) reaches back 40 years, and has made a difference in countless lives over those years.

We are delighted to welcome Kyle Williams, a Young Adult Service Community intern, to the HOH team. Kyle (right, with Janet Bermudez, MANNA Program Manager) will be here through next summer, working four days a week with the MANNA team both at Community Meals and in our Neighborhood Services and Community Pantry. Kyle’s internship is sponsored by First Church of Christ in Simsbury, where he spends the rest of his time gaining leadership skills and serving with their congregation. We’re very grateful to be collaborating with First Church Simsbury on this project.

Hands On Hartford Welcomes New Board Members

Over the past several months, Hands On Hartford has welcomed three new members to its Board of Directors:

- **Thomas Kainamura**, Director, MUFG Union Bank, N.A.
- **Brian Neary**, Vice President & Chief Operational Risk Officer, Enterprise Risk Management, The Hartford Financial Services Group
- **William Wilcox**, Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, Distribution, Prudential Financial

We are pleased to welcome Thomas, Brian and Bill to the Hands On Hartford team!

Upcoming Event:

Join us for 20% evening at Puerto Vallarta Authentic Mexican Cuisine in Newington on Tuesday November 6, from 3:00-8:00pm! 20% of all sales will be donated to Hands On Hartford. Where? 2385 Berlin Turnpike, Newington. And don’t miss the teacup auction that evening.
We are all hands on Hartford!

We honored Luis Lopez, Keeper of the Garden, and artist Molly Lantagne for her gift of this mural and fabric art, at the HOH gardens in September.

The Faces of Homelessness Speakers’ Bureau has been busy this fall with events at Rocky Hill Congregational Church, shown here, Aetna, Jewish Teen Connection, First Church in Farmington, the State of CT Judicial Branch, and a number of events at UCONN Hartford.

AdviceOne LLC hosted an event and food drive resulting in a gift of 189 pounds of food and over $1,500 in financial donations to support the Backpack Nutrition Program for kids in Hartford.

This team from The Hartford donated 279 pounds of food for the Backpack Nutrition Program. Folks from The Hartford have also been shipping food for this program through Amazon having seen our Wish List at Amazon.com!

We’re so grateful to Emanuel Lutheran Church for teaming up with the Outreach Program to pack and deliver 3,800 pounds of rice & beans and pasta & sauce for the pantry—enough for 24,840 meals! Special thanks to these volunteers for their loading and unloading work.

This Leadership Greater Hartford Quest group adopted the Backpack Nutrition Program in their “Quest for Growth” project. They donated seeds for the Sprouts for Kids Program, Big Y gift cards, school supplies and food.
Kitchen to Pantry Volunteers Needed—starting in January

Ideal opportunity for groups of 4-5 who want to improve our community’s health, mid-day for several hours, on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays of the month. Clean, chop and package fresh produce for the pantry. A regular commitment would be much appreciated! Contact Katie or Edith at 860-706-1522 or kthibault@handsonhartford.org or etresner@handsonhartford.org.

Does your employer have a matching gifts program?

Many employers match financial donations to charitable organizations like Hands On Hartford, or make gifts to match volunteer hours. You may be able to double the impact of your gift! Questions? Contact Kate at kshafer@handsonhartford.org or 860-706-1505.

The Café at Fifty-Five is open Tuesday-Friday, 7:30am-2:30pm, here at 55 Bartholomew Avenue in Hartford.

Caterers Who Care provides on-site and off-site catering, including a broad selection of breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack items with an emphasis on our ability to customize our selections to fit groups from a handful to hundreds, and accommodate your budget. Check out our new catering menu at our website!

Our Community Kitchen also operates as a shared use kitchen, where members may use the kitchen and all of its equipment on an hourly basis—ideal for small culinary businesses, start-ups, and food trucks/carts.

The Café, Caterers Who Care and Shared Use Kitchen all support Hands On Hartford direct service programs.

For more information contact Molly Reynolds at 860-706-1537 or mreynolds@handsonhartford.org.

Are you an online shopper?

Check out Amazon Smile – for all Amazon.com shoppers, start your shopping at smile.amazon.com. Select Hands On Hartford as your charity, and you’re off and running! .5% of eligible purchases will go to Hands On Hartford.

For information about volunteering and customized service projects, contact Wanda at wguzman@handsonhartford.org, 860-706-1507.

For more information about our programs, financial and in-kind support, contact Kate at kshafer@handsonhartford.org, 860-706-1505.