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.

February 2019 News

Save the Date!

Join us in Foodshare’s 2019 Walk Against Hunger
Saturday, April 27, 2019
10:00 am
2 mile walk starting at Dunkin Donuts Park

For more information contact Kate Shafer at kshafer@handsonhartford.org or 860-706-1505.

Save the date - mark your calendar!

Hands On Hartford’s 50th Anniversary Celebration: Thursday, October 24, 5:30pm, at the Hartford Marriott.
Help us honor our legacy and celebrate our commitment to the Hartford community!

More Upcoming Events: mark your calendars—more details coming soon.

Sunday, April 21: Easter Sunday Community Meal
Monday, May 27: Memorial Day Community Meal
**Faith In Action**

What a wonderful celebration of Faith Congregational Church’s 200th anniversary! HOH Executive Director Barbara Shaw was moved to hear Faith Congregational Church’s Pastor Steve Camp, Reverend Shelly Stackhouse of Center Church/First Church of Christ in Hartford and Reverend Kari Nicewander of Immanuel Congregational Church, and other devoted members of these congregations on February 10. Talented musicians made this service even more inspirational.

We had fabulous visit with our friends from Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Simsbury, who brought a wonderful donation of 200 pairs of thick warm socks! We had a chance to show them around our Center for Community and start a conversation about more connections for the future. Thank you to everyone who helped with the sock donation!

**New Catering Menu from Caterers Who Care**

Hands On Hartford’s “Caterers Who Care” has a new catering menu! Breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, and appetizers: Chef Marcel and his team do it all! Catering proceeds support Hands on Hartford’s direct service programs, assisting folks in Hartford with food and nutrition, health support and housing. We deliver to the greater Hartford area or call us about holding your meeting or event at our beautifully restored Center for Community at 55 Bartholomew Avenue in Hartford.

For more information contact Molly Reynolds at 860-706-1537/ mreynolds@handsonhartford.org or visit www.handsonhartford.org/caring-in-action/catering/.

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**Does your employer have a matching gifts program?**

Many businesses in the Hartford area make donations to match charitable gifts made by their employees. Some even make financial gifts when their employees volunteer their time! Be sure to check with your HR department to see if you can increase your gifts of “time or treasure” this way. Here is a partial list of companies that make matching donations, and we are so grateful to them for giving back to the community in this way: Travelers, Prudential, The Hartford, Aetna, Virtus Investment Partners, VOYA, ESPN, the Johnson & Johnson family of companies, Starbucks, State Farm Insurance, Verizon, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, MassMutual, and The Home Depot.
We all have our hands on Hartford!

Did you know that 2019 is our 50th year changing lives in Hartford?! Here's the Hands On Hartford team with our shiny "5-0" balloons after our team meeting this month!

Before the actual Super Bowl, it was the "Souper Bowl" at First Presbyterian Church in Hartford generating an amazing donation of well over a ton of food for the pantry! Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We were delighted to host students from The Olympia School in Hanoi, Vietnam, which is a sister school of Miss Porter’s School. Students painted pots for Sprouts for Kids, packed backpacks, and assembled Valentine’s Day gifts for students in the Backpack Program.

We were so honored to receive this generous support from Nassau Re, which will make such a great difference in the lives of the folks we serve! And here’s a shout out to the folks from Nassau Re who volunteer at Community Meals - we couldn't do it without you!

A huge shout out to the UConn Women's Basketball fans who contributed to a great 635 pound food drive at a game this month! Thank you to Foodshare, ShopRite Partners in Caring and the XL Center in Hartford.

Thanks to the generosity of many, we have collected over 1,000 packets of oatmeal for the Backpack Nutrition Program—enough to keep 229 kids’ tummies full and warm for the next two weekends!
New Weekday Volunteer Opportunities

New volunteer opportunities! Community Meals at 45 Church Street in Hartford will soon be open for lunch on Thursdays! We are looking for small groups of 6-8 who are interested in serving lunch on Thursday afternoons from 11:30a.-1:30pm.

We are also going to be open at 45 Church Street in Hartford for Continental Breakfast Monday-Thursday. This is a great opportunity for a small groups of 2-3 people to donate and serve breakfast or just serve breakfast to our guests.

Contact Wanda Guzman, Community Engagement Program Manager, at wguzman@handsonhartford.org or (860) 706-1507.

Hands On Hartford Programs

- **MANNA Food Programs**: Community Meals, Community Pantry, and Backpack Nutrition Program
- **HOH Neighborhood Services**: homelessness prevention, Operation Fuel, and health & nutrition services
- **HOH Housing**: supportive housing services
- **Faces of Homelessness** Speakers’ Bureau
- **Community Engagement**: volunteer placement, customized community service projects and immersions.

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 or joining our Legacy Society, contact Kate at kshafer@handsonhartford.org, or 860-706-1505.

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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 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.

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**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.

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