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.

50th Anniversary Celebration News

Hands On Hartford’s October 24, 2019 50th Anniversary Celebration will feature remarks by local celebrity chef Tyler Anderson, will be emceed by Chion Wolf of WNPR fame, with a live auction conducted by our close (and very entertaining) friend John Merz, Executive Director of AIDS Connecticut. The event takes place at the Hartford Marriott Downtown at 5:30pm and starts with a performance by dancers from Spectrum in Motion dance company, dedicated to people of color and the American Experience. Here’s how you can participate:

- Be a sponsor! Sponsorships start at $1,500 and come with publicity opportunities and tickets to the event
- Place an ad in the event program—commitments start at $250
- Be a table captain—we can send you an informational table captain packet
- Buy tickets—tickets are $150 and can be purchased now by check or online soon

For more information about the 50th Anniversary Celebration, see “Upcoming Events” on our website, www.handsonhartford.org, or contact Kate Shafer at kshafer@handsonhartford.org, 860-706-1505.

Rosa Santiago Celebrates 20th Anniversary (or is it 21st?)

Neighborhood Services Navigator Rosa Santiago is celebrating her 20th anniversary at Hands On Hartford! Staff celebrated this milestone with Rosa at a recent staff meeting. Rosa actually started with Center City Churches in 1998 at the WESP (Weekend Elderly Services Project), helping to prepare and serve meals, and playing bingo with guests. Over the last two decades, Rosa has worked with many of our programs—Laurel Street Home for adults with mental illness, Cleo’s Place (now, Community Meals), Peter’s Retreat, and MANNA Assistance & Advocacy Program and Community Pantry, now called Neighborhood Services. She’s cooked, delivered food to homebound seniors, counselled clients, connected folks to resources, made referrals, helped folks shop at the pantry, served meals, connected with volunteers, and along the way impacted thousands of lives. Rosa reflects, “It’s amazing how much I’ve learned, the people I’ve met, and the connections I’ve made…. Yes, I’ve learned a lot.” The truth is, everyone who has had the privilege of working with Rosa has learned from her. She has a calm and steady way about her, and she is persistent in finding ways to fulfill client needs. She’s especially skilled in listening, understanding, and helping folks who are often agitated, anxious and upset catch their breath and relax. We hear time and time again from clients how much they appreciate both the help she provides in terms of assistance and connections to resources, and the kindness, acceptance and understanding she exhibits. Congratulations to Rosa on this milestone year!
Faith In Action

Christ Church Cathedral, one of our founding congregations and a long-term partner of Hands On Hartford, is celebrating its centennial anniversary as Connecticut’s Episcopal Cathedral this year. Visit their website to find out about celebratory events (www.cccathedral.org). In addition, 2019 marks the 40th year that our Community Meals and Day Program has been housed at Christ Church Cathedral. Over the years the program has had other names—Soup and Services, and Cleo’s Place being two of them, but the great work of providing nutrition and hope has remained consistent over the years. We congratulate Christ Church Cathedral on their 100th anniversary and celebrate with joy our 40+ year partnership through the Community Meals Program.

Volunteer Opportunities Available

- **Help ensure food security for kids on weekends.** We are seeking 2-3 long term volunteers to assist our Backpack Coordinator in the delivery of backpacks full of food each Thursday during the 2019-2020 school year. Time Commitment: Every Thursday - 12:45 to 3:00pm October to June. (Delivery times may fluctuate slightly) Volunteer weekly or bi-weekly.

- **Connect with guests at Community Meals.** We are in need of a Registration Book Volunteer to sign-in guests Wednesdays at lunch. Time Commitment: One open shift available on Wednesdays 11:15am to 1:30pm. Volunteer weekly or bi-weekly.

- **Support folks in our food pantry as a MANNA Volunteer Receptionist.** We are seeking several long term volunteers to support the neighborhood services/community pantry by answering phone calls and responding to voicemails. Time Commitment: Regular shifts Monday through Friday from 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm.

- **Volunteer at our Labor Day Community Meal.** Help set up, prep, serve and clean up our Community Meal on Monday, September 2, 9am - 2/2:30pm. This is a great opportunity for families (children over 10) and anyone else who is looking for a non-working day opportunity.

For more information about any of these opportunities, email volunteering@handsonhartford.org, or call 860-706-1522.

“Vote” for Hands On Hartford at Blue State Coffee

Stop by Blue State Coffee at 777 Main Street in Hartford, enjoy a great cup of coffee and vote for Hands On Hartford! Blue State Coffee is donating a percentage of proceeds from July through December to Hands On Hartford and these other great organizations—the more votes we get, the greater the donation! We’re so grateful to Blue State Coffee and all of their customers!
More 50th Anniversary Celebration Activities

Join us at 50 Years Changing Lives: Reception and Panel Discussion
Our walk down memory lane will be moderated by local historian, author and journalist, Susan Campbell and feature former and current leaders of the agency.
Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street, Hartford History Center, 3rd Floor, Wednesday, August 21, 2019, 6:00pm –8:00pm, light refreshments. Please RSVP to Kate Shafer, kshafer@handsonhartford.org.

Visit our Wall of Testimonials at our Center for Community, 55 Bartholomew Avenue, and read for yourself how our volunteers and clients feel about their connections with the MANNA Community Pantry.

Check out our Facebook page for #TuesdayTestimonials and #FiftyFunFridayFacts and share them with friends.

Did you know that we have a goal of recruiting 50 Backpack Angels this year? Backpack Angels (32 and counting) provide substantial support for the Backpack Nutrition Program through financial gifts, food drives and donations.

And did you know that we are collecting 50 words of witness from guests at Community Meals? Everyone is joining in our celebration of 50 years in Hartford and we hope you will too!

Do you love Community Meals?

Here’s another opportunity to make a difference. We are convening a gathering on Wednesday, July 31, at 5:30pm here at 55 Bartholomew Avenue, to brainstorm and share stories of impact of the Community Meals and Day Program, and find new ways to support the program financially. If you can’t attend but have great ideas, just let us know! RSVP to kshafer@handsonhartford.org to let us know you’re coming.

Funding for the Future

There are now two funds held at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for the benefit of Hands On Hartford and the folks we serve. The Hands On Hartford Endowment Fund was established at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in 2018 to provide ongoing support to Hands On Hartford, for its unrestricted use. Income from the fund is used primarily to support operating expenses of Hands On Hartford’s basic needs programs. The Innovation Fund for Hands On Hartford was established in 2019 by former board members Peter and Mary Fran Libassi, to be used to support emerging ideas, initiatives and programs that help Hands On Hartford fulfill its mission. By making a gift to either of these funds, you will also be joining our growing group of Legacy Society members. To donate to these funds, you may contact Hartford Foundation for Public Giving directly, or get in touch with our Executive Director, Barbara A. Shaw for more information: bshaw@handsonhartford.org or 860-706-1502.
Job Opportunities at Hands On Hartford

Now is a great time to think about joining a hard-working and caring team, dedicated to serving the Hartford Community. Visit our website for more information about these job opportunities:

- **Community Kitchen Programs Manager (Full Time)**
- **Cafe Assistant (Part Time)**
- **Tenant Assistant (30 hours)**
- **Lead Custodian (Part Time)**
- **Peacekeeper/Janitor (Part Time)**
- **Community Engagement (Per Diem)**

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.

The Café at Fifty-Five

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 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.

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.