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.

September 2019 News

Tickets are going fast for Hands On Hartford’s 50th Anniversary Celebration, Thursday, October 24, 5:30-9:00pm, Hartford Marriott Downtown. Tickets are $150 each, and can be purchased by mailing a check to Hands On Hartford, Attn: Kate Shafer, 55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106, or online at: https://cbo.io/handson/50thAnnivTickets

Visit our website, www.handsonhartford.org (Upcoming Events) to find out more!

Comings and Goings

After twenty-one years at Hands On Hartford, we celebrated the wonderful Rosa Santiago’s retirement, with love, gratitude and some tears. Rosa has touched the lives of thousands and thousands of people - clients, volunteers, colleagues - with her kindness, good humor, expertise, common sense and huge heart. One of her clients even came in with a plaque that reads "Thank you for your service to our family since 2001/Greatly Appreciated/God Bless You." We will miss Rosa AND look forward to frequent visits from her.

We welcome our new Kitchen Programs Manager, Andy Proctor, and our new Café Assistant, Megyn Craine! Andy jumped right into his new position, creating wonderful new daily special in the café, helping to manage our Shared Kitchen Members, and handling catering jobs large and small. Megyn is quickly getting to know our Café customers and is always ready to greet you with a welcoming smile. Andy and Megyn are great additions to the Hands On Hartford team and we’re lucky to have them.

Finally, a big congratulations to Daryl Granville on his promotion to Café Coordinator. Trust Daryl to keep the Café running smoothly and efficiently and to ensure that it’s a great community space for all our friends and neighbors.
What a privilege to join with our Muslim friends to receive and distribute Halal meat, donated by Muslim Coalition of Connecticut with funding from Islamic Relief USA. We were able to give Halal meat to many of our Muslim neighbors who are suffering from food insecurity. Our volunteers also spent time with staff around the table, sharing a meal together and getting to know one another. Thank you, Muslim Coalition, for your generosity, and thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their Saturday to help us distribute the meat to those who most need it!

Hands On Hartford’s 2018 Annual Report is available to view on our website! Visit www.handsonhartford.org/about/financial-information/ to take a look. If you’d like a copy mailed to you, just contact Kate Shafer at kshafer@handsonhartford.org. The report is a great way to get a snapshot of program updates for the year, events and initiatives, the impact we’ve had on the community, a financial summary and a list of the many generous donors who made such a difference in the lives of our Hartford neighbors. We are grateful to Canon Solutions America, our annual report printing sponsor.

The most recent gathering of the Culinary Collaborative (“Eat Up, Meet Up Hartford”) was held at the end of September. The Culinary Collaborative is a partnership among Hands On Hartford, reSET (Social Enterprise Trust), Breakfast Lunch and Dinner, the Swift Factory, Parkville Market, and Knox Inc. The purpose of this initiative is to provide support and connections among small and emerging food businesses, including Hands On Hartford’s Shared Kitchen Members. During monthly gatherings, participants can access assistance in areas such as marketing, web design, business management, and business planning. It’s exciting to be a part of a program that enables folks to build sustainable and self-sufficient culinary businesses from the ground up.
We all have our hands on Hartford!

Thank you to our friends from Axis Insurance who collected school supplies for our Backpack Program, and then sorted the items into bags for each student.

Don’t miss Kate Emery’s beautiful exhibit, Heart and Hands, hanging in the Café through November. All artwork is available for purchase, and the artist is very generously sharing proceeds with reSET and Hands On Hartford.

A good time was had by all at the Labor Day meal for the community. Over 40 volunteers prepped food, decorated, served and visited with 175 guests. It was a wonderful opportunity to make new connections and we’re grateful to everyone who participated.

In honor and memory of all of those whose lives were lost on 9/11, this generous team from The Hartford gave their time in service by giving our Backpack Nutrition Program room a vigorous cleaning—we’re now all set for the new school year!

In more Backpack Program news, our good friends at Harvard Pilgrim Health Care donated 250 brand new backpacks filled with school supplies! Thank you HPHC for helping kids in our community start their year out right!

Our friends from the Gengras Center School at University of Saint Joseph dropped by to deliver fresh herbs from their sensory garden for our pantry families. Also good aromatherapy!
Consider Joining the Hands On Hartford Team

We have both volunteer opportunities and job opportunities available and we love to welcome people to the team.

Check out our most recent volunteer opportunities on our website: Handsonhartford.org/become-a-volunteer/find-an-opportunity/
Or contact our Volunteer Coordinators at volunteering@handsonhartford.org or 860-706-1522.

And we have several job openings, which you can review here: Handsonhartford.org/about/job-opportunities/

Please share this information with anyone you know looking for a great community-oriented team.

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 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.