FREE

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CHARTER OAK
CULTURAL CENTER
Art that moves the world

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Beat of the Street needs creative minds to write articles, share poetry and art (photography and/or cartoons) to help our newspaper flourish and work toward ending homelessness in the Greater Hartford area. The fruits of your labors of love shall be rewarded in the form of Wal-Mart gift cards. ($20 gift card for an article, and $10 gift card for art and poetry!)

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BEAT OF THE STREET

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Count Your Blessings

By Grace

An Article About Gratitude, Life, and Appreciating What You Have

We live in a world where people are constantly chasing something. Some are chasing money, others are chasing success, love, happiness, recognition, or a better way of life. Every day, we wake up thinking about what we need to accomplish, what we need to buy, what we need to change, and what we wish we had. We spend so much of our time looking ahead that we sometimes forget to appreciate where we are right now. We become so focused on what is missing from our lives that we fail to recognize the many blessings already surrounding us.

Have you ever stopped for a moment and asked yourself, "What if the things I complain about today are the things someone else is praying for?" Think about that. Someone is praying for a job while you are complaining about having to go to work. Someone is praying for a home while you are complaining about the house you live in. Someone is wishing they could spend another day with a loved one while you are too busy to make that phone call. Someone is praying for good health while you are taking your ability to get out of bed every morning for granted.

Sometimes, we don't realize how fortunate we are until life gives us a reason to look at things differently.

Counting your blessings doesn't mean that your life is perfect. It doesn't mean you don't have problems, worries, disappointments, or difficult days. It doesn't mean you have to pretend that everything is okay when it isn't. Life can be unfair. People disappoint us. Relationships fall apart. Financial problems come knocking at our doors. Dreams sometimes take longer than expected, and some never happen the way we imagined. There are days when getting through the day is an accomplishment all by itself. But even during those difficult moments, there is still something worth appreciating.

Sometimes, a blessing is not something you can hold in your hands. It is something you feel in your heart. It is the peace you experience when you finally get a good night's sleep after weeks of worrying. It is the sound of your children laughing, the comfort of knowing someone cares, or the simple joy of sitting around a table with people you love. It can be a stranger holding a door open for you, a friend checking on you, or someone remembering something important about your life. These little moments may not seem like much, but they are reminders that kindness and goodness still exist in this world.

We often measure our blessings by material things. We look at the size of someone's house, the car they drive, the clothes they wear, the vacations they take, or the amount of money in their bank account. Social media makes it even harder because we are constantly seeing pictures of people showing the best parts of their lives. We see the celebrations, the beautiful homes, the expensive dinners, and the exciting vacations, but we rarely see the struggles behind those pictures. We don't see the sleepless nights, the arguments, the unpaid bills, the disappointments, or the personal battles they may be fighting.

The truth is, you cannot measure someone's happiness by what they own. A person can have everything money can buy and still feel empty inside. Another person can have very little and wake up every morning with a grateful heart. Happiness is not always about having more. Sometimes, it is about learning to appreciate enough.

Stop comparing your journey to someone else's. Your life has its own timing, its own challenges, and its own victories. Just because someone else reached a destination before you doesn't mean you are falling behind. Just because someone has something you don't have doesn't mean you are unsuccessful. You may be looking at their blessings while overlooking your own.

Another important part of counting your blessings is learning to appreciate the people in your life while they are still here. We sometimes become so comfortable with having certain people around that we forget to tell them how much they mean to us. We assume there will always be another holiday, another birthday, another family gathering, or another opportunity to say what we should have said today. But life doesn't always give us that opportunity.

Pick up the phone. Visit someone you haven't seen in a while. Tell your parents you love them. Hug your children a little longer. Check on that friend who has been unusually quiet. Forgive when you can, apologize when you should, and never let pride become more important than the people who matter to you. One day, the ordinary moments you experience today may become the memories you wish you could relive.

Blessings, Continued on page 6

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There are too many to name, but special thanks to everyone else who has made a contribution or subscribed to the newspaper!

Thanksgiving: A Time to Be Thankful, Share Love, and Remember What Matters Most

By Oliver Cooper

Thanksgiving is one of those special times of the year when families and friends come together to share food, laughter, stories, and memories. The smell of roasted turkey, sweet potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and freshly baked pies fills the house. The kitchen becomes busy, the dining table gets decorated, and everyone looks forward to enjoying a wonderful meal. But as beautiful as these traditions are, Thanksgiving is about much more than what is served on the dinner table. It is about appreciating life, recognizing our blessings, remembering those who are no longer with us, and being grateful for the people who continue to make our lives meaningful.

Sometimes, we get so caught up in preparing for the holiday that we forget to stop and think about its true purpose. We worry about whether the food is ready, whether the house is clean, whether everyone has arrived, and whether everything is going according to plan. But the truth is, Thanksgiving doesn't have to be perfect to be meaningful. You don't need a big house, an expensive meal, or a table full of people to experience the spirit of Thanksgiving. Sometimes, the greatest gift is simply having someone to share a conversation with, a warm place to sit, and another day to enjoy life. I tell you a story -

There was once a family that looked forward to Thanksgiving every year. It was their favorite holiday because everyone gathered at Grandma Eleanor's house. Her kitchen was always filled with delicious smells, her grandchildren ran through the living room, and the adults gathered around the table sharing stories about their childhood.

Grandma Eleanor had one special tradition. Before anyone started eating, she would ask each person to share one thing they were thankful for.

One year, however, things were different. Grandma Eleanor had passed away, and the family was preparing for their first Thanksgiving without her. Everyone felt the emptiness. Her favorite chair was still sitting near the dining table, but nobody had the heart to sit in it.

The family arrived, but the excitement wasn't quite the same. The food was ready, the table was beautifully decorated, and all the familiar dishes were there. Yet something was missing.

As everyone sat down, Grandma's youngest grandson, Michael, noticed that nobody was smiling. He looked at the empty chair and asked, "Are we still going to do Grandma's Thanksgiving tradition?"

His mother smiled through her tears and said, "Of course we are."

Michael stood up and said, "I'm thankful for Grandma because she taught us that family is more important than anything we can buy. I'm thankful that she made us laugh, that she cooked for us, and that she always made sure nobody felt left out."

One by one, everyone began sharing their memories. Some laughed, some cried, and others simply listened. They remembered Grandma's stories, her advice, her hugs, and even the way she insisted that everyone take home leftovers.

By the time everyone had finished, the room felt different. The sadness was still there, but so was gratitude. They realized that although Grandma was no longer physically sitting at the table, everything she had taught them was still alive in their hearts.

That Thanksgiving, they learned an important lesson: We cannot always keep the people we love beside us forever, but we can carry their love, kindness, and memories wherever we go.

And sometimes, the greatest way to honor someone is to continue the beautiful traditions they left behind.

We often think of blessings as something big. We celebrate buying a new home, getting a promotion, receiving a special gift, or reaching an important milestone. But what about the little things we experience every day?

Be thankful for waking up in the morning. Be thankful for the ability to see the sunshine, hear the birds, walk outside, and breathe fresh air. Be thankful for the people who call to check on you, the friends who make you laugh, and the family members who stand beside you when life becomes difficult.

Be thankful for the meal you have today, even if it isn't a feast. Somewhere, someone is wishing they had a meal to put on the table. Be thankful for the roof over your head, even if your home isn't as big as you would like. Somewhere, someone is searching for a safe place to sleep.

We sometimes complain about the things we don't have without realizing how much we already possess. We look at other people's lives and compare their successes to our struggles. But we rarely know what someone else has gone through to get where they are.

Remember, not everything that shines is gold, and not everyone who smiles is free from pain.

The word Thanksgiving contains two important ideas: giving thanks and giving to others.

There are people who will spend Thanksgiving alone. Some are elderly and have no family nearby. Some are struggling financially and cannot afford a holiday meal. Others may be experiencing homelessness, illness, grief, or difficult personal circumstances.

For these individuals, Thanksgiving may be just another day of trying to get through life.

Imagine how much a simple act of kindness could mean to someone. Inviting a neighbor to dinner, delivering a warm meal, donating food, volunteering at a shelter, or simply sitting down and talking with someone who feels forgotten can make a tremendous difference.

You don't have to be wealthy to make someone feel rich in kindness. You don't have to have a lot to give a little. Sometimes, giving someone your time and attention is worth more than anything money can buy.

A simple smile can brighten someone's day. A kind word can restore someone's confidence. A helping hand can remind someone that they are not alone.

This Thanksgiving, let's remember that there is room at the table for kindness, compassion, and understanding.

Let's be honest. Not everyone enters Thanksgiving with a happy heart. Some people are dealing with financial struggles, family disagreements, health challenges, broken relationships, or the loss of someone they deeply love.

For some, the holidays bring back memories that are difficult to face.

Thanksgiving, Continued on page 6

WHY WE ARE HERE

Beat of the Street is a forum where real people can share their real experiences with homelessness. The newspaper was created by a group of people who had experienced homelessness and their allies who stand in solidarity with them. Initially dedicated to being a space where the stories and perspectives of individuals could be shared, Beat of the Street has grown to become more than a street newspaper. Innovative programs that have been developed by its members include BOTS Pots and BOTS Center for Creative Learning. We will continue to explore new ways to address the problem of homelessness through BOTS activities created in response to our on-going dialogue with those who have experienced housing insecurity.

Editorial Review Board's Note
The articles contained within Beat of the Street are submitted by members of the Greater Hartford community, as well as BOTS staff members. As such, opinion pieces published in Beat of the Street generally represent the opinions of the people who submitted them, and not necessarily Beat of the Street. We welcome all to submit content expressing their thoughts and experiences of homelessness, though we do not publish material we deem to be racist, sexist or classist. To be considered for publication, an article should be no longer than 700 words. All submitted content is reviewed, and selected for publication, by an Editorial Review Board made up of BOTS staff members on a rotating basis. The Editorial Review Board reserves the right to edit material. Please contact us at hartbeatofthestreet@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to submit your original work.

The editorial review board welcomes readers' comments on material published in the newspaper, and suggestions for subjects they would like to see addressed in future issues.

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Art that moves the world



Photo by cottonbro studio: https://www.pexels.com/photo/yellow-police-tape-on-crime-scene-10481285/

"Street Legends of Hartford": The Henry Price Story

By Cord Smith

ONE OF PART 12 SERIES

The smell of urine in the hallway, the sound of footsteps running up and down the stairwell. Drug dealers selling- dope fiends coping. Just Another Day in the life of active Hustling and Drug use.

Drug-users fighting, Number Runners, Children yelling in Halls, doors slamming. when I was 14 years old, I heard the names of some of the tough and wild things of the Inner City in Hartford CT, in the early 60's and 70's.

MELVIN PARRY

STEVEN HOLTER

ANDRE GASTON

HENRY BUBBY PRICE

But the name that sound the loudest was Bubby Price. A Hollow figure, moving In-out of View,

But the name that sound the loudest was Bubby Price. A Hollow figure, moving In-out of Views.

IN 1976, the year of the Famous Revolution. It will not be televised.

Now, I'm old enough to see the life wreckage of Mr. Price. Those slim figures of my Child-hood "the Black Panthers," "Bub" loved the panther-party and the powerful program it Represented. Breakfast for All Inner-city Kids and Households.

THE BLACK LEATHER COATS, THE high COLLARS, BUT most of ALL THE famous "Afro"

Bang-Bang, A woman screaming heavy footsteps running, someone was Dead. Who did it, A trail of Dope-Fiends Needles, Racing street lights, Cops sirens. Quiet echoes of smoke Filled Allys, An addict Lay dead. ❊

BEAT OF THE STREET

Are you interested in furthering your education? Then, come to the BOTS Center for Creative Learning!

FREE COURSES

Wednesdays & Fridays
10:00 AM–12:00 PM
(including free breakfast)
Hartford

Graduates of the BOTS Center receive a free laptop computer and are eligible for a full scholarship to Goodwin College.

The BOTS Center for Creative Learning is a program of the Charter Oak Cultural Center.

For more information and registration please contact:
Meenu Sharma (860) 310-2591
Email: bots@charteroakcenter.org

POETRY AND ART CORNER

No Words
By BOTS Poets

No words were spoken.
They both have love for him.
There's a connection happening,
some secrecy.
Wait, wait wait wait,
just a second
Somebody needs a hug
and can we say but
did they wind up doing that warmth? No,
But they drank coffee and turned up the heat.

Roman Nomad
By Maximillian Eschellen Xavier

Roman Nomad nowhere to begin
With nothing, a nomad building Rome all over again
Back from scratch, brick by brick,
Some mix matched, piece by piece, stitch by stitch
This Roman Nomad is not even from Rome
London Bridge has fallen down, trying to find his way home
Roman the Roman man roaming isn't a nomad
Be me so with a su-bag, he's on a path to find himself
Or herself .... alive
Not dead .....
With a Toe Tag

Waking up in the City
By Rosalie Earl

The Sounds of nature
The Sounds of the wind blowing, birds chirping,
adults talking, children laughing.
Cars and buses passes by,
Sirens from the first responders,
all can be heard,
If you just sit in silence,
depending on where you live, you
Can even sometimes hear the sounds
of the train. Not as loud as the
Subways in New York, but still loud
enough to be heard. And that's
on a good day.
But what about the days that
aren't always Sunny.
Don't forget about the days
that are gloomy.
The skies are grey, maybe it's cloudy,
maybe it's raining.
The energy is depressing.
These are the days.
When you wake up
and hear,
There was another shooting
another death, another
child goes missing,
all while you were
sleeping.
There's never a dull
moment,
Waking up in the city
is so unpredictable.

Untitled
By Rev. Jayson R. Hughes

Son of Clarence and Jolean
Born of African and Seminole decent
Strong brown eyes empowered with the elements
Red skin like the Georgia clay where my beloved, unforgotten
forefathers lay
Teacher, preacher, brother
Husband, Father. Lover
Yet as I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I shall not be afraid because Jesus guides my Every step
Dreams and visions help me see this
If I live holy I will be with Jesus
But Satan tries to break me down and the earths a battleground
populated by hellhounds
The tears flow from my eyes as I realize
I need the full armour of God loving in this sinners paradise

Ain't it Strange
By Destiny

Observations derange,
Perceptions amaze.
Ani't it strange?
Aint it strange?

Aint it strange?
How truth can be conveyed by lies,
Aint it strange?
How rules can be obeyed with sighs.
How honesty is a breach of trust.
How an iron fist can rust.

Observations derange,
Perceptions amaze.
Ani't it strange?
Aint it strange?

Aint it strange?
How a shepherd gets lynched by a fleet of sheep.
How you find it getting more shallow the deeper you dig.

Observations derange,
Perceptions amaze.
Ani't it strange?
Aint it strange?

Aint it strange?
How fishes can drown.
Aint it strange?
How you can fly while falling down.
How hitting a high is hitting a low.
How you can simultaneously smile and cry
and no one would even know.

Observations derange,
Perceptions amaze.
Aint it strange?
Aint it strange?

Aint it strange?
How a king can be a laughing stock
While a jester leaves a lump in your throat,
How it is not funny no more,
While the laughter still echoes.

POETRY AND ART CORNER



By George

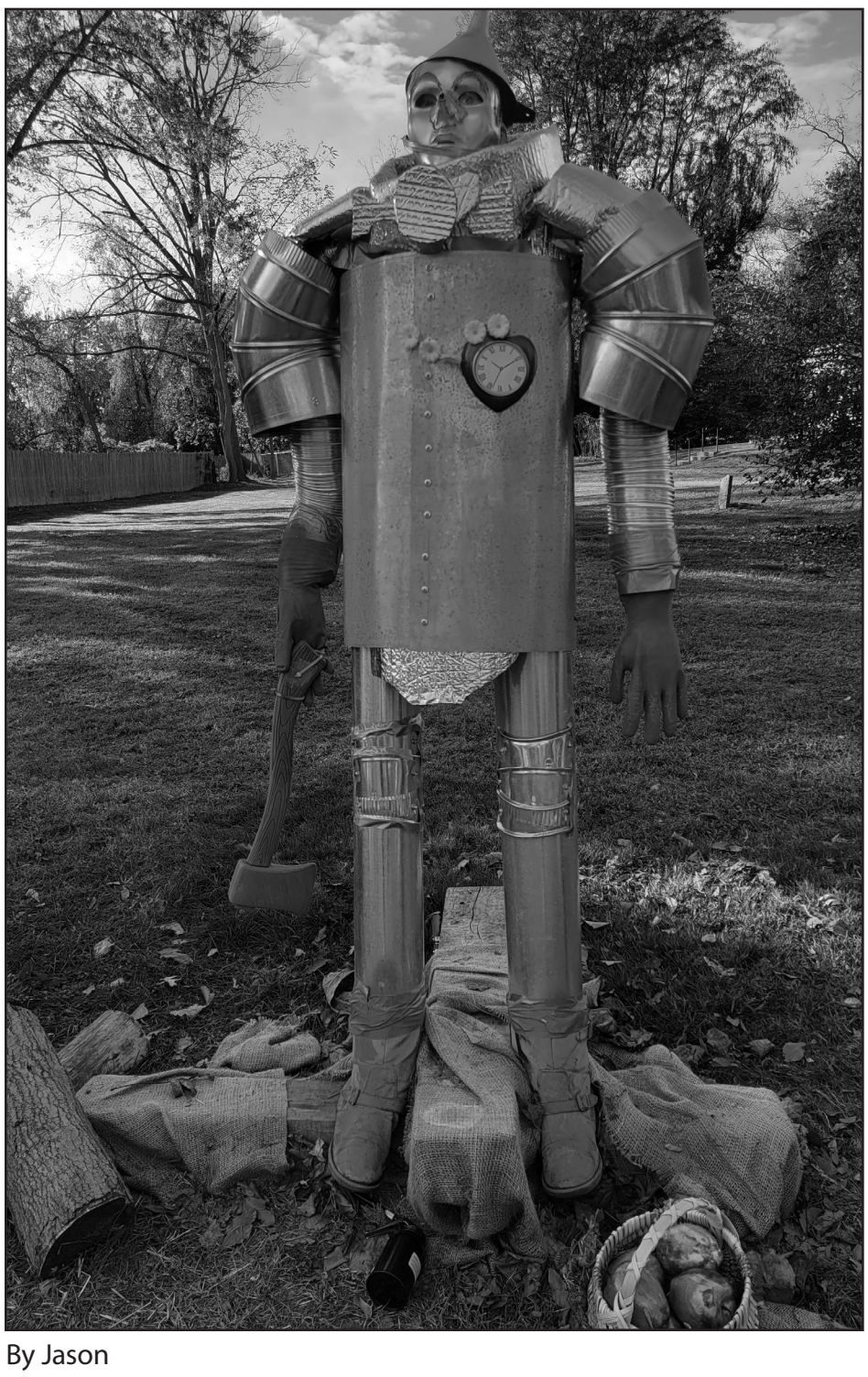
By Jason



By Jason



By Maria



By Jason

COMMUNITY VOICES



Photo by Timur Weber: https://www.pexels.com/photo/man-sleeping-on-a-green-bench-9532313/

Homeless in New Haven

By Yvonne Kearson

Homelessness is no laughing matter. The U-Act is a group of people in New Haven who want housing for all who need it. I was privileged to see a play that U-Act put on while working to end homelessness. It was quite exhilarating. The way they used sounds of everyday living to make the thought & realization of just how things are and the conditions when you are living on the street and you hear a car horn, sirens, and the street sweep, along with what it does to you physically and mentally. Anyone can volunteer to help them. They want you and need volunteers to help the homeless. The want to spread the word that the homeless are people too and should be treated as such, because being homeless can happen to anyone at any time. U-Act wants to tell the powerful people in New Haven they have rights and they don't want to be mistreated anymore. U-Act states that when sleeping outside the police would often come and throw all the belongings on the ground away blankets, what ever you have even identification can be lost. The U-Act would like:

1. No evictions from public land.
2. Not to have their belongings thrown away.
3. Permanent public bathrooms for all.
4. Free permanent public showers for all who need them.

The U-Act has meeting every Friday at Downtown (IVES LIBRARY FROM 1:15-2:30 pm) come and join us come one come all help us rid New Haven of homelessness and people living on the street we need your voice and your story. Come join us. We look forward to seeing you. STAY BLESSED. ❊

Blessings, Continued from page 1

We should also remember that we ourselves are blessings. Sometimes we are so hard on ourselves that we forget how far we have come. We remember every mistake, every failure, every disappointment, and every opportunity we missed. We criticize ourselves for not being further ahead in life. But how often do we stop and recognize our own strength?

Think about everything you have survived. Think about the mornings you got up even though you didn't feel like facing another day. Think about the problems you solved, the tears you wiped away, the responsibilities you carried, and the situations you thought would break you but didn't. You may not be exactly where you want to be, but you are not where you once were either. That is something worth celebrating.

Don't underestimate the blessing of another chance. Every new morning gives us an opportunity to start again. We can make better decisions, repair relationships, learn something new, change our attitudes, and become better versions of ourselves. We cannot go back and change yesterday, but we can decide how we approach today. Sometimes, the greatest blessing is simply being given another opportunity to get it right.

There will always be something we want, something we need, or something we wish we could change. That is part of being human. Having dreams and wanting a better life is not wrong. We should continue to work hard, set goals, and strive for something greater. But while reaching for the things we don't have, we must not forget to appreciate the things we already do.

Gratitude changes the way we look at life. Instead of waking up thinking about everything that is wrong, try recognizing something that is right. Instead of focusing only on your problems, acknowledge the things that are helping you get through them. Instead of constantly asking why life hasn't given you more, take a moment to appreciate what life has already given you.

And remember, not every blessing comes wrapped in happiness. Sometimes, a disappointment is a blessing in disguise. Sometimes, losing an opportunity opens the door to something better. Sometimes, a relationship ending teaches us about self-respect. Sometimes, being told no protects us from something we were never meant to experience. We may not understand everything while it is happening, but with time, we sometimes discover that what we thought was a setback was actually a new direction.

So, the next time you feel unhappy because things aren't going the way you planned, take a breath. Look around you. Think about the people who love you, the experiences that shaped you, the lessons that strengthened you, and the opportunities still waiting for you. Don't allow one bad day to convince you that you have a bad life.

Life is too short to spend every day counting what is missing. We should spend more time appreciating what is present. We should celebrate the small victories, cherish the simple moments, and recognize the people who make our lives meaningful. We should learn to be thankful not only when everything is going well but also when we are finding the strength to get through difficult times.

At the end of the day, you don't need a perfect life to have a beautiful one. You don't need a million dollars to experience happiness.

Blessings, Continued on page 7

Thanksgiving, Continued from page 2

They remember the people who once sat around the table, the voices that filled the house, and the traditions that have changed over time.

But gratitude does not mean ignoring your pain. You can be thankful and still miss someone. You can appreciate your blessings and still wish life had turned out differently. You can smile at the dinner table while carrying something heavy in your heart.

Being grateful doesn't mean pretending that everything is perfect. It means recognizing that even during difficult seasons, there are reasons to keep going.

Sometimes, the blessing is not that the problem disappeared. The blessing is that you found the strength to face another day.

Why should we wait until November to express gratitude? Why should we wait for a special holiday to tell someone we appreciate them?

Call your parents. Hug your children. Thank your spouse, friend, neighbor, or coworker. Reach out to someone you haven't spoken to in a long time. Tell people what they mean to you while you still have the opportunity.

Don't wait until someone is gone to recognize the difference they made in your life. Don't wait until a difficult situation reminds you of what you had to appreciate what you have today.

We should make gratitude a daily habit, not just a holiday tradition.

Every morning is another opportunity to start fresh. Every day gives us a chance to make someone smile, help someone in need, forgive someone, and become a better person.

Thanksgiving should remind us that life isn't measured by how much we own, how much money we make, or how many people know our names. It is measured by the love we share, the kindness we show, the memories we create, and the lives we touch along the way.

As we gather around our tables this Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to look beyond the food, decorations, and celebrations. Let's remember those who are struggling, those who are grieving, those who are lonely, and those who are simply hoping for a better tomorrow.

Let's be thankful for the people sitting beside us and remember those who are missing. Let's appreciate the meals we share, the conversations we enjoy, and the moments that may seem ordinary today but will become precious memories tomorrow.

If you have a home, be thankful. If you have family, cherish them. If you have friends, appreciate them. If you have food, share it. If you

Thanksgiving, Continued on page 7

RESOURCES

Thanksgiving, Continued from page 6

have the ability to help someone, don't hesitate. And if life has been difficult, remember that your story is not over.

You may not have everything you want, but there is still so much to be thankful for.

This Thanksgiving, don't just count the blessings you can see. Count the love you have received, the hardships you have survived, the lessons you have learned, the people who have stood by you, and the opportunities you still have ahead.

Because Thanksgiving isn't just about filling our stomachs; it is about filling our hearts.

Be thankful for what you have, generous with what you can give, forgiving of what has happened, and hopeful for what is yet to come.

And remember, the most beautiful Thanksgiving table isn't necessarily the one with the most food or the finest decorations. It is the one where love is shared, kindness is welcomed, and nobody feels forgotten.

Happy Thanksgiving! May your heart be full of gratitude, your home full of love, and your life full of blessings. ❊

Blessings, Continued from page 6

You don't need everyone's approval to know your worth. And you don't need to have everything figured out to appreciate the journey you are on.

Count your blessings, not your problems. Count the people who stand beside you, not the people who walk away. Count the lessons you have learned, not just the mistakes you have made. Count the opportunities you still have, not only the ones you missed. And most importantly, count the days you have been given, because every day is another chance to make a difference.

Never become so busy chasing tomorrow that you forget to appreciate today. What you have right now may be something you once prayed for. Appreciate it, protect it, and never take it for granted.

Because somewhere in this world, someone is praying for the very things you already have. ❊

Soup Kitchens & Meal Assistance

MANNA COMMUNITY MEALS (HARTFORD)
45 Church Street. Serves lunch Monday-Friday, 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM

HOUSE OF BREAD (HARTFORD)
27 Chestnut St. Provides meals Saturday-Sunday 9-10 AM, Monday-Friday 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM.

LOAVES & FISHES (HARTFORD)
Woodland Street. Lunch served Monday-Friday, 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM at 10

MERCY HOUSING/ ST. ELIZABETH HOUSE
Offers meals at 118 Main St (Weekday lunch 12 PM, Saturday 8 AM).

HANDS ON HARTFORD
55 Bartholomew Avenue. Providing food pantry services

WETHERSFIELD FOOD BANK
505 Silas Deane Highway. Open Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM (by appointment for residents)

MOBILE FOODSHARE
Offers fresh produce every other Wednesday from 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM at 60 Lancaster Road (open to all).

CENTER CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN
60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT

Church provides a meal every Tuesday: 11am-1pm.

Eligibility:
Anyone in need; All ages

Hours: Outreach and Drop-in: W,F: 10am-2pm;

HOUSE OF BREAD
27 Chestnut Street, Hartford, CT

Provides breakfast M-F: 8-9am and Sun: 9-10am; Lunch M-F: 11:30am-12:45pm; and Dinner Th: 5-6pm. Lunch is also served Sat: 11:30am-12:30pm...

Eligibility: Individuals in need of a meal

Hours: M-F: 6:30am-1:30pm

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN - HARTFORD
350 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT

Bagged lunches are served to anyone in need weekly on Thursday: 11am-1pm.

Eligibility: Anyone in need

Hours: Church office: M-F: 10am-3pm; Soup kitchen: Th: 1.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH BREAKFAST PROGRAM
1921 Main Street, Hartford, CT

Breakfast served to anyone in need on Sat,Sun: 7:45-8:30am. Program is closed in August. Please call for holiday closure information...

Eligibility: Individuals seeking a meal

Hours: Breakfast: Sat,Sun: 7:45-8:30am; Closed in August

HARTFORD RESCUE MISSION SOUP KITCHEN
2030 Main Street, Hartford, CT

Christian based rescue mission provides a soup kitchen to people in need. Soup kitchen is open at Faith Congregational Church, 2030 Main Street, Hartford, M-F: 4:30-5:30pm...

Eligibility: Individuals in need

Hours: Soup kitchen: M-F: 4:30-5:30pm

CHURCH STREET EATS PROGRAM
Christ Church Cathedral
45 Church Street, Hartford, CT

Sandwiches are served at church to Hartford residents in need on Sun: 12-12:45pm. Free clothing is also offered during this time.

Eligibility: Individuals in need of a meal

Hours: Sat: 2-3pm (Bushnell Park); Sun: 12noon-12:45pm

CHURCH BY THE POND
Christ Church Cathedral - Church Street Eats Program
45 Church Street, Hartford, CT

Sandwiches are served Sat: 2-3pm to Hartford residents in need year-round at Bushnell Park following church service at 2pm.

Eligibility: Individuals in need of a meal

Hours: Sat: 2-3pm (Bushnell Park); Sun: 12noon-12:45pm

BEAT OF THE STREET

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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT! We look forward to sending you our next edition!

RESOURCE CENTRAL

Clothing and Toiletries

CENTER CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN
60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT

Clothing, shoes, and toiletry items are provided to individuals in need during the soup kitchen's available hours as well as office hours...

Eligibility: Anyone in need

Hours: Outreach and Drop-in: W,F: 10am-2pm;

Volunteer Opportunities

CENTER CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN
60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT

Volunteers are needed to help with the church programs. Individuals under 18 must have 2 adults present at all times when volunteering and those preferably over 13, can call to create kid friendly opportunities directly...

Eligibility: Individuals under 18 must have 2 adults present at all times when volunteering and those preferably over 13, can l...

Hours: Outreach and Drop-in: W,F: 10am-2pm; Meal program...

SCHOOL BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND MILK PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION
State of CT Dept of Ed- Bureau of Health, Nutrition, and Family Services

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT

Administers the National School Breakfast, Lunch and Milk Program, a nutrition program for children while they are attending school and while attending afterschool activities...

Eligibility: Residents of CT

Hours: M-F: 8am-5pm

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN - HARTFORD
350 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT

Volunteers are needed to work in church soup kitchen.

Eligibility: Ages 18+ interested in volunteering

Hours: Church office: M-F: 10am-3pm

ST PATRICK-ST ANTHONY CHURCH EVENING SANDWICH PROGRAM
285 Church Street, Hartford, CT

Sandwiches are served daily, 4-5:30pm to anyone in need. Sandwiches also served every Sunday: 12noon-1pm.

Eligibility: Individuals in need of food assistance

Hours: Sandwiches served M-Sun: 4-5:30pm; Sun: 12noon-1pm

SPARROW MINISTRIES BREAKFAST PROGRAM
South Congregational Church, 277 Main Street, Hartford, CT

Ministry program provides breakfast to the Hartford community every Saturday morning, from 7-9am.

Eligibility: Hartford residents in need of breakfast services

Hours: Breakfast: Sat: 7-9am

FRIENDSHIP CENTER SOUP KITCHEN & DAY CENTER
Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation - St Elizabeth House, 118 Main Street, Hartford, CT

Day shelter and soup kitchen for anyone in need. Breakfast served 8-9am and lunch at 12noon-1pm, T-Sat. Separate meal times for adults with children (families)...

Eligibility: Anyone in need of a meal

Hours: 24/7

Donor Services

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN - HARTFORD
350 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT

Donations of clothing and food are accepted for distribution to people in need.

Eligibility: Individuals interested in donating

Hours: Church office: M-F: 10am-3pm; Soup kitchen

Clothing and Shoes

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN - HARTFORD
350 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT

Free clothing available weekly on Thursday following lunch served at the church soup kitchen.

Eligibility: Anyone in need of clothing

Hours: Church office:
M-F: 10am-3pm; Soup kitchen ❊

The best way now after the warming center opens to get into a shelter IS BY CALLING 211 (HARTFORD POLICY IS THIS). PROCESS IS THIS:

1. Call 211
2. They tell you where the warming center is and details related.
3. Thru the warming center they schedule with area shelters beds. In the off schedule of the warming center, 211 schedules appointments thru mercy housing for shelter beds in the area.
4. Strict 1 bag limit. They won't let you in if you are carrying more than 1. This happened to me
5. The warming center & shelter are only for people that are really homeless. Penalties are strictly enforced including loss of residence if not telling the truth. Shelters are not used to make the 211 call. Anyone there during the day has a MD note & staff scheduled to accommodate #'s. At the Hartford City Hall Main St, there is a telephone on the entry floor center desk that is allowed to be used only to call 211. ❊

Please contact us at bots@charteroakcenter.org with any corrections to the information listed below.

WHERE TO GO IN HARTFORD

Center Church
60 Gold Street

Christ Church Cathedral
45 Church Street

Faith Congregational Church
2030 Main Street

Grace Lutheran Church
46 Woodland Street
- *Dinner every Friday 4:15-5:30 pm*
- *Free Cloth Distribution – Wednesday and Saturday 11:00 – 1:00 pm*
- *AA meetings Tuesday 10am, Thursday 12-noon*

Greater Refuge Church of Christ
370 Garden Street

Hopewell Baptist Church
265 Enfield Street

House of Bread
27 Chestnut Street

Loaves & Fishes
10 Woodland Street

Hands on Hartford
55 Bartholomew Avenue

Mercy Housing/ St. Elizabeth House
118 Main Street

Mt Calvary Baptist Church
2 F.D. Oats Avenue

Salvation Army Hartford Citadel
225 Washington St

Shiloh Baptist Church
350 Albany Avenue

St Monica Church
31 Mather Street

St Patrick/St Anthony Church
285 Church Street

Union Baptist Church
1921 Main Street

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