

Gather55 Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is this restaurant Gather55 all about?

A: Gather55 is a “pay-as-you-can” restaurant that brings people from all walks of life together to enjoy good, nourishing food in a friendly, warm, respectful place. Gather55 harnesses the power of delicious food to connect diverse communities through a restaurant with an inclusive vibe where all can gather regardless of ability to pay

Q: Why is Hands On Hartford doing this?

A: We want to provide a restaurant style dining experience to all of our guests regardless of their ability to pay and provide a space where folks can mingle and connect. We want to honor our commitment to providing great meals for those who are struggling to make ends meet. At the same time, we want to use our ability to provide great food to emphasize and celebrate the commonalities among our entire community, connecting people from all walks of life, remembering that everyone has something to give as well as receive, and that we are all lifted up when we treat others and are treated with dignity and respect.

Q: What are the hours?

A: Doors open at 9:00 am Mondays through Thursdays and meals are available between 10:00am and 2:00 pm. Starting October 19, we will also offer dinner Wednesdays through Saturdays – stay tuned for more information about dinner service which will be available for diners who can pay and for those who are not able to pay the full price.

Q: Tell me about the prices.

A: Meal costs will be posted. Customers can choose to participate by paying a minimum price of \$2.00 (or the full price), or by volunteering their time with Hands On Hartford if they are not able to pay at all that day. What each customer pays is treated respectfully and discretely. Services staff at Hands On Hartford and partnering agencies will have “on the house” meal vouchers to help support those who are not able to pay or volunteer. Guests who pay and guests who cannot pay receive the same main meals and the same welcome and friendly service.

Q: What about the menu?

A: Complimentary coffee/tea, water and fresh fruit is available starting at 9:00am. There are additional menu items for sale (for example, coffee drinks, smoothies, and pastries) throughout the day. The main meal options will include both breakfast and lunch items, and will be posted on our website and at Gather55.

Q: Are Hands On Hartford Day Program services still available?

A: Yes, Hands On Hartford staff continue to provide social service referrals, help with accessing benefits, housing assistance, and other Hands On Hartford services; and things like socks and toiletries are offered. Health and recovery support activities provided, as well as fun activities like music and Bingo and access to phones and computer connections.

Q: What if I have more questions?

A: Feel free to ask any staff person or email Barbara at bshaw@handsonhartford.org or give her a ring at 860-706-1502.