

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: We are open from 9am - 2pm Mondays through Thursdays. Dinner seatings are Wednesdays through Saturdays from 5:30 - 8:30pm.

Q: Tell me about the prices.

A: During the day we offer a participation model to dine with us. Guests can pay the suggested menu prices or make a minimum \$2.00 contribution. Guests can also volunteer with us for half an hour or receive a voucher for an “on the house” meals from our Day Center staff or partnering agencies. Our dinner restaurant offers a \$42 prix fixe menu with a 20% service charge. There is no tipping. We pay our staff well above norms for comparable positions. Diners can make a donation which helps underwrite the costs of folks dining with us for little or no charge. We hold a limited number (20%) of dinner reservations for diners who can’t pay. Diners who would like to enjoy dinner with us at no charge should send us an email at gather55@handsonhartford.org or call or text us at 860-929-2316 and make a request. All are welcome.

Q: What about the breakfast and lunch menu?

A: Our breakfast/lunch menu offers a variety of breakfast and lunch items as well as baked goods, specialty coffees and smoothies.

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

A: Yes, during the day, 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 are the hours of Day Program services?

Day Program services are available 9am – 7pm on Mondays (with a free dinner served on Monday evenings at 5:45pm), and 9am – 2pm Tuesdays through Thursdays.

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.