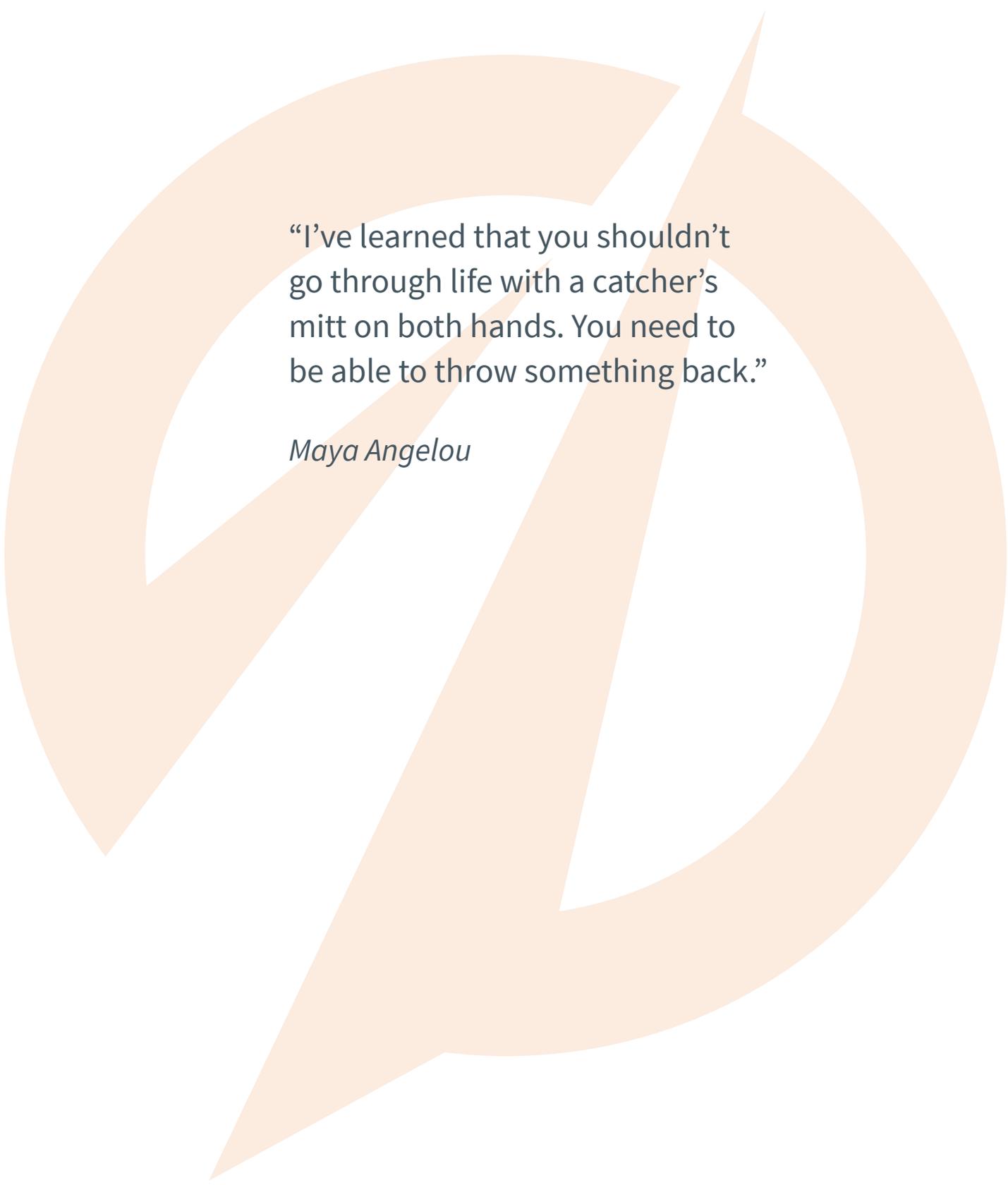




# Connecticut Community Impact



“I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.”

*Maya Angelou*

# A Message from Ed Kindelan, Office Managing Partner—Hartford

When it comes to volunteering, we often know the who, the what, the when and the where. But what we often forget about is the why. Why do our employees give their time to an organization? Why do our employees donate blood, some of them four times a year? Why do they serve on boards of directors and other committees?

The third annual edition of the “CohnReznick Cares Connecticut Community Impact Report” focuses on the question of **“why?”** and demonstrates CohnReznick’s commitment to seeking out need and responding to it, fully and enthusiastically. Throughout the report, you will see the smaller acts of giving that make up the larger picture. It is often those smaller acts of giving that make the most difference.



Our Hartford and Stamford employees are more than involved in their community: they are dedicated to it. They give their time, their hearts, their money, and their minds to numerous organizations, spanning the state of Connecticut, and beyond.

My personal reasons for giving back—as for many of us—stem back to the values instilled in me by my parents and the examples that they set for me as a child. Part of the expectation for all of us is to attempt to make things better for those around us. Having been blessed with good fortune and health and a strong family background, I feel an obligation to try to help in some small way to improve the lives of others in our community—often contributing alongside those who have dedicated their lives to these efforts. Seeing the impact that even small deeds can have on others only strengthens this belief.

At CohnReznick, our reasons “why” may differ, but our intentions are the same: to give back to a community that has given us so much in return.

*Ed Kindelan*





# Our National Approach to Community Service

Charitable involvement is part of our culture. Employees at every level in our Firm participate in initiatives through CohnReznick CARES — our platform dedicated to Community, Advocacy, Responsibility, Education, and Service. The scale of our efforts is such that all activities fall under the stewardship of CohnReznick’s National CohnReznick CARES Committee, which ensures that our charitable undertakings are successful.

2017 will be remembered for the destruction Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria left in their wake on Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico, respectively. CohnReznick employees banded together in support of hurricane relief efforts, donating over \$80,000 to help those in need. Locally, the Hartford team initiated a fundraising effort to help the building’s cafeteria workers support family members living in Puerto Rico.

Below are examples of national charitable initiatives in which CohnReznick employees participate regularly:

## RED NOSE DAY

Red Nose Day takes place every May and raises money to provide meals, vaccines, and education for children around the world living in poverty. Every year, CohnReznick employees firm-wide get silly for the cause and don their red noses.

## NO KID HUNGRY

No Kid Hungry is a not-for-profit working to end childhood hunger in the United States. CohnReznick offices throughout the country host bake sales with the proceeds supporting programs to reduce childhood hunger in the United States.



## PAY IT FORWARD

Pay it Forward continues to be one of our most popular charitable efforts, and is inspired by the movie about a boy who does good deeds and asks that recipients “pay it forward” by doing good for others. CohnReznick gives employees a little extra in their paychecks once a year with the hope that each person will donate to causes that are making a difference in our communities. Since 2007, employees have “paid it forward” to 100+ causes, organizations and individuals.

## COHNREZNICK LUNCH PROJECT



CohnReznick Lunch Project is a firm-wide service project in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., providing food to people in need throughout our communities. One of Dr. King’s best known quotes is, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” In that spirit, January 2018 marked the second year our Diversity & Inclusion and CohnReznick CARES teams collaborated to host this service project.

In Hartford, team members assembled, brown bagged, and boxed for delivery 160 sandwiches to Hands on Hartford, a not-for-profit organization that serves 8,500 people annually. Each lunch bag included a handwritten note with a message of encouragement, inspiration, or gratitude to feed the soul. In addition, CohnReznick team members donated five boxes of nonperishable items to Hands on Hartford’s community food bank.



# BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

The Travelers Championship has a rich history of giving back to the community, with the tournament's net proceeds returned to charity each year. CohnReznick was pleased to play a small role in helping the Travelers Championship generate a record \$1.72 million in 2017 by continuing to

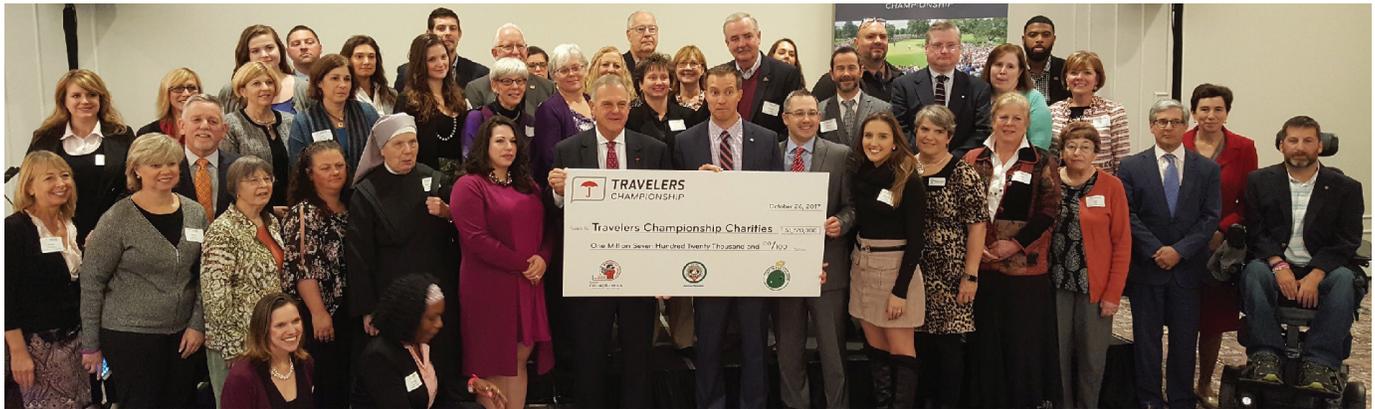


serve as Presenting Sponsor of Birdies for Charity. In addition to providing back office support, CohnReznick contributed \$50,000 to the Birdies Bonus Bucks, a pool that provided participating organizations with a 15% bonus for each dollar collected.\*



“ Our involvement with the Travelers Championship and Birdies for Charity affords CohnReznick the opportunity to help not-for-profit organizations achieve their mission. With traditional sources of funding being reduced or cut, the dollars generated through Birdies for Charity and the Bonus Bucks program are essential to many budgets. Not-for-profits are the heart and soul of Connecticut, often helping our most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Hearing how participating organizations affect the lives they serve is gratifying and reminds us of why we give in the first place.”

ED KINDELAN, CohnReznick Office Managing Partner, Hartford



“ Cherish the Children Foundation (CTCF) is a grass roots, 100% volunteer organization providing financial and volunteer support to children in need throughout Greater Hartford. We first participated in Birdies for Charity in 2016, and over the past two years, we have leveraged the power of the program to help execute our mission. In 2017, we nearly doubled the donations received through Birdies for Charity and earned over \$2,400 in Bonus Bucks. In addition, we were interviewed by Renee DiNino at iHeartRadio, creating additional exposure for CTCF. The Birdies program is an incredible platform for Connecticut nonprofits to share their stories, raise money for their organization, and partner with a world-class event, The Travelers Championship. We look forward to expanding our involvement with Birdies for Charity in 2018! ”

\*The maximum bonus is \$11,250 (equals 15% of \$75,000 in donations collected)

KEVIN HOAGLAND, CTCF Board Member and DANA GILBERT, CTCF Volunteer



## WEEK OF CARING



Since 1864, the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has been “Serving Those Who Served.” The DVA supports Connecticut Veterans with residential and healthcare programming on their campus in Rocky Hill. CohnReznick arrived in two groups, the landscaping team and the picnic team, to support the DVA across both facilities.

At the Sgt. John L. Levitow Healthcare Center, veterans with disabilities and chronic illnesses receive long-term care. CohnReznick Team leader Chantal Laliberte and several other CohnReznick employees aided veterans in preparing for a summer picnic.

“The VA picnic team was able to integrate and communicate with a special group of veterans in the long-term care dementia unit by taking them out to the garden to enjoy some sunshine,” said Chantal. “We joined a larger group of veterans from the residential section of the VA for a picnic. We were able to socialize with the veterans and heard many great stories.”



At the DVA’s residential facility, Connecticut vets have access to temporary housing and support programs to help them integrate back into the community. Led by Nick Valente, CohnReznick Team leader, the landscaping team met with facilities maintenance to see how they could put their shovels, hoes, and leaf blowers to work.

“We had a great group, almost 15 people, working on the landscaping portion,” said Nick. “There was an overgrown vegetable garden that hadn’t been taken care of in years. We cleaned it up and leveled it out so grass could be replanted. We also helped weed, mulch, and beautify a flower garden in front of their new hospital. The veterans were very appreciative, as was the facilities maintenance group.”



Tammy Marzik, Manager of Community Advocacy for the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, gave CohnReznick a rave review: “We cannot thank you enough for the work you did! I have been receiving incredible feedback and comments about your crews and the incredible help you have been today! Our staff really appreciated all of your support and caring! Please get photos to me so I can show this state what incredible citizens we have!”

### Why?

To show our gratitude to those who served.

Visit the [Department of Veterans Affairs](https://www.dva.va.gov/) website for more information and to learn more about their additional programs for veterans in need.

## WEEK OF CARING (cont'd)



A mere mile away from CohnReznick's downtown Hartford office is the Chrysalis Center's main campus. However, the [Chrysalis Center](#) impacts more than those living

in Hartford. Its numerous services and programs help Connecticut individuals and families across the state. CohnReznick employees volunteered at the center's Railway Gardens, a community garden that provides fresh, healthy produce to people in need.

The CohnReznick team helped weed 13 raised beds and planted tomatoes, cauliflower, cabbage, and peppers. All of the produce grown is sold at Railway Gardens' farmer's market, given away at Freshplace (their food pantry), given to Cosgrove Commons' residents, or used in La Cocina (their community

kitchen) for events and as products to sell. Our team also helped with weeding and spreading mulch outside of the facility.



At the Chrysalis Center, their mission is "Getting help...Getting better...Giving back." In addition to their community services, Chrysalis Center provides social services and affordable housing for those living in poverty who suffer from mental illness, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, prior incarceration, and homelessness.

Ellyn Laramie, volunteer manager of the Chrysalis Center, expressed much appreciation for CohnReznick's assistance. "Thank you, thank you, thank you!! A big thank you to you and your team from CohnReznick for all you did today to help us at the Chrysalis Center,"

she said. "The raised beds and meditation garden look amazing! I am excited to watch them grow and harvest. Honestly, the team's enthusiasm and effort to also finish off our weeding and mulch pile was amazing. Your hard work is very much appreciated by everyone at Chrysalis. Because of your team's volunteer efforts, we can save time and money and be of greater benefit to our clients. I hope you can come back, whether to an event or as a volunteer."

To learn more about Chrysalis Center and the important work they do, please visit their website at [www.chrysaliscenterct.org](http://www.chrysaliscenterct.org).

### Why?

Because everybody deserves a chance at a better life, for themselves and for their families.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF STAMFORD**

The Stamford [Boys and Girls Club](#) is a youth facility that provides services to over 1,400 children from ages six to eighteen. Their mission is "to enable all youth, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens."

CohnReznick's Stamford office spent their Day of Caring at the club, interacting with the kids and providing support to the staff. "We participated in the club's programs including computer lab, after-school homework help, and social, sports and other recreational activities. Plus, we brought ice cream to the kids (around 150 - 200 kids in total) and they loved us so much," said Chelsey Chen, CohnReznick team leader.



### Why?

Because every child should have the opportunity to succeed.

In addition, the Stamford CohnReznick team held a "Tools for School" supply drive throughout the month of August, to benefit the Stamford Boys and Girls Club. Employees donated backpacks, notebooks, pencils, calculators, and other items to ensure that every child at the Club would be entering the new school year with everything they needed to succeed.



## WEEK OF CARING (cont'd)

With at least 140 animals on the property at any given time, Tara Farm Rescue in Coventry has expanded greatly since it opened its gates in 1982. The Rescue was originally formed by owner Bonnie Jeanne to house unwanted horses. Now, cows, cats, dogs, pigs, chickens, and sheep all call Tara Farm Rescue home.

Guided by an old beagle, CohnReznick volunteers met the many animals of Tara Farm Rescue before getting down to business. An old fence needed a fresh coat of white paint, and one of the smaller barns needed a coat of red on its faded exterior. Out front, weeds had grown coarsely around the main barn. Volunteers uprooted, hoed, and re-mulched the area, leaving it looking summer-ready.

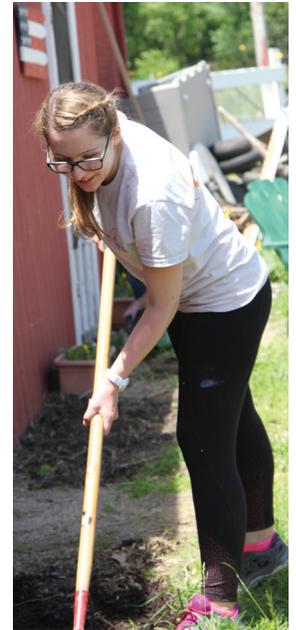


“Tara Farm Rescue is run by a small, but dedicated group of people,” said Jeff Carpenter, CohnReznick team leader. “They truly have a passion for helping animals in need and rescue all kinds of animals. We had 10 volunteers help paint fences and a small barn and do some weeding, mulching, and other landscaping/yard work. We got a nice thank you from the owner before we headed off.”

To learn more about their mission and volunteer opportunities, visit [Tara Farm Rescue](https://www.tarafarmrescue.com).

### Why?

To give displaced animals a forever home.



Some of our accountants can't seem to leave numbers behind. At the North End Senior Center in Hartford, bingo is the numbers game of choice. Held every Wednesday, local seniors in the area partake in a little friendly competition to win prizes and socialize with friends.

The CohnReznick team provided the selection of prizes for that week's games. Among the prizes were gift cards, puzzle and coloring books, decks of cards, magnifying glasses, and small toiletry items, including combs and hair pins.

Deb Kusy, CohnReznick team leader, said she couldn't tell who was having more fun; her team or the seniors! “We all had a GREAT time yesterday! We helped the seniors play bingo, and we supplied the winning prizes, which participants could choose from when they won a game! It was quite a lively bunch! The seniors loved our prizes and the coordinator wants us to come back every Wednesday,” Deb said.



The North End Senior Center is one of four senior centers in the city of Hartford. The center services adults 55 and older and provides numerous resources to help its clientele maintain their independence and lifestyle. For more information visit [North End Senior Center](https://www.northendcenter.org).

### Why?

Because our senior citizens should have access to a community where independence and companionship go hand in hand.

## ANNUAL SUPPORT



For nearly 15 years, CohnReznick's participation in The Salvation Army's Angel Tree program has been a beloved tradition for employees and their families. In mid-November, paper angel tags appear on the 12th floor of the Hartford office. Each tag lists the first name, age, gender, and wish of a child, or parent,

in need. Employees take one or more tags and purchase gifts to fulfill the corresponding wishes.

For Joanne Marcoux, Senior Manager who organized CohnReznick's participation, it's the investment of spirit, not money, that makes the Angel Tree such a joy with which to be involved.

"We have people here with such generous hearts that continually ask, 'How can I do more?'" says Joanne. "One story that stood out to me involved Allison St. Pierre, an executive assistant in the Hartford office. She ordered a doll, weeks in advance, to fulfill a little girl's angel tag wish. Weeks went by with the delivery being pushed out further and further, until finally, the day before the gifts were due in my office, the doll arrived. The wrong doll."

"Allison could have delivered the doll to my office. After all, it was only the wrong size. But she knew that it might be the only present this little girl would receive for Christmas. And Allison wouldn't settle for anything less than perfect. This was the kind of giving Allison loved most, because she could directly make a child's Christmas a little brighter."

"Needless to say, the wrong doll was returned, and Allison's husband went to several different stores that night to find THE doll. Allison came in the next day with the exact doll on her tag and a smile as wide as I have ever seen. I could share countless other stories of our employees going above and beyond to make someone's holiday special. Andy

DiSalvo paid 10 times the price for a toy from eBay when he couldn't find it elsewhere. Kyle Schoffelmeer went to LL Bean to find the best pair of slippers he could for a father with nothing else on his Christmas list. The spirit of giving here is incredible," finished Joanne.

In 2017, the Hartford office received 155 angel tree tags from the Salvation Army. All 155 gifts arrived at the CohnReznick office by December 8th. Not a single wish went unfulfilled.

### Why?

For some, our donated gifts may be the only Christmas gifts they receive.



# ANNUAL SUPPORT (cont'd)

## BLOOD DRIVES



Four times a year, CohnReznick, along with other members of the Metro Center building, sponsor a blood drive for the American Red Cross. The need for blood donors is persistent and many of our CohnReznick employees give every time we host a drive. One of them shared their own personal reasons for donating.

“It’s time to pay it forward. I grew up very poor. The corporate and community outreach programs helped me get essential school supplies, bookbags, a better Christmas, and extracurricular activities. I always appreciated these programs and feel motivated and lucky to always Pay It Forward,” said team member Darren Felder.

The donation of one person could go on to save up to three lives. Visit [American Red Cross](http://AmericanRedCross) for more information on the organization and the impact of blood donations.



## UNITED WAY

One of CohnReznick Hartford’s largest workplace campaigns takes place in support of [United Way](http://UnitedWay) of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, which aids 40 towns in the state. The campaign benefits thousands of working families who are struggling to make ends meet. The campaign proceeds go directly to improve the education, financial security, basic needs, and health of disadvantaged members of our community.



## MOVEMBER

For the past 6 years, CohnReznick employees and friends of the firm, have participated in [Movember](http://Movember). In an effort to change the face of men’s health, Movember raises money for prostate and testicular cancer research, and raises awareness for men’s mental health. Throughout the entire month of November, participating members grow a moustache or beard and raise funds along the way. In 2017, nineteen bearded men and one fake mustache wearing lady, raised money for the Movember Foundation.



## HOUSE OF BREAD

A mainstay of the [House of Bread](http://HouseofBread) is their annual Hunger Banquet. Several CohnReznick team members donned aprons and served up soup to those who attend the sold-out lunch event. Held the week before Thanksgiving, a time when most of us will be sitting down to a turkey dinner with all the trimming, the simple meal highlights the disparity of a tradition many of us take for granted to those facing food insecurity.



## GREATER HARTFORD ARTS COUNCIL

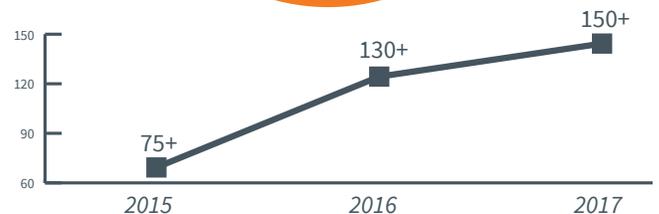
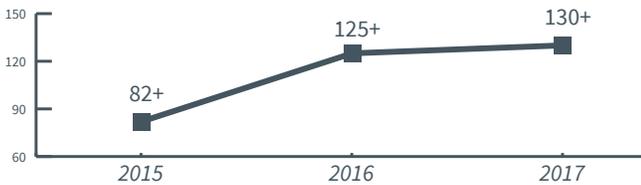
The [Greater Hartford Arts Council](http://GreaterHartfordArtsCouncil) (GHAC) provides funding to more than 150 nonprofit arts organizations through grant programs. In support of GHAC’s annual Let’s Go Arts! Campaign, our office held a series of art-themed fundraising events. The most memorable of which was a talk given by a disabled veteran, who utilized photography as a means of rehabilitation through the [Veterans Art Foundation](http://VeteransArtFoundation), a not-for-profit supported by the GHAC. The Veterans Art Foundation gave him the opportunity to start the recovery process from his tours of duty and later, to give back as a mentor to other soldiers returned home.



greater hartford arts council

# CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Over the past three years, CohnReznick Connecticut supported not-for-profit organizations through financial support, and...



# Special Thanks



## HARTFORD COMMUNITY IMPACT TEAM

Jeffrey Carpenter  
Chelsey Chen  
Alex Clausen  
Charles Giamattei  
Lori Guminiak  
Ed Kindelan

Debra Kusy  
Chantal Laliberte  
Joanne H. Marcoux  
Candace McCarthy  
Patricia McGowan  
Valerie Messina

Christopher Nardone  
Carolyn Nayer  
Corin Parade  
Rose Swiatkiewicz  
Nick Valente

## FAMILY MATTERS

What makes CohnReznick an exceptional work family is that whenever we think we are asking too much of our employees, our employees step up anyway. Our family is made up of individuals and every individual has a distinct reason for why they give.

This year we supported more than a dozen charities, organizations, and campaigns. Each new food drive, workplace campaign, and volunteer opportunity was met with enthusiasm and a generous heart.

Giving back, for me, is a way to support various organizations that have provided support to my family and friends when they were in need. I also recognize the blessings I have in my life and hope to share those with others.

In the Connecticut offices, we continued to focus on supporting kids and their families through the Stamford Boys and Girls Club, the Salvation Army Angel Tree, and the No Kid Hungry Bake Sale. We also expanded our reach in support of our veteran and elderly communities through our Week of Caring at the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Hartford Senior Center.

Our CohnReznick family exemplifies the act of giving by keeping charity, philanthropy, community, and its neighbors at the forefront of our minds, all year long.

Thank you to our employees for their continued commitment to making a difference, both in the office and out in the world.

We are CohnReznick proud!

Sincerely,

Patricia McGowan  
Partner, Hartford CARES Chair



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