



# Hartford City Mission Winter Newsletter, 2018

## COMMUNITY BEAUTY ON A GALLERY WALL



Last Spring, our Nehemiah site had the unique opportunity to learn a new skill. For a while, some long-term HCM friends had been dreaming of how they might expand the C.O.G.(Children of God)'s view of beauty here in their own community. Martha Campbell (pictured to the left) brought up the idea of a photography project to her friends, photographers Rebecca Wilhite and Mary Swank, who agreed it was a good idea. Martha then took the idea one step further: she got her workplace, Aetna, to sponsor the project.

Having a sponsor, allowed the project to take flight, from the lessons the C.O.G.s took in technique and practice taking pictures, to each youth finding their own subject and taking pride in the final product, having their work shown in two formal gallery settings. The participating middle school students also received a pocket camera donated by Aetna at the completion of the project, to further encourage their exploration of

photography. "Exposing them to the art of photography and placing that camera in their hands, I love to think that some of them might develop a passion for the art and perhaps find their future career," shared Martha.

Rebecca enjoyed teaching the C.O.G.s some basics of photography and encouraging them in their pursuit of beauty in their own community. "I was impressed with how well the kids retained the concepts we taught them over the three weeks. Many of their photos were taken with great intention and an awareness of what they were hoping to capture."

7th grader Gabi choose Keney Park as her setting, specifically two trees that had been tagged with the words, "Love Yourself". She found this beautiful, because of the "positivity in a place that is usually negative". 8th grader Therese also chose nature as her setting, picking to focus on a bee resting on a flower in the garden outside our Vine Street office. She recognized God's hand in the beauty. 7th grader Andrew was drawn to the bright colors and textures of African dresses hanging for sale outside on a bright sunny day. Other C.O.G.s saw beauty in things they have driven or walked by countless times and never paid specific attention to in that way, like train tracks, murals, and their friends.



*Continued on Page 3*

***We need YOUR help to win it all!***  
*Brackets For Good Online Tournament Starts March 9th*

- Non-profit participants compete—NCAA tournament style!
- It's simple, we raise more than the opponent, and we advance!
- Please log onto the Brackets For Good tournament website!
- Your donation will help HCM win and claim the \$10,000 Prize!



[connecticut.bfg.org](http://connecticut.bfg.org)

## BRACKETS FOR GOOD 2018 - *The Road to the Championship*

**Love College Basketball March Madness? The excitement as your team advances in the tournament? The stress of buzzer beater shots?** Last spring, Hartford City Mission got a little piece of how it feels to have a fan following, the build-up to the big “game” and watching the clock as each round drew to a close. And we loved it!

For the first-time last year, HCM participated in Brackets for Good’s online, fundraising tournament in the Greater Hartford area. Brackets for Good is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization based in Indianapolis, IN, that organizes and encourages participating nonprofit organizations all over the country to rally new and existing donors to out-fundraise their opponents. For every \$1 donated online, 1 point is earned. The organization with the most points, in their match-up at the end of each round, advances in the bracket-style tournament. The organization that advances to the end is awarded a championship donation. It costs HCM nothing, and we get to keep the donations, no matter how far we get in the tournament.

With your generous support and encouragement in our first attempt at Brackets for Good in 2017, we raised \$39,520 from 268 donations and made it all the way to the finals before taking 2nd place in the tournament! It was fun to see so many of you cheering HCM on!

Former Executive Director and current Board Member, Tim Goodwin, recalled the first quarter success as “an essential boost for HCM to sustain our efforts to empower and transform Hartford youth for Christ.”

Pastor Dwight Dean from Windsor Locks Congregational Church participated in last spring’s road to the championship, “What a delight it was to follow HCM during last year’s Brackets For Good. I had never seen this fundraiser before but found myself following each round with growing excitement. I loved taking part, especially making the buzzer beater donations to help insure HCM advanced to the next round.”



HCM Staff this the 2017 Finalist Banner

Noah After School volunteer Christy Bunn saw it as a plus, both for HCM and the city, “it helped build up ‘team spirit’ within the HCM community and was great way to build name recognition in the larger Hartford non-profit community”.

“My wife and I followed until the very end when they lost in the championship round and we plan to be ready to support them again this year. And this year we will tell our friends to get on board as well”, said Pastor Dean.

We are proud to announce that HCM’s friends will not have to wait too long, as this year’s tournament begins March 2nd! Due to our success during 2017, we have received a first round bye, and will start competing March 9th!

Please share about the tournament with your friends and stay tuned to our social media and your email in the next few weeks for our first match-up and for more info on how you can support and cheer us on in Brackets for Good 2018!

### *Save the date! - End of the Year Celebration, May 19th!*

- Celebrate another school year of “Empowering Transformational Leaders
- Get a chance to view Art Enrichment performances by our C.O.G.s
- Fellowship with the C.O.G.s, their families, volunteers and friends of HCM



## Interested in hosting the gallery?

Contact Danielle: [daniellea@hartfordcitymission.org](mailto:daniellea@hartfordcitymission.org) or 860.246.0132



### *Community Beauty on a Gallery Wall - Continued from pg 1*

“Some were quite interested in the mechanics of creating a great image while others were seeking to find something beautiful or special in their neighborhood. I believe the kids achieved both goals,” shared Rebecca.

The C.O.G.s work was displayed first at HCM’s 2017 Gala, where attendees had the opportunity to appreciate and purchase the photography pieces throughout the evening. The second opportunity for the public to view the original work was a full circle on Martha’s original idea. A gallery show at Aetna! The canvas mounted photographs were displayed in Aetna’s gallery for a month in a high traffic area of their building, shared with thousands each day. “Having them visit Aetna and see their work on display in our gallery was truly special,” shared Martha.

The C.O.G.s found it encouraging and exciting to see their work displayed. Therese, Gabi and 6th grader Mallory, all shared that they felt pride in seeing their work displayed and as Mallory explained, “it felt good to be recognized as the photographer” Therese was excited that “someone would buy a picture they could just take themselves”.

Nehemiah Site Director Carl Felton sees projects like this playing huge roles in empowering transformational leadership. “It is great to be able to offer these types of opportunities for the C.O.G.s, where they can be exposed to different focuses within art, especially when it can be seen in everyday things that are often passed over.” He has seen growth in many of the C.O.G.s directly from this project, especially in those who have since formed an interest in photography having no prior exposure to the art.

The beauty and impact of the pieces the C.O.G.s worked hard on is not over just yet! Interested in hosting a gallery show at your business, church or home? Contact Danielle, 860.246.0132, for more information. The photos are also able in exchange for a contribution to HCM. Check out our website, [hartfordcitymission.org/art-gallery.html](http://hartfordcitymission.org/art-gallery.html), for more details!

Thanks to the volunteers who shared their talents and for our project sponsor **aetna®!**



**You are part of the HCM family!**

You can support the work to empower transformational leaders and inspire vibrant community by:

- ◆ Praying regularly for our students, parents, volunteers, and staff.
- ◆ Volunteering weekly to support one of the After School Sites or Young Life.
- ◆ Making a donation - HCM is a 501c3 non-profit.
- ◆ Support HCM’s run in Brackets for Good 2018 by making a donation online at [connecticut.bfg.org](http://connecticut.bfg.org)

*For more information visit our website or contact Executive Director, Dave Ambrose at [davea@hartfordcitymission.org](mailto:davea@hartfordcitymission.org)*



[www.hartfordcitymission.org](http://www.hartfordcitymission.org)

- Save the Date! End of the Year Celebration
- Brackets for Good 2018!
- Community Beauty on a Gallery Wall

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
PERMIT NO. 1575