

From the Executive Director

By David MacDonald

On April 30th, AHNA held its first annual Community Partners Appreciation Breakfast. This event is AHNA's official kick-off to our fund development campaign for 2019. The breakfast was sponsored by Wheeler Clinic. About 30 of our partners attended our Tuesday morning "Thank You." AHNA's work in Asylum Hill is only possible because of the generous volunteer and financial support of our partners. As the umbrella group for Asylum Hill, AHNA works to connect our partners to each other and to our residents. We were very pleased that Mayor Bronin could attend and bring words of support and encouragement to our attendees. Janice Castle, the city's Director of Community Engagement gave us remarks about her role in the city and the important role NRZs play in helping her and city government be more responsive to neighborhood needs.

We then presented an update to our partners on the accomplishments and changes at AHNA over the past year, such as:

- Holding the 20th Anniversary Gala and raising \$22,000;
- Carol Sing in Sigourney Square Park,
- a walk and bike street safety audit in collaboration with TransportHartford,
- Pollinator Festival,
- South Marshall Street pop-up festivals
- Caritas Pear Orchard at the Knox Community Garden on Niles.
- Support for Comet Diner Restoration
- Collaborating with partners to reduce panhandling
- Publication of this insert, the News and Views Newsletter every month in the Hartford News.

We introduced our new officers and our Directors. We then solicited feedback from our partners about how we can work better together and what neighborhood concerns keep them up at night. We received very positive feedback, some new issues to work on, and some potential collaborations to pursue. We also received some donations and pledges and everyone received a small token of appreciation. We thank our partners who made this event possible, Wheeler Clinic for their generous donation to pay for the breakfast. Many thanks to the 224 EcoSpace where the event was held. 224 EcoSpace (a social enterprise of the Conference of Churches) also provides the space for our monthly community meetings at the 224, held the first Monday of the month starting at 6:15pm. Thank you to the Directors of AHNA for their help organizing this event.