

Volunteer of the Month Neighborhood Cleanup Celebration

By Lynn Johnson.

On Sunday August 30, we held our Love your Block Clean Up and Celebration at Grace Lutheran Church in Hartford. More than 45 volunteers came from the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association, Grace, Trinity and Immanuel Churches and Catholic Charities Asylum Hill Family Center. There were people of all ages, races and religions.

We picked up bags and bags of trash from 4 city blocks. We covered from Woodland down Niles to Sigourney, up Sigourney down Farmington and back to Woodland, including the cross streets; Gillett, Forest and Marshall. Everyone wore masks and gloves, worked hard and did a great job!

We returned to Grace for a boxed meal provided by Hands on Hartford with a treat from *Ice Cream for a*



Dream. Sinan Bakir entertained us with his jazz guitar. We heard from John Boiano of Insight Solar, who had just installed panels on Grace's roof. Bill Heiden, whose son had developed Hydroponic Gardens kits for installation, spoke of the hydroponic garden growing food at Grace for the neighborhood. And we celebrated the five Pollinator Gardens growing on neighborhood churches' properties.

Special thanks go to Madeleine Hykes of Love your Block, who handled registration and distribution of clean up equipment, Pastor Rick Kremer who hosted the event at Grace, Bernie Michel who provided sound and photography, Louisa Barton Duguay who organized drinks, seating and serving the meal, and Sustainability CT and Immanuel's Environmental Action Committee who provided funds for the event. And thanks to all the volunteers who made our clean up so successful. It was a glorious evening!