

## From the Executive Director

David MacDonald

The Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association's mission is to empower and connect residents and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. We continue to navigate the uncharted waters of the COVID-19 pandemic. Amidst all this uncertainty, however, our primary concern is the health of our residents. This means that our June 1<sup>st</sup> general meeting will be done via video/teleconference. If you receive our newsletter via email then you will receive an email detailing how you can join our virtual general meeting.

The agenda will include two important items, 1) a presentation and vote about the proposed renovation of the historic property at 15 Marshall Street into a 3-family house and 2) a presentation and vote regarding a zoning variance request from Youth Challenge regarding 291 Collins Street. If someone needs to receive information about how to join our meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:15pm, please email me at [exdir@asylumhill.org](mailto:exdir@asylumhill.org) to join our email list.

The Stay-at-Home order and subsequent loss of employment has hit our neighborhood and city residents very hard. There is great need in our community. Our food pantries and churches have been very active providing food to those in need and we thank them for their assistance. There is a Mini-Pantry at 202 Laurel Street that is being stocked by our former Board member Carol Padberg and other volunteers, and she reports that the need is so great it is difficult to keep this mini-pantry fully stocked. We are putting out the call for anyone who can help to help stock this mini-Pantry for our neighbors. (Please see photo below). You can simply drive up to the pantry and place your donations of canned goods for those in need. Thank you in advance for your help.

Hartford is home to many committed community leaders, passionate non-profits, and generous business partners. There are many people in Hartford who don't have access to the federal relief programs, so the people of Hartford have stepped up to help those in need. We are certain that when our residents come together to address challenges, even a pandemic, we all benefit. We know we will work together to meet this crisis with compassion, confidence and creativity. Above all, stay safe and help care for others whenever and wherever you can.

