

Third Annual Cheer for Community followed by the Hooker Day Parade

Once again, residents and members of the Asylum Hill community came together to celebrate us. For the past two years we have gathered at the Boys & Girls Club the morning before the Hooker Day Parade to express our joy and enthusiasm for all that is good and vibrant in Asylum Hill. Each year, AHNA leads the effort with support from the Greater Hartford Arts Council to gather as many of the partners as are available to join in the fun.



This year included children and adults from the Asylum Hill Family Center, Hartford City Ballet, Trinity Academy and the Boys & Girls Club along with members of several of the immigrant communities and neighborhood residents. The Banners that were created earlier in the summer at Asylum Hill Congregational Church were loaned to us for the occasion, and the pizza that fueled the event came from the

new owners of Kent Pizza on Garden St. The Boys & Girls Club supplied the liquid refreshment. Georges Annan-Kingsley guided the children who created the various placards that show the many partners that make up the Asylum Hill Community, and the face painting was provided by K La Rue Educational Arts in Motion from ArtSpace. This year's special unifying touch to carry the theme of "Food Glorious Food" was the addition of cardboard glasses looking like pretzels and also small bags of pretzels that were tossed out – all compliments of The Hartford BID.

Once everyone was transported by bus to the Parade line, we were joined by "Larry the Stag" and employees of The Hartford to fill out the crowd. The Parade itself was both colder and dryer than last year's event, but Asylum Hill still brought the largest contingent and under Luwannia Johnson-Martin's leadership we were likely the loudest. More photos are available at <https://goo.gl/photos/3veQj9tJYAY48wQF7>