

# Homeless and Travelers Aid Society (HATAS)

Formed in 1927 with the mission to end homelessness within Albany County and the Capital Region.

## The HATAS Story

The doors open at 8:30 am but the staff have been in the building for an hour already, pouring over files and emails, catching up on paperwork from the day before, getting paperwork ready for the day ahead and setting everything in place for what is always a very busy day. Some come in from as far as 45 miles away meaning that their day really starts just after 6 am. So the coffee pot is filled with water, water bottles are filled with ice, the bathrooms are cleaned and ready, all while the small talk that colleagues exchange goes back and forth. The rituals of serving Albany's homeless begin all over again in the HATAS headquarters on Central Avenue just as they do every week day. HATAS is the emergency intake agency for the homeless in Albany County and has a distinguished record of service dating back to 1927. **NYCON Member for Over 30 Years!**

## Did You Know?

HATAS has a knack for identifying the gaps in human services, and doing something about them. In 2014, in response to the food insecurity of some students in the Albany School District, HATAS created the Backpack Weekend Food Program. Starting with only 14 backpacks of food, the program now provides over 455 backpacks which help make sure that these students don't go hungry over a weekend and, importantly, help them come back to school the next Monday. It is the only backpack program in the City of Albany and its success is put together by a unique combination of volunteers, funders and agencies that come together to make it all happen. And so, through the waves of issues that threaten to swamp the homeless in Albany, the staff at HATAS successfully navigate their clients through another day with dignity, compassion and kindness.



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