

Real Support *for*



864 Real Families

Photo Credit Todd Corelli

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2015—July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Dedication:

*Recognizing our partners, supporters
and volunteers who unfailingly serve
our communities and inspire hope in
the lives of many local families in
need of food assistance.*

"Let No one ever come to you without leaving better and happier."

~Mother Theresa

Loaves & Fishes exists as a mission of love and faith by providing food and temporary support services to residents of Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley and advocates for changes by its clients that will promote independence and self-reliance.

Our Mission

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Board of Trustees July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015	Joined Board	Term Ends June 30th of
Kathleen O'Connor, President (outgoing)	5/2010	2016
Mary Markham, Vice President (incoming President)	6/2012	2018
Lauren Farrell, Secretary	11/2010	2016
Don Siegrist, Treasurer	3/2014	2017
Joanne Ouellette, Volunteer Representative	4/2013	2016
James Hanlon	3/2013	2016
Joe Harrington	8/2014	2017
Scott Lewis	8/2104	2017
Jane Logee	1/2013	2015
Aleta Manugian	12/2012	2018



Loaves & Fishes Staff Team: Patricia Stern, Executive Director; Paul Nemiera, Food Coordinator; Karen DeGagne, Volunteer & Office Coordinator; Theresa Wilson, Client Advocate



Since

Phil Goff	1983
Lisa Martel	1996
Frank Harmon	1996

Our Volunteers

Over **330** volunteers donated over
18,000 hours in FY15

Amanda Accorsi
Marie Allen
Jan Amburgey
Michael Amburgey
Laura Anderson
Matthew Antes
Kate Aragon
Army RTSM
Lily Baddour
Betsy Bair
Edi Baker
Rich Baker
Matthew Balsamo
Susan Barber
Bemis Associates
Patti Bennet
Ed Bergan
Karen Bergan
Ann Berry
Jane Biering
Tricia Blanchard
Betsy Bohling
Bob Bohling
Bailey Bourgeois
Cathy Bowles

Denyse Cox
Peter Cronin
Kathy Daly
Kimberly Davis
Marla Dawson
Bill Dean
Martha Dean
Janice Desjean
Donna Dextraze
Kate Dyst
David Dolan
Ann Donald
Mary Donale
Robert Dooley
Roger Dooley
Mimi Dorward
Pamela Dunn
Karen Durrance
Jessica Engels
Elizabeth Erban
Jim Farnsworth
Lorraine Farnsworth
Rob Farnsworth
Lee Farrar
James Farrell

Kendra Gilbert
Jonathan Glazier
Becky Glennie
Risa Goldman
Roberty Goudey
Judy Grande
Danielle Grigsby
Groton School
Garrett Guillemette
Tracy Guillemette
Linda Guinard
Howard Hall
Lauren Hallett
Pat Hamilton
James Hanlon
Joseph Harrington
Tammy Hawkins
Catina Hayden
Sean Healey
Erin Healy
Christopher Hearne
Hans Heer

Laurel Karasevich
Barbara Kemp
Elizabeth Kendall
Ginger Kendall
Tam Khuu
Audrey Kimball
Carole Kinnee
George Knittel
Lourdes Krieger
Barry Kroening
Jared Kroening
Faith Lagos
Kalyn Lai
LeeAnn LaVigueur
Barbara Ledeaux
Abigail Lee
Dee Lee
Doug Lee
Maureen Lemieux
Scott Lewis
Kathryn Liebowitz
Steve Liljegren

Karen McNamara
Allison McNulty
Traci McPadden
Douglas McPherson
Sandy McPherson
Charles Mednieles
Noah Megerian
Christopher Melby
Cathy Miller
Cathy Mitchell
Drew Mora
Cheryl Morais
Chucky Morrison
Pam Murphy
Joanna Myczkowski
Kaci Naughton
Alexander Nikoponlos
Kayla Nixen
Tylor Nixon
Janna Oakfellow-Pusheee
Kathleen O'Connor
Joe Ofria



Kevin Boyd
Denise Boyd
Linda Brackett
Jim Breslauer
Sharon Briggs
Jill Brown
Cary Browse
Nancee Buckle
Kathy Cadogan
Steward Cady
Richard Carozza
Cathi Carpenter
Cynthia Carter
Robert Carter
CASE Collaborative
Ruth Cavanagh
Kyle Chan
Ernest Chevrette
Ibby Chiquione
Cisco Systems, Inc.
Maureen Clapp
Barbara Cobuzzi
Alyson Codner
Vera Spohr Cohen
Marjorie Costa
John Costello

Lauren Farrell
Jackie Feltus
Brenda Ferguson
Margie Ferro
Barbara Field
Natascha Finnerty
Larry Fisher
Geraldine Flynn
Lynn Flynn
Sally Foley
Marcia Foote
Brandon Ford
Anne Marie Fortin
Julianne Fowler
Dara Furlong
Zachary Furlong
Pauline Gagnon
Jared Gall
Peter Galluzzo
Allan Galpin
Gary Gasser
Adam Gentile
Kimberly Gentile
Stephanie Gentile
Matthew George
Michael Gibbons

Mary Beth Henderson
Anissa Herrick
Joshua Herrick
Karen Hierman
Nancy Holden
Ronald Holm
Paul Horrigan
Yu-Chi Hsu
Helen Hughson
Rick Hughson
Will Hughson
Richard Hunt
Paul Innamorati
Sarah Jangro
Linda Jarrett
Elaine Jasins
Sushama Joglekar
Casey Johnson
Eric Johnson
Maureen Johnson
Kim Jones
Faith Jordan
Ellen Josphe
Rose Joseph
Lynda Kachanis
Andrew Karasevich

Jane Logee
Janet Long
Olivia LoPreste
Robert LoPreste
Elayne Loving
Bob Lucy
Dick Lyons
Jane Lyons
Nanette MacMillan
Marina MacNeil
Robin MacPherson
Kyle Magnuson
Marybeth Magnuson
Eileen Maloney
Aleta Manugian
Marga Marchetti
Mary Markham
Kate Markowitz
Lisa Martel
Maugel Architects
Cindy McAuley
Paul McCarthy
Joseph McCleary
Brian McClory
Joshua McGee
Tobi McGee

Nancy Ohringer
Julia O'Keefe
Brigitte Olivier
Karen O'Neil
Philip Oslin
Lynn Otty
Joanne Ouellette
Joey Pagliarulo
Marcie Pagliarulo
Jessie Panek
Jon Panek
Parker Essential Charter School
Marjorie Payne
Rosie Pellizzari
Karen Peters
Jennifer Peterson
Mary Pickard
Donna Pillsbury
Alex Platt
Stan Podlenski
Mike Quinn
Kathleen Raftery
Janice Raguin
Jennifer Rahaim
Matthew Ramussen
Kathy Reiff



FY15 Top Volunteer Hours:

Ed Farinto (Bemis), Martha Dean, Joanne Ouellette, Karen O'Neil, Phil Ferges (Bemis), Peter Galluzzo. (Not pictured: Ann Berry, Bill Dean, Cathy Miller, Lauren Farrell, Marge Payne, Paul Horrigan and Rich Baker)

Karen Riggert
Jessica Roetzer
Donna Romilly
Robert Romilly
Lynne Roper
Richard Ross
Deborah Rosson
Jeremy Rosson
Leslie Row
Casey Russell
Annmarie Sabatino
Tiffany Sabundayo
Susan Sanborn
Jack Santini
Devin Sawyer
Jude Sawyer
Ed Schaffer
Cory Schnepfer
Fred Schnepfer
Ryan Schnepfer
Leslie Schuster
Amy Severino
Lisa Shivo
Shriver Jop Corp Students
Nancy Siedliski
Don Siegrist
Heidi Siegrist
Henley Siegrist
Richard Skoczylas
Vicki Skoczylas
Suzanne Smith
Robert Sniegoski
Kate Sobalvarro
Otto Solbrig
Richard Spallone
Aubrey Specht
Kate Stamm
Heather Steede
Bob Steele
Maddie Steele
Nancy Steeves
Janet Stevens
Betty Stone
Stratus Volunteers

Max Strong
Zach Susser
Michelle Swearingen
Larry Tacito
Mark Tervo
Jessica Terwilliger
Lucas Thayer
Cindy Thomas
Dean Tornaritis
Matthew Tornaritis
Sharon Tornaritis
Amy Tsoukalas
Karen Tsoukalas
Daniel Ulichinie
Lori Ulichnie
Kenneth Underwood
Al Vachon
Patrick Vachon
Heather Van Pelt
Eric Viera
Maria Viera
Carolyn Waite
Charles Waite
Nancy Washington
Noah Watson
Sara Webb
Michelle Wesolowski



“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”

~William James



Employees from AMD in Boxborough volunteer annually to help with fall cleanup at Loaves & Fishes!

“If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.”

~Booker T. Washington

223 **New families visited Loaves & Fishes in Fiscal Year 2015**

"I am thankful for you guys. You told me to call Senator Eldridge's office and he helped me get my SNAP benefits."

"You cannot tell a hungry child that you gave him food yesterday."

~Zimbabwean Proverb

864 **Families/2,040 individuals visited Loaves & Fishes in Fiscal Year 2015**

"Thank you for feeding me and my family."

5,700 **Pounds of food (approximately) was distributed each time we were open**

A new client with 7 people in her household told us she "is grateful for all the good food, variety and fresh vegetables and fruit."

7,047 **Client shopping trips were recorded**

"Everyone is wonderful and the volunteers are so nice."



"I never thought I would be on this side of the fence, needing help. I am an educated professional but company down turns, family members needing care, divorce and lung cancer changed that ... I was cared for and supported to the max by Loaves & Fishes and could not be more grateful. You can rest assured that when you generously support Loaves & Fishes you are supporting a non-profit that makes a daily difference in their clients' lives."

-Loaves & Fishes client



A Message from the President of the Board of Trustees



On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Loaves & Fishes, Thank you! Without the support of our volunteers and donors we would not have been able to assist 864 families on 7,047 shopping trips! During the year, over 35,000 bags of groceries were received by our clients.



During the past year, Loaves & Fishes received our Service Enterprise Certification, making us nationally certified in volunteer management. Congratulations and many thanks to staff and volunteers that made this possible through their hard work.

Loaves & Fishes' mission statement states "advocates for changes by its clients that will promote independence and self-reliance". It is important to not lose sight of this while concentrating on the food. While the food is important for nutrition, it is also important to nurture by guiding and mentoring families to find that independence and self-reliance. Over the years there have been many wonderful heartwarming stories of how Loaves & Fishes has assisted.

Thanks to the many great partnerships, area growers, community groups, volunteers and donors, we are able to keep up with the increased demand for food and to provide hope for many of our neighbors in need. We are grateful for the caring community of supporters that make the work of Loaves & Fishes possible. We look forward to continuing our partnerships and making new ones in the next year to ensure continued access to good, nutritious food.

Mary Markham

Mary Markham
President



Employees of PolyOne in Littleton dropping off a donation

Partners

Gold Level Partner \$5,000 and above

Applefield Farm
 Bemis Associates
 Community Foundation of North Central MA
 Digital Federal Credit Union-Marlborough
 Donelan's Supermarket-Acton
 Donelan's Supermarket-Littleton
 EFSP National Board
 Gaining Ground
 Judy Grande
 Groton Neighborhood Food Project
 Hannaford Supermarket-Ayer
 Hannaford Supermarket-Lunenburg
 Hannaford Supermarket-Townsend
 Harvard Post Office
 Holy Trinity Parish
 Independent Church of the Free Spirit
 Timothy Ingraham
 Scott Lewis
 Market Basket-Littleton
 Paul & Mimi Matisse
 Nashoba Good Friday Walk
 JoAnn Nicewicz
 Stephen & Cynthia O'Brien
 Jon & Jesse Panek
 Roche Brothers Supermarket-Acton
 Rotary Club of Littleton
 Saint Anne Parish



Rotary Club of Littleton receiving the 2015 Outstanding Community Partner Award in June

Senate Construction
 Ted & Mary Shasta
 Shaw's Supermarket-Groton
 Shirley Scout Food Drive
 Trader Joe's
 Union Congregational Church
 United Way of North Central MA

Silver Level Partner \$2,500-\$4,999

Ace Bermuda Insurance Ltd.
 Ayer Post Office
 Ayer/Shirley Recycle
 Steve Bakke & Julie Staraitis
 BJ's Wholesale Club
 Central Ave. Compassionate Care
 Kathleen Cole



Hannaford Supermarket in Ayer has supported Loaves & Fishes for many years, and we were sad to see the store close!

Congregational Church of Littleton
 Deluxe Corp.
 Donelan's Supermarket-Groton
 Donelan's Supermarket-Pepperell
 Federal Bureau of Prisons
 First Church Unitarian
 Fitness Your Weigh
 Greater Lowell Community Foundation
 Groton Scouting
 Groton-Dunstable Regional Schools
 Harvard Lions Club
 Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church
 Kimball's Farm
 Lucia's Tavola
 Douglas & Sandy McPherson
 Nashoba Valley Medical Center
 Project Bread



Trader Joe's of Acton was also recognized as an Outstanding Community Partner in 2015



Stephen Roach & Amy Hilbert
 Heidrun Ryan
 Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church
 Donald & Janet Stevens
 Albert & Elizabeth Stone
 Ted & Connie Lapres Fund
 The Flatgard Group
 West Acton Baptist Church
 Wilson Brothers HVAC, Inc.

Bronze Level Partner \$1,000-\$2,499

Ayer Shirley Regional High School
 Ayer Shirley Regional Middle School
 Baddour Family Foundation
 BMW Car Club of America
 Arthur Boisseau & Marcia Gilson
 Cynthia Bryant
 Lee Burton
 Peter & Diane Carson
 John Cauley
 CD Willy's



Every year, the Davis Family of Littleton spends their day after Thanksgiving delivering hundreds of pounds of food to Loaves & Fishes

Cisco Systems
 William & Susan Coney
 Congregational Church UCC Harvard
 William Conley
 Curtis-Straus LLC
 The Davis Family
 John & Nancy Dwyer
 Senator James Eldridge

Epic Enterprises, Inc.
Jim & Lorraine Farnsworth
First Baptist Church
First Parish Church of Groton
Read Fleming
Garden at Church Meadows
James & Sharon Grier
Groton Knights of Columbus #13140
Groton Post Office
Groton Public Library
Groton Women's Club
Groton-Pepperell Rotary Club
Gary M. Gumachian
Harvard Women's Club
Hawk's Nest
Hildreth Elementary School
Holy Trinity Parish

Our Lady of Grace Parish
Richard & Bernice Packard, Sr.
Ann & Richard Perrault
Philip Rayla & Diane Herlihy-Rayla
Red Tail Golf Club
Heidi Reichart-Robes
Renegade Miata Club
Reuben Hoar Library
Robert & Joan Dircks Foundation
Saint Gobain
Tom & Verna Sefranek
Russell & Linda Shappy
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Shirley Post Office
Don & Heidi Siegrist
John Simko
Otto & Dorothy Solbrig
St. Anthony of Padua Parish
St. Catherine of Alexandria Church
St. Mary's Catholic Church
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
Cornelius Sullivan
Tag Heating & Cooling Inc.
The McHashem Fund
Town of Littleton
Trinity Episcopal Church
United Steelworkers of America Local 506
United Way of Massachusetts Bay &
Merrimack Valley
United Way of Tri-County
Richard & Jean Walsh
Richard & Nancy Washington
Sara Weeks
Weetabix
Westward Orchards, Inc.
Willard Farm
Douglas Williams Worker's Credit Union



4th graders at Hildreth Elementary School in Harvard held a school-wide food drive for Loaves & Fishes

Michael Horton
JK Farnsworth Company
Stephen & Diana Keaney
Stephen & Mary Keville
Warren & Meredith Kundert
Littleton Council of Churches
Littleton Fire Department
Littleton Middle School
Littleton Post Office
Littleton Westford Emblem Club
Brendan & Veronica Lowney
Curtis & Kathleen Marble
Markham Group, Inc.
Mary Markham
Steven McLatchy
Nancy F. Washington, P.C.
Nashoba Regional High School
New England Apple Products Co.
North Country Porsche Club of America
North Middlesex Savings Bank-Ayer
Northern Bank & Trust-Woburn
Oak Meadow Montessori
ODIC Incorporated
Kathleen Oosterman



Paul Niemira, Food Coordinator, posing with the new freezer purchased with the help of a few donors who answered our call for help after our old freezer stopped working!

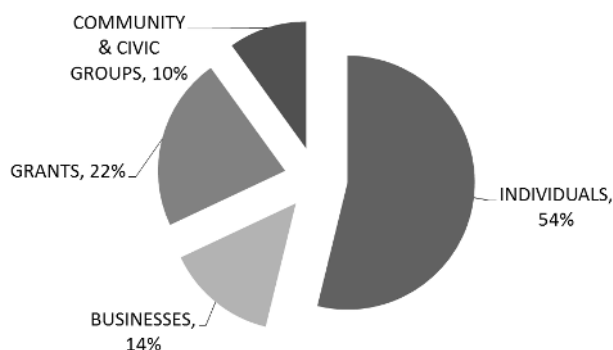


Senator Eldridge presenting staff and volunteers with an annual donation

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc.
 Financial Profile Fiscal Year 2015
(Unaudited)

86 cents of every dollar
 donated goes directly
 to client services

WHERE DO OUR
 FINANCIAL
 DONATIONS
 COME FROM?



SUPPORT		
Public Support		
Financial Contributions		\$481,527
Donated In-Kind Goods & Services		\$569,050
Volunteer Services		\$260,571
Special Events		\$166,299
Other Support		
Greater Boston Food Bank		\$245,180
TOTAL SUPPORT		\$1,722,627

EXPENDITURES		
Distributed Goods and Services		
In-Kind Goods		\$814,230
In-Kind Services		\$426,870
Program Services		\$220,508
Other Expenses		
Supporting Services		\$244,569
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$1,706,177
NET SURPLUS		\$16,450



Kiernan DeMeis-Dullea from Groton donated over 9 pounds of fresh eggs from his own hens!

WORDS FROM
 A CLIENT

"I have never experienced a program like Loaves & Fishes. The staff are friendly, genuine and sincere, and the food is invaluable when you're not sure what problems may come tomorrow. I recently lost my position as an administrator and didn't qualify for public assistance. This is when I found Loaves & Fishes and they provided support and assistance in my time of transition when no one else would. I can never express how much gratitude and appreciativeness I have for Loaves & Fishes. Thank you for all you do to help so many."

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc. Special Programs/Events

“No act of kindness,
however small, is ever
wasted.”

~Aesop



Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution

79 volunteers and numerous generous donors made it possible for 347 households to receive all the fixings for their Thanksgiving dinners



Holiday Dinner Distribution

67 volunteers and numerous generous donors made it possible for 291 households to receive all the fixings for their holiday dinners



Shop For Your Kids

220 families shopped at the event and 559 children received holiday gifts



Shop For Your Parents

263 children shopped for special gifts and had the opportunity to have breakfast with Santa! 45 seniors received holiday gift bags



Good Friday Walk

200 participants walked 1,100 miles to raise almost \$20,000 for Loaves & Fishes



Postal Worker's Food Drive

11,886 pounds of food was collected, delivered and sorted by many volunteers



Golf Tournament

Thanks to the organizers, dedicated volunteers, donors, sponsors and golfers, the tournament held at Shaker Hills Country Club raised \$10,200!



Backpack Program

112 families received 236 backpacks including 20 college-age backpacks



A Message from the Executive Director

During this past year, the stories of our clients' lives have underscored our mission to lift and feed our neighbors. Their stories have touched us all deeply and reminded us of how we are truly fortunate.

Senior citizens are struggling to stretch their social security checks to purchase medications, buy food and heat their homes. As the temperatures plummeted and the snow swirled furiously outside, tears came to the eyes of one of our seniors. She was thankful to warm her frozen fingers and toes in the comfort of the Pantry, and thankful for the kind and welcoming smiles of our staff and volunteers. For her, Loaves & Fishes is her extended family.

Veterans who are just returning to the states, suffering not only from physical wounds but also from the emotional scars which may never heal, visit the Pantry. Many are lost, alone and struggling to afford the most basic necessity - food. One veteran shared with a volunteer Food Distributor that he feels supported and respected when he visits Loaves & Fishes.

Middle-aged people who were accustomed to donating to the Pantry, never expected to be in need of help themselves. One woman shared her story of job loss, divorce and a cancer diagnosis. She now relies on support from Loaves & Fishes to help her through this difficult time and expects that in the future, once her life stabilizes, she will be able to give back to help others.

Many single mothers try their best to provide for their children but find that they simply cannot make it on their own. A mom and her son were living in a one room apartment and could not afford to turn the heat on during the cold, winter last year. Our volunteer Stewards listened compassionately and provided her with referrals for fuel assistance. Our Clothing Room volunteers helped them find warm clothing. Mom left with hope.

There are those who once led a comfortable life – dual incomes, a home, two cars, soccer games on the weekends, vacationing at the beach during the summer. All of a sudden Dad was diagnosed with a life-threatening disease and Mom lost her job. Their lives have been forever changed. Their income stream has been reduced to a single unemployment check which is not enough to pay the mortgage, make car payments and pay other bills, let alone feed their children. The groceries they received at Loaves & Fishes, especially the fresh produce, have meant one less worry for this family.

These are the faces of Loaves & Fishes, the people who touch our lives each day and make us realize how we are truly lucky. Last year we served 864 families, 223 of them new to the Pantry. Although their stories differ, there is one common thread - they are our neighbors and they are struggling. Any one of us could face similar situations.

In order to better serve our neighbors and support our volunteers, we have focused significant energy in the past year on improving the client experience at the Pantry, adding key volunteer positions to our organizational framework, improving communication and providing guidance and training opportunities for our volunteers. As a result of our efforts, we attained national certification as a Service Enterprise which identifies us as an organization committed to process improvement and effective volunteer management practices.

As we embark on a new year our focus will be multi-pronged. We will strive to strengthen existing partnerships with area businesses, schools, houses of worship and community and civic groups while also forging new relationships to expand our base of support. Our commitment to continuous improvement and increased communication will remain a top priority. Our main focus, however, will continue to be to lift and feed our neighbors.

Patty

Patricia A. Stern
Executive Director





facebook

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Follow us on Twitter



Contact Us:

Telephone: (978) 772-4627

Visit our website at: www.loavesfishespantry.org

Mailing Address: PO Box 1, Ayer, MA 01432

Located at: 234 Barnum Road, Devens, MA