

**MISSION**

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.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Kathleen O'Connor, *President*  
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**STAFF**

Patricia Stern, *Executive Director*  
Paul Niemira, *Food Coordinator*  
Theresa Wilson, *Client Advocate*  
Karen DeGagne, *Volunteer & Office Coordinator*

**OPEN PANTRY HOURS**

Wednesdays and Fridays  
9:45AM – 12:30PM *Doors open at 9:30AM*  
First and third Saturdays of month  
9:00AM – 11:00AM *Doors open at 8:45AM*  
Second Tuesday of month  
6PM – 8PM *Doors open at 5:45PM*  
Closed when Ayer-Shirley Regional School District is closed or delayed due to inclement weather.

**FOOD DONATION TIMES**

All Open Pantry Hours and Mondays and Wednesdays  
7PM – 8PM

**CLOTHING DONATION TIMES**

Mondays 10AM – 12NOON and  
7PM – 8PM

**LOCATION**

234 Barnum Road  
Devens, MA  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1,  
Ayer, MA 01432  
Phone: 978-772-4627  
Fax: 978-772-7395  
[www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org)

# Hunger Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation

Summertime brings a much needed break from school and work routines and, for many, is an opportunity to enjoy some relaxation and fun in the New England sun! But for too many, summer vacation means an already stretched food budget faces more challenges.

The Greater Boston Food Bank states that 1 in 9 members of our communities in Eastern Massachusetts are at risk for hunger. Unfortunately, that number includes more than 125,000 children who are at risk of going hungry on any given day. An overwhelming majority of our children receive free or reduced-price meals at school that disappear in the summer, creating a serious hardship for many families. Additionally, during the summer months, donations to pantries and food banks traditionally decrease and our shelves at Loaves & Fishes become much leaner. Even in the seemingly care-free months of summer there are still people in our community who are without jobs, people who cannot find jobs, people who are under-employed, and people on Social Security or disability. Our neighbors will continue

to need our help during these upcoming summer months.

The May Postal Worker's Food Drive, our largest food drive of the year, brought Loaves & Fishes an incredible 12,447 lbs of food, an increase of 38% over last year! We are grateful to all who contributed to make this year's drive such a huge success.

Loaves & Fishes currently distributes 8,000 lbs of food each week which means that the food collected during our largest food drive of the year will be distributed to our clients in approximately a week and a half! Please consider helping us continue to tackle the issue of hunger and help ensure children in our communities receive the nutritious meals they need both in the in the upcoming summer months and throughout the year.

Hunger hurts, but there are many ways to help. You can donate money. You can donate food. You can volunteer. Anybody and everybody can participate. Dropping off one can of food helps. Please make donating to Loaves & Fishes part of your summer routine.

***"Hunger is no longer just a problem facing those in poverty. A recent study shows that 47% of those at risk for hunger in eastern Massachusetts earn too much to be eligible for government-provided emergency food assistance. Many never dreamed they would need a food pantry or community meal program to feed themselves and their families."***

Greater Boston Food Bank

**AN UPLIFTING SURPRISE:**

***A client recently found this heart-shaped potato in the vegetable bin at the Pantry. Inspiration comes to us in many different ways. For her, this "treasure" was a sign that she should persevere and that things would get better.***



# ANNUAL POSTAL WORKERS FOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS!



**On May 11<sup>th</sup>, over 50 volunteers spent the day picking-up and delivering over 12,000 lbs. of food donations to the Pantry, and date-checking, sorting, stocking and boxing the items.**

*"Thank you to everyone who has been so generous with their time and kindness. I sincerely appreciate all the help you've given me and others." –A client*



*"I moved to Ayer a year ago. When I was told about your food pantry I had no idea how wonderful the help was that you give people. You have made such a huge difference in my life. I want to thank every one of you for all that you do and all that you give up to do it. I am extremely grateful..." –A client*



# ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR WILL SOON BE HERE

As we all enjoy our summer, Loaves & Fishes is already planning for fall as we kick-off our annual backpack drive.

Last year, thanks to your generous contributions, we provided over 450 backpacks filled with needed school supplies to each school-aged child served by Loaves & Fishes. Amazing! Our hope is that we will be able to do as well or

perhaps surpass that amount this year. Please help us help the children start the new school year on a positive note. We welcome monetary donations and contributions of filled or empty backpacks and

supplies. Please visit our website at [www.loaves-fishespantry.org](http://www.loaves-fishespantry.org) for a list of requested items for each specific age group. Donations can be dropped off at Loaves & Fishes during open pantry sessions and on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm through August 5th.

This program, which brings such joy and excitement to children in our communities, is not possible without YOU! Please imagine a smiling child with a new backpack filled with supplies.



Boy Scout Pack 12 in Groton organizes a unique fundraiser for Loaves & Fishes each year. The event is called the "Dad's and Lad's Cake Auction." The cub scouts and their fathers bake cakes, compete for awards in a variety of categories and then auction off the cakes to raise funds for the Pantry. This year they raised over \$900.

## A Time to Say Thanks

On June 17th representatives from many local businesses and organizations joined us for our Annual Community Partnership Celebration. The evening included tours of the Pantry, pleasant conversation and delicious refreshments provided by: Devens Grill and Markoh's on Main, Tiny's Restaurant and Jack O'Lantern Liquors, all of Ayer. Photography was provided by Frequent Flyer Photography. Outstanding Community Partner awards were presented to Wilson Bros. Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. of Pepperell, and Gaining Ground of Concord. Wilson Bros. has generously agreed to service and maintain our heating and air conditioning system, free of charge, for the past four years. Gaining Ground is a non-profit organization, staffed by volunteers, which provides us with thousands of pounds of fresh produce each summer. We are indebted to these two organizations and so many others who, through their generosity, allow us to continue to help our neighbors.



## Join us for our 30th Anniversary Party!

August 3, 2013

12:30 – 2:30 pm

Loaves & Fishes  
234 Barnum Road

Food and fun for everyone!

RSVP to Karen at:  
(978) 772-4627x300

## JOIN US FOR A VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION SESSION!

1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm

3rd Thursday of each month at 9:30 am

Call 978-772-4627 x300 to let us know you'll be joining us.

## Local Businesses Accept the Challenge

A big thank you to Azuki Systems of Acton, North Middlesex Savings Bank and Jack O'Lantern Liquors of Ayer for accepting our "30 for 30 Challenge." Each business agreed to sponsor a food drive for 30 days in honor of our 30th anniversary.



## A Big Thank You!

To Frequent Flyer Photography for agreeing to be our official Loaves & Fishes photographer!

Owner: Adrian Flatgard

978-697-2838 • [frequentflyerphotographer@gmail.com](mailto:frequentflyerphotographer@gmail.com)



### NEWSLETTER TEAM

Hana Barker, Martha Dean, Susanne Harrington, Mary Lou O'Connor

Photos courtesy of Frequent Flyer Photography



Follow us on Twitter  
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### MOST-NEEDED ITEMS

- Cereal
- Ramen Noodles
- Pork & Beans
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned vegetables  
(corn, beets, potatoes, mixed)
- Ketchup, mayo and mustard
- Creamed soups
- Helpers and sides
- Flavored rice
- Canned pasta

### HELP US SPEND OUR MONEY WISELY!

We love to spread our message and highlight our events to our generous communities, but every copy of our newsletter costs money to print and mail. Think of how many meals we could provide to our hungry neighbors with those extra funds! Please send your email address to us at:  
[tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org)



Like us on Facebook!  
[loaves-fishes-pantry-in-devens-ma](https://www.facebook.com/loaves-fishes-pantry-in-devens-ma)

### Food Drop-Off Locations

**AYER:** Ayer Post Office, Nashoba Valley Medical Center, North Middlesex Savings Bank, The Cottage Restaurant

**DEVENS:** North Middlesex Savings Bank, Anytime Fitness

**GROTON:** North Middlesex Savings Bank, Donelan's Supermarket, Groton Post Office, Groton Public Library, Shaw's Supermarket, Middlesex Bank, Town Hall

**HARVARD:** Harvard Post Office, Harvard Police Department

**LITTLETON:** Citizen's Savings Bank, Donelan's Supermarket, North Middlesex Savings Bank, Northern Bank & Trust, Littleton Police Department, Littleton Post Office

**SHIRLEY:** Shirley Post Office, Hazen Library, Shirley Fire Department, North Middlesex Savings Bank, Phoenix Park

**ALL 6 TOWNS:** Many places of worship

For more information or directions to Loaves & Fishes, visit us online at:  
[www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org)  
or call us:-978-772-4627



Has your address changed? Please e-mail us at  
[tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org) or  
call 978-772-4627x300



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