



February 2019 Volume 27, Issue 1

### MISSION

Loaves & Fishes' mission is to provide nutritious food, in an atmosphere of kindness and respect, to individuals in need who reside in Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Hanlon, *President*  
Andrea Myette, *Vice President*  
Don Siegrist, *Treasurer*  
James Breslauer, *Clerk*  
Lily Baddour, Mary Jo Boynton, Hilary Curtis, Joseph Harrington, Scott Lewis, Willie Wickman

### STAFF

Patricia Stern, *Executive Director*  
Sharon Cordero, *Administrative Assistant*  
Paul Niemira, *Food Coordinator*  
Theresa Wilson, *Client Advocate*  
Sherrie Forest, *Volunteer Coordinator*  
John Cauley, *Food Coordinator Assistant*

### OPEN PANTRY HOURS

Wednesday and Friday  
9:45AM-12:30PM  
(Doors open at 9:30AM)  
First and third Saturdays of the month  
9:00AM-11:00AM  
(Doors open at 8:45AM)  
Second Tuesday of the month  
6:00PM-8:00PM  
(Doors open at 5:45PM)  
**Thursday 3:30PM-5:00PM**  
**Federal Employee Only Session**  
**(Doors open at 3:15PM)**

Loaves & Fishes is closed when Ayer Shirley Regional School District is closed or delayed due to inclement weather.  
Call (978) 772-4627 for a recorded message.

### FOOD DONATION TIMES

- During all Open Pantry Hours
- Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:00PM-8:00PM

### LOCATION

234 Barnum Road, Devens, MA 01434  
Mailing address:  
PO Box 1, Ayer, MA 01432  
Telephone: 978.772.4627  
Fax: 978.772.7395  
Email: office@loavesfishespantry.org  
www.loavesfishespantry.org

Hope can come in many forms. It can be a donation of nutritious food, monetary support or the gift of volunteer time. Hope can be a kind word, a warm smile or an understanding hug.

***“You have absolutely no idea how thankful I am for not only the nutritious food, but also the kindness that I receive every time I visit the Pantry.”***

Your donations and support throughout 2018 have meant the world to our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. You have helped us provide not only food, but equally important – hope!

***“We have been treated with the utmost humanity and dignity. Our family couldn't have survived if we didn't have Loaves & Fishes.”***

Now in the new year, their struggles continue—illness, homelessness, loneliness, fixed income, job loss. They have to make difficult decisions about whether to pay their mortgage/rent, heat their home, buy needed medications or feed their family.

***“I would never be able to eat properly if it weren't for all the help I've gotten from the best food pantry ever.”***

Federal employees who have been impacted by the shutdown face similar challenges.

***“I've been feeding my children Ramen for the past few weeks. Thank you so much for your kindness and support.”***

When we announced our intention to support the federal employees, the outpouring of support from the community was unlike anything we have ever seen in the history of the Pantry.

***“As one of the employees of the Federal Medical Center-Devens, it's nice to know that the community is looking out for us during the shutdown.”***

Our doors are open to all who need us—residents of Ayer, Devens Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley as well as all federal employees impacted by the “shutdown” no matter where they reside.

***Thank you for helping to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Thank you for providing hope!***

***Take a look inside to see the many ways our community has provided hope!***

# A BUSY HOLIDAY SEASON

## 2018 THANKSGIVING DINNER DISTRIBUTION—269 families received all of the fixings for their Thanksgiving meal.



**SENATOR ELDRIDGE** and his staff stopped by the Pantry to volunteer during the Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution. Thank you, Senator, for your continued support towards our mission and fight against local hunger.

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS  
FOR YOUR GIFT OF TIME!**



OUR TURKEY APPEAL  
RAISED OVER \$22,000  
IN MONETARY SUPPORT!



Patricia and Violetta, ready to assist with food distribution.

## 2018 HOLIDAY DINNER DISTRIBUTION—220 families enjoyed the holidays with a delicious meal!



Andre stocking shelves.



Joanne welcomes our clients with a smile and sometimes a song!



PLENTY OF FOOD, THANKS TO  
OUR GENEROUS DONORS!



Janet braved the cold to distribute shopping tickets.

## 2018 SHOP FOR YOUR KIDS PROGRAM—116 families, over 200 children, received gifts for the holidays!



### ANONYMOUS DONOR!

An elderly gentleman stopped by the Pantry with a \$500 donation, and he said, "it's for the children."



**DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE MAKING ENDS MEET?**

A family of four who visits the Pantry twice each month can receive over \$400 worth of groceries including: fresh produce, meat, cheese, eggs, butter, shelf stable items, personal care items and vouchers for milk at a local grocery store.

Call the Client Advocate at (978) 772-4627x312 with questions or simply visit us during our open pantry hours and bring a proof of residency (a first-class piece of mail showing your name, residential address and a current date) with you.



**volunteer**  
*do good, feel good*

Email: [volunteer@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:volunteer@loavesfishespantry.org) or call (978) 772-4627 x317 to learn how you can help!

New Volunteer Information Sessions:  
Wednesday, February 6th @ 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, February 21st @ 9:30 a.m.

**GRATEFUL**



*Because of our caring community, Vicki and her family enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal together.*

**OPEN PANTRY HOURS**

**WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS**  
9:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**1st & 3rd SATURDAYS**  
of each month  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**2nd TUESDAY**  
of each month  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY**  
**FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ONLY SESSION**  
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



**Volunteers in the Spotlight:**

**JUDY GRANDE** has been volunteering at Loaves & Fishes for more than 25 years. She has helped families shop for food, organized a variety of food collection drives and events, served on the Board and as our Acting Executive Director, chaired a capital campaign and written grants. Judy recently was recognized by the New England Patriots as an outstanding volunteer. Thank you for your years of service, Judy, and congratulations on being recognized by the Pats!



# IT TAKES A COMMUNITY



Loaves & Fishes received a \$6,000 donation from our good friends at the **PORSCH CLUB OF AMERICA NORTHEAST REGION!** Pictured with Loaves & Fishes Executive Director, Patty Stern, are Chris Ryan (left) and Jeff Johnson (right).



**APPLEWILD SCHOOL** held a food drive over the holidays. Students and their families donated over 200 pounds of food to the Pantry. Pictured to the left is Abigale Moran '19 and Paul Niemira, Pantry's Food Coordinator.



**RADHIKA MEHTA**, a student at Littleton High School, organized a "Caroling for a Cause" event to benefit Loaves & Fishes. Over 20 of her friends joined together to spread some holiday cheer and collected \$200 for the Pantry!



*"Our family could not have survived if we didn't have Loaves & Fishes. We have been treated with humanity and respect."  
-A Client*



Kelly and Kaleo stopped by the Pantry to deliver 263 lbs. of food from the drive they did at **KELLY'S MUSIC & MORE** in Littleton!



Youth sorting donations received from the Neighborhood Food Project delivery.

## HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT...

*"It's so easy to do this! First I asked my neighbors to help, then I sent out an email reminder a few weeks before and also one week before the collection. Picking up the donated groceries took less than an hour! I'm glad to be a part of it!"*

-Don Stevens, Littleton Neighborhood Coordinator



## EASY WAY TO HELP OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY...

- ◆ We provide you with a reusable green Food Project bag.
- ◆ You collect non-perishable food and personal care items and place them in the green bag.
- ◆ Every two months your Neighborhood Coordinator collects all of the filled bags in the neighborhood, leaves empty bags, and delivers the donations to the Pantry.

**JOIN IN ON THE FUN!** - Call John at (978) 772-4627, x318 or email him at: [foodassist@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:foodassist@loavesfishespantry.org)!



**ETM MANUFACTURING OF LITTLETON** donated over 500 pounds of shelf-stable food for the holidays. Pictured left to right, George Wilkes, Perry Tetteh-Quarshie, Paul Niemira, Pantry's Food Coordinator, and Cheryl Glavey.



**THE DAVIS FAMILY**, long time supporters of the Pantry, donated over 600 pounds of shelf stable food—just in time for the holiday dinner distribution!



**NCR-PCA AUTOCROSS** donated \$5,000 to the Pantry. Pictured to the left is Joe Kraetsch, NCR-PCA Autocross Chair, Lily Baddour, Loaves & Fishes Board Member and Chris Ryan.



*"Thank you very much for feeding me in 2018. I appreciate the great food assistance that I received from you. You are doing such a great service to the needy in the community. Everyone at the Pantry is very kind and helpful."*  
-A Client

The Annual **SHIRLEY SCOUT DRIVE** donated over 7,933 pounds of food to Loaves & Fishes! Thank you to the Town of Shirley, the organizers, all the Scouts and volunteers who made this happen!



**SENATOR ELDRIDGE** stopped by the Pantry to deliver a \$1000 donation prior to the holidays.



Our good friends, at **ACTON TOYOTA OF LITTLETON** donated over \$900, proceeds from their November "Driven by Charity" Event.



Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1  
Ayer, MA 01432

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Ayer, MA 01432  
Permit No. 4

**DO YOU NEED HELP WITH GROCERIES?  
NO INCOME REQUIREMENTS!**

**CALL US: 978-772-4627, x312**  
**EMAIL: [clientadvocate@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:clientadvocate@loavesfishespantry.org)**  
**or visit us during an open pantry session**

### THE NEED IS REAL....LAST YEAR

- **828** households/ **1,967** individuals received nutritious groceries
- **241** new families visited the Pantry
- **30%** of the households earned less than \$10,000 annually
  - **31%** were children
  - **10%** were seniors
- **6,410** shopping trips were made



● **REAL PEOPLE** ● **REAL FOOD** ● **REAL HELP** ● **REAL HOPE** ●

#### Contact Us:

Telephone: (978) 772-4627

Email: [office@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:office@loavesfishespantry.org)

Website: <https://loavesfishespantry.org>



Find us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

