



NEWSLETTER

October 2022



Changes Make Us Stronger Than Ever

This past year was a challenging one, but we came through it better than ever. We had three staffing changes and also created a new truck driver position. We changed the schedule and protocols as we emerged from the pandemic. We did our best to efficiently and safely serve as many of our neighbors as possible, despite the ever-changing economic climate. The acquisition of our box truck allowed us to independently transport our supplies so we didn't have to rely upon the kindness of area businesses for assistance. It also allowed us to help other local pantries in Acton, Bedford, Townsend, Pepperell, and Medway with their transportation challenges. We have learned, adapted, and grown, thanks to the support of our generous donors and tireless volunteers. We are moving into the next year stronger than ever and ready to adapt to whatever the year brings.



Meet Our Newest Staff Members!

Please welcome, from left to right, Tara Hanley, our new Food Coordinator, Mellissa Richard, our Senior Administrative Assistant, and Eileen O'Dea, our Volunteer Coordinator. Stop by and say hello to these ladies who are a wonderful addition to our team!

Summer Kid Bags

This summer we distributed 395 bags of extra food for families with school-aged children. The bags contained breakfasts, snacks, and lunches to help families, through the summer months.

Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers who made this possible!



Welcome

Groton Neighborhood Food Project!



The Town of Groton began a very successful Neighborhood Food Project in 2014. Today there are dozens of Groton neighborhoods participating, collecting thousands of pounds of food and truly making a difference. Because of their success, in 2016 Loaves & Fishes decided to begin their own Neighborhood Food Project for the towns of Ayer, Devens, Harvard, Littleton, and Shirley. Recently, the Groton Neighborhood Food Project merged with the Loaves & Fishes' Neighborhood Food Project. We are grateful to the Groton team for their invaluable guidance, time, and effort through the years.

The Neighborhood Food Project is one of the easiest ways to support the pantry!

When you do your grocery shopping, you just pick up one or two extra shelf-stable items, store them in the green bags we provide to you, and every two months your neighborhood coordinator will pick them up right from your home and bring the bags to the pantry. It couldn't be easier!

Start your own Neighborhood or join one near you today!

For more information, please contact John Cauley:

Phone: 978-772-4627 ext. 318 Email: foodassist@loavesfishespantry.org



Support Loaves & Fishes With Your Holiday Shopping

As you begin your early holiday shopping, why not support the pantry at the same time?

When you shop online, choose Amazon Smile and select Loaves & Fishes as your charity. A percentage of everything you spend will be donated to the pantry.



A single, young mother of two shared this with us...

"I had enough food for two more days if I stretched it, then we were out. A neighbor told me about Loaves & Fishes and I am so relieved that I visited the pantry. I can feed my children now. My sincere thanks to everyone who supports the pantry—it truly makes a difference

-Heather, a Littleton resident

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Ways to Help

Financial Support - Donate

Please visit our website to donate electronically:
loavesfishespantry.org/donate-now
or mail checks to: P.O. Box 1, Ayer MA 01432

The Gift of Time - Volunteer

Please contact Eileen O'Dea, our Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@loavesfishespantry.org
978-772-4627 ext. 317



Donate Food or Personal Care Items

We're Looking For...

Ensure or Glucerna
Ramen Noodles
Boxed Flavored Rice
Albacore Tuna
Canned Pasta
Canned Chicken
Hearty Chunky Soup
Coffee, ground and/or instant (No k-cups or whole bean)
Helpers (hamburger, tuna, instant potatoes, etc.)
Shampoo
Diapers - Size 6
Toothpaste and Brushes

Please deliver donations during drive-thru pantry sessions
Or contact Tara to make special arrangements.
foodcoordinator@loavesfishespantry.org
978-772-4627 x 308

Our list of most needed items changes regularly. Please see our
website for the most up to date information.

loavesfishespantry.org/donating-during-the-covid-19-crisis

" I don't know if I can ever adequately express my gratitude. I'm so glad Loaves & Fishes is here.

I am a disabled veteran. My little boy and I have been homeless for the last couple of months and we've been living in a motel. We learned about you through the local VA office.

When my son and I arrived, we were greeted with warmth and kindness. We were not only provided with multiple bags of groceries, we were also given a microwave safe dish and some recipes we can make in our motel room microwave. My son was so excited to have food, he almost cried.

Thank you Loaves & Fishes, and all of your supporters that make what you do possible. You made our day."

- Brandon, client of Loaves & Fishes

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Do You Need Help With Groceries?

Please do not ever hesitate to reach out for help. We are here for those tough times. No one should ever go hungry, no matter what they're going through. Maybe it's just this month, maybe it's been a rough few years. Maybe you used to be the one to help but now you need help. It's okay! That's why we're here, no income requirements, no questions asked, as long as you are a resident of Ayer, Devens, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Littleton, or Shirley. And if you're not a resident? We are happy to help you find local resources. Please do not struggle alone. Let us help you.



Drive-thru Pantry Schedule

October 4, 5, 7, 12, 15, 19, 21, 26, 28

November 1, 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 30

December 2, 6, 7, 9, 14, 17, 21, 28, 30

Drive-thru Pantry Hours

First Tuesday Evening of the Month - 4 PM to 7 PM

Wednesday and Friday - 10 AM to 1 PM

Third Saturday of the Month - 9 AM to 12 PM

CLOSED the Friday Before the Third Saturday of Every Month

See our website for the most up to date schedule information
<https://loavesfishespantry.org>

*Schedule Subject to Change

Holiday Meal Distributions

Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution

Monday, November 21st from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Holiday Dinner Distribution

Monday, December 19th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Please visit if you need help!

No income requirements!

Open to residents of Ayer, Devens, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Littleton, and Shirley.
Just join the drive-thru line to receive a complete holiday dinner with all the fixings!

If you are interested in supporting our holiday meal distributions,
please consider making a financial donation

We LOVE Our Community!



A SPECIAL TREAT!

Tomato plants grown and donated by Kathi Duprey put a smile on our clients' faces!

WOW!

A 4 pound beet!
Kim Benjamin, one of our great volunteers, discovered this treasure!



LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

The production team from *Salem's Lot*, an HBO movie filmed in the area, made a very generous donation!



Sharing Hope!

We are so excited to have our new box truck! With the help of many local partners including the Greater Boston Food Bank, Senator Jamie Eldridge, and many others, we were able to purchase a brand new box truck entirely with grants. Not only does this help us pick up our groceries from the Greater Boston Food Bank, but it also enables us to help other local pantries in Acton, Townsend, Pepperell, Bedford, and Medway get their supplies, too!

