

# Annual Report

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



#### **OUR 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, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley.

# OUR BOARD of DIRECTORS

.**Jim Breslauer** – President 11/9/15 - 6/30/22Hilary Curtis – Vice President 9/17/18 – 6/30/24 Paul Musgrove – Treasurer 2/8/21 - 6/30/24Andrea Myette – Clerk 11/9/15 - 6/30/22Susan Edgett 7/1/20 - 6/30/23**Jeff Howe** 7/1/19 - 6/30/22Joseph Knox 2/28/22 - 6/30/22 **Hugh Silk** 2/8/21 - 6/30/24 **Mary Timmons** 7/1/20 - 6/30/23**Beth Walker** 7/1/21 - 6/30/24Linda Blackwell 7/1/21 - 4/30/22 Willie Wickman 7/1/16 -1/31/22

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been an interesting year. Having volunteered at the Pantry for the past eight years, I thought I had a pretty good idea of how things worked. My year as Board President has opened my eyes. Patty and the staff (both hereinafter 'staff') are much more amazing than I had realized.

With a grant from the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) and assistance from Senator Jamie Eldridge we purchased a truck to use to get supplies from GBFB. A great design was conceived by staff and put on the truck to advertise the Pantry's services wherever it traveled. Board member Jeff Howe coordinated schedules with 6 other food pantries so that we could obtain GBFB supplies for them as well. A tremendous benefit for them and a wonderful example of non-profits cooperating for the benefit of clients.

Then the Board decided to engage in a formal planning process to try to improve services to clients as the COVID crises stabilized. The staff spent considerable time using their expertise to develop a staged plan which they presented to the Board. The first stage is now in effect, giving clients more options as to when to get food. Other stages will be implemented over time.

In spite of some significant staff turn-over (some anticipated, some not) services to clients never decreased. A special shout-out to the volunteers on our Personnel Committee who spent many hours screening and discussing dozens of candidates for our open positions this year: Aleta Manugian, Leslie Row, Jeff Howe, Mary Timmons, and Andrea Myette.

On behalf of our clients, I thank the Board, the staff and all our volunteers for their efforts. I'm looking forward to seeing what this next year will bring. Whatever it is, I know our clients will be well taken care of.

Jim Breslauer
President-Board of Directors

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been another challenging year, but with the support of a committed team of Board members, staff, and volunteers, and the generous support of our community we have been able to adapt, respond and continue to serve our neighbors who are struggling. Despite the challenges, there were also highlights. The acquisition of our new truck has solved the problem of retrieving our orders from the Greater Boston Food Bank. We are particularly proud that we have been able to establish partnerships with other area pantries and utilize our truck to help them retrieve their orders as well. Collaboration at its best and a shining example of what can be accomplished if we all work together.

The upcoming year will be a busy one as we work to enhance and expand our operational model. I am confident that with our team of dedicated staff and volunteers and continuing support from the community, we will emerge even stronger as we approach our 40th anniversary year. My sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the mission of Loaves & Fishes. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be part of such an amazing organization.

Patricia A. Stern
Executive Director

# OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Patricia Stern - Executive Director

Mellissa Richard – Senior Administrative Assistant

**Sharon Cordero** – Administrative Assistant (through January 2022)

**Grace Miller** – Client Services Coordinator

William Loehfelm – Client Counselor

**Timothy Last** – Food Coordinator (through April 2022)

John Cauley – Food Coordinator Assistant

**Daniel Daly** – Truck Driver

**Eileen O'Dea** – Volunteer Coordinator

Paige DePietro – Volunteer Coordinator (through March 2022)



"We're so glad you're still here. We haven't needed to come to the pantry for a couple of years but now the prices of everything have gone up so much, we need help to feed our family again."

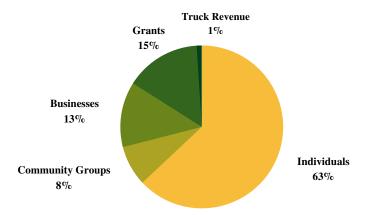


~ **Jessica & John**, residents of Dunstable

### FINANCIAL PROFILE



CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR DONATED WENT TOWARDS CLIENT SERVICES!



### WHERE DID OUR FINANCIAL DONATIONS COME FROM?

MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS	\$	893,379
VALUE OF DONATED GOODS & SERVICES	\$	916,192
VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS	\$	342,212
TOTAL SUPPORT	\$2	,151,783
EXPENDITURES	\$	573,889
GOODS/SERVICES/VOLUNTEER TIME	\$1	,258,404
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED	<b>\$1</b>	,832,293
		*unaudited



Kerry Madden, owner of **KAM FITNESS AND NUTRITION**, hosted their 10th anniversary Plank-a-thon to benefit local food pantries including Loaves & Fishes. Kerry also supported our Neighborhood Food Project!



MAIN STREET BANK is a longtime supporter of Loaves & Fishes!

### **GENEROSITY**

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE MANY BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORTED LOAVES & FISHES LAST YEAR.



The **FORGE & VINE RESTAURANT** in Groton (part of the Migis Hotel Group) found a unique way to support the Pantry. They sponsored a RAISE YOUR GLASS event to benefit Loaves & Fishes. When select beverages were purchased they and their partners donated \$1 per glass to the cause.

#### 2ND ANNUAL SPRING INTO ACTION 5K RAISED OVER \$20,000!





"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



### **SUPPORT**



#### **FAMILIES VISITED LAST YEAR!**

Those 576 families had 1,510 household members. They sought help for many different reasons - a job loss, health issues, fixed income, addiction, abuse and even an unexpected household expense which they did not have the resources for. Each family, if they visited twice each month, received enough groceries for approximately half of their monthly meals. Groceries included: Fresh and frozen produce, eggs, margarine, cheese, frozen meats, cereal, juice, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, helpers, condiments, canned products, personal care items and vouchers for milk.

# **ASSIST**



WERE OVER THE AGE OF 65!

Seniors are a very proud group. We often hear that they "don't want to take food away from those who need it more." The reality is that many seniors are struggling to stretch their fixed income to pay their bills. They are making some very difficult decisions about heating their home, paying their rent or mortgage, purchasing necessary medications or buying nutritious food. Often, there is little left for groceries.



"I'm so grateful for all of the nutritious food, especially the fresh produce, I receive from the Pantry. I couldn't afford it on my own."

~Lorraine, a Littleton resident

8



"My tummy was always hungry until my Mommy started going to Loaves & Fishes."

~Brianna, a Shirley resident

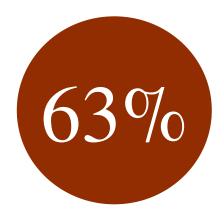


# **NOURISH**



Parents tell us that when money is tight, they try to stretch their limited budgets to put food on the table. Often what they can afford has little nutritional value. The children suffer. They go to school hungry and cannot focus on learning. Thanks to the generosity of our community, Loaves & Fishes is able to provide nutritious food, including fresh produce, meats, eggs, milk vouchers and so much more to help our neighbors.

# **SUSTAIN**



### WERE RETIRED, DISABLED, ILL OR CARING FOR SOMEONE WHO IS!

We hear about their struggles every day. Some are living on a fixed income. Others cannot work because they are ill or caring for someone else who is ill. They are doing the best they can to survive and the support they receive from the Pantry sustains them. No one should be without nutritious food.



"My son was in the hospital for several weeks. He's home now but needs aroundthe-clock care. The food from the Pantry is what we depend upon."

~Michelle, a single mom from Groton





"My son and I have been homeless for the last couple of months and we've been living in a motel...he was so excited to have food, he almost cried!"

~ Brandon, a homeless veteran

hope

# **COMFORT**



Making ends meet on \$25,000 annually is hard. Many live in low-income housing or are homeless and living in area motels. They do not have the simple things which many of us take for granted. Some do not have access to a stove and can't prepare proper meals. It's a struggle.

### **FEED**



#### POUNDS OF GROCERIES DISTRIBUTED!

It takes a lot of food to feed 576 families! We could not possibly have managed without the support of the community who provided financial support, food, personal care products, and the gift of volunteer time. Together we lightened the load for 1,510 of our neighbors.



In its 32nd year, the **SHIRLEY SCOUT DRIVE** collected 11,804 pounds of food last year. It is a glowing example of what a community can do if everyone works together – it makes a huge difference!



Members of the **TAHATTAWAN LODGE** gleaned items from area stores and shuttled them to the Pantry.



These young ladies from **LITTLETON GIRL SCOUT TROOP 82443** had some fun collecting food from the community! They offered to "BOO!" a house with spooky ghost yard signs in exchange for non-perishable items for the Pantry.



This enthusiastic crew from the **LURA A. WHITE SCHOOL** in Shirley planned a very successful food drive!

# **COMMUNITY**

AREA SCHOOLS, SCOUT TROOPS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS WERE GREAT SUPPORTERS OF THE PANTRY!



**ROBIN MILLER**, pictured with John Cauley a member of our Staff Team, had an idea for her Girl Scout Gold Award Project. She decided to create a cookbook for those who only had a microwave to cook in. She personally tested 27 recipes, assembled them into a booklet, produced the booklets and purchased microwave-safe dishes. She gifted them to the Pantry to distribute to clients in need.

### **ENRICH**





Over 20 local gardens, orchards, and home gardeners donated 17,442 pounds of fresh produce. The benefits of produce in a healthy diet are undeniable, however, many of our clients cannot afford it. Thanks to our donors, we can provide this important component to our neighbors.



#### THANK YOU

Ayer Community Garden
Community Harvest Project - Grafton
Community Harvest Project - Harvard
Gaining Ground - Concord
Garden at Church Meadows - Littleton
Littleton Community Farm
Little Leaf Farms - Devens

\*Plus many grocery stores, organizations and individuals



# **NEIGHBORS**



POUNDS OF GROCERIES COLLECTED
BY THE GROTON NEIGHBORHOOD
FOOD PROJECT AND THE
NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PROJECT
(AYER, DEVENS, HARVARD, LITTLETON
AND SHIRLEY)

The "Green Bag Program" was started by a group of Groton residents in 2014. Since then, the program has grown to include neighborhoods throughout our service area. It's so easy - over the course of two months, you collect shelf stable items and place them in the green, recyclable bag that the Pantry provides to you. A neighborhood coordinator will pick-up your donations and deliver them to Loaves & Fishes. Simple!

### VOLUNTEERS



#### INDIVIDUALS GAVE THE GIFT OF TIME!

The gift of time is precious! 265 individuals selflessly gave their time to keep the Pantry running. Collectively they donated 9,407 hours!



Rosemary Anderson Stephen Anderson Ross Andrews Elizabeth Arimento Matthew Arner Dave Astolfi Diane Baker Michael Bangrazi Doris Barreiro Charline Barron Cole Beigel David Beigel Heidi Beigel Nanci Bell Sheryl Belley Kimberly Benjamin Patti Bennett Karen Bergan Cathy Berse-Hurley David Berwind Bonnie Bielefeld John Bielefeld Diane Bishop Alexis Blackwell Linda Blackwell Dennis Blair Cathleen Blair Diane Bolivar Jaclyn Bolivar Chris Bottger Cathy Bowles Kevin Boyd Denise Boyd Elizabeth Brennan Jim Breslauer Victoria Brier

Michael Broderick Susan Buck Wanda Burns Jordan Burwell Stewart Cady Sarah Cameron Stephen Cantino Melinda Carlson Robin Caron Ruth Cavanagh Aldea Choquette Edward Clapp Maureen Clapp Mark Connor Renee Cook Michael Cordero Faith Cross Hilary Curtis Patricia Cushing Dan Daly Debra Daly Lori Daniells Heather Davis William Delisle Lynn DeLorenzo Derek Delorenzo Lorraine DiNardo Paige DiPietro Alli DiPietro David Dolan Diane Douglas Korry Dow Susan Edgett Owen Edwards Alison Enright Kasey Ensslin Ann Essman Stephen Essman William Estes Carol Evans Rob Farnsworth Mina Femino

Brenda Ferguson Ellen FitzPatrick Wendy Flaherty Sally Foley Maribeth Ford Cheryl Frazer-Leriche Peter Galluzzo Denis Garcia David Gaynor James Geller Jennifer Gerlach Cathy Chipolone-Collins Joanna Gerwig Paul Gerwig Sarah Gibbons Michele Girard Glean Team George Gogas Manon Goulding Marilyn Gray Dorothy Greco Carole Greenfield Groton Neighborhood Food Project Gerry Hall James Hanlon Leah Hannon Barbara Hantz Tammy Haschig Avery Haschig Stephanie Hausladen William Haynor Hans Heer Joanne Helhowski Crystal Hermann Sarah Hocking Nancy Holden Niki Holtzman Maureen Hopper Jeff Howe Yu-Chi Hsu Patricia Jackson Deborah Johnson Glvnn Johnson Greg Johnson Laurie Johnson

Rose Joseph Barbara Kemp Janice Kendall Jasmin Keramaty Katherine Kimball Charles King Jenn Klein Joseph Knox Barry Kroening Benjamin Kuehl Michael Kuehl Julie Kulchuk Belle Kuo BethLadew Trisha Lamb Claire Last Lisa Last Timothy Last John Lawlor Huguette Leahey Tenay Lee Maureen Lemiuex Scott Lewis Deborah Locke Curt Logee Jane Logee Abir Lottoug Jeff Lowe Nicky Lowney Dick Lyons Mary Ellen Lyons Aleta Manugian Martha McCown Judy McDermott Terry McGrady Andre Menard Cecile Menard Sondra Michaud Rebecca Miller Robin Miller Pascal Miller Elizabeth Miskin Christian Modica

Oscar Monarrez

Justin Montisano

Victoria Morrow

Rebecca Mumaw-Miller

Paul Musgrove Andrea Myette Leslie Neville Paul Niemira Mike Noeth Paula Noeth Cvnthia Ober-Ressiiac Gayle O'Brien Kathleen O'Connor Violetta O'Donnell Nancy Ohringer John O'Keefe Julia O'Keefe Charles Oliver Joanne Ouellette Jenny Outman Jessie Panek Jason Pare Karla Paxton Anne Perkins Julia Phillips David Pillitteri Venu Pingali Janet Providakes Cindy Proulx Jalissa Pyle Kathleen Raftery Barry Rich David Richard Mellissa Richard Matthew Richards Theresa Richards Michelle Riley Gloria Rios-Monarrez Jody Robinson Brenda Rodriguez Jessica Roetzer Donna Romilly Lynne Roper Leslie Row Gina Ryan Amy Ryzi Laurie Sabol Nancy Sarlan Joseph Schmidt

Fred Schnepper

John Sewell Robin Sewell Charlene Shorey Don Siegrist Heidi Siegrist Hugh Silk Madeline Silk Grace Slocumb Sarah Smith Gail Somers Sun Vera Spohr Cory Stasko Marisa Steele Nancy Steele Christine Stelzer Donald Stevens Janet Stevens Jim Stoddard Kaatje Stuer Judi Stuer-Moore Debra Tassone Mary Timmons Sandra Tobies Carol Lee Tonge Lindsey Tonge Thomas Tonge Meena Venkat Laura Vianello Carolyn Waite Charles Waite Elizabeth Walker Sean Walker Sarah Walker Cheryl Walters George Watkins Aaron Weitekamp Julie Weitekamp Juliet Whitehill Ann Whitney Jason Wiatr Willie Wickman Brian Wong Annette Woodle Darnell Woodson Anlu Yan Erin Zhang Hongfei Zheng Jia Zheng

Rebecca Zolla





# volunteer do good, feel good



### HARVEST CLUB PARTNERS



"My wife and I work long hours to support our large family. Thank you so much for always greeting us with a smile and treating us with dignity and respect. You have made these hard times a little brighter."

~Miguel, a resident of Ayer



#### **PLATINUM** LEVEL \$10.000 and above

Bridget Collins and William Pudans Commonwealth of MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources Devens Enterprise Commission Donelan's Supermarket - Littleton Groton Neighborhood Food Project Hannaford Supermarket - Townsend John & Eunice Charitable Foundation Madigan Family Foundation Inc. Roche Brothers Supermarket - Acton Shaw's Supermarket - Groton Shaw's Supermarket - Stow Shirley Scout Drive Shop 'n Save - Ayer Donald and Janet Stevens Tahattawan Masonic Lodge - Littleton The Greater Boston Food Bank Town Of Aver Town of Shirley Trader Joe's - Acton United Way of North Central MA Whole Foods - Westford

#### **GOLD LEVEL** \$5,000 to \$9,999

Alltown Fresh - Ayer
Steve Bakke and Julie Staraitis
Bemis Associates
Catania Oils
Community Harvest Project - Harvard
James Curran and Yolanda Rigali
Gaining Ground
Glenmede Trust on behalf of
Fullwood Foundation
Kristine Hunt
Independent Church Of The Free Spirit

Timothy Ingraham Jo Nicewicz Carville 1999 Trust Anne Kelly Kelman Hill Properties, Inc. Kobe Henro Pet Food Bank Warren and Maredith Kundert Main Street Bank - Marlborough Main Street Group Foundation, Inc. Paul and Mimi Matisse Michael McDonald New England Apple Products Co. North Country Porsche Club-Of America Porsche Club of America-Northeast Region Postal Workers' Food Drive Stephen Roach and Amy Hilbert Robert & Joan Dircks Foundation Christopher Ryan and Lily Baddour Thomas and Verna Sefranek Ted and Mary Shasta Richard Shurtleff The MBIA Foundation Matching-Gifts Program Willie and Darrell Wickman

### **SILVER** LEVEL \$2,500 to \$4,999

A Helping Hand Foundation, Inc.
Abbott Laboratories Fund
Ardent Mills LLC
BMS Matching Gift Program
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, Inc.
Bursaw Gas & Oil
Eugene Buzderewicz
Chubb Bermuda Insurance Ltd.

Jeanne Craig Natalie Croteau Data and Business Solutions, LLC Jim and Lorraine Farnsworth Garden at Church Meadows Gervais Ford Deborah Gray and Thomas O'Donnell Groton-Pepperell Rotary Club David and Tammy Haschig Michael and Stephanie Hausladen Holy Trinity Parish (St. Theresa / St. Francis) - Harvard Michael Horton Vinod Kamalarai Lewis Studios Littleton Community Farm Massachusetts Youth Soccer Brent and Roberta Maugel John McNamara and Karen Duggan McNamara Middlesex Corporation Olympus Corporation of the Americas

Radfit Nutrition LLC d/b/a Disc Golf 978

Church Chelmsford - Church of Christ

Community Foundation Of

North Central MA



Swallow Union Elementary School

Robert Tosi and Jo-Ann Dery

Gina Perini

Andrew Sigel

Clark Swain

James and Margaret Soucie

Stone Soup Kitchen

\*Some of our donors wish to remain anonymous and are not listed here.

#### THANK YOU, DAVIS FAMILY!

Every year for over 20 years, members of the Davis Family of Littleton visit Loaves & Fishes the day after Thanksgiving to donate food. This tradition was begun by Russ and Ann Davis when their family was young. The family has continued this tradition in memory of their husband, father, and grandfather who passed in 2008. There is always chatter, hugs, smiles, and clearly lots of love as they go about moving hundreds of pounds of groceries from their vehicles to our loading dock.



#### **BRONZE LEVEL** \$1000 to \$2.499

Abbott Elementary School

Ingrid Adam

Avago Technologies / Broadcom Gift

Matching Program Aver Post Office

Bagels Plus

Albert and Catina Barbieri

Berry Global, Inc.

BI's Wholesale Club - Leominster

David Braithwaite Bromfield School Jessica Brown

Burroughs Charitable Foundation

Peter and Diane Carson John and Ellen Cauley Stephen and Stephanie Child

Cisco Systems

G. Thomas and Jennifer Clancy Richard and Phyllis Clawson Community Harvest Project - Grafton Congregational Church of Littleton

Louis Conrad and Lois Bisson

Abigail Coolidge Lee and Patricia Cooper William Cronin Jr.

**Cummings Community Giving** 

Custom Contracting, Inc.

Ann Davis

Becca Day-Newsham Olimpio DeMarco Brvce Denney Nathan Dowd

Scott and Mary Dressel

DRM Group LLC

Guilford Dube and Marcia Melanson

Amanda Ellsworth Enterprise Bank - Lowell Frederick and Madeleine Findlay First Church Unitarian - Littleton

Read Fleming Florence Roche School Christopher Forbes Paul and Donna Funch Peter Galluzzo

Richard and Elinor Gentilman Anthony and Margaret Gibbs

Global Montello Group Corp - Alltown Fresh

David Goynor and Bernice Goldman

Groton Public Library Groton Woman's Club Gary Gumuchian Richard Hagan

Hannaford Supermarkets - Scarborough, ME

Harvard Lions Club Harvard Woman's Club

Henry Vincent Couper Charity Foundation

Andra Hollis Kathleen Hooper

Ronald and Donna Horvath J.K. Farnsworth Company

Aaron Jodka Sarah Jordan John Katter

Stephen and Diana Keaney Anthony and Maureen Keaty

Peter Kelly-Joseph Stephen and Mary Keville Paul Kouyoumjian and Lisa

Webb Dolores Lee

Lenny and Nora Leonardo Littleton Middle School

Michael Lohmiller Douglas and Eileen Long

Lura A. White School Main Street Bank - Ayer

Arthur and Natalie Marsh

MCA Promo Kenneth McPhillips

Raimund Merkert Deborah Merriam

Karen Morrison

MRM Associates Realty David and Joan Murphy Netscout Systems Inc.

Arthur Niell

Northrop Grumman Dan and Gina O'Neil Robert O'Neill and Mary

Ystueta

Kathleen Oosterman Ronald and Susan Ostberg Carl and Lori Phillips

Raytheon Technologies Steven and Claire Robinson

Lara Roes-Lindquist Rollstone Bank and Trust Elizabeth Romano

Martha Rook

Scouts of LELWD, Troop 19

Dana Scribner

Keith and Julie Seitter

Russell and Linda Shappy

Lew Sheen

Hugh and Laura Silk

Shiela Smith

Tonia Socha

Otto and Dorothy Solbrig

Eric Spada

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church - Ayer St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Westford

Scott and Patrizia Stadler

Timothy Szczesuil and Ann Broomhead The Gioia M. Clyde Revocable Trust

The Gore Charitable Foundation

The Lexvest Group

Torrice Family Charitable Trust

Veranova / Johnson Matthey Pharma Services

Elizabeth Walker and Dan Routhier

Debra Ward

Washington Lodge AF and AM

Nancy Washington

West Groton Cub Scout Pack #12

Douglas and Elizabeth Williams

Dawn Wilson

WIN Waste Innovations

Workers Credit Union - Groton

Javne and Cornelis Wortel John and Ann Wortman

Robert Zimmer

### **TOGETHER**



#### AREA PANTRIES WORKING TOGETHER!

Thanks to the efforts of a determined Pantry task force, a grant from the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) and a state budget earmark supported by our Legislative Team, Loaves & Fishes is the proud owner of a shiny, new F650, 24' insulated box truck!

For the past  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years we have struggled to find a way to pick-up our orders from the GBFB. Many local businesses offered their trucks and/or drivers to help us during this difficult time. We are very grateful to the following companies for their support: New England Apple-Leominster, Bursaw Gas & Oil-Acton, Wilson Brothers-Pepperell, Bull Run-Shirley, Habitat for Humanity and long-time supporter, Bemis Associates-Shirley.

Not only are we able to pick-up our orders from the GBFB, but we are also helping six other area pantries including Acton, Bedford, Pepperell, Townsend and two Medway pantries. A bright spot in the past year!



Medway Village Church
Food Pantry

The Greater Boston
FOOD







Helping Feed our Neighbors since 1984



Townsend Ecumenical Outreach









Mailing address: P.O. Box 1, Ayer, MA 01432 Located at: 234 Barnum Road, Devens, MA 01434 978-772-4627 // office@loavesfishespantry.org https://loavesfishespantry.org



