



NEWSLETTER

October 2023

FOOD = HOPE

In the past 40 years, many things have changed at Loaves & Fishes, but many things have remained constant as well. The location of the facility has changed, but the mission is still the same. The donor base has changed, but the same generosity remains. The faces of our volunteer crew have changed, but they share the same commitment to the Pantry. We have evolved from feeding 50 families in 1983 to nearly 700 in 2023!

As we acknowledge our 40th year of operation, we pause to recognize the hard work and generosity of so many who have supported the Pantry financially, donated food and personal care items and those who have given the gift of their time. It was the dream of our founders to eliminate food insecurity, and that dream still remains. We realize that there is more work to be done. Our neighbors need our support, nutritious food and the promise of better days ahead. We are confident that with the ongoing help of our amazing community, Loaves & Fishes will remain strong and continue to provide not only food, but also hope!

Exploding Heart

Wouldn't you like to own this beautiful quilt?

Maureen Clapp, one of our amazing volunteers, donated this work of art hoping that it could be used to raise funds for Loaves & Fishes. She has been quilting for over 25 years and her talent really shines through! The 75" x 75" quilt is 100% cotton, machine washable and can be dried.

Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$2 each or 3 for \$5 by contacting Mellissa at (978)772-4627 x300 or office@loavesfishespantry.org. Tickets may be purchased through February 13, 2024, drawing will be on Valentine's Day!

Take a chance for a good cause!

"Exploding Heart" design by Slice of Pi Quilts.



It's Been a Busy Spring and Summer...



Spring Into Action 5K

Over 90 participants, 22 event sponsors, and many volunteers helped us raise approximately \$25,000 to support our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. A huge thank you to all our participants, sponsors, and volunteers!

Postal Worker Food Drive

Thanks to the generosity of area communities and careful planning and hard work by many postal workers, staff members and volunteers, over 25,000 pounds of food was donated to the Pantry. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved!



Numbers on the Rise



Approximately 60% of our neighbors who visit the Pantry earn less than \$25,000 annually.

As state and federal funding begins to dwindle, we have been watching our client numbers slowly rise. A number of new clients have visited along with others who have not been to the Pantry in years. The common thread? Higher rent, higher food prices, higher everything! Thanks to the generosity of our community and our dedicated crew of volunteers who give the gift of their time, we have been able to manage this increase in client population. Please consider joining our team and supporting our mission.

Holiday Meal Distributions

Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution

Monday, November 20th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Holiday Dinner Distribution

Monday, December 18th from 9 a.m. to 12 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 holiday dinner with all the fixings!

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

<https://loavesfishespantry.org/dinner/>



"I struggle sometimes, living by myself. It's so nice to know that there are people out there who care about me and want to make sure that I get enough food to eat. Thank you for getting me through!"

Edith, Shirley resident

Last year we provided nutritious groceries to 697 families, 1,841 individuals. 43% were either children under 18 or seniors over the age of 65.

Need Help with Food?

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry provides nutritious food to individuals in need who reside in Ayer, Devens, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley.

NO INCOME REQUIREMENTS!

Contact our Client Counseling Team

(978) 772-4627 x312

clientservices@loavesfishespantry.org

Or Visit During Any Open Pantry Session:

234 Barnum Road, Devens, MA

1st Tuesday of the month - 5 PM to 7 PM
Wednesdays, Fridays - 9 AM to 12 PM
3rd Saturday of the month - 9 AM to 12 PM
CLOSED Friday before 3rd Saturday

Check Out Our Website:

loavesfishespantry.org/need-help

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!



Bake 'N Joy - Ayer donated a tasty treat for our clients.



Alltown Fresh - Ayer raised a bunch of money during a fundraiser for the Pantry!



Andrew Harvey - Littleton made toothbrush kits for our clients.



Olympus Corporation - Westborough sent volunteers to help with sorting donations.



Henry and Rosita helped **Kobe Henro Pet Food Bank - Sudbury** deliver pet food to the pantry.



We have been very fortunate to receive an abundance of fresh produce. Over 77,000 pounds of fresh produce was distributed in the past year!

WAYS TO HELP

Donate Funds

Visit our website or mail checks to:
P.O. Box 1, Ayer MA 01432

\$0.85 of every dollar donated goes to client services

Donate Food and Personal Care Items

Donate on your own or plan a food drive!



Beautiful Granny Smith apples donated by our friends at **Autumn Hill Orchards - Groton.**

Most Needed Items

- Ensure
- Cocoa
- Canned Meat
- Pie Fillings (pumpkin, apple, etc.)
- Flavored Rice
- Gravy
- Cranberry Sauce
- Albacore Tuna
- Hearty/Chunky Soup
- Holiday Snacks and Baking Items
- Stuffing
- Cereal
- Diapers size 1, 4, & 6

Volunteer

Join the fight against hunger in your community!

volunteer
do good, feel good

Contact Us to Learn More!

loavesfishespantry.org

office@loavesfishespantry.org

978-772-4627

Physical Address:

234 Barnum Road, Devens, MA 01434

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1, Ayer, MA 01432

FOOD = HOPE

loavesfishespantry.org



P.O. Box 1, Ayer, MA 01432

