



April 2025 Spring Newsletter



Rising Costs, Growing Need

As food prices climb, housing becomes less affordable, and the cost of everyday living continues to rise, more and more of our neighbors are finding it harder to make ends meet. Families that once relied on steady wages to cover basic needs are now struggling with the growing weight of inflation and economic hardship.

Unfortunately, Loaves & Fishes is feeling the pressure too! The increasing need for food assistance, coupled with rising food costs and a decrease in donations has us concerned. Please take a moment to read about the many ways our community is supporting the mission of the Pantry and consider how you might help us provide food and hope to our neighbors.

This growing crisis isn't just a number on a page - it's our neighbors, friends, and family. Together, we can make a difference, but it's going to take all of us.

Sincerely,
Patricia Stern
Executive Director

**Together we helped
feed 891 households
last year.**

**313 - Ayer
44 - Devens
7 - Dunstable
83 - Groton
40 - Harvard
129 - Littleton
201 - Shirley
74 - Other Towns**

Shout Out to Our Volunteer Drivers!

We couldn't do what we do without this crew of drivers! From the Greater Boston Food Bank to grocery stores and all of the local farms in between; we would have no food to give if it wasn't for them. **A heartfelt thank you to all of our drivers!**



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.

Need Help with Food?



Can I Become a Client?

- Serving residents of Ayer, Devens, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Littleton, and Shirley
- No income requirements!
- Proof of residence is all that's needed
- Homeless? No problem!
- Still not sure? Contact our Client Counseling Team - they'll be happy to help you figure it out.



Online Ordering Available!

- Easy to use
- Customize your order
- Get only what you want - less waste
- Choose your pick up day
- Great for special dietary needs



"We are so thankful for all of the wholesome food we receive from Loaves & Fishes. Our family uses every last bit of it!"

David, Littleton resident

hope

Contact Our Client Counseling Team Today!

(978) 772-4627 x312

clientservices@loavesfishespantry.org

**Or Visit During Any Open Pantry Session:
234 Barnum Road, Devens, MA**

Every Wednesday and Friday
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

1st Tuesday of the month
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

3rd Saturday of the month
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Last Thursday of the month
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Diapers for Days!

The Garden Club of Harvard, and the Harvard Woman's Club organized a Diaper Drive for Loaves & Fishes. Together, they donated 163 pounds of diapers to the Pantry! Thank you to both organizations for your generosity and continued support!

Sweet Treats

Bake 'N Joy in Ayer has been extremely generous to the Pantry over the past year. They frequently donate delicious baked goods, including 1,000 coffee cakes over the holiday season, and a huge donation of pumpkin cake this spring. Thank you, Bake 'N Joy!



Chain Reaction of Hope

The students at **Lura A. White School** in Shirley recently created a chain reaction using over 500 boxes of cereal. THEN they donated all of them to Loaves & Fishes! Thank you, students of LAW!



Ways YOU Can Help!



Neighborhood Food Project

Fill a Bag. Feed a Family.
An Easy Way to Donate.

Visit our website to learn more!
loavesfishespantry.org/nfp



*"I got straight A's on my report card!
Loaves & Fishes helps my mom and dad
give me lots of good brain food!"*

Alexis, Harvard resident

**Donate Today To
Help More Kids
Like Alexis!**



FOOD DONATION BOX LOCATIONS

**AYER-
Library & Post Office**

**HARVARD-
Post Office**

**GROTON-
Library, Post Office & Shaw's**

**LITTLETON-
Donelan's**

**SHIRLEY-
Library & Post Office**

volunteer
do good, feel good

**Opportunities for every
schedule and skill set!**

- Open Pantry Help
- Clerical Help
- Drivers
- Special Events
- Sorting and Stocking Help*
- Truck Offloading*

*May require lifting 50 lbs. or more

And many more!

Visit our website to learn more today!



SPRING INTO ACTION 5K FUN RUN AND WALK

LACE UP YOUR SNEAKERS!

Walk or run to help us raise money for Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry!
Enter as an individual, or for extra fun walk with a team of friends, family, or co-workers!



Free race t-shirt for the first 100 to register!
Prizes for top fundraisers!



DON'T WANT TO WALK? DONATE TO SUPPORT SOMEONE WHO IS!

**SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025
1 P.M. TO 3 P.M.
ROGERS FIELD, DEVENS, MA**

THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS!



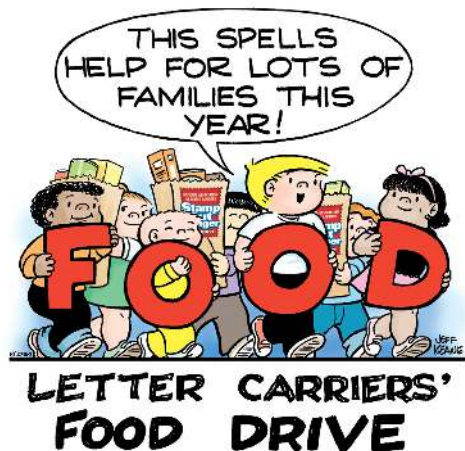
Adelman
Associates



AFA Obstetrics &
Gynecology, PC

Business sponsorship opportunities still available.

For details visit LFWalk.org



Postal Worker Food Drive Saturday, May 10

Remember to leave bags of shelf stable food for your local postal workers at your mail box or in your post office! Watch your mailbox for reminders and a bag to fill.

Last year's event collected over 25,000 pounds of food for our neighbors in need!

Spring Into Action 5K



Sunday, May 4, 2025

Postal Worker Food Drive



Saturday, May 10, 2025

Learn more about these fun ways to support Loaves & Fishes inside!



loavesfishespantry.org

978-772-4627

234 Barnum Rd., Devens, MA

Physical Address:

P.O. Box 1, Ayer, MA 01432

Mailing Address:

