

MISSION

Loaves & Fishes exists as a mission of love and faith by providing food and temporary support services to residents of Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley and advocates for changes by its clients that will promote independence and self-reliance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

STAFF

Patricia Stern, *Executive Director*
Paul Niemira, *Food Coordinator*
John Cauley, *Food Coordinator Assistant*
Theresa Wilson, *Client Advocate*
Karen DeGagne, *Volunteer & Office Coordinator*

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)

Closed when Ayer Shirley Regional School District is closed or delayed due to inclement weather. Evenings and weekends 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

CLOTHING DONATION TIMES

During all Open Pantry Hours and
Monday 10:00AM-12:00PM
Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:00PM-8:00PM

LOCATION

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

Community Partnership Celebration

On Tuesday, June 21st, our Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, Donors and Guests



gathered at our annual Community Partnership Celebration where we honored our local Post Offices and the Nashoba Valley Medical Center as our 2016 Outstanding

Community Partners. Our local Post Offices have supported Loaves & Fishes annually with their promotion of, and participation in, the Postal Worker's Food Drive. This year's drive donated 11,049 pounds of food to the pantry! The Nashoba Valley Medical Center supports Loaves & Fishes in many ways, as well as annually sponsoring The Hunger Run 5k which raised \$8,000 last October to

Nashoba Valley Medical Center

A STEWARD FAMILY HOSPITAL



help fight hunger in our communities.

Donors Provide Fresh Fruits and Vegetables During Summer Months

Area farms and grocery stores have been donating thousands of pounds of healthy and nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables all summer!



Thank you to *Applefield Farm, Gaining Ground, Garden at Church Meadows, Gove Farm via Compassionate Care, The Greater Boston Food Bank, Little Rascal Orchard, Littleton Community Garden, Open Meadow Farm, Roche Brothers, Springdale Farm, Shop 'N Save, Springdell Farm, Still River Farms, Whole Foods* and our most recent donor, *Little Leaf Farms*, our neighbor right here in Devens!

August 2016

Volume 24, Issue 3



Senator Eldridge stopped by our Community Partnership Celebration with a donation. Thank you, Senator for your continued support and advocacy! Pictured left to right, Patricia Stern, Executive Director; Senator Jamie Eldridge; and Mary Markham, President, Board of Directors.



Volunteers harvesting at the Garden at Church Meadows in Littleton.



Unprecedented Generosity



Catania-Spagna of Ayer was started by Guiseppe Basile at the turn of the 20th century when he left Sicily and began selling 1-gallon cans of olive oil door-to-door from his big leather sack. His son, Joseph Basile, grew the business that is headed by his son, Anthony Basile, as CEO. Catania-Spagna employs almost 100 people, including fourth generation family members.

We are fortunate Catania-Spagna is passionate about ending hunger in our communities and that they have partnered with us! Not only do they supply the pantry with regular donations of expensive cooking and olive oils for our clients, but in just three weeks, employees came together, organized a food drive and delivered **13,170 pounds of food** to Loaves & Fishes!



*Photo Credits:
David Bremer, Ayer, MA*



Thank you Catania-Spagna employees and all of the volunteers who came out to help receive this amazing donation!

And, then this happened. . .



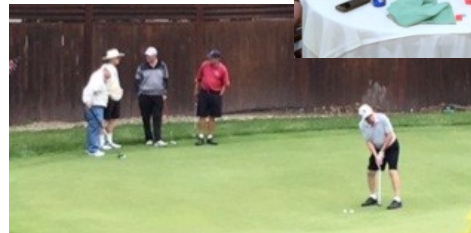
Chris Buchanan, Walmart Public Affairs Director, presented a grant for \$25,000 to Loaves & Fishes through the State Giving Program! This grant will allow us to purchase food to assist community members who are in need.

Pictured in the photo (left to right) Loaves & Fishes Board member Lily Baddour; Grant Writer, Judy Grande; Lunenburg Store Manager, Mark Massicotte; Chris Buchanan; Executive Director, Patty Stern; and Board member Andrea Myette.

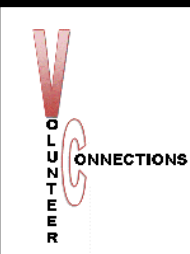
Fun at Loaves & Fishes 3rd Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser!

WILSON BROS.
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

This year's tournament, held again at Shaker Hills Golf Club in Harvard on June 13th, was co-sponsored by Wilson Brothers HVAC, Inc. of Pepperell. Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, 87 players enjoyed a day of golf and topped it off with the post-tournament silent auction, raffle and delicious dinner! We had perfect weather, a great meal, lots of fun and with your help, **raised more than \$12,600!**



Volunteer Connections Training Series



In the last of a series of training funded by a grant award, volunteers participated in teambuilding exercises at Kimball Farm on June 7th! The weather cooperated for a day of learning and camaraderie followed by some much-deserved relaxation and fun! The teambuilding training was led by Linda Trowbridge and Bob Vear of V&T, LLC.



Board of Directors

On behalf of the entire organization, we would like to thank some Board members whose terms have ended for their dedication and commitment during their tenure to Loaves & Fishes mission and vision. Thank you Lauren Farrell, Kathleen O'Connor and Joanne Ouellette for your service!

Please join us in welcoming our newest members to the Board of Directors: Lily Baddour, Mary Jo Boynton, and Willie Wickman.



Learn more about our Board of Directors by visiting our website at www.loavesfishespantry.org

Our Community Stepped It Up This Summer



Jed Webber of Gibbet Hill presented Patty Stern, Executive Director, with an amazing \$5,020 after choosing L&F as one charity to benefit from proceeds of their Cattle Run & BBQ to Fight Hunger event held in June!



Patty recently visited Fitness Your Weigh for celebratory hugs and to pick up the over \$2,000 their clients and trainers raised for Loaves & Fishes during their annual Plank-a-thon! Thank you all for the hard work in another hugely successful contribution to the fight against hunger. Pictured above with Patty is Kerry Madden and Steve Levesque.

Extraordinary Young People Getting Involved



Meet Isabelle, an extraordinary young member of our community! Isabelle is a soon-to-be eighth-grader who visited the pantry to donate \$100 she earned by dog walking!

Community Support Comes in Many Forms

William Keyles and Debbie Lizotte from North Middlesex Savings Bank dropped off almost 500 pounds of food and \$125 in grocery store gift cards from their Feed the Need Food drive! Thank you for being such great supporters!



Good Friday Walk

The Good Friday Walk Committee recently informed Loaves & Fishes of a gift in the amount of \$23,322 representing proceeds from the 2016 Annual Good Friday Walk! Thank you to the organizers of this annual event and to all the volunteers who helped to make this a fun, successful fundraiser. Of course, a very big thank you to all the walkers and their sponsors!



Coming To Your Town Soon! The Neighborhood Food Project

The Neighborhood Food Project is America's first neighborhood-based food donation program. Every two months, volunteers go door-to-door, picking up food from their neighbors. It's the easiest, most effective, most empowering way to organize community support for local food banks and pantries. The Neighborhood Food Project (NFP) was founded in Ashland, Oregon in 2009, and today there are more than 30 "green bag programs" around the United States.



The town of Groton began a pilot NFP in 2014 and they are going strong, adding new neighborhoods, collecting more food and truly making a difference.

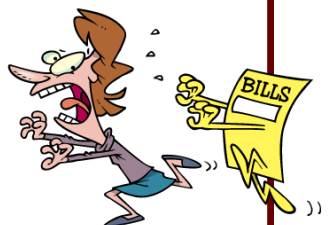
Our hope is to expand the NFP effort into all of the communities in our service area—Ayer, Devens, Harvard, Littleton, and Shirley. With your help this will become a reality.

Do you want to learn how to spread the "The Power of One Green Bag"? Call us to learn how to become a donor in your neighborhood or to learn how to become a Neighborhood Coordinator.

978.772.4627

Hunger and Food Insecurity Impacts Many—Loaves & Fishes is Here for All

Do you know someone who seems to be working harder than ever, but due to rising costs and unexpected expenses, feel like they are in a never ending cycle of just staying in the same place—their hard-earned money is just not stretching far enough and it's a struggle to put a nutritious meal on the table? Or maybe you have experienced this yourself?



We want to help. We can help. If you live in Ayer, Devens, Harvard, Groton, Littleton or Shirley, visit us to supplement your groceries when an unexpected expense wreaks havoc with your budget. We are here to help families have access to healthy, nutritious food during difficult times, because no one should have to worry about having enough to eat.

A client, maybe someone just like you, or a friend, or a relative, had this to say about visiting Loaves & Fishes: *"My neighbor suggested I visit your food pantry. It was a very hard step to take, but I am grateful that I took that step. You have fed and clothed my family and treated us with respect and dignity, free of judgment. Your kindness has touched many more lives than you can imagine."*

We often hear about people who have been laid off from their jobs, had hours reduced, or have otherwise experienced a reduction in income or are facing unexpected expenses, and yet are unsure if they are eligible for services. Loaves & Fishes can help by providing groceries so that you can pay housing costs and other necessary expenses. *The only requirement you need to receive groceries is a Proof of Residence (POR) in one of our six towns* (this can be a utility bill with your address, a

rental agreement, or other form of proof of address.)

**We're here
for You**



If you are struggling with having enough to eat, please consider visiting Loaves & Fishes.

OpenHours

Every Wednesday and Friday

9:45AM-12:30PM.

First and Third Saturday mornings of the month

9:00AM-11:00 AM

The second Tuesday evening of the month

6:00PM-8:00PM



Message from a client

"Wanted to thank you very much for everything. I was able to make this dinner...Kale, arugula, romaine lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber, homemade balsamic dressing, homemade fried rice and Chinese pork—all from ingredients from Loaves & Fishes.

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

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

VOLUNTEER Open House

Thinking about volunteering? We hold regular "Open Houses" and tours during our Volunteer Information Sessions. The **first Wednesday evening of every month at 7PM** and the **third Thursday morning of every month at 9:30AM**. Visit our website at www.loavesfishes.org to register!



Most Needed Items

- Ensure
- Diapers (Size 4 and larger)
- Rice-A-Roni/Flavored Rice Pilaf
- Crackers
- Tomato Sauce
- Tomato Paste
- Canned Pasta
- Canned Tomatoes
- Hamburger Helpers
- Cereal
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Cream of Chicken Soup
- Hearty Beef or Chicken Soups
- Canned Baked Beans/Pork-N-Beans
- Condiments (Ketchup, Mayo, Mustard, Salad Dressing)
- Poise Pads
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Soap (Bars)
- Feminine Care Products
- Depends (size large and x-large)
- Toothpaste & Tooth Brush



Collection Box Locations

AYER	Clover Farm General Store
Ayer Post Office	HARVARD
Nashoba Valley Medical Center	Harvard Post Office
North Middlesex Savings Bank	LITTLETON
The Cottage Restaurant	Citizen's Bank
The Markham Group	Donelan's Supermarket
DEVENS	North Middlesex Savings Bank
North Middlesex Savings Bank	Northern Bank & Trust
The Natural Café (new!)	Littleton Police Department
GROTON	Littleton Post Office
Donelan's Supermarket	Knox Realty
Groton Post Office	Market Basket, The Point, Rte 119
Groton Public Library	SHIRLEY
Middlesex Bank	Shirley Post Office
North Middlesex Savings Bank	Hazen Library
Town Hall	North Middlesex Savings Bank
Groton Senior Center	Phoenix Park, Building D

Donation boxes can also be found in many places of worship in all six towns served by Loaves & Fishes

Contact Us:

Telephone: (978) 772-4627

Visit our website at:

www.loavesfishespantry.org



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