

# Real Support *for*



# 864 Real Families

Photo Credit Todd Corelli

## Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2015—July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Dedication:

*Recognizing our partners, supporters  
and volunteers who unfailingly serve  
our communities and inspire hope in  
the lives of many local families in  
need of food assistance.*

*"Let No one ever come to you without leaving better and happier."*

*~Mother Theresa*

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.

## Our Mission

### Table of Contents

Dedication	1
Our Mission	2
Board of Trustees	2
Staff	2
Volunteers	3, 4
Clients	5
A Message from the President	6
Donors	7, 8
Financial Report	9
Special Events	10
Executive Director	11



Loaves & Fishes Staff Team: Patricia Stern, Executive Director; Paul Nemiera, Food Coordinator; Karen DeGagne, Volunteer & Office Coordinator; Theresa Wilson, Client Advocate

<b>Board of Trustees July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015</b>	<b>Joined Board</b>	<b>Term Ends June 30th of</b>
Kathleen O'Connor, President (outgoing)	5/2010	2016
Mary Markham, Vice President (incoming President)	6/2012	2018
Lauren Farrell, Secretary	11/2010	2016
Don Siegrist, Treasurer	3/2014	2017
Joanne Ouellette, Volunteer Representative	4/2013	2016
James Hanlon	3/2013	2016
Joe Harrington	8/2014	2017
Scott Lewis	8/2104	2017
Jane Logee	1/2013	2015
Aleta Manugian	12/2012	2018



### Since

Phil Goff	1983
Lisa Martel	1996
Frank Harmon	1996

## Our Volunteers

Over **330** volunteers donated over  
**18,000** hours in FY15

Amanda Accorsi  
Marie Allen  
Jan Amburgey  
Michael Amburgey  
Laura Anderson  
Matthew Antes  
Kate Aragon  
Army RTSM  
Lily Baddour  
Betsy Bair  
Edi Baker  
Rich Baker  
Matthew Balsamo  
Susan Barber  
Bemis Associates  
Patti Bennet  
Ed Bergan  
Karen Bergan  
Ann Berry  
Jane Biering  
Tricia Blanchard  
Betsy Bohling  
Bob Bohling  
Bailey Bourgeois  
Cathy Bowles

Denyse Cox  
Peter Cronin  
Kathy Daly  
Kimberly Davis  
Marla Dawson  
Bill Dean  
Martha Dean  
Janice Desjean  
Donna Dextraze  
Kate Dyst  
David Dolan  
Ann Donald  
Mary Donale  
Robert Dooley  
Roger Dooley  
Mimi Dorward  
Pamela Dunn  
Karen Durrance  
Jessica Engels  
Elizabeth Erban  
Jim Farnsworth  
Lorraine Farnsworth  
Rob Farnsworth  
Lee Farrar  
James Farrell

Kendra Gilbert  
Jonathan Glazier  
Becky Glennie  
Risa Goldman  
Roberty Goudey  
Judy Grande  
Danielle Grigsby  
Groton School  
Garrett Guillemette  
Tracy Guillemette  
Linda Guinard  
Howard Hall  
Lauren Hallett  
Pat Hamilton  
James Hanlon  
Joseph Harrington  
Tammy Hawkins  
Catina Hayden  
Sean Healey  
Erin Healy  
Christopher Hearne  
Hans Heer

Laurel Karasevich  
Barbara Kemp  
Elizabeth Kendall  
Ginger Kendall  
Tam Khuu  
Audrey Kimball  
Carole Kinnee  
George Knittel  
Lourdes Krieger  
Barry Kroening  
Jared Kroening  
Faith Lagos  
Kalyn Lai  
LeeAnn LaVigueur  
Barbara Ledeaux  
Abigail Lee  
Dee Lee  
Doug Lee  
Maureen Lemieux  
Scott Lewis  
Kathryn Liebowitz  
Steve Liljegren

Karen McNamara  
Allison McNulty  
Traci McPadden  
Douglas McPherson  
Sandy McPherson  
Charles Mednieles  
Noah Megerian  
Christopher Melby  
Cathy Miller  
Cathy Mitchell  
Drew Mora  
Cheryl Morais  
Chuck Morrison  
Pam Murphy  
Joanna Myczkowski  
Kaci Naughton  
Alexander Nikoponlos  
Kayla Nixen  
Tylor Nixon  
Janna Oakfellow-Pusheee  
Kathleen O'Connor  
Joe Ofria



Kevin Boyd  
Denise Boyd  
Linda Brackett  
Jim Breslauer  
Sharon Briggs  
Jill Brown  
Cary Browse  
Nancee Buckle  
Kathy Cadogan  
Steward Cady  
Richard Carozza  
Cathi Carpenter  
Cynthia Carter  
Robert Carter  
CASE Collaborative  
Ruth Cavanagh  
Kyle Chan  
Ernest Chevrette  
Ibby Chiquione  
Cisco Systems, Inc.  
Maureen Clapp  
Barbara Cobuzzi  
Alyson Codner  
Vera Spohr Cohen  
Marjorie Costa  
John Costello

Lauren Farrell  
Jackie Feltus  
Brenda Ferguson  
Margie Ferro  
Barbara Field  
Natascha Finnerty  
Larry Fisher  
Geraldine Flynn  
Lynn Flynn  
Sally Foley  
Marcia Foote  
Brandon Ford  
Anne Marie Fortin  
Julianne Fowler  
Dara Furlong  
Zachary Furlong  
Pauline Gagnon  
Jared Gall  
Peter Galluzzo  
Allan Galpin  
Gary Gasser  
Adam Gentile  
Kimberly Gentile  
Stephanie Gentile  
Matthew George  
Michael Gibbons

Mary Beth Henderson  
Anissa Herrick  
Joshua Herrick  
Karen Hierman  
Nancy Holden  
Ronald Holm  
Paul Horrigan  
Yu-Chi Hsu  
Helen Hughson  
Rick Hughson  
Will Hughson  
Richard Hunt  
Paul Innamorati  
Sarah Jangro  
Linda Jarrett  
Elaine Jasins  
Sushama Joglekar  
Casey Johnson  
Eric Johnson  
Maureen Johnson  
Kim Jones  
Faith Jordan  
Ellen Joseph  
Rose Joseph  
Lynda Kachanis  
Andrew Karasevich

Jane Logee  
Janet Long  
Olivia LoPreste  
Robert LoPreste  
Elayne Loving  
Bob Lucy  
Dick Lyons  
Jane Lyons  
Nanette MacMillan  
Marina MacNeil  
Robin MacPherson  
Kyle Magnuson  
Marybeth Magnuson  
Eileen Maloney  
Aleta Manugian  
Marga Marchetti  
Mary Markham  
Kate Markowitz  
Lisa Martel  
Maugel Architects  
Cindy McAuley  
Paul McCarthy  
Joseph McCleary  
Brian McClory  
Joshua McGee  
Tobi McGee

Nancy Ohringer  
Julia O'Keefe  
Brigitte Olivier  
Karen O'Neil  
Philip Oslin  
Lynn Otty  
Joanne Ouellette  
Joey Pagliarulo  
Marcie Pagliarulo  
Jessie Panek  
Jon Panek  
Parker Essential Charter School  
Marjorie Payne  
Rosie Pellizzari  
Karen Peters  
Jennifer Peterson  
Mary Pickard  
Donna Pillsbury  
Alex Platt  
Stan Podlenski  
Mike Quinn  
Kathleen Raftery  
Janice Raguin  
Jennifer Rahaim  
Matthew Ramussen  
Kathy Reiff



### FY15 Top Volunteer Hours:

Ed Farinto (Bemis), Martha Dean, Joanne Ouellette, Karen O'Neil, Phil Ferges (Bemis), Peter Galluzzo. (Not pictured: Ann Berry, Bill Dean, Cathy Miller, Lauren Farrell, Marge Payne, Paul Horrigan and Rich Baker)

Karen Riggert  
Jessica Roetzer  
Donna Romilly  
Robert Romilly  
Lynne Roper  
Richard Ross  
Deborah Rosson  
Jeremy Rosson  
Leslie Row  
Casey Russell  
Annmarie Sabatino  
Tiffany Sabundayo  
Susan Sanborn  
Jack Santini  
Devin Sawyer  
Jude Sawyer  
Ed Schaffer  
Cory Schnepfer  
Fred Schnepfer  
Ryan Schnepfer  
Leslie Schuster  
Amy Severino  
Lisa Shivo  
Shriver Jop Corp Students  
Nancy Siedliski  
Don Siegrist  
Heidi Siegrist  
Henley Siegrist  
Richard Skoczylas  
Vicki Skoczylas  
Suzanne Smith  
Robert Sniegowski  
Kate Sobalvarro  
Otto Solbrig  
Richard Spallone  
Aubrey Specht  
Kate Stamm  
Heather Steede  
Bob Steele  
Maddie Steele  
Nancy Steeves  
Janet Stevens  
Betty Stone  
Stratus Volunteers

Max Strong  
Zach Susser  
Michelle Swearingen  
Larry Tacito  
Mark Tervo  
Jessica Terwilliger  
Lucas Thayer  
Cindy Thomas  
Dean Tornaritis  
Matthew Tornaritis  
Sharon Tornaritis  
Amy Tsoukalas  
Karen Tsoukalas  
Daniel Ulichinie  
Lori Ulichnie  
Kenneth Underwood  
Al Vachon  
Patrick Vachon  
Heather Van Pelt  
Eric Viera  
Maria Viera  
Carolyn Waite  
Charles Waite  
Nancy Washington  
Noah Watson  
Sara Webb  
Michelle Wesolowski



"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

~William James



National Volunteer Week



Employees from AMD in Boxborough volunteer annually to help with fall cleanup at Loaves & Fishes!

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else."

~Booker T. Washington

## 223 New families visited Loaves & Fishes in Fiscal Year 2015

"I am thankful for you guys. You told me to call Senator Eldridge's office and he helped me get my SNAP benefits."

"You cannot tell a hungry child that you gave him food yesterday."

~Zimbabwean Proverb

## 864 Families/2,040 individuals visited Loaves & Fishes in Fiscal Year 2015

"Thank you for feeding me and my family."

## 5,700 Pounds of food (approximately) was distributed each time we were open

A new client with 7 people in her household told us she "is grateful for all the good food, variety and fresh vegetables and fruit."

## 7,047 Client shopping trips were recorded

"Everyone is wonderful and the volunteers are so nice."



*"I never thought I would be on this side of the fence, needing help. I am an educated professional but company down turns, family members needing care, divorce and lung cancer changed that ... I was cared for and supported to the max by Loaves & Fishes and could not be more grateful. You can rest assured that when you generously support Loaves & Fishes you are supporting a non-profit that makes a daily difference in their clients' lives."*

*—Loaves & Fishes client*



## A Message from the President of the Board of Trustees



On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Loaves & Fishes, Thank you! Without the support of our volunteers and donors we would not have been able to assist 864 families on 7,047 shopping trips! During the year, over 35,000 bags of groceries were received by our clients.



During the past year, Loaves & Fishes received our Service Enterprise Certification, making us nationally certified in volunteer management. Congratulations and many thanks to staff and volunteers that made this possible through their hard work.

Loaves & Fishes' mission statement states "advocates for changes by its clients that will promote independence and self-reliance". It is important to not lose sight of this while concentrating on the food. While the food is important for nutrition, it is also important to nurture by guiding and mentoring families to find that independence and self-reliance. Over the years there have been many wonderful heartwarming stories of how Loaves & Fishes has assisted.

Thanks to the many great partnerships, area growers, community groups, volunteers and donors, we are able to keep up with the increased demand for food and to provide hope for many of our neighbors in need. We are grateful for the caring community of supporters that make the work of Loaves & Fishes possible. We look forward to continuing our partnerships and making new ones in the next year to ensure continued access to good, nutritious food.

*Mary Markham*

Mary Markham  
President



Employees of PolyOne in Littleton dropping off a donation

## Partners

### Gold Level Partner \$5,000 and above

Applefield Farm  
Bemis Associates  
Community Foundation of North Central MA  
Digital Federal Credit Union-Marlborough  
Donelan's Supermarket-Acton  
Donelan's Supermarket-Littleton  
EFSP National Board  
Gaining Ground  
Judy Grande  
Groton Neighborhood Food Project  
Hannaford Supermarket-Ayer  
Hannaford Supermarket-Lunenburg  
Hannaford Supermarket-Townsend  
Harvard Post Office  
Holy Trinity Parish  
Independent Church of the Free Spirit  
Timothy Ingraham  
Scott Lewis  
Market Basket-Littleton  
Paul & Mimi Matisse  
Nashoba Good Friday Walk  
JoAnn Nicewicz  
Stephen & Cynthia O'Brien  
Jon & Jesse Panek  
Roche Brothers Supermarket-Acton  
Rotary Club of Littleton  
Saint Anne Parish



Rotary Club of Littleton receiving the 2015 Outstanding Community Partner Award in June

Senate Construction  
Ted & Mary Shasta  
Shaw's Supermarket-Groton  
Shirley Scout Food Drive  
Trader Joe's  
Union Congregational Church  
United Way of North Central MA

### Silver Level Partner \$2,500-\$4,999

Ace Bermuda Insurance Ltd.  
Ayer Post Office  
Ayer/Shirley Recycle  
Steve Bakke & Julie Staraitis  
BJ's Wholesale Club  
Central Ave. Compassionate Care  
Kathleen Cole



Hannaford Supermarket in Ayer has supported Loaves & Fishes for many years, and we were sad to see the store close!

Congregational Church of Littleton  
Deluxe Corp.  
Donelan's Supermarket-Groton  
Donelan's Supermarket-Pepperell  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
First Church Unitarian  
Fitness Your Weigh  
Greater Lowell Community Foundation  
Groton Scouting  
Groton-Dunstable Regional Schools  
Harvard Lions Club  
Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church  
Kimball's Farm  
Lucia's Tavola  
Douglas & Sandy McPherson  
Nashoba Valley Medical Center  
Project Bread



Trader Joe's of Acton was also recognized as an Outstanding Community Partner in 2015



Stephen Roach & Amy Hilbert  
Heidrun Ryan  
Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Donald & Janet Stevens  
Albert & Elizabeth Stone  
Ted & Connie Lapres Fund  
The Flatgard Group  
West Acton Baptist Church  
Wilson Brothers HVAC, Inc.

### Bronze Level Partner \$1,000-\$2,499

Ayer Shirley Regional High School  
Ayer Shirley Regional Middle School  
Baddour Family Foundation  
BMW Car Club of America  
Arthur Boisseau & Marcia Gilson  
Cynthia Bryant  
Lee Burton  
Peter & Diane Carson  
John Cauley  
CD Willy's



Every year, the Davis Family of Littleton spends their day after Thanksgiving delivering hundreds of pounds of food to Loaves & Fishes

Cisco Systems  
William & Susan Coney  
Congregational Church UCC Harvard  
William Conley  
Curtis-Straus LLC  
The Davis Family  
John & Nancy Dwyer  
Senator James Eldridge



Epic Enterprises, Inc.  
 Jim & Lorraine Farnsworth  
 First Baptist Church  
 First Parish Church of Groton  
 Read Fleming  
 Garden at Church Meadows  
 James & Sharon Grier  
 Groton Knights of Columbus #13140  
 Groton Post Office  
 Groton Public Library  
 Groton Women's Club  
 Groton-Pepperell Rotary Club  
 Gary M. Gumachian  
 Harvard Women's Club  
 Hawk's Nest  
 Hildreth Elementary School  
 Holy Trinity Parish



4th graders at Hildreth Elementary School in Harvard held a school-wide food drive for Loaves & Fishes

Michael Horton  
 JK Farnsworth Company  
 Stephen & Diana Keaney  
 Stephen & Mary Keville  
 Warren & Meredith Kundert  
 Littleton Council of Churches  
 Littleton Fire Department  
 Littleton Middle School  
 Littleton Post Office  
 Littleton Westford Emblem Club  
 Brendan & Veronica Lowney  
 Curtis & Kathleen Marble  
 Markham Group, Inc.  
 Mary Markham  
 Steven McLatchy  
 Nancy F. Washington, P.C.  
 Nashoba Regional High School  
 New England Apple Products Co.  
 North Country Porsche Club of America  
 North Middlesex Savings Bank-Ayer  
 Northern Bank & Trust-Woburn  
 Oak Meadow Montessori  
 ODIC Incorporated  
 Kathleen Oosterman

Our Lady of Grace Parish  
 Richard & Bernice Packard, Sr.  
 Ann & Richard Perrault  
 Philip Rayla & Diane Herlihy-Rayla  
 Red Tail Golf Club  
 Heidi Reichart-Robes  
 Renegade Miata Club  
 Reuben Hoar Library  
 Robert & Joan Dircks Foundation  
 Saint Gobain  
 Tom & Verna Sefranek  
 Russell & Linda Shappy  
 Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
 Shirley Post Office  
 Don & Heidi Siegrist  
 John Simko  
 Otto & Dorothy Solbrig  
 St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
 St. Catherine of Alexandria Church  
 St. Mary's Catholic Church  
 St. Matthew's United Methodist Church  
 Cornelius Sullivan  
 Tag Heating & Cooling Inc.  
 The McHashem Fund  
 Town of Littleton  
 Trinity Episcopal Church  
 United Steelworkers of America Local 506  
 United Way of Massachusetts Bay &  
 Merrimack Valley  
 United Way of Tri-County  
 Richard & Jean Walsh  
 Richard & Nancy Washington  
 Sara Weeks  
 Weetabix  
 Westward Orchards, Inc.  
 Willard Farm  
 Douglas Williams Worker's Credit Union



Paul Niemira, Food Coordinator, posing with the new freezer purchased with the help of a few donors who answered our call for help after our old freezer stopped working!



Senator Eldridge presenting staff and volunteers with an annual donation

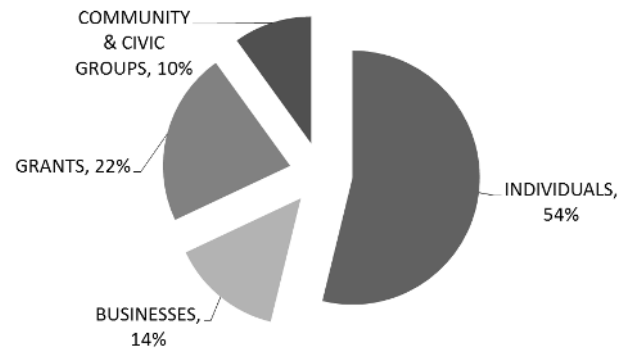
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc.  
Financial Profile Fiscal Year 2015  
(Unaudited)

86 cents of every dollar  
donated goes directly  
to client services

## SUPPORT

Public Support		
Financial Contributions		\$481,527
Donated In-Kind Goods & Services		\$569,050
Volunteer Services		\$260,571
Special Events		\$166,299
Other Support		
Greater Boston Food Bank		\$245,180
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>		<b>\$1,722,627</b>

## WHERE DO OUR FINANCIAL DONATIONS COME FROM?



## EXPENDITURES

Distributed Goods and Services		
In-Kind Goods		\$814,230
In-Kind Services		\$426,870
Program Services		\$220,508
Other Expenses		
Supporting Services		\$244,569
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$1,706,177</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>		<b>\$16,450</b>



Kiernan DeMeis-Dullea from Groton donated over 9 pounds of fresh eggs from his own hens!

## WORDS FROM A CLIENT

"I have never experienced a program like Loaves & Fishes. The staff are friendly, genuine and sincere, and the food is invaluable when you're not sure what problems may come tomorrow. I recently lost my position as an administrator and didn't qualify for public assistance. This is when I found Loaves & Fishes and they provided support and assistance in my time of transition when no one else would. I can never express how much gratitude and appreciativeness I have for Loaves & Fishes. Thank you for all you do to help so many."

## Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc. Special Programs/Events

"No act of kindness,  
however small, is ever  
wasted."

~Aesop



### Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution

79 volunteers and  
numerous generous  
donors made it possible for  
347 households to receive  
all the fixings for their  
Thanksgiving dinners



### Holiday Dinner Distribution

67 volunteers and  
numerous generous  
donors made it possible for  
291 households to receive  
all the fixings for their  
holiday dinners



### Shop For Your Kids

220 families shopped at  
the event and 559 children  
received holiday gifts



### Shop For Your Parents

263 children shopped for  
special gifts and had the  
opportunity to have  
breakfast with Santa! 45  
seniors received holiday  
gift bags



### Good Friday Walk

200 participants walked  
1,100 miles to raise almost  
\$20,000 for Loaves &  
Fishes



### Postal Worker's Food Drive

11,886 pounds of food  
was collected, delivered  
and sorted by many  
volunteers



### Golf Tournament

Thanks to the  
organizers, dedicated  
volunteers, donors,  
sponsors and golfers,  
the tournament held at  
Shaker Hills Country  
Club raised \$10,200!



### Backpack Program

112 families received 236  
backpacks including 20  
college-age backpacks



## A Message from the Executive Director

**D**uring this past year, the stories of our clients' lives have underscored our mission to lift and feed our neighbors. Their stories have touched us all deeply and reminded us of how we are truly fortunate.

Senior citizens are struggling to stretch their social security checks to purchase medications, buy food and heat their homes. As the temperatures plummeted and the snow swirled furiously outside, tears came to the eyes of one of our seniors. She was thankful to warm her frozen fingers and toes in the comfort of the Pantry, and thankful for the kind and welcoming smiles of our staff and volunteers. For her, Loaves & Fishes is her extended family.

Veterans who are just returning to the states, suffering not only from physical wounds but also from the emotional scars which may never heal, visit the Pantry. Many are lost, alone and struggling to afford the most basic necessity - food. One veteran shared with a volunteer Food Distributor that he feels supported and respected when he visits Loaves & Fishes.

Middle-aged people who were accustomed to donating to the Pantry, never expected to be in need of help themselves. One woman shared her story of job loss, divorce and a cancer diagnosis. She now relies on support from Loaves & Fishes to help her through this difficult time and expects that in the future, once her life stabilizes, she will be able to give back to help others.

Many single mothers try their best to provide for their children but find that they simply cannot make it on their own. A mom and her son were living in a one room apartment and could not afford to turn the heat on during the cold, winter last year. Our volunteer Stewards listened compassionately and provided her with referrals for fuel assistance. Our Clothing Room volunteers helped them find warm clothing. Mom left with hope.

There are those who once led a comfortable life – dual incomes, a home, two cars, soccer games on the weekends, vacationing at the beach during the summer. All of a sudden Dad was diagnosed with a life-threatening disease and Mom lost her job. Their lives have been forever changed. Their income stream has been reduced to a single unemployment check which is not enough to pay the mortgage, make car payments and pay other bills, let alone feed their children. The groceries they received at Loaves & Fishes, especially the fresh produce, have meant one less worry for this family.

These are the faces of Loaves & Fishes, the people who touch our lives each day and make us realize how we are truly lucky. Last year we served 864 families, 223 of them new to the Pantry. Although their stories differ, there is one common thread - they are our neighbors and they are struggling. Any one of us could face similar situations.

In order to better serve our neighbors and support our volunteers, we have focused significant energy in the past year on improving the client experience at the Pantry, adding key volunteer positions to our organizational framework, improving communication and providing guidance and training opportunities for our volunteers. As a result of our efforts, we attained national certification as a Service Enterprise which identifies us as an organization committed to process improvement and effective volunteer management practices.

As we embark on a new year our focus will be multi-pronged. We will strive to strengthen existing partnerships with area businesses, schools, houses of worship and community and civic groups while also forging new relationships to expand our base of support. Our commitment to continuous improvement and increased communication will remain a top priority. Our main focus, however, will continue to be to lift and feed our neighbors.

***Patty***

Patricia A. Stern  
Executive Director





facebook

Find us on Facebook  
Follow us on Twitter

twitter

**Contact Us:**

Telephone: (978) 772-4627

Visit our website at: [www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org)

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