

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

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

Board of Trustees July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015	Joined Board	Term Ends June 30th of
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 Liljgren

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



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

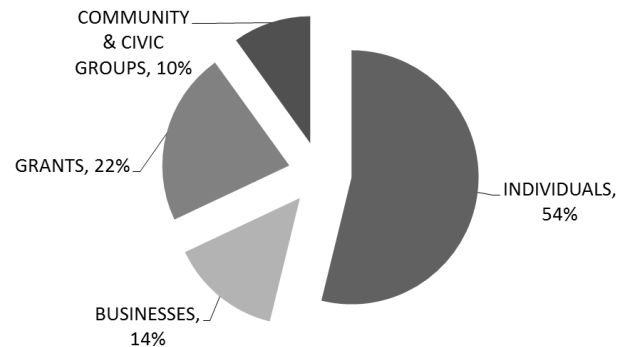
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc.
Financial Profile Fiscal Year 2015
(Unaudited)

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
TOTAL SUPPORT		\$1,722,627

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
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$1,706,177
NET SURPLUS		\$16,450



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

During 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

Mailing Address: PO Box 1, Ayer, MA 01432

Located at: 234 Barnum Road, Devens, MA