

**A NEW AND EXCITING CHAPTER  
 FOR LOAVES & FISHES**

November 2018

Volume 26, Issue 3

**MISSION**

Loaves & Fishes' mission is to provide nutritious food, in an atmosphere of kindness and respect, to individuals in need who reside in Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**STAFF**

Patricia Stern, *Executive Director*  
 Sharon Cordero, *Administrative Assistant*  
 Paul Niemira, *Food Coordinator*  
 Theresa Wilson, *Client Advocate*  
 Sherrie Forest, *Volunteer Coordinator*  
 John Cauley, *Food Coordinator Assistant*

**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

**LOCATION**

234 Barnum Road, Devens, MA 01434  
 Mailing address:  
 PO Box 1, Ayer, MA 01432  
 Telephone: 978.772.4627  
 Fax: 978.772.7395



As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of Loaves & Fishes, we reflect on the many ways in which the Pantry has changed. Originally, the program was housed in the basements of area churches and served hot meals once each week to approximately 50 families. Today, our client-choice pantry serves over 825 area families. The past year has been a challenging, yet exciting, one in the history of the Pantry. Operating on the premise that our client population will continue to grow and that we need to be well prepared for the future, we embarked upon a reconfiguration of our facility. We spent the summer under construction and now have a redesigned floor plan which optimizes flow, increases refrigeration/freezer space, ensures safety and security and increases our productivity.

*“...know that change is a good thing. So go for it. Embrace the changes that will come. Make them work for you and for the people you help so much.”*  
*-Charlanne VanWormer, Founder*  
*\*excerpt from her speech at the Pantry's 20th anniversary celebration*

We are proud of the many positive changes which allow us to better serve our clients. The Pantry has grown into a strong, well respected pillar of the community and we are strategically positioned to support the needs of our neighbors in the years to come. When neighbors join together, donors lend their support and volunteers give the precious gift of their time, amazing things happen!

My sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the Pantry through the years.

*Patty Stern*  
 Executive Director



Loaves & Fishes celebrated the newly configured Pantry with an official Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony in August. Senator Jamie Eldridge joined the Staff, Board Members and invited guests for this important event in the history of the Pantry.



**Take a look inside to find out the ways you can support our mission of lifting and feeding our neighbors during this holiday season!**

# HOLIDAY EVENTS—SEASON OF GIVING



**Food Donation Receiving for Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution**  
Saturday & Sunday  
November 17 & 18  
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.



**Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution**  
Monday, November 19  
Morning Event: 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.  
Evening Event: 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

*“When I went to the Pantry during the holidays, I never expected to go home with a turkey and all the fixings. I was overjoyed and the volunteers were so helpful and kind and made me feel better. My family enjoyed one of the best holiday meals, and we appreciate what you do for others!”*



*-A Client*



**Food Donation Receiving for Holiday Dinner Distribution**  
Saturday & Sunday  
December 15 & 16  
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.



**Holiday Dinner Distribution**  
Monday, December 17  
Morning Event: 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.  
Evening Event: 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

## FY18 IMPACT: FOOD = HOPE

- **828** households/ **1,967** individuals received nutritious groceries
- **241** new families visited the Pantry
- **30%** of the households earned less than \$10,000 annually
  - **31%** were children
  - **10%** were seniors
- **6,410** shopping trips were made

**REAL PEOPLE • REAL FOOD  
REAL HELP • REAL HOPE**



**THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY, ALLISON AND HER GRANDMA ENJOYED A THANKSGIVING MEAL TOGETHER LAST YEAR. YOUR DONATION OF \$25 THIS YEAR WILL HELP FEED A FAMILY OF FOUR.**

**TO DONATE, PLEASE VISIT:**  
<https://loavesfishespantry.org/dinner/>  
**or mail your check to:**  
**Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry**  
**P.O. Box 1, Ayer MA 01432**

## VOLUNTEERS...GIVE THE GIFT OF YOUR TIME DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

**TO SIGN UP TO HELP AT THESE EVENTS,**  
CALL SHERRIE FOREST—978-772-4627, x317  
or EMAIL: [volunteer@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:volunteer@loavesfishespantry.org)

### Most Needed Items:



- Holiday Snacks (Nuts, Crackers, Candy)
- Cookie & Cake Mixes
- Cranberry Sauce
- Stuffing Mix
- Turkey & Chicken Broth
- Coffee, Tea, Cocoa
- Pickles & Olives

## DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE MAKING ENDS MEET?

A family of four who visits the Pantry twice each month can receive over \$400 worth of groceries including: fresh produce, meat, cheese, eggs, butter, canned goods, pasta, cereal, juice, bread, personal care items and vouchers for milk at a local grocery store.



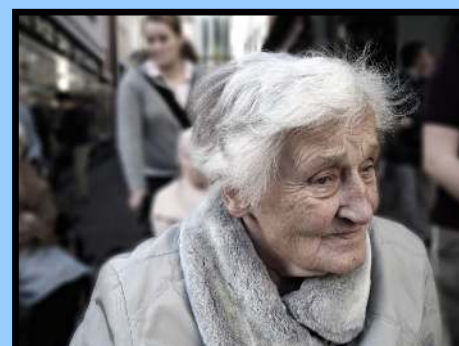
Call our Client Advocate at (978) 772-4627x312 with questions or simply visit us during our open pantry hours and bring a proof of residency (a first-class piece of mail showing your name, residential address and a current date) with you.



*AMY, a single parent, works full time to support her two children. Unfortunately, Amy earns too much to qualify for any governmental assistance. She visits Loaves & Fishes on her only day off each month in order to provide her children with much needed nutritious groceries.*

**DO YOU NEED HELP WITH GROCERIES?  
CALL US OR STOP BY AND SEE US!  
WE CAN HELP!**

## DIGNITY



**Gail**, a retired senior citizen, struggles to make ends meet on her fixed income.

*"Living on a fixed income is difficult. I'm grateful for the support I receive from the Pantry—I couldn't manage otherwise. You have always treated me with dignity, free of judgment."*

## OPEN PANTRY HOURS

**WEDNESDAYS**  
&  
**FRIDAYS**  
9:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**1st & 3rd SATURDAYS**  
of each month  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**2nd TUESDAY**  
of each month  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**FOOD = HOPE**





## GOLD LEVEL PARTNER \$5,000 and above

Ayer Shirley Regional School District  
Steve Bakke and Julie Staraitis  
Bemis Associates  
Catania Oils  
Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts  
Community Harvest Project  
D'Ambrosio Eye Care  
Digital Federal Credit Union-Marlborough  
Donelan's Supermarket-Groton  
Donelan's Supermarket-Littleton  
Donelan's Supermarket-Pepperell  
EFSP National Board  
Gaining Ground  
Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall, Inc.  
Gove Farm  
Judy Grande  
Groton Neighborhood Food Project  
Hannaford Supermarket-Lunenburg  
Hannaford Supermarket-Townsend  
Harvard Post Office  
Holy Trinity Church  
St. Theresa/St. Francis  
Timothy Ingraham  
J.K. Farnsworth Company  
Jo Nicewicz Carville 1999 Trust  
John & Eunice Charitable Fdn  
Scott Lewis, Lewis Studios  
Market Basket-Littleton  
Paul Matisse  
Brent Maugel  
Maugel Architects  
Nashoba GFW, Inc.  
Nashoba Valley Medical Center  
North Country Porsche Club of America

Omni Properties, LLC  
Porsche Club of America  
Northeast Division  
John & Janis Raguin  
Roche Bros. Supermarket-Acton  
Rotary Club of Littleton  
Saint Anne Parish  
Salesforce  
Shaw's Supermarket-Groton  
Shirley Scout Drive  
Shop 'n Save-Ayer  
Shriver Job Corps Center  
Donald & Janet Stevens  
The Greater Boston Food Bank  
The MBIA Foundation  
The Shanklin Foundation  
Trader Joe's-Acton  
United Way of Central Massachusetts  
United Way of North Central Massachusetts  
Whole Foods-Westford  
Robert Zimmer



A great partner, **Catania Oils** of Ayer, delivered over 7,000 pounds of food to the Pantry, enough to feed a large family of 5 for one year!

## SILVER LEVEL PARTNER \$2,500-\$4,999

Acton Toyota of Littleton  
ARCD 1st Battalion/Army  
Reserve Careers Division  
Burroughs Charitable Foundation  
Chubb Bermuda Insurance, LTD  
Cisco Systems  
Kathleen Cole & Carolyn Hotchkiss  
Donelan's Supermarket-Acton  
First Parish Church of Groton  
Forrester Research, Inc.

Hildreth Elementary School-Harvard  
Independent Church of the Free Spirit  
Kimball Farm  
Warren & Meredith Kundert  
Laddawn, Inc.  
Ted & Connie Lapres  
Littleton Council of Churches  
Littleton Track Organization, Inc.  
New England Apple Products Co.  
Olympus Corporation of the Americas  
Stephen Roach & Amy Hilbert  
Ted & Mary Shasta  
Tonia Socha  
Sheila Smith  
Richard & Jean Walsh  
Wilson Brothers HVAC, Inc.

## BRONZE LEVEL PARTNER \$1,000-\$2,499

A Helping Hand Foundation, Inc.  
Allison Family Fund  
Ann Davis  
Atmosphere Salon  
Ayer Fire Department  
Ayer Post Office  
Ayer/Shirley Recycling  
BJ's Wholesale Club  
Kent & Mary Jo Boynton  
Bright Funds Foundation  
Cynthia Carter  
Congregational Church of Harvard  
Congregational Church of Littleton  
Jim P. Curran  
Tom Donaruma  
Senator Jamie Eldridge  
Epic Enterprises, Inc.  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
Read Fleming  
Garden at Church Meadows  
Katie Gatcomb  
Sherrill Gould  
James Grier  
Groton-Dunstable Regional High School  
Groton-Dunstable Regional School District  
Groton Public Library  
Groton School  
Groton Woman's Club  
Gary M. Gumuchian  
Mark Hashem

## BRONZE LEVEL PARTNER \$1,000-\$2,499

Harvard Lions Club  
Harvard Woman's Club  
Henry Vincent Couper Charity Fdn.  
Connie Hoy  
IMEC, Inc.  
Vinod Kamalaraj  
Timothy Kenny  
Kibble Kitchen  
Peter Kouyoumjian & Lisa Webb  
Lazaro Paving Corporation  
Dee Lee  
Stephen Legge  
Christine Lindemer  
Little Leaf Farm  
Littleton Community Farm  
Littleton Middle School  
Littleton Post Office  
Bruce Man  
Mary Markham  
Massachusetts Service Alliance  
Massachusetts Youth Soccer  
Dan & Lori McElroy  
McNulty and Associates, Inc.  
Middlesex Savings Bank-Natick  
ODIC, Inc.  
Perkins and Ancil  
Philip and Diane Rayla  
Project Bread  
Red Tail Golf Club  
John Reis  
Renegade Miata Club  
Restoration Orchard, LLC  
Robert & Joan Dircks Foundation  
Leslie Row, LICSW  
Tom & Verna Sefranek  
Senate Construction Group  
Shaker Lane School-Littleton  
Russell & Linda Shappy  
Shirley Post Office  
Sierra Ventures  
Otto Solbrig  
Springdell Farm  
Scott Stadler  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
St. Anthony's of Padua  
Starbucks Coffee Company  
Theodore Stefanik  
David & Pamela Stone  
Tea Forte  
The Gore Charitable Foundation

United Steelworkers of America  
Local 506  
Willie Wickman  
Dawn Wilson  
Janet Wilkinson

**Loaves & Fishes received  
a \$12,000 donation from  
an anonymous donor...  
Thank you!**

**...and there are many other donors  
who wish to remain anonymous.  
We made every effort to include  
all of our Harvest Club Partners.  
Please accept our apologies  
and let us know if you have  
been missed.**



**These young people are truly making a difference! They held lemonade stands over the summer and raised \$539.**

*My family has been experiencing some really hard times in the last year and I decided to go to Loaves & Fishes for some help and was glad that I did. I was welcomed with smiles and everyone was so helpful and made me feel good. I am so thankful that I can put food on the table for my family. Thanks to everyone who plays a part in keeping this Pantry open for those who need help.*

**-A CLIENT**

**The Neighborhood Food Project** is a neighborhood-based food donation effort. Every two months, volunteers go door-to-door and pick up food from their neighbors and deliver it to the Pantry.



The Neighborhood Food Project and the Groton Neighborhood Food Project collected over 42,290 pounds of food from 60 neighborhoods last year!

*hope* for the holidays

**Consider using one of the following sites when doing your holiday shopping. They will donate a percentage of your purchase to the charity of your choice:**

<https://amex.justgive.org>

<https://smile.amazon.com>

<https://igive.com>



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

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



**We are looking for volunteers  
to help with:**

- MARKETING
- OUTREACH
- FUNDRAISING

To learn more, contact Patty Stern at:  
[director@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:director@loavesfishespantry.org)

**volunteer**  
*do good, feel good*

Email: [volunteer@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:volunteer@loavesfishespantry.org)  
or call 978-772-4627, x317  
to learn how you can help!

**New Volunteer Information Sessions:**

Thursday, Nov. 15th @ 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, Dec. 5th @ 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 20 @ 9:30 a.m.

**Contact Us:**

Telephone: (978) 772-4627

Email: [office@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:office@loavesfishespantry.org)

Website: <https://loavesfishespantry.org>



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