

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 TRUSTEES

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Patricia Stern, *Executive Director*
Paul Niemira, *Food Coordinator*
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.

FOOD DONATION TIMES

During all Open Pantry Hours and 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

Valentine's Day celebrates romantic love, and love makes the world go round! This Valentine's Day, Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry also celebrates love for our community, the heart of our organization. We are celebrating the love our community has shown, not only during the recent holiday season, but all year long through local fundraising efforts, volunteering and organizing food drives.

Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution event provided 347 families with all of the fixings for their Thanksgiving celebrations, and in December, the generosity of our community provided 291 families the fixings for their holiday celebrations at the Holiday Dinner Distribution Event. The annual volunteer-organized holiday programs to benefit our clients provided 220 families the opportunity to shop for holiday gifts for their children at the Shop For Your Kids event, and the Shop For Your Parents event helped 263 children choose gifts for their family members.

Now that the holiday season has ended, the need has not. Generous support from the community during the holiday season—primarily November and December—account for over 25% of annual giving to the pantry. However, once the holidays end, donations fall to their lowest levels—50% lower—for the next four months. But the need in our community continues, and for many, the need increases throughout the expensive winter months.

Consider showing your Valentine your love by donating to the food pantry in his/her name. What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than by investing in your community and helping to lift and feed your neighbors! A grocery bag of food, weighing approximately 16 pounds and valued at \$26, can feed a family of 4 for one day. A donation of \$50 can provide meals for a retired veteran or an elderly neighbor on a fixed income for 7 days. Show your love and honor your loved ones by donating today!

It's easy! Use the enclosed envelope or visit our website at

www.loavesfishespantry.org



Love, from a client...

"I just want to let you all know what a GREAT Christmas my family and I had, thanks to all of you for your generosity of time and support. The ham dinner was fabulous! I could go on and on filled with appreciation and admiration of all your hard work! Happy, healthy New Year!" —Loaves & Fishes client

We are community



LOAVES & FISHES
2nd Annual
GOLF TOURNAMENT
Monday, June 8, 2015

What's New?

Inspired Community



The Groton Neighborhood Food Project, run by volunteers in Groton, collected 632 lbs of food in November and 994 lbs of food in December. Going forward, households are asked to pledge to fill a bag every other month! Groton is truly showing love for our community!



This past fall our USDA freezer stopped working. After a frantic call to action, once again our community stepped forward! We owe a debt of gratitude to several members of our community who sent donations enabling us to purchase a new freezer! Thank you Thomas & Verna Sefranek; Cynthia Stone; Donna Alarie and an anonymous donor for your generous support. (Pictured: Paul Niemira, Food Coordinator).

Lifting and Feeding our Neighbors



Photos by Bill Dean

Upcoming Events



Disc Golf Benefit! 2015 Devens Ice Cube Bowl Open

**Saturday,
February 21, 2015**

Massachusetts Association for the
Advancement of Disc Golf

For more information, or to register, please visit
www.maadg.wordpress.com



Partners



Sunday, November 9th, the 25th Annual Scouting for Food town-wide drive for Loaves & Fishes collected well over 7,600 lbs in donations! Loaves & Fishes is grateful to residents of Shirley; Scouts from Shirley, Ayer and

Groton; and to Joyce Reischutz, for her commitment and dedication to this annual effort. Thank you for helping to lift and feed your neighbors!



(Left) Elias Speliotis, Assistant VP of at the Littleton Branch of Northern Bank & Trust Company presented Executive Director, Patty Stern, with a donation of \$2,000!

On Tuesday, January 27th, a malfunctioning heater led to a frozen sprinkler head. Unfortunately, it burst and caused some damage to the facility, affecting our normal operations. On Friday, January 30th, a skeleton crew of volunteers conducted a "drive through" alternative to the scheduled Open Pantry Session to provide food to those clients who ventured out after the storm. Showing the love!




30th Annual Good Friday Walk

April 3, 2015

Harvard Congregational
Church, Harvard Common

Contact: Becca Day-Newsham
For info call: (978) 456-8717
or email at: newsha@aol.com

Save The Date



Monday, June 8, 2015!
**Shaker Hills Country
Club, Harvard, MA**

Seeking Volunteers

Come visit us for an informational session on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 6:30PM **or** the third Thursday morning of the month at 9:30AM.

Visit our website at

www.loavesfishespantry.org

or call (978) 772-4627 x300

Have questions about volunteering?

We have answers!



Photos by Adrian Flatgard

Volunteers=Love 

“We can do no great things, only small things with great love.”

— Mother Theresa

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ADMINISTRATIVE

Volunteers are needed to assist with administrative tasks such as filing, data entry, bulletin board maintenance and other operational tasks that are matched to volunteer interest/skills. Proficiency in Microsoft Office is a plus.

RECEIVING DONATIONS/ DATE CHECKING/ SORTING/STOCKING

Volunteers are needed in the evening, twice weekly in one-hour time slots, to greet donors; receive donations and provide receipts; date check and sort food donations; and stock shelves for upcoming Open Pantry Sessions.



EVENTS

Volunteers are needed to help plan and coordinate special events throughout the year, typically at Loaves & Fishes, but occasionally at off-site locations. Tasks may include hosting an information table and answering questions at an event, collecting donations, fundraising and event planning.

RECEIVING CLOTHING DONATIONS

Skilled volunteers needed on Mondays from 9:30AM—12:00PM to receive clothing donations, provide receipts; and complete general tasks in the Clothing Room.

FOOD DISTRIBUTOR—TUESDAY EVENINGS/ SATURDAY MORNINGS

Volunteers are needed during Open Pantry Sessions on the second Tuesday evening of the month and the first and third Saturday mornings of the month to help clients shop for groceries. Training is provided.



STEWARDSHIP

Stewarding is a unique position interfacing directly with clients. This position has a requirement of significant knowledge of the organization through volunteerism and an involved/ongoing training program. Background in human services is a plus.

Youth Volunteer Opportunities



We have volunteer opportunities at Loaves & Fishes for youths. Pictured are some students who helped prepare for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution event. Evening and afternoon stocking sessions, special events and organizing a food drive are great opportunities for youths under the age of 18 to give back. Visit our website at **www.loavesfishespantry.org**

Special Event
Saturday, May 9th
Volunteers of all
ages welcome!



Loaves & Fishes 2014 Thanksgiving and Holiday Dinner Distribution Events

347 families received all of the fixings for their Thanksgiving dinner.

79 Volunteers and many donors are responsible for the success of this event!



Senator Eldridge and his staff volunteered during the morning session.



Before Thanksgiving, the 17 employees over at PolyOne Distribution in Littleton collected \$400 in donations by "paying" to dress down in the office!



MSG Rosalind Fennell, serving on Devens, brought a group of soldiers to volunteer!



VOLUNTEERS



Red Tail Golf Club sponsored a Turkey Shoot raising \$565 in gift cards and 32 turkeys for our Thanksgiving Dinner event!



Medtronics of Littleton collected and donated over 350 pounds of food and 7 turkeys during their annual Thanksgiving food drive for Loaves & Fishes!



Littleton Lumber sponsored their annual November food drive for Loaves & Fishes and donated 466 pounds of food and \$125 in gift cards. The company matched \$1 for every pound lost in an employee weight loss challenge over the past year and presented L&F an additional donation of \$242!



DONORS

(Pictured right) Nashoba Nursing Service & Hospice presented our Executive Director with a very generous donation this holiday season!



291 families received all of the fixings for their holiday meal.

67 Volunteers helped at the event.

Shop For Your Kids



Thank you to residents, local businesses and the Ayer Police Department for collecting over 1,100 toys and gifts this season! Special thank you to Sgt. John MacDonald, for his commitment to this program.



In one short week, the Student Council at Russell Street School in Littleton and 4th grade teacher, Jennifer Jones, collected many toys for Shop For Your Kids!

Shop For Your Parents



DONORS

Shriver Job Corps

220 families shopped at the event.

559 children received holiday gifts.

Thank you to *The Littleton Council of Churches* for coordinating a drive; *St. Anthony's* in Shirley for donating storage space and to the congregation for donating so generously; and to *Devens Recreation* for donating event space at the Bob Eisegreen Community Center, Devens!



TJX

TJX donated 100 bags for the event!



263 children shopped for special gifts!

45 seniors received holiday gift bags



Ho ho ho!

VOLUNTEERS



Photos by Jim's Photos/978-821-7468/photosbyjim2@verizon.net

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

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



In an effort to reduce waste and recycle, please consider receiving this newsletter electronically instead of by mail.

Call 978.772.4627 x300 or email tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org and provide your email address!



General

MOST NEEDED ITEMS LIST

Canned Tomato Products, Condiments (Ketchup, Mayo, etc), Boxed Rice/Rice-a-Roni, Helpers and Sides, Canned Pasta/Canned Chile, Canned Meats, Canned White Tuna, Crackers, Hearty Soups, Pasta -Ziti/Rotini/Shells/Rigatoni, Beans-Baked & Refried, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Cake, Muffin and Cookie Mixes, Breakfast Cereal, Feminine Care Products, Toothpaste & Tooth Brush, Shampoo/Conditioner, Shaving Products, Deodorant, Soap



Are you having trouble making ends meet?



If you live in Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton or Shirley, we can help! **Contact Loaves & Fishes at 978.772.4627 x312**

Contact Us:

Telephone: (978) 772-4627

Visit our website at: www.loavesfishespantry.org

Find us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

facebook

twitter

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 Savings Bank
The Markham Group	Donelan's Supermarket
DEVENS	North Middlesex Savings Bank
North Middlesex Savings Bank	Northern Bank & Trust
GROTON	Littleton Police Department
Donelan's Supermarket	Littleton Post Office
Groton Post Office	Knox Realty
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