

MISSION

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Leslie Row, *President*
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STAFF

Patricia Stern, *Executive Director*
Paul Niemira, *Food Coordinator*
Theresa Wilson, *Client Advocate*
Gail Wilson, *Volunteer & Office Manager*

OPEN PANTRY HOURS

Wednesdays and Fridays
9:45AM – 12:30PM Doors open at 9AM
First and third Saturdays of month
8:45AM – 11:00AM Doors open at 8AM
Second Tuesday of month
6PM – 8PM Doors open at 5:15PM
Closed when Ayer Schools are closed or delayed due to inclement weather.

FOOD DONATION TIMES

All Open Pantry Hours and Mondays and Wednesdays
7PM – 8PM

CLOTHING DONATION TIMES

Mondays 10AM – 12NOON and 7PM – 8PM

LOCATION

234 Barnum Road
Devens, MA
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1,
Ayer, MA 01432
Phone: 978-772-4627
Fax: 978-772-7395
www.loavesfishespantry.org

Over 28 years of service to the communities of Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley



FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT: LOAVES & FISHES DEVENS

JOIN THE 27th ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY WALK
BRING A GOOD FRIEND FOR A GOOD TIME ON GOOD FRIDAY, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES

The 27nd Annual Good Friday Walk for Loaves & Fishes and Sharing, Inc. will be held in Harvard on Friday, April 22, 2011, rain or shine. Bring your friends, neighbors, bosses and co-workers to walk with you, or ask them to sponsor you. The more money you raise, the more you help others.

The non-denominational walk leaves from The Congregational Church of Harvard (5 Still River Road, right in Harvard Center) and follows a scenic 5-mile loop. Register at the Church any time between 7:30 am–12:30pm and walk as far as you like—just finish by 5:00pm. Fruitlands Museum is providing a rest stop about halfway through the route, offering a refreshment tent and restrooms.

Most of the money raised will go directly to Loaves & Fishes' clients (your neighbors) in Harvard, Groton, Shirley, Ayer, Littleton and Devens, while a smaller portion will go to Sharing, Inc., which helps the poor in the rural South. The money raised for Loaves & Fishes will be spent on food, milk coupons and personal care items for anyone in our towns who asks for assistance.

How can you participate? Download a sponsor sheet from the Loaves & Fishes web site, www.loavesfishespantry.org, or pick one up at your local church or library. Collect as many pledges and donations as you can. Total your sponsor sheet—including your own donation, if you wish to make one—and bring it with all donations you have received to the registration desk on April 22 to receive a Walk paper and map. Walkers under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian's signature. Those under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. No bicycles, roller blades, scooters or skateboards are allowed because they can be dangerous to the walkers. Remember, the Walk is quite hilly—get your muscles ready by practicing a few times before the day of the event.

The Good Friday Walk is the biggest one-day fundraising event for Loaves & Fishes—and as our region continues to struggle economically, its success is critical to the pantry. We encourage every walker to bring a friend—company makes the walk more fun and the more walkers we have, the more money we raise.

Call friends, relatives, and neighbors—this is a great community service project for scout, school or church groups. Ask your employer to sponsor you. We need lots of walkers and sponsors. If you'd rather work behind the scenes in the kitchen, prepare food, work at the registration desk, or drive the "Toe Truck" (the car that we use to ensure every walker's safety) for an hour, you're needed there too. Just call or e-mail one of our co-chairs, Becca Day-Newsham (978-456-8717, newsha@aol.com) or Jeanie Colony (978-456-1239, jecolony@charter.net) and let her know you want to help.



Alec, Abby, Max, Julie and Bill VanWormer take a lunch break at the finish line of the Good Friday Walk. Their mother and grandmother, the late Charlanne VanWormer, was a founder of Loaves and Fishes.

April 10-16 is National Volunteer Week – special thanks to all of our volunteers!



Members of the 912th HRC from Orlando, FL recently completed a mission at Devens and donated approximately \$3,000 worth of food to L&F.

DO YOU NEED HELP?

Come to an open pantry session!

- Every Wednesday & Friday 9:45 am-12:30 pm (doors open at 9am)
- First & third Saturday 8:45am-11am (doors open at 8am)
- Second Tuesday of the month 6-8pm (doors open at 5:15pm)
- Bring a recent utility bill as a proof of residency
- You may shop at the pantry twice a month.
- You will receive up to \$300 of food each month and \$2 milk vouchers to Hannaford's in Ayer
- You will also receive: clothing, school backpacks and supplies for your children, and holiday gifts. Scholarships for summer camp are also awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis

Please call our Client Advocate if you have any questions at (978) 772-4627 x312

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS...

Loaves & Fishes could never feed so many families each week without the dozens of volunteers who stock shelves and escort clients through the pantry to choose their groceries. But what if you can't commit to pantry sessions or the hours don't fit your schedule? Rest assured we need your talents in many other capacities, perhaps in ways you would never expect.

How about sorting donations in our clothing room or picking apples at local farms? Perhaps you can take time to pick up a donation box from a grocery store once a week—bringing the kids along, they'll have fun and learn the importance of helping! Maybe help out with a little office work or by mowing the lawn, or perhaps you prefer joining a committee or working on event planning or fundraising.

There is a job for everyone! We have senior citizens, retirees, stay-at-home moms and students. Many of our volunteers are unemployed and want to keep busy, network and add to their resumé's. Volunteering allows you to meet new people, build relationships and help those in need.

We are very grateful for each and every volunteer—they are the energy that drives this organization. Whether you have an hour a week or a month or even if you can only participate once a year at one event, we need you. To learn more about the many volunteer opportunities available, please send an e-mail to tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org or call Gail Wilson at 978-772-4627 ext. 300.



A UNIQUE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Last year a new group of volunteers formed to glean unsold produce from local farms and farmer's markets and bring it to the pantry. Gleaning is a very old word originally meant to describe the process of leaving unharvested food in the fields to be "gleaned" by those unable to grow or buy it on their own. Today's meaning remains close to the original, but now most food that is gleaned from the fields is brought to food pantries.

Named the Glean Team, the group sprang into action once we received word from a farm of available produce. Volunteers met at the offering farm to harvest food for Loaves and Fishes. Last year's gleaning harvest saw 48 quarts of strawberries in June, bushels of peaches in July, carloads of apples in August and September, and squash and 250 pumpkins in October! Additionally, each week food was collected at local farmers markets and brought to the pantry as well.

This year the Glean Team is working to strengthen relationships with more farms in an effort to increase the amount and variety of local produce available to our clients. We are looking for volunteers! If you like being outside in beautiful settings, and don't mind getting a little dirty, then this is the volunteer job for you! Harvesting starts in early summer. Contact us at tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org or at (978)772-4627 x 300 to learn more about this unique volunteer opportunity.

HELP US STAMP OUT HUNGER

19th Annual Postal Workers' Food Drive

Last year, thanks to the efforts of area U.S. Postal Service workers and over 70 volunteers, Loaves & Fishes was the grateful recipient of over 320 banana boxes of food estimated to weigh in excess of 14,500 lbs.! Although the day was dreary and rainy, energy was high as volunteers off-loaded trucks filled to the brim with donations, date-checked and sorted food. These donations allowed us to continue to feed area families throughout the summer months—a time when donations historically decrease while need increases.

On May 14th we will again be participating in this nationwide effort which represents the largest and most critical food drive for Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry. Please consider contributing what you can—every item helps us help our neighbors. It's easy to do, simply leave your donations by your mailbox or bring them to your local post office. A team of volunteers will do the rest. If you have some spare time on the 14th, we could use your help at the pantry. Please call us at (978)772-4627 x300 or send us an email at tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org to learn more about how you can become involved with this event.



**4,000+ volunteer hours
have been recorded
since July 1, 2010!**



Margaret Zoller of Littleton and Betty Stone of Harvard joined Laurie Palmer of Middleton, Ct. to provide refreshments for the walkers at the 2010 Good Friday Walk.

WIN DINNER FOR TWO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD!

Want to win dinner for two anywhere in the world? Adopt a duck for the 21st annual Ducky Wucky River Race, and you could be the lucky winner! The Ducky Wucky River Race, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ayer-Harvard-Shirley & Devens, will be held during the Harvard Apple Blossom Festival on May 7. You can adopt one duck (\$5) or a flock of 5 ducks (\$20) to qualify for over 50 prizes, including dinner for two plus airfare and hotel accommodations (for two nights) anywhere in the world. All tickets sold by Loaves & Fishes will benefit the pantry. To get your duck adoption papers, just stop by the pantry, e-mail tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org or call Judy Grande at 978-486-1090; make your check payable to the Ayer Rotary Club.



268 New families visited Loaves & Fishes in 2010

PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY

As the snow melts and your thoughts turn to gardening, consider planting an extra row for Loaves & Fishes. It's a great way to involve the family and teach the children the importance of helping others.



SPECIAL THANKS

Loaves & Fishes has received enormous support from individuals, companies and organizations both within and outside of the communities we serve. We can't acknowledge everyone, but will try to recognize as many donors as we can in this and future newsletters. Here are some friends in our communities who made their neighbors' lives a lot easier:

EMC for their recent grant of \$1,000.

CISCO for their ongoing financial and volunteer support.

Target of Leominster for donating approximately \$4,100 worth of food and for their pledge to work with us in the future.

Walmart of Leominster for supporting us with an average of 20 boxes of food each week.

Ayer Girl Scout Troop #60625 for their donation of 20 boxes of yummy cookies!

Killer B Disc Golf Shop of Ayer for organizing a fundraiser which netted \$1,548.94 for L&F!

Special thanks to all of our volunteers!

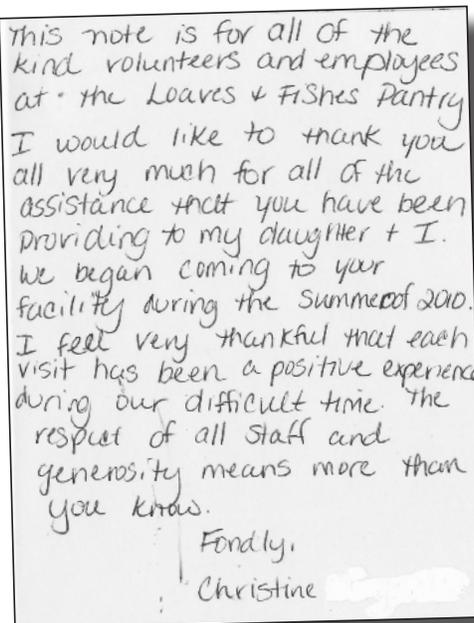


NEWSLETTER TEAM

Hana Barker, Judy Grande, Julie Kirkwood, Kathleen O'Connor, Kathy Reiff

FOOD DRIVES

The Spring is one of the times when donations dwindle. Please consider organizing a food drive and helping us keep our shelves filled. It's easy to do and is a great way for businesses, schools and civic groups to contribute! We can help you—contact Dana at drives@loavesfishespantry.org or call us at (978)772-4627.



SPRING GALA – AN ENCHANTED EVENING

Loaves & Fishes is very excited to announce our first ever gala fundraiser taking place this coming June 9th at Fruitlands Museum. This lovely outdoor setting is the perfect place for our “enchanted evening” theme.

The evening will include delicious appetizers, wine and musical selections from Mozart and Beethoven provided by Will Play For Food, a group of area musicians. In addition, works of art donated by artists from near and far will also be on display for purchase to benefit both the artists and Loaves & Fishes.

We invite you to enjoy an enchanted evening - wander around the gardens, gaze at the art work, nibble some delicious appetizers and sip some wine beneath the beautiful June sky. Please reserve the date of June 9th and plan to join us. Tickets will be available in April either online on our website www.loavesfishespantry.org or at the pantry.

If you have artwork, focused on the theme of food, which you would like to contribute to the display, or if you are interested in helping to organize this event, please contact Gail at (978)772-4627 x300.

5 CENTS AT A TIME!

Last June, volunteers from Loaves & Fishes sorted and bagged over 20,000 bottles and cans at the Littleton Transfer Station, raising over \$1000 for the pantry. Can you help us do it again this year? We need volunteers to work a two-hour shift during normal Transfer Station hours (noon-7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays) throughout the month of June. The cans, plastic and glass bottles all need to be sorted and packed into bags or boxes. Some lifting is required, and volunteers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information or to sign up for a shift, please contact Judy or Ray Grande at 978-486-1090, or e-mail judygrande@comcast.net.

If you wish to donate your 5 cent deposit bottles and cans, you do not have to be a Littleton resident—just bring them to the collection area at the Littleton Transfer Station, Spectacle Pond Road, during the Transfer Station hours noted above.



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 22

Good Friday Walk

MAY 7

Ducky Wucky River Race

MAY 14

Postal Workers' Food Drive

JUNE 9

Spring Gala Fundraiser

MONTH OF JUNE

Littleton Bottle and Can Drive

Volunteer Orientation Sessions

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6:30 pm

Mailing List Updates Requested

If we are directing our newsletter inappropriately, sending you multiple copies, if you'd rather receive an electronic version, if you'd prefer to be removed from our mailing list, or if you'd like to receive mailings at your vacation home—let us know!

SPRING CLEANING

Please remember us as you Spring clean your closets. We are now accepting gently-worn, Spring clothing. Donations are accepted each Monday from 10AM–12 noon and 7PM– 8PM.

MOST-NEEDED ITEMS

Salad Dressings

Canned Pasta

Crackers

Pancake Mix/Bisquick

Canned Pears

Canned Fruit Cocktail

Pasta Sauce

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Tea

Deodorant

Shaving Supplies

Toothpaste

Food Drop-Off Locations

AYER: Ayer Post Office, Nashoba Valley Medical Center, North Middlesex Savings Bank, The Cottage Restaurant

DEVENS: North Middlesex Savings Bank, Anytime Fitness

GROTON: North Middlesex Savings Bank, Donelan's Supermarket, Groton Post Office, Groton Public Library, Shaw's Supermarket, Middlesex Bank

HARVARD: Harvard Post Office

LITTLETON: Citizen's Savings Bank, Donelan's Supermarket, North Middlesex Savings Bank, Littleton Police Department

SHIRLEY: Shirley Post Office, Hazen Library, Shirley Fire Department, North Middlesex Savings Bank

ALL 6 TOWNS: Many places of worship

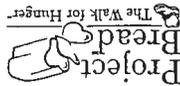
For more information or directions to Loaves & Fishes, visit us online at:

www.loavesfishespantry.org

or call us:-978-772-4627



Has your address changed? Please e-mail us at tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org or call 978-772-4627x300



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