



Nashoba GFW, Inc.

a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization

January 2021

Dear GFW Friends,

It is with deep gratitude and humility that we share news of the Great Food Walk. First off, in this strange and unpredictable time, we wholeheartedly thank everyone for supporting the virtual GFW last spring raising \$9,885 - a wonderful effort and so very much appreciated by Loaves & Fishes and Sharing, Inc. Your commitment to the mission does not go unheralded when challenges and distractions abound.

Taking stock over the course ... in what has been a difficult decision-making process, weighing many factors, we have come to the decision that the 2020 virtual Great Food Walk will have been the final annual Great Food Walk. The past 36 years have been chockfull of special Walk days; each teeming with wonderful people doing good works, sharing big hearts, and offering endless generosity of spirit. We have been inspired by our forebearers Ruthie Broughton, Charlanne van Wormer, Kay Doherty (and many others) who with their vision have moved us all into action within a "joyful community." We thank all of the walkers, volunteers, supporters, and organizers from so many towns over so many years who have contributed to making a meaningful and fun day translate into a caring community, nourishing our neighbors. Many fond memories and traditions will no doubt stay with us – from lacing up the shoes, meeting friends and family on the Harvard Common, tying ribbons on arms, finding riddles on the course, taking in views at the Fruitlands' Rest Stop, enjoying the sights of the "Toe Truck" circling the route, to finally returning across the Finish Line at the Congregational Church to be greeted by plates of egg salad sandwiches and more brownies – all the time surrounded by cheerful people with common purpose. A great day.

Over the years, in our "GFW community" there has been consensus that one of the best ways to offer hope is to reach out and help one another. In these remarkable and disconcerting times, there are plenty of opportunities to do just that. With this in mind, we encourage continued support for the Great Food Walk's mission:

Loaves & Fishes: www.loavesfishespantry.org

Sharing, Inc.: www.walkingongoodfriday.org

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all for your camaraderie and friendship over the years.

Fondly,

Jeanie Colony & Becca Day-Newsham

GFW co-chairs

for the entire GFW organizing team