

August 2020 Volume 28, Issue 1

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, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley.

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***DRIVE-THRU PANTRY SCHEDULE**

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

August 5, 7, 12, 15, 19, 21, 26, 28
 September 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 25, 30
 October 2, 7, 9, 14, 17, 21, 23, 28, 30

*Subject to change

FOOD DONATION TIMES

Due to the COVID-19 crisis we are not currently accepting the gift of donated food and personal care items.

LOCATION

234 Barnum Road, Devens, MA 01434

Mailing address:
 PO Box 1, Ayer, MA 01432

Telephone: 978.772.4627
 Email: office@loavesfishespantry.org
<https://loavesfishespantry.org>

IT'S BEEN A CHALLENGING TIME

The past few months have been very difficult for everyone due to the COVID-19 crisis as well as other unfortunate events happening in our world. There is much to be sad, anxious and angry about, however, there are also reasons to smile and be grateful. Sometimes difficult times bring out the best in all of us and that is exactly what we've witnessed at Loaves & Fishes. The generosity shown has been unprecedented in the history of the Pantry. Financial support has sustained us, volunteers have freely given of their time offering to do whatever is needed, and local businesses have stepped-up to the plate!

This issue features some of our wonderful neighbors who are making a difference!

Hailey is an example to us all

This young lady is going into second grade, likes art and music and used her talents to help the Pantry. She made dream catchers, sold them and donated what she raised to Loaves & Fishes. Her kindness, compassion and heart—unmatched!

"Some people don't realize that families are struggling to get through this hard time during Coronavirus. My grandparents told me that the food pantry needed more money and food, and I decided I wanted to help."

Hailey Emma Craft





Small business owner, Barbara Drury, established "Friday Benefits" where a portion of the day's income is donated to a local charity, organization or essential service. Loaves & Fishes was their first beneficiary! Take a look at their website at: www.manilowdoggiedaycare.com.

Hope



Mary, a single mom with 3 children, heard about L&F from a friend. She works for a local school as an Aide during the school year and just learned that she lost her summer job due to COVID.

"I don't qualify for food stamps and didn't know how I was going to feed my kids until a friend told me about Loaves & Fishes. I can't say thank you enough."

LOCAL ARTIST JILL POTTLE decided to "help others worse off" by having a Driveway Art Show via email and Facebook. She donated 100% of the proceeds to Loaves & Fishes!
Check out her website to see some beautiful artwork!
www.pottleart.com/JMPottle/



J&S BUSINESS PRODUCTS-Ayer, found a creative way to show support for local businesses. Check out their website at: <https://jsbusinessproducts.com>
Purchase a t-shirt for \$20 and \$10 of your purchase will go directly to the business of your choice. We're very fond of the Loaves & Fishes t-shirt!



Fresh lettuce and radishes from our friends at **LITTLETON COMMUNITY FARM!**
Thanks for all you do to support the Pantry.



GOATS? WONDERING HOW GOATS CAN BE DONORS?

No, Tom Brady has not made a donation to Loaves & Fishes, but Ruth Schultz, a local goatscaper has! She offers her team of goats each year to help us clear the overgrowth on the perimeter of the Pantry property. The goats have a yummy meal and Loaves & Fishes has a unique, no cost way of maintaining our grounds!

We think that's a win-win!

WILSON BROS. HVAC-Pepperell



JABIL/NYPRO-Devens



Our sincere thanks to these businesses who have offered to provide a box truck and/or driver to retrieve our orders from the The Greater Boston Food Bank during the past few months!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



BURSAW GAS & OIL-Acton



WAITING IN THE WINGS TO HELP...



Shirley



Fitchburg

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE MAKING ENDS MEET?

We can help!

Visit our no-contact drive-thru. You'll receive groceries including: fresh produce, meat, cheese, eggs, butter, shelf stable items, personal care items and vouchers for milk at a local grocery store.

*** No income requirements ***
Call our counselors with questions
(978)772-4627 x312



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Eric, a new client from Ayer, left us a voice message...

"Thank you so much—it's been hard losing my job and being unemployed during the pandemic. I heard about Loaves & Fishes from a friend of mine who used to visit the Pantry when she was struggling. I'm just happy to have a refrigerator full of food."



volunteer
do good, feel good

TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP..

Email:

volunteer@loavesfishespantry.org

or call (978) 772-4627 x317

Without our **VOLUNTEER CREW**, Loaves & Fishes simply could not survive! The COVID-19 crisis created a shortage of volunteers—over 60 self-selected out due to their age, health or out of concern for members of their household. Our small staff, along with a small crew of volunteers managed to keep the newly implemented drive-thru operational but it quickly became clear that we couldn't sustain that pace. Our brief closure during mid-April allowed us to regroup and recruit over 120 new volunteers—individuals, couples and families! To each of you who have given the gift of your time, thank you. You have helped sustain the Pantry at our time of need and provided so much more than food to our neighbors. **YOU HAVE TRULY MADE A DIFFERENCE!**



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

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**DO YOU NEED HELP WITH GROCERIES?
NO INCOME REQUIREMENTS!**

CALL US: 978-772-4627, x312
EMAIL: clientservices@loavesfishespantry.org
or visit us during a drive-thru session

SWEETNESS...

"Dear Loaves and Fishes, Hi, my name is Megyn Massey. I am seven years old. A couple days ago (fundraiser was done in June), I did a lemonade stand at my dad's work, Babin Landscaping. I got 100 dollars and 22 cents! I am splitting the money in half. I am keeping half and giving half to you, because I want everyone to have food to eat. My parents are matching my \$50.11, so I am sending you a donation totaling \$100.22 to help feed people in need. Thank you for your hard work, take care!"

Megyn, Townsend MA

