

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

Kathleen O'Connor, President
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STAFF

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

Monday 10:00AM-12:00PM and 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

A Simple Thank You



"Thank you doesn't begin to cover all I feel for the many times I have been there and you have all warmly smiled

and made me feel welcome and lent a helping hand."

—L&F Client

We agree a simple heartfelt "Thank you" doesn't seem nearly enough to cover all Loaves & Fishes receives from our contributors.

Loaves & Fishes is deeply grateful for the many individuals, groups, businesses, schools and organizations that reached out to us with donations of food, financial support and gifts to support our holiday programs.

Because of this support, 474 local children were able to open gifts on Christmas morning chosen for them by a parent or grandparent at the Shop For Your Kids program. At the Shop For Your Parents program, children thoughtfully chose gifts for over 300 mothers, fathers and grandparents and Loaves & Fishes volunteers wrapped each gift.

The Board of Trustees and Staff send our simple thank you to all who supported our efforts to feed and lift our neighbors during the holiday season.



Sen. Eldridge and his staff volunteered during the Holiday Dinner Distribution event on December 16th



Shop For Your Kids volunteers took a moment to pose for a group picture!

We are also grateful for the many volunteers who donated their time—all so families in their community could have a brighter holiday season.

Without this support, we could not have provided a turkey and all the fixings to 352 local families for their thanksgiving dinner. In December, 293 families in need also received a ham or turkey and all the fixings for their special holiday dinners.



Pantry volunteers preparing for Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution



What's New?

The Loaves & Fishes Golf Tournament planned for June 9th at Shaker Hills!

Volunteers in the Spotlight!

Recently, one of our volunteers was recognized by the United Way.

Rose Joseph has been volunteering at Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Devens, MA for about five years. She first started there as a food distributor helping clients shop for food in the pantry, but her background in data analysis led her to getting involved with helping the pantry Director and Client Advocate with their reporting need. She has also written software that enables the pantry to run more efficiently, which helps to improve the experience for both the clients and volunteers.



Rose's volunteering began when she worked as a hospital candy striper at the age of fourteen. She continued her volunteer work wherever she lived. While in college, Rose was part of a Hunger Action Group whose purpose was to increase awareness of hunger in the Boston area.

"I have three children and volunteering was harder when they were little, but when my youngest child started kindergarten I began helping out at Loaves & Fishes." Rose's children will sometimes assist her with data entry and they have participated in food and bottle collections in support of Loaves & Fishes. "We like being part of an organization that helps people in such a direct and fundamental way."

Community Partnerships



Students from Lawrence Academy

(Left) As a part of the tradition "It's a day ON, not a day OFF" theme, Lawrence Academy students volunteered at Loaves & Fishes on MLK, Jr. Day, January 19, 2014. The students were here from 10:00AM—2:30PM sorting and stocking donated food under the direction of Paul Niemira, our Food Coordinator.

Extraordinary Young People Getting Involved



After attending a New Volunteer Orientation Session at L&F with her mother, Karen, Anastasia Montoya told her mother she wanted to help people. Her mom planned her 8th birthday party at the

Billiard's Pool Hall in Ayer, in November and she asked all of her guests to bring donations for the food pantry instead of presents for her birthday. Her guests donated almost 400 lbs of food, over \$500 worth of gifts for the Shop For Your Kids and Shop For Your Parents programs and over \$1,600 in financial donations that continued to arrive at the pantry throughout the holiday season!



Cheryl Temple and Pablo Fernandez shown delivering a donation of 481 lbs of food from Littleton High School valued at \$789.00! One of several drives Littleton schools held this year!



Edmund Carnevale (pictured) and Avery Burnham, two eighth graders from Ayer, crafted useful items from colorful duct tape and sold them at school. With the funds they earned from this Youth Venture project, the two purchased gifts for our Shop For Your Kids program. They also donated 134 lbs of food valued at \$227.00!

L&F

By the numbers

86¢ of every dollar donated goes directly to providing food

Loaves & Fishes distributes approximately **11,435 lbs** of food weekly



Introducing Loaves & Fishes Harvest Club

Loaves & Fishes offers a variety of ways to support the pantry through financial donations, goods and services and volunteering. Our Harvest Club recognizes businesses and civic organizations for their outstanding support.

Gold Level Partner

(annual support valued at \$5,000 or more)

Recognition:

- Standalone recognition in public relations efforts and social media outlets
- Prominent exposure on website
- Recognition of partnership at pantry and public venues
- Framed certificate of appreciation
- Photo opportunities
- L&F window decal

Silver Level Partner

(annual support valued at \$2,500—\$4,999)

Recognition:

- Framed certificate
- Mention in public relations efforts and social media outlets
- Photo opportunities
- L&F window decal

Bronze Level Partner

(annual support valued at \$1,000—\$2,499)

Recognition:

- Mention in public relations efforts and social media outlets
- Photo opportunities
- L&F window decal

In our last issue we highlighted our Harvest Club Gold Sponsors. Please take a moment to meet our Silver Sponsors.

Harvest Club Silver Level Partners

BJ's Wholesale Club
Gaining Ground
ISS
Johnson Matthey Pharma Services
Project Bread

Visit our website at www.loavesfishespantry.org for more information about how to become a member of the Harvest Club.



Introducing our newest **Gold Level Partner**—Nashoba Valley Medical Center! Pictured are Gary Donia (Physical Therapist) and Salvatore Perla, (President), presenting Patricia Stern, L&F Executive Director, a donation of **\$5,695.61** raised for L&F during their recent annual Hunger Run!



*Please
accept our
apologies!*

The United Way of North Central Massachusetts

is a **Gold Level Partner**, not a Silver Level Partner as reported in our last newsletter.



Check your mailbox for our Annual Appeal



This Valentine's Day, we are feeling the love! We are grateful for the past 30 years Loaves & Fishes has been lifting and feeding our neighbors because our communities have generously supported our efforts. Today, many of our neighbors continue to struggle to make ends meet and pay for basic necessities including food. With your help during our 2014 annual fundraising effort, Loaves & Fishes is hoping once again to fulfill its mission and maintain its pledge to never turn anyone away.

Every gift will help—a donation of \$30 can feed an individual in need for five days.



With your generosity, we will be able to make sure our neighbors have food in their pantries and other necessities. Won't you please help us help our neighbors in need?

A very big *thank you* to our volunteer

photographers who have attended our special events and provided us with some of these

wonderful photographs—Scott Lewis and Rob Mitchell.



thank you

2013 Shop For Your Kids



Representatives from Learning Express Toys, shown with Lauren Farrell, Trustee of Loaves & Fishes (center), donated 8 boxes of toys to Shop For Your Kids!



For the 7th year in a row, the employees of Vitasoy USA, located in Ayer, donated toys, games, and stocking stuffers to help make the holidays merrier for children in need. All of the items were donated to the Shop For Your Kids program to benefit clients of Loaves & Fishes!

2013 Thanksgiving & Holiday Dinner Distribution Events



Turkeys ready to be distributed by volunteers during the Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution event November 18th



Volunteers from Hannaford Supermarkets helping out at Shop For Your Kids



Tiffany preparing to shop with a client



Judy at the potato station

2013 Shop For Your Parents



Santa and "Mrs. Claus" with the elves!



Santa's "elves" wrapping gift selections !

December 19, 2013

"Instead of so many gifts this year, our 12-year-old son wanted to help a local veteran. We decided a gift to your pantry may do just that. Please accept our donation as a gift from Jack Goodrich."

Warmly,

Samantha Goodrich

Recognition



August of 2013 marked Loaves & Fishes 30th Anniversary! The Pantry has evolved since 1983 when we served our first 50 clients.

To honor our outstanding volunteers we have established our Founders Award, a designation given to volunteers who have devoted 10 years or more of continual service to Loaves & Fishes. Their names have been added to a plaque prominently displayed in the Pantry as a recipient of the Founders Award.

Ed Kelly 1983	Barbara LeDeaux 1983
Betty Stone 1988	Ruthie Broughton 1990
Joyce Reischutz 1991	Cindy Thomas 1992
Gary Gasser 1994	Larry Fisher 1995
Frank Harmon 1996	Lisa Martel 1996
Robert Hewson 1996	Barbara Wilson 1996
Richard Packard 1996	Marie Allen 1997
Nancy Ohringer 1997	Betsy Bohling 1998
Ray Grande 1998	Debby Whitney 1998
Kay Tohline 1998	Richard Carozza 1999
Sharon Briggs 1999	Paul Martel 1999
Edna Del Toro 1999	John Tohline 1999
Joan Pena 1999	Jean Bowden 2000
Bob Bohling 2000	Alan Silberburg 2000
Carol Chodorow 2000	Judy Grande 2001
George Knittel 2001	Mary Shasta 2001
Mary Knittel 2001	Richard Hunt 2001
Janet Stevens 2001	Jane Lyons 2002
Richard Lyons 2002	Judy Pon 2002
Kate McNierney 2003	Marie Johnson 2003



Save the date for the Loaves and Fishes Golf Tournament, Monday, June 9, 2014 at Shaker Hills Golf Club. The shotgun start is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. This event is the last major fundraiser in our 30th Anniversary Year celebration. All net proceeds from the tournament will benefit Loaves & Fishes.



VOLUNTEER
Sign Up

Have you ever considered donating your time? Visit our website at www.loavesfishespantry.org to see ways you can help. Join us for a New Volunteer Orientation Session! Our March sessions will be held on Wednesday, March 5th at 6:30PM and Thursday, March 20th at 9:30AM



Are you struggling to make ends meet?

Loaves & Fishes
can help!

Call (978) 772-4627 x312

Please come and visit, we want to help you!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Friday, April 18th
30th Annual Good Friday Walk, Harvard

Sunday, May 10th
Postal Worker's Food Drive Receiving at Loaves & Fishes 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Monday, June 9th
Golf Tournament, Shaker Hills Golf Club, Harvard

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

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

Has your address changed?

Please email us at
tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org
 or call 978-772-4627 x300
 Let us know if you would rather receive an
 Electronic Newsletter!



Collection Box Locations

AYER	HARVARD
Ayer Post Office	Harvard Post Office
Nashoba Valley Medical Center	LITTLETON
North Middlesex Savings Bank	Citizen's Savings Bank
The Cottage Restaurant	Donelan's Supermarket
The Markham Group	North Middlesex Savings Bank
DEVENS	Northern Bank & Trust
North Middlesex Savings Bank	Littleton Police Department
GROTON	Littleton Post Office
Donelan's Supermarket	Knox Realty
Groton Post Office	SHIRLEY
Groton Public Library	Shirley Post Office
Middlesex Bank	Hazen Library
North Middlesex Savings Bank	North Middlesex Savings Bank
Shaw's Supermarket	Phoenix Park, Building D
Town Hall	Shirley Fire Department
Groton Senior Center	

Donation boxes can also be found in many places of worship in all
 six towns served by Loaves & Fishes



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or scan the QR code

