

**Loaves & Fishes 30th Anniversary**

November 2013

Volume 21, Issue 4

**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*  
 Mary Markham, *Vice President*  
 Doug Lee, *Treasurer*  
 Lauren Farrell, *Secretary*  
 James Hanlon, Aaron Gesin, Jane Logee, Aleta Manugian, Joanne Ouellette, Deb Pappas, Cynthia Thomas

**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

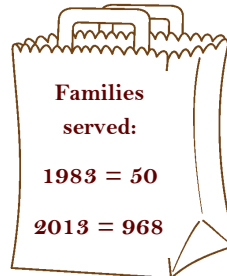
**LOCATION**

234 Barnum Road  
 Devens, MA  
 Mailing address:  
 PO Box 1  
 Ayer, MA 01432  
 Telephone: 978.772.4627  
 Fax: 978.772.7395



**How it All Started**

In 1983, three women recognized a need in their community—people were hungry. With the help of two local churches, St. Andrews Church and The Federated Church, both of Ayer, and a team of volunteers, they provided 50 food insecure families—meaning they were unsure where their next nutritious meal would come from—food in that first year. In our 30th year, Loaves & Fishes is serving almost 1,000 food insecure families.



Loaves & Fishes has had many locations since the early days, and in 2006 after a massive, volunteer-run capital campaign, we moved into our new building at 234 Barnum Road in Devens. Because of the incredible demand for service, we are already outgrowing our space and are exploring new ways to solve this challenge.

**What YOU'VE Accomplished**

Since 1983, we've seen many victories in the fight against hunger thanks to the support of volunteers, donors, companies, organizations, families,

students, parents and individuals, all standing behind our goal to end hunger and our mission to advocate for our clients. We are providing healthier food, developing new programs for our clients and improving the lives of those we serve. Thanks to the support throughout our communities, from individuals to corporations, from community and civic groups to local churches, Loaves & Fishes distributes over 8,000 lbs of food each week.



**The Celebration**

On August 3, 2013, we commemorated the exact date of our first pantry session by holding a celebration at the pantry to honor those who have helped along the way. Loaves & Fishes thanks volunteers who sort cans, farmers who donate fresh-picked produce, Boy and Girl Scout troops and letter carriers who organize food drives, businesses that donate food by the truckload, the school child who donates a can of soup, the grant agencies and private donors who help with operations and the many community members and volunteers who made this anniversary possible.



**What's New?**

Visit our new website at [www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org)

**SAVE THE DATE! June 9, 2014**



First Annual Loaves & Fishes Golf Tournament at Shaker Hills Country Club in Harvard! For more information about becoming a sponsor, participating in the event, or to volunteer, please contact Jim Hanlon at [jvhanlon@yahoo.com](mailto:jvhanlon@yahoo.com)

## Volunteers in the Spotlight!

More than 300 active individuals volunteered over 20,000 hours last year at the Pantry. In our 30th anniversary year, it seems fitting to honor our volunteers and the key roles they play in the success of our fundraising, board activities, office work, property work and pantry operations. Over the next several issues of our newsletter, you will “meet” some of our volunteers and hear what they have to say about their time at Loaves & Fishes.

**Marge Payne of Littleton** volunteers as our Greeter during open pantry sessions. She spent 47 years as an Occupational Therapist before coming to the



Pantry. “I absolutely love Loaves & Fishes” says Marge, who feels lucky she can continue to use her skills working with people. Her greatest satisfaction comes from recognizing a new client appearing “distressed” and providing them “with a smile or a little laugh before they walk down the hall to learn how great Loaves & Fishes is!”

## Want to help?

Loaves & Fishes is in need of volunteers. We are coming up on our busiest time of year serving those who are hungry in our communities. The only qualification required to volunteer is your desire to help someone in need. You don't need any special skills; you don't need a college degree; and there is no required time commitment!

Visit our website at [www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org) or call (978) 772-4627 x 300 and find out how you can help.

**how  
you can  
HELP US**

**Do you own a business?** Send some employees to help during open pantry sessions. It's a great team building experience!

## There are many ways you can help...

**Are you a stay-at-home parent?** Join us for a few hours while the kids are at school.

**Are you retired?** Consider spending time at Loaves & Fishes to lend a hand.

**Make it a family affair!** Spend some quality time together helping your neighbors!

## Extraordinary Young People Getting Involved

Last year, **Andrea Long of Harvard** started thinking about how much joy it brings her to plan her son, **Aiden's** birthday party with him. She then started to think about how much all the supplies cost and how hard it must be for parents who aren't able to purchase these items. “We love planning parties at our house and I thought about how much fun it would be to put birthday bags together throughout the year for children in need.” Andrea and Aiden have filled bags with all the items needed to throw a birthday party, complete with cake mix, frosting and party gifts. Each bag is labeled with the appropriate age and is available in a special section of the food pantry for clients whose children have upcoming birthdays.



*Betsy Bohling shared a photo of the sunflowers grown from the seed packets she received as a token of appreciation for her volunteerism during National Volunteer Month. Thanks for sharing, Betsy!*



*Aidan Long and his friend, Caroline Maiore, both age 9, delivering Birthday in a Bag.*

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU  
**HANA BARKER**

Hana has donated hundreds of hours of her time as well as her technical expertise during the past 9 years as our volunteer newsletter designer. As she moves onto other adventures we wish her well and offer her our sincere thanks!



## Join Our Harvest Club! Become a Gold, Silver or Bronze Partner!



Our Harvest Club includes businesses and civic organizations who partner with Loaves & Fishes. Members of our Harvest Club support us in many ways, including financial support, goods and services and volunteering. Visit our website at [www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org) and find out how to become a Gold, Silver or Bronze Partner.

### Harvest Club Gold Partners (\$5,000 or more of support this past year)

Bemis Associates

Cisco Systems, Inc.

Community Foundation of  
North Central Massachusetts

Donelan's Supermarket (Acton,  
Littleton and Pepperell)

Emergency Food & Shelter  
National Board

Greater Boston Food Bank

Greater Lowell Community  
Foundation

Hannaford Supermarket (Ayer,  
Townsend)

Harvard Lions Club

JK Farnsworth Company

Nashoba Good Friday Walk,  
Inc.

Shaw's Supermarket, Groton

Target

Trader Joe's

Walmart

Visit our website at  
[www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org) to learn more  
about our Harvest Club, our Community  
Partners and how you can become a partner.

## 2013 Annual Meeting October 22, 2013



Lisa Martel (pictured) was the recipient of the "Grande Award" for Outstanding Volunteer Service. Congratulations, Lisa, and thank you for your service!



Seven out of the eleven volunteers honored for the most hours donated during the past year.



**Jake Riggert**, a teenager from Groton, (not pictured), was about to pay his parents back for something they bought him over the summer. His parents offered up a different idea: "We told him, instead of paying us back, use the money in a charitable way. We suggested the Loaves & Fishes Backpack Drive." Jake went shopping at Target and with the amount of money he owed his parents, was able to buy ten backpacks and fill them with supplies. Thank you, Jake!

*300 backpacks filled with supplies were distributed to area children during our Backpack Program in August*

## Community Partnerships



**Hildreth Elementary School** in Harvard recently held a cereal drive to benefit Loaves & Fishes. Their donation was valued at \$1,401! Amazing!



Volunteers receiving and sorting 7,416 lbs of food delivered from the **Shirley Scout Drive** on Sunday, November 10th.

Thank you!

## Even Anonymous Partners...



Every quarter, an anonymous business donor sends us a shipment of brand name laundry detergent! Even though they prefer to remain anonymous, we are grateful for the spirit of community partnership. This quarterly donation provides families with an expensive and necessary everyday item. Thank you! Pictured is one of our volunteers, Joanne Ouellette, with a recent delivery.

## Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution



On **Monday, November 25th**, Loaves & Fishes will hold our annual Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution event. Families receive all of the fixings for their Thanksgiving celebration complete with stuffing, gravy, pie, cranberry sauce, juice, fresh vegetables and even a turkey or chicken. This event requires many hands and hearts to be successful. Visit our website at [www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org) or call (978) 772-4627 x300 to find out more about how you can help.



Volunteer crew at last years Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution Event! What a great time!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

### Monthly Volunteer Orientation Sessions

1st Wednesday evening at 6:30PM  
3rd Thursday morning at 9:30AM

### Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution Prep

Set-up and donation receiving hours:  
Saturday and Sunday, November 23rd and 24th  
from 1-3PM

### Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution Event

Monday, November 25th  
9:30AM-11:00AM and 5:30PM-7:00PM

### Shop For Your Parents

Shriver Job Corps Center, Devens  
Saturday, December 14th

### Holiday Dinner Distribution Prep

Set-up and donation receiving hours:  
Saturday and Sunday, December 14th and 15th  
from 1-3PM

### Holiday Dinner Distribution Event

Monday, December 16th  
9:30AM-11:00AM and 5:30PM-7:00PM

### Shop for Your Kids

Bob Eisengreen Community Center, Devens  
Thursday, December 19th

### Goodlie Companye to Perform at ASRHS

Thursday, December 19th, 7:00PM to benefit  
Loaves & Fishes

### Yuletide Celebration at Ayer Library

Saturday, December 21st, 1-4PM to benefit  
Loaves & Fishes

### Shirley Arts

Community Christmas Concert to benefit Loaves & Fishes  
Sunday, December 22nd 2:00PM  
Ayer Shirley Regional Middle School

## Holiday Dinner Distribution



We need your help to make our Holiday Dinner Distribution, scheduled for **Monday, December 16th**, a success. Please consider donating food, financially or with the gift of your time. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help, visit our website at [www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org) or call us at (978) 772-4627 x300. It's a wonderful program which helps so many families and will definitely remind you of the true meaning of the season.

### DINNER DISTRIBUTIONS MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Stuffing
- Frozen Pies (apple/pumpkin)
- Gravy (Turkey or Chicken)
- Broth (Turkey or Chicken)
- Nuts/Fancy Crackers/Fancy Snacks
- Yams
- Coffee, Tea & Cocoa
- 100% Juice
- Frozen Turkeys (16 lbs. or more)
- Canned Hams (3lbs or more)

*Please deliver your donations during any Open Pantry Session or from 1-3PM on*  
*Saturday, November 23rd*  
*Sunday, November 24th*  
*Saturday, December 14th*  
*Sunday, December 15th*  
*Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry*  
*234 Barnum Road, Devens*

### Donate Appreciated Stock— Increase Your Tax Benefit

Consider donating your appreciated stock shares to Loaves & Fishes before the end of the year. It's a great way to claim a charitable donation deduction, avoid capital gains tax and support the Pantry in our mission to help our neighbors. Contact our Treasurer at [douglee6@gmail.com](mailto:douglee6@gmail.com) to learn more.

Construction on our new website is complete! Take a look...  
[www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org)

**Are you struggling with MAKING ENDS MEET ?**  
**Loaves & Fishes can help!**

Call (978) 772-4627 x312  
Please come and visit, we want to help you!



## Shop For Your Parents Holiday Program

Shop For Your Parents, an event run by Loaves & Fishes volunteers to benefit our clients, will take place on **Saturday, December 14th**. The event will be held at the Shriver Job Corps Center, 270 Jackson Road, Devens. This special day includes a family breakfast, a visit with Santa and of course, “shopping”. The program provides an opportunity for children of Loaves & Fishes clients to select presents for their parents or guardians at no cost and it provides memories they will carry for a lifetime

If you'd like to support the program, we are accepting cash donations or gifts for the parents. It's important to note, however, we can only accept NEW gifts with a minimum value of \$10.00.

Shriver Job Corps and the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the event again this year. Additional support is needed. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please visit our web site at [www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org) to learn how.

Checks should be made out to “Loaves & Fishes” with “Shop For Your Parents” noted in the memo area. Checks may be mailed to Loaves & Fishes, c/o PO Box 215, Ayer, MA 01432.

For gift donation drop-off or pick-up information, event hours, or to learn more about how you can volunteer for this special holiday event, please contact the program coordinators, Marie Allen at 978-772-7510 or [mallen@stemsons.com](mailto:mallen@stemsons.com) and Joan Pena at 978-772-4440 or [jpena@mediapowerinc.com](mailto:jpena@mediapowerinc.com).



Coordinators (“elves”),  
Joan and Marie



Lauren and Elaine help wrap presents.



Excited to meet Santa Claus!



Wrapping presents to bring home for the holidays!

## Shop For Your Kids Holiday Program

### It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

It's back...the highly anticipated Shop For Your Kids event to benefit clients of Loaves & Fishes. This year the event will take place at the Bob Eisengreen Community Center, Devens on **Thursday, December 19th**.

For years, thanks to the generous donations from our supporters, we have helped hundreds of children enjoy a happy holiday. This event requires more than 100 volunteers to collect, sort and display donations and to help our clients choose presents for their children. We are asking for your help once again this season for donations of new, unwrapped toys for children from infancy to age 18. We are especially in

need of gifts for “tween” and teen children. Visit our website at [www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org) to view the most desired items for the 2013 Holiday season. Donations will be accepted at the Bob Eisengreen Community Center from 6PM-8PM on November 18th, December 2nd, 9th and 16th and also at the following collection box locations: Police Stations in Ayer, Groton, Harvard, Littleton and Shirley, Littleton High School, Littletowne Toys and the Littleton and Shirley libraries. We are also grateful for monetary donations, If you would like to sponsor a toy drive, host a donation box or volunteer for this event, please contact us at [LFshop4yourkids@gmail.com](mailto:LFshop4yourkids@gmail.com).



Shop For Your Kids Team



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 have an  
Electronic Newsletter!



**Most Needed Items**

- Soups
- White Tuna
- Canned Pasta
- Helpers/Pasta Sides
- Rice-a-Roni/
- Boxed Flavored Rice
- Canned Beets/Spinach/Corn
- Chick Peas/Garbanzo Beans
- 100% Fruit Juice
- Refried Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Feminine Care Products
- Diapers, size 5 and larger
- Deodorant

**Collection Box Locations**

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



Follow us on Twitter [LoavesFishesMA](#)

Search "Loaves-Fishes-Pantry-in-Devens-MA"



or scan the QR code

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