

November 2019 Volume 27, Issue 2

**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.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Andrea Myette, *President*  
 Jim Breslauer, *Vice President*  
 Don Siegrist, *Treasurer*  
 Scott Lewis, *Clerk*  
 Hilary Curtis, *Jeff Howe*,  
 Sara Stancombe, *Willie Wickman*

**STAFF**

Patricia Stern, *Executive Director*  
 Sharon Cordero, *Administrative Assistant*  
 Paul Niemira, *Food Coordinator*  
 Theresa Wilson, *Client Services Coordinator*  
 Sherrie Forest, *Volunteer Coordinator*  
 John Cauley, *Food Coordinator Assistant*  
 Grace Miller, *Client Counselor*

**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)

*Loaves & Fishes is closed when the Ayer Shirley Regional School District is closed or delayed due to inclement weather. Call (978) 772-4627 for a recorded message.*

**FOOD DONATION TIMES**

- During all Open Pantry Hours
- Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:00PM-8:00PM

**LOCATION**

234 Barnum Road, Devens, MA 01434

Mailing address:  
 PO Box 1, Ayer, MA 01432

Telephone: 978.772.4627  
 Fax: 978.772.7395  
 Email: office@loavesfishespantry.org  
<https://loavesfishespantry.org>



Photo courtesy of Vicki, a client, who prepared this holiday meal last year with groceries she received at the Pantry.

**Take a seat at the table...**

For the past 36 years, Loaves & Fishes has been providing nutritious food to our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. As an organization, we depend upon the generosity of the community—businesses, civic groups, houses of worship, schools, families and individuals—to provide food, funding and the gift of volunteer time. Every act of kindness and generosity is important! Every can of soup, every dollar and every hour of volunteer time makes a difference.

Nothing is guaranteed in this life—health, wealth, a job—and in an instant it could all be taken away from us. During the upcoming holiday season, take some time to reflect and be thankful for what you have been given. Take some time to think about those less fortunate than you who are struggling and then—**“take a seat at the table”** and join us in supporting our neighbors.

My best to everyone for a wonderful holiday season and a peaceful, healthy and happy new year!

*Patty*  
 Executive Director

*Your support will make a huge difference!*



**Most Needed Items:**

Coffee, Tea, Cocoa / Stuffing Mix  
Turkey Gravy / Crackers & Nuts / Canned Yams  
Ham Glaze / Cranberry Sauce / Canned Sliced Pineapple  
Pickles & Olives / Juice

**Financial donations are appreciated and will allow us to purchase turkeys, hams, pies, breads and fresh produce.**

**TO DONATE TO OUR HOLIDAY APPEAL, PLEASE VISIT:**  
<https://loavesfishespantry.org/dinner/>  
or mail your check in the enclosed envelope

*Thank you for taking a seat at the table!*

*Hope*

*“Thank you to everyone at Loaves & Fishes for being kind, welcoming and helpful. Not only do I receive physical nourishment, I feel nourished on other levels. I appreciate all of you. Thank you.”*

A Harvard client living in disabled housing

**TESS**, shown here with her Mom Kelly, organized a lemonade & snowcone stand over the summer and collected \$123 for the Pantry!



## **DO YOU HAVE TIME TO LEND A HAND?**

### **THANKSGIVING DINNER DISTRIBUTION**

Monday, November 25th  
9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.  
5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

### **HOLIDAY DINNER DISTRIBUTION**

Monday, December 16th  
9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.  
5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Contact Sherrie at (978)772-4627 x317 or email: [volunteer@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:volunteer@loavesfishespantry.org) to learn how you can help.



## **GROTON NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PROJECT SETS AN ALL-TIME RECORD!**

During the month of October, 39 Groton neighborhoods collected 6,612 pounds of groceries for the Pantry!

**Want to join in the fun and help your neighbors?** Contact John at [foodassist@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:foodassist@loavesfishespantry.org) to learn more.

**DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE MAKING ENDS MEET?**

A family of four who visits the Pantry twice each month can receive over \$400 worth of groceries including: fresh produce, meat, cheese, eggs, butter, shelf stable items, personal care items and vouchers for milk at a local grocery store.



**Call our Client Services Coordinator at (978) 772-4627x312** with questions or simply visit us during our open pantry hours and bring a proof of residency (a first-class piece of mail showing your name, residential address and a current date) with you. **No income requirements!**



Email: [volunteer@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:volunteer@loavesfishespantry.org) or call (978) 772-4627 x317 to learn how you can help!

New Volunteer Information Sessions:  
Thursday, November 21st @ 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, January 18th at 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, February 5th at 7:00 p.m.

**OPEN PANTRY HOURS**

**WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS**

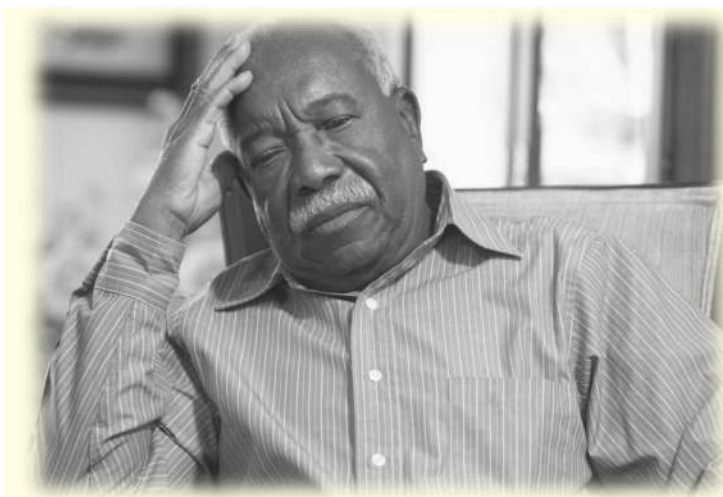
9:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**1st & 3rd SATURDAYS**

of each month  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**2nd TUESDAY**

of each month  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



*“Living on a fixed income is very difficult! I try to keep up on my bills, but I’ve had to make hard choices about heating my home, buying my medications or buying groceries. Loaves & Fishes has helped relieve some of my worries—now I know I’ll have enough to eat.”*

**Rudy, a client**

## Our sincere thanks to our **HARVEST CLUB PARTNERS!**

### **PLATINUM** LEVEL PARTNER

\$10,000 and above

Bemis Associates Inc.  
 Catania Oils  
 Digital Federal Credit Union-  
 Marlborough  
 Donelan's Supermarket-  
 Littleton  
 EFSP National Board  
 Hannaford Supermarket-  
 Lunenburg  
 Hannaford Supermarket-  
 Townsend  
 Market Basket-Littleton  
 Brent & Roberta Maugel  
 Middlesex Savings Bank  
 Charitable Foundation  
 Nashoba GFW, Inc.  
 Daniel Ploof  
 Postal Workers' Food Drive  
 Roche Brothers Supermarket-  
 Acton  
 Shaw's Supermarket-Groton  
 Shirley Scout Drive  
 Shop 'n Save-Ayer  
 The Commonwealth of Mass.  
 The Greater Boston Food Bank  
 The Groton Neighborhood  
 Food Project  
 Trader Joe's-Acton  
 United Way of North Central  
 Massachusetts  
 Whole Foods-Westford

### **GOLD** LEVEL PARTNER

\$5,000-\$9,999

Steve Bakke & Julie Staraitis  
 Community Harvest Project  
 Donelan's Supermarket-  
 Pepperell  
 Gaining Ground  
 Gove Farm  
 Harvard Post Office  
 Holy Trinity Church-  
 St Theresa/St. Francis  
 Timothy Ingraham  
 Jo Nicewicz Carville 1999 Trust

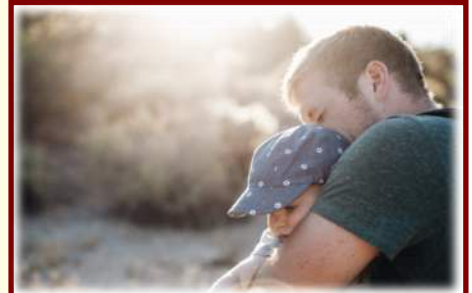
John & Eunice Charitable Fdn.  
 Lewis Studios  
 Little Leaf Farm  
 Paul Matisse  
 North Country Porsche Club  
 Of America  
 Porsche Club of America  
 Northeast Region  
 John & Janice Raguin  
 Saint Anne Parish  
 Donald & Janet Stevens  
 The MBIA Foundation  
 Wilson Brothers HVAC, Inc.  
 Robert Zimmer

### **SILVER** LEVEL PARTNER

\$2,500-\$4,999

Ayer Shirley Regional School  
 District  
 Boy Scouts of America  
 Troops 1 & 13-W. Groton  
 Chubb Bermuda Insurance Ltd.  
 Kathleen Cole & Carolyn Hotchkiss  
 Donelan's Supermarket-Acton  
 Epic Enterprises, Inc.  
 Jim & Lorraine Farnsworth  
 Fidelity Bank-Leominster  
 First Parish Church of Groton  
 Garden at Church Meadows  
 Groton-Dunstable Regional  
 School District  
 Harvard Lions Club  
 Kimball Farm  
 Warren & Meredith Kundert  
 Ted & Connie Lapres  
 Littleton Council of Churches  
 Littleton Middle School  
 Main Street Bank-Marlborough  
 Massachusetts Youth Soccer  
 Massachusetts Teachers Assoc.  
 Maugel Architects  
 Middlesex Savings Bank-Natick  
 Nashoba Valley Medical Center  
 Stephen Roach & Amy Hilbert  
 Robert & Joan Dircks Foundation  
 Tom & Verna Sefranek  
 Senate Construction Corp.  
 Ted & Mary Shasta

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
 Michael Tosi  
 Vitamin 1  
 Richard & Jean Walsh



Bob, an unemployed, single father who just received custody of his 1 year-old daughter, reluctantly visited the Pantry.

***"I was uncomfortable and nervous. I never thought I'd be standing in line waiting for food, but everyone was so nice and welcoming. I left with a full cart of groceries, resources to other helping agencies and a sense of relief that at least I don't have to worry about feeding my daughter while I rebuild my life."***

**Bob, a client**

***We made every effort to include all of our Harvest Club Partners. Please accept our apologies and let us know if you have been missed. Some of our Partners wish to remain anonymous and have not been listed here.***

## Our sincere thanks to our **HARVEST CLUB PARTNERS!**

### **BRONZE** LEVEL PARTNER

\$1,000-\$2,499

14th Masonic District  
 A Helping Hand Foundation, Inc.  
 Acton Toyota of Littleton  
 Ayer Fire Department  
 Ayer Post Office  
 Ayer Public Works  
 Ayer/Shirley Recycling  
 Keith & Vicki Bilafer  
 BJ's Wholesale Club  
 Arthur Boisseau  
 Sarah Campbell  
 Peter & Diane Carson  
 John & Ellen Cauley  
 Congregational Church of Littleton  
 Sara Costello  
 James Curran & Yolanda Rigali  
 Ann Davis  
 Gerard Delpriore  
 Laura Drinkwater  
 Eagle Scout Troop #1-Littleton  
 ETM Manufacturing  
 FMC/Federal Bureau of Prisons  
 First Church Unitarian  
 Flat Stone Farm  
 Read Fleming  
 Friends of Marlboro Seniors  
 James Grier  
 Groton Knights of Columbus #13140  
 Groton-Pepperell Rotary Club  
 Groton Public Library  
 Groton Woman's Club  
 Gary M. Gumuchian  
 Elson Harmon  
 Joseph Harrington  
 Harvard Unitarian Universalist  
 Church  
 Harvard Woman's Club  
 Mark Hashem  
 Hildreth Elementary School-Harvard  
 Michael Horton  
 Ronald & Donna Horvath  
 J.K. Farnsworth Company  
 Maureen Johnson  
 Stephen & Diana Keaney  
 Maureen Keaty

Keller Williams Realty-Boston NW  
 John Keutzer  
 Stephen & Mary Keavel  
 Paul Kouyoumjian & Lisa Webb  
 Laddawn, Inc.  
 Lazaro Paving Corporation  
 William & Judith LeSage  
 Littleton Community Farm  
 Main Street Bank-Ayer  
 Bruce & Lynne Man  
 Dan & Kate Markowitz  
 Michael McDonald  
 McNulty and Associates, Inc.  
 Middlesex Corporation  
 Murphy Insurance Company  
 New England Apple  
 Products Company  
 Northern Bank & Trust-Woburn  
 Nvidia  
 ODIC Inc.  
 Omni Properties, LLC  
 Kathleen Oosterman  
 Page Hilltop School  
 Carl & Lori Phillips  
 Project Bread  
 Philip & Diane Rayla  
 Renegade Miata Club  
 Rollstone Charitable Foundation  
 Leslie H. Row, LICSW  
 Sealed Air Corps  
 Senator James B. Eldridge  
 Russell & Linda Shappy  
 Shirley Post Office  
 Don & Heidi Siegrist  
 Sierra Ventures  
 Tonia Socha  
 Otto & Dorothy Solbrig  
 James & Margaret Soucie  
 St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
 St. Vincent DePaul/St. Catherine  
 Chapter  
 The Bromfield School  
 The Paper Store  
 Union Congregational Church  
 United Steelworkers of America  
 Local 506  
 Nancy Washington  
 Willie & Darrell Wickman  
 Dawn Wilson



Erica, Tommy's mom, worked two jobs trying to pay the bills and provide for her son but there often wasn't enough left for groceries.

***"We often went to bed hungry until we found Loaves & Fishes. They've fed us and given us hope."***

**Erica - a client**

## GRATEFUL



***"The last year has been very tough on our family, emotionally and financially, and all of you at Loaves & Fishes have eased so much worry in so many ways."***

**The Rivera Family**

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

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

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

**CALL US: 978-772-4627, x312**  
**EMAIL: [clientadvocate@loavesfishespantry.org](mailto:clientadvocate@loavesfishespantry.org)**  
**or visit us during an open pantry session**

## THE NEED IS REAL...LAST YEAR...



**847** households/ **1,956** individuals received nutritious groceries

**29%** were children

**11%** were seniors

**28%** of the households earned less than \$10,000 annually

**248** new families visited the Pantry

**575,618** pounds of groceries were distributed