

# Open Table

Caring for Families & Creating Community



Fall 2016

## Announcing Our New Home!

Open Table has found a new home in Maynard, Massachusetts: 33 Main Street, the site of the former Aubuchon building. For the first time, we will have our own designated space, giving us more control over our services and allowing us to customize those services to better serve our guests. We couldn't be more excited!



This is a game-changer: we can become a community center, offering fresh food and healthy life-style information, for more than just two hours weekly and to more people than those who only need groceries.

Since losing our space in the Clock Tower Building in May of 2015, we have been searching for a more permanent space. Our new facility is scheduled to open by January 2017.

Having a permanent site means we can choose our hours of operation and won't have to set up and break down after every event. The onsite refrigeration lets us safely store food when it's ready to be picked up and with fewer limits on space. It also means we can offer fresh, healthy food for our guests to take home to their own pantries, in addition to shelf-stable food.

Having sole control of the space lets us rethink our schedule of dinners and pantry pick-up, including expanded pantry hours. We can offer a place for community gatherings and build a resource network for our guests. And we can fulfill our goal of arranging transportation for persons who need it.

We will continue to host our Thursday night dinners at First Parish in Concord, and the Everett Street pantry location will remain a food drop-off and storage center. Maynard will become our only pantry distribution center.

All these changes allow us to more effectively address the problem of hunger in the suburbs. We are excited about our future in our new home!

## Lifetime of Friendship

Longtime Open Table guest Marie recently celebrated a birthday. Known formerly as the "Bread Lady" – the volunteer who picked up the bread donated by local grocery stores – she has been here so long everyone simply knows her as "Marie." She attends our weekly Thursday dinners, along with her good friend Julie. Marie, who is of Sicilian descent, grew up in the Newark area, the daughter of bakers.

A chef in her own right, she has been an integral part of Open Table, attending, supporting and volunteering. And while she still comes for the meals, it's the fellowship she truly embraces, saying, "For a few hours every week, you get to forget your troubles." We at Open Table love Marie and wish her a very happy birthday!



Julie, Marie & Peter

## Our Mission

*Open Table's mission is to provide healthy food, friendship and support to those in need while respecting their privacy and dignity.*

Founded in 1989, Open Table offers weekly community dinner and food pantries in Concord and Maynard to more than 300 guests — all are welcome.

## Our Services in Numbers

### OPEN TABLE HAS:

- Over 450 volunteers committed to providing access to food
- 18 retailers throughout Concord, Maynard, Sudbury and Acton who donate food for our dinners and pantry
- 6 local farms that donate fresh, locally-grown produce
- 55 food drives annually that benefit Open Table, run by dedicated local community members.

### OUR GUESTS RECEIVE:

- Access to food 52 weeks of the year at one or more of our 3 sites
- Fresh produce, protein and dairy when they shop our pantry, in addition to staples
- Kids' bags containing healthy snacks and child-friendly foods for those with families
- Transportation to our dinner and pantry for our elderly guests
- Discreet assistance to guests who need special help
- Emergency support to families in crisis.

### OUR VOLUNTEERS GIVE:

- 15,000+ hours of volunteer time as a group
- Service of 9,000 meals annually, 150 meals weekly at community dinners
- Distribution of groceries to 1700 individuals monthly
- 50 trips to the Greater Boston Food Bank, bringing back 260,000 pounds of food annually to use in our pantry and dinner programs
- Distribution of 350,000 pounds of food annually to our many guests.



## Introducing our new Executive Director, Jeanine Calabria

Managing our newly leased space and our expanded plans will take strong leadership and commitment. It requires dedicated staff that can give more time and energy than Open Table has required in the past. Since our founding more than 25 years ago, we've grown from providing one weekly dinner in Concord to serving weekly dinners in both Concord and Maynard and staffing two pantries. Recently, we've been breaking our own records, feeding and stocking the pantries of record numbers of guests.

Research by Greater Boston Food Bank and other food relief organizations similar to Open Table has found that this kind of work requires paid staff, as volunteers frequently don't have the time and schedule flexibility to take on this effort.

Recognizing this, Open Table has also hired our first paid staff member, Jeanine Calabria, as our part-time Executive Director. Jeanine has had a long and successful relationship with Open Table, having volunteered as a cook, shopper, and fundraiser. Most recently, she has served as Open Table's president for the past three years.

In her new position, Jeanine will represent Open Table to the community at large, supervise and guide site Operations Leaders, and oversee communications and development to ensure that Operations has the support it needs to continue Open Table's excellent record of building community, stocking pantries and being open to all who come. She started her new position as Executive Director on August 1.

## Opportunities for Community Engagement

This fall sees four unique opportunities for people in the community to get involved with Open Table, through donating money or time, or event participation.

- SEP 25** *Three Squares New England—Ride for Food, Sept. 25:* Support Open Table's team of cyclists in this ride to raise money to address food insecurity around New England. To donate to our team, go to <https://ride.threesquaresne.org/fundraise/team?ftid=76319>
- SEP-OCT 30-2** *Food Drive sponsored by Whole Foods, Bedford, Sept. 30-Oct. 2:* Come by to shop or take a shift at our food donations table and talk about Open Table. Two hour shifts are available Fri. 12-6, Sat. & Sun. 10-6. Sign up at [outreach@opentable.org](mailto:outreach@opentable.org)
- NOV 3** *Empty Bowls at The Umbrella, Nov. 3, 6-8 pm:* Make a suggested \$20 donation and select a ceramic bowl made by a local artist, enjoy a meal in it, then take the bowl home to keep. Soup and bread will be donated by local businesses, and a portion of the proceeds will go to Open Table. More information is at <http://theumbrellaarts.org/>
- NOV 24** *Turkey Trot in Concord, Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 24:* Volunteer to register runners and take donations. Starts 7:30 am, ends well before the turkey is out of the oven. Find details at <http://www.onyourmarx.com/concordTT/concordTT.asp>

## Open Table

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