



# OPEN TABLE

FRESH FOOD. HEALTHY COMMUNITY.

## *News from around the table*



## **Tis the season...**

How do our families create a memorable holiday meal? With the help of our generous partners! Greater Boston Food Bank supplies the vast majority of birds and honey-baked hams, while local grocery store Donelan's provides us with a wealth of canned and shelf-stable items, as well as hearty discounts on small hams.

Between those resources and the many items that come in from local food drives – all carefully counted and stored by our diligent volunteers – we make sure every family has a holiday meal to remember.

# Volunteer Spotlight: Tomoko

After volunteering at Open Table for five years, Tomoko will be returning to her home in Tokyo to start a new life chapter. Tomoko is a volunteer “extraordinaire” - wonderful to work with and impossible to replace. I have had the good fortune to work with Tomoko at Open Table in a number of areas. There is no task too difficult, heavy, dirty or distasteful for her. Tomoko will step up and do any task required, and she does it with ease and a big smile.



There are a number of volunteers at Open Table who fill many shoes and would be a tremendous loss to the organization, but Tomoko will leave a void for many reasons. The first thing people say when they hear she is leaving is that we will need three or four volunteers to replace her. It’s not just her work ethic; it’s her spirit and joyful presence. Every single individual who has worked with Tomoko will tell you that she is special!

We wish her great happiness and success in her next chapter. Tomoko will be greatly missed! I think she takes a little piece of our hearts with her.

*Judy Sum*



## New face in town: Rose Saia

We’re thrilled to announce a new employee at Open Table: Rose Saia is joining our team as a part-time operations assistant beginning in January. Rose brings restaurant experience to Open Table, having owned and operated the Local Table restaurant

in Acton. She has served as managing director of Parents in a Pinch, a group designed to help busy parents with adult and child caregiving emergencies.

She is also the co-founder and producer of the very excellent Fugitive Stories, an organization which collaborates with local nonprofit organizations to showcase their mission through storytelling,

We're excited to welcome Rose to the Open Table family!

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## We have THE best volunteers – really!

Did you know it takes close to 300 volunteers each week to do all the many and varied tasks necessary to keep Open



Table running? These passionate, dedicated people don't just give their time to our cause, they also give their money, donating to our Capital Campaign, our Annual Appeal, the Ride for Food, Empty Bowls...you name it, they've been there. And we're especially grateful THIS year, a year with lots of growth and changes, for their donations of time and money. We really couldn't do all that we do without each and every one of them. Thank you, volunteers!

### There is still time...

...to donate to either our Capital Campaign or Annual Fund. Or both! We really don't judge. Get it in before December 31<sup>st</sup> for the tax break.

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