

OPEN TABLE

FRESH FOOD. HEALTHY COMMUNITY.

News from around the table

Star-ry Night

The stars are aligned for an outstanding annual meeting! On Wednesday, September 25, we want to fete YOU, our volunteers, who shine for Open Table! The festivities begin at 6 pm at First Parish Church in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, with a light dinner and non-alcoholic beverages along with mixing and mingling. Plus — the World Premiere of our new Open Table video!



Following the reception at 7 pm is our Annual Meeting, where we'll present some of the amazing successes and changes of this past year while unveiling our plans for the future. Let us know if you're coming [HERE](#). Questions? Contact events@opentable.org.



It's almost here!

[The Ride for Food](#) is just a few short weeks away, and we'd love to have new riders join our team. It's a fun way to support our organization while hanging with a great group of people, and the event itself is world class. Click [HERE](#) for

information and to register. See you October 6!

What's Up in the Pantry

This month, big thanks go to the [Middlesex Chapter of the National Charities League](#) (NCL), the mother-daughter charitable organization that ran a cereal drive for Open Table. They collected 84 boxes at their September kickoff meeting!

And now, with cooler weather coming on, we need soup! Canned, boxed, bagged, whatever you can get — soups of all kinds are in demand in the pantry.



Cream Soup



Concord Academy Service Day

On Friday, September 6, 25 sophomores from Concord Academy came to Open Table to identify ways to actively address hunger in their school community. To gain an understanding of what the face of hunger looks like, they moved through the site as guests do, role-playing with scripts and reflecting on how it feels to struggle with food insecurity.

They also worked at each of the pantry stations, from weeding the outside gardens to stocking the pantry, creating prepared meals, and brainstorming fundraising ideas. At the end of the day, they had a clearer view of food insecurity and we had a sparkling clean, well-stocked facility, ready for the next pantry day.

Volunteer Help Needed

Administrative support volunteers needed: Flexible 2 hour shift between 9 AM and 2:00 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays.

Pantry distribution help needed: Thursday 4:30-6:30pm

Contact: volunteer@opentable.org for more information or to sign up!



We're staffed up!

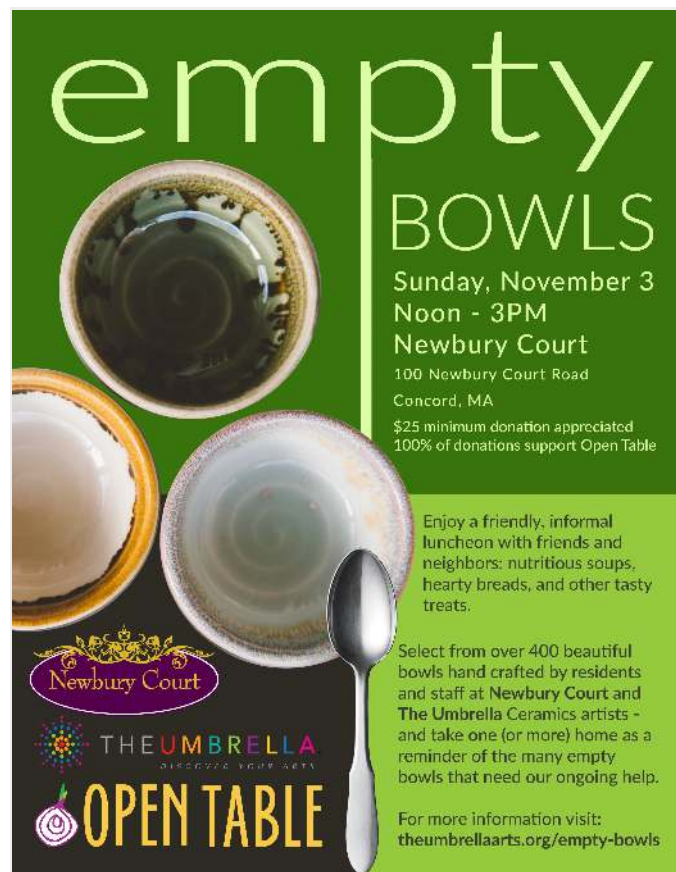
Good news is, we're feeding more people than ever and growing as an organization. The challenge? Having the staff to handle all that growth. For a long time we've been a fully volunteer organization. But to handle the increasing need, we had to have a better plan. So we worked with consultants, and looked at what other food organizations do, to understand we needed to hire staff to handle key positions.

We have now completed the first phase of our strategic plan, bringing our paid staff up to three full-time and five part-time. We think this will better enable us to fulfill our mission of getting food to people who need it.

Here's a look at the talented staff we have on board:

Pictured are (front row) Stephanie Shenton, Kitchen Manager/Concord; Heather Hernandez, Business Manager; Jeanine Calabria, Executive Director; Samantha Hohl, Program Manager; Barbara Blankenship, Kitchen Manager/Maynard; (back row) Christine Evans, Development/Marketing Manager; Rob Slattery, Operations/Facilities Manager; and Jeff Geraghty, Truck Driver/Pantry Assistant.





Save the Date – Empty Bowls

Put aside Sunday, November 3, for the annual [Empty Bowls](#) fundraiser. Held at [Newbury Court](#) in collaboration with [The Umbrella](#), this event features more than 400 unique and beautiful handmade bowls.

Plus you will be served delicious soup and hearty bread, so it's lunch AND bowls! All for a suggested donation of \$25.

The event runs from noon to 3 pm, but we suggest getting there early to be able to peruse and gush about the beautiful ceramics.



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