



OPEN TABLE

FRESH FOOD. HEALTHY COMMUNITY.

News from around the table



2019 Ride for Food is in the books!

The rain held off and the 8th Annual Ride for Food went off without a hitch! On Sunday, October 6, 22 Open Table riders joined hundreds of others to ride 10-, 25- or 50-mile routes, raising money for food in the process. A huge shout-out to everyone who organized, volunteered, rode and fundraised for this remarkable event.

And while we have already raised over \$27k, we are still hoping to make our goal of \$35k. The donation page will stay open until December 1; go [HERE](#) to help Open Table cross the finish line.



Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

Close to 100 people joined us for food, accolades and updates at our Volunteer Celebration and Annual Meeting, which took place on September 25th. We had the opportunity to thank our tireless

volunteers, generous donors and committed partner organizations with a delicious dinner, the premier of our new video, and updates on the future of Open Table. Kudos to the crack planning team who put together a first-class event! Check out the photos [HERE](#).

A new look for Everett Street

Our newly renovated Community Donation Center at 105 Everett Street in Concord is ready for business! We've done some major renovations, thanks to a generous grant from the [Foundation for MetroWest](#), and the space officially reopened on October 22nd. Drop-off times will be Tuesdays from 2-5 pm, and Saturday mornings. Our excellent team will be on hand then to take your food items and/or kids' bags -- decorated bags of healthy snacks for kids.



If you can't get there during those times, there's a beige chest behind the building where you can drop off donations. You can also register your drive directly online at opentable.org/donate-groceries/.

(Pictured l-r: Our Community Donations team, Kerry Munro, Joyce Weissman, Judy Sum and Amy Newell)

We currently need the following items:

- Cooking oils – vegetable or olive oil
- Oatmeal or whole grain hot cereals (individual size packs welcomed)
- Canned Soups (no tomato or chicken soup please)
- Coffee (ground or instant, (no coffee pods please)
- Tea and/or hot chocolate (hot cocoa individual pack boxes welcome)
- Almond or soy milk (shelf stable)
- White tuna in water
- Stews and/or other canned meat proteins
- Pasta sauce (marinara, with meat and/or veggies)
- Side dishes (pilaf, noodle dishes, whole grain side dishes)
- Nuts, dried fruits, snack mixes

- Individual snack packs of nuts, dried fruits and snack mixes
- Gluten-free side dishes/foods of any type
- Gluten Free Soups
- Gluten Free Cereals (Cheerios)



Don't forget Empty Bowls!

It's almost time for the annual [Empty Bowls](#) fundraiser! It's happening Sunday, November 3rd from 12-3, and there are more bowls (and dare we say more beautiful?) than ever before.

Held at [Newbury Court](#) in collaboration with [The Umbrella](#), this event features more than 400 unique and beautiful handmade bowls. When you make a suggested donation of at least \$25, you get to pick a bowl and then be served delicious soup and hearty bread.

It's a great way to support Open Table while having lunch and getting some beautiful handmade pottery.

Volunteers Needed

Many hands make light work, and we need many hands! Here are three specific ways you can get involved in helping feed people:



Pantry helpers: Critical need for people on Tuesdays and Thursdays, either at 2:30 or 4:30, to help with pantry distribution. Grab some friends, your church group, or a work team and [sign up here](#) to come help out.

Site Managers: Are you a quick responder in a crisis? Site managers act as "lifeguards" when our pantry is open for distribution, ready to be the leader in any on site emergency (supported by staff and other volunteers). Shifts are two hours, and if you're not sure what to do, don't worry, we'll train you ahead of time.

Administrative support: If you can give even an hour of your time, we can use you! Photocopying, stuffing envelopes, data entry – simple tasks that really help us out.

And if you'd like information on any of our Volunteer Leadership positions, contact us at volunteer@opentable.org.



Two grants, two great organizations to thank

Not everyone who needs Open Table can get here, and we can't get TO everyone who needs us. That is, until now. Thanks to a grant from **TJX**

Foundation (the people who bring you TJ Maxx, Marshalls and Home Goods),

people without their own transportation will now have a way to access our pantry. We're working out the details, but are more than grateful to an organization who saw our need and filled it. Thank you, TJX!

Also, collecting, sorting, and distributing that food takes a lot of overhead. Good thing **Maynard Community Chest** knows that -- they gave a generous donation to help with operating expenses so we can continue to provide food to those who need it in Maynard and surrounding towns. Did you know that, in 2018, 26% of our guests came from Maynard? We are proud to be a good neighbor here in Maynard, and more than thankful to this local organization for their support.



Kudos to Community Food Drives!

While Open Table gets food from a variety of sources, we couldn't survive without those in the community who run food drives. In October alone, we have the following generous groups and individuals to thank for bringing more necessary food items and kids' snack bags into our pantry: **Concord**

Recreation is holding a "Scare Away Hunger" Food Drive; **Joshua White** ran a food drive in his neighborhood; the **Willard 5th Grade Service Day** created kids' bags; **Alicia Cabrera and her two sons** created 40 kids' bags; the **Carr Connelly family** held a party to make kids' bags; and the **Gernon family** is holding an Oktoberfest to collect food donations.

If you have an idea for a food drive, or want to run one yourself, learn more or register at opentable.org/donate-groceries/ or contact fooddonations@opentable.org.



Upcoming Specialty Dinners

We serve community dinners every Monday in Maynard (doors open at 5, dinner served at 6), and Thursday in Concord (doors open at 4:45, dinner served at 5:30).

But every month we offer theme dinners. Here's what's coming up:

October 28, Maynard: a Halloween-themed party and dinner, including a costume contest and fun spooky food! Young and old alike are encouraged to wear their Halloween finest and gear up for scary treats.

November 4, Maynard: Breakfast for Dinner, including blueberry pancakes with all the fixings.

November 21, Concord: Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. All are welcome!



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