



News from around the table

Good News Edition

We want to thank each and every one of you for your amazing support during the challenging month of March. People are reaching out, unsolicited, and asking how they can help. With your generous donations of time and money, we've been able to keep providing groceries to our many regular clients as well as the dozens of new families adversely affected by the current pandemic. You are the backbone of all we do. So here, then, are some of the positive stories of the past few weeks.

Food glorious food!

Did you know that we distribute an average of 10,000 pounds of food per week? And while much of this food comes from the Greater Boston Food Bank and donations from local grocers, a critical portion comes from people like you through food drives like these:



Dylan of the Meadowbrook School in Weston collected almost 180 pounds of food during a food drive in March.

The Dover Street Neighbors Association collected over 100 pounds of donated food as part of their Pop Up Drop Off Food Drive.

Girl Scout Troop 62882 from Sudbury assembled and decorated over 200 kids' bags.

Fit Body Boot Camp in Acton members collected 243 pounds of groceries, grocery gift cards, and funds.

And during two food drop-off days at our Community Donation Center in March, we collected over 2000 pounds of food and \$800 in monetary donations. [Concord Recreation](#) came by and gave us all their kids' snacks.

Thanks to these generous people, our clients have enough food in their grocery bags so far this month!



Volunteers stepping up

The concern over the COVID-19 infection has caused some of our volunteers to step back temporarily, as they look after their own health. But it has also brought new volunteers to the forefront to fill the gap.

These intrepid souls are filling grocery bags and standing outside in all kinds of weather to stow the bags in guests' trunks as they go through our drive-through pantry. This new set-up helps volunteers and our guests maintain a safe distance from each other, but does mean fewer people doing more work. Nevertheless, our intrepid volunteers keep showing up and keep smiling, meaning we can continue to fill the growing need for food.

A new normal

For those who don't know, we have suspended our Community Dinners for the foreseeable future and changed our pantry distribution from a choose-your-own to pre-packed bags. These include a bag of dry goods, a bag of dairy, one bag of proteins and one with fresh produce. There's also an option to take a ready-to-eat meal.



Instead of coming into the building, guests drive into the Maynard Municipal Parking lot where volunteers stand ready to place the bags of groceries directly in the trunks of their cars. This minimizes contact between volunteers and guests, allowing us to distribute more food to more people in a safer environment.

Taking the show on the road

Not everyone can get to us. Thankfully, we're working out ways to get food to THEM. This month we're starting a new partnership with the [Hudson Health Department](#), bringing mobile food pantry service to two residential complexes for seniors operated by the [Hudson Housing Authority](#) and the [Boys & Girls Club of Hudson](#). This service will provide food for around 100 households who are elderly, disabled, unable to drive, or unable to afford enough groceries to meet their nutritional needs.



We have also partnered with the [Bedford Veterans Affairs](#) organization to get needed food to housebound veterans. They are sending a truck to us weekly so we can fill it with groceries to meet their needs.

And lastly, we're working with the [Neighbor Brigade](#) to have meals delivered to individuals in the towns we serve.

It's a win-win for everyone.



EGGStraordinary times

Did you know it takes millions of eggs to develop a vaccine? Neither did we. The race for a COVID-19 vaccine, not to mention the baking happening now that people are home all day, is causing a scarcity of the oval protein packages. The result is fewer cartons available to food pantries.

When we don't get eggs at no cost we have to purchase them; they're a simple and adaptable source of protein and a staple for most people. And because you can't get new chickens as quickly as, say, new heads of lettuce, replacing those eggs can run as much as \$500 A WEEK. You heard that right.

That's why we're doing a fundraiser in April – the month of Easter and Passover – to make sure we can continue to provide eggs, as well as any other items impacted by the current crisis, to our guests. Any amount helps; just click here to make a donation. And thank you!

[Donate Now](#)

A message of thanks

And now, a note of thanks, proof that all you are doing for Open Table is making a difference:

I just want to thank everyone at Open Table for being so creative and diligent in serving the needs of the community during the challenges of COVID19. Thanks to you and your team for all that you do! Words cannot express my appreciation for how you are supporting others!

Bethany
Social Worker for the Town of Sudbury

