



News from around the table

A Virtual Town Hall, Coming Soon!

A lot has changed at Open Table since March, when a pandemic came to town. To catch everyone up, and give a glimpse into what our future holds, we're holding a virtual Town Hall, Thursday, July 30 at 11 am. Join us on Google Meet to hear how we were able to completely reinvent our way of doing business in order to serve more people while still keeping our volunteers safely engaged. Look for an invitation (and link information) in your inbox next week!



Got Food??

We're holding a Concord Summer Food Drive on Wednesday, July 22, from 10 am to noon. Drop off is at our Everett Street Community Donations Center, 103 Everett Street, Concord.

Donors can simply pull up along the curb and pop their trunks; masked and gloved volunteers will take the food from the cars. And each car will receive a fun Open Table bumper magnet! A full list needed items is available here but we can also use stews and other canned meat proteins, canned soups, white tuna in water, oatmeal and whole grain hot cereals, nuts, dried fruits and snack mixes. Come on by!

Collaboration Counts

You may think of Open Table as a food pantry, but these days we are so much more: instead of waiting for people to come to us, we're bringing the food to them. Here's some of the new ways how:



- We launched our first delivery in support of Concord Carlisle High School's drive-thru food service by providing frozen food and dry goods for 75 families weekly. [Gaining Ground](#) is working with us on this endeavor; we're looking forward to continuing our support.
- We convened the Maynard Food Relief Resource Group to work with the school system and other town services, as well as [Greater Boston Food Bank](#), to address food supply issues.
- We were tapped by the state's [COVID Tracing Team](#) to be listed as a last-minute food source for families in need recently diagnosed with COVID. To fulfill those requests, we've partnered with [Neighbor Brigade](#).
- We're continuing to identify communities that can use the services of our mobile food pantry, like we have been doing in Hudson, serving families needing food assistance who can't get to our pantry.

Collaboration and teamwork are the main themes in how we're able to accomplish all this, proving we're stronger when we work together.

Get Outside

Walk, run, bike, hike, swim – it's time to get outside and MOVE! And while you're moving, raise some dough for Open Table. This year's [Ride for Food](#), a huge support for Open Table, is virtual, and not limited to biking. More participants means more money for Open Table, so grab some friends and join our team.



Registration is just \$25; you can get all the good info [here](#).

Join/Support the Team



We Get by with a Little Help from our Friends

Longtime supporter [Middlesex Savings Bank](#) has reached out to give us some relief during the time of COVID. The Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation gave Open Table a grant so we can continue feeding people in our area. When times are challenging, it's nice to be able to count on your neighbors for support; with MSB, we know we're never alone.

Collecting Food Together

Many thanks to [Crosby's Marketplace Concord](#), the [Concord Lions Club](#), and the residents of Concord and surrounding towns, for the on-going food drive on behalf of Open Table. Since the beginning of the Massachusetts shelter-in-place order to the present, the donation bin at Crosby's has collected a remarkable 18,629 pounds of food for Open Table guests. Since March 14, the Concord Lions Club has helped to manage the donation bin, helping to collect food (or monetary) donations.



On July 9th, Executive Director Jeanine Calabria, and Stephen Crane, Concord Town Manager, personally thanked John Cummings, general manager, Crosby's Marketplace, and Dan Reilly and other members of Concord Lion's Club.

"During the current public health emergency, the Greater Boston Food Bank has experienced an unprecedented demand for food. At the same time, Open Table has faced record-breaking attendance at its Maynard food pantry," said Jeanine. "The recent food drive at Crosby's Marketplace has made a huge impact on Open Table's ability to service its clients and to help fight food insecurity in the Metrowest area."

Donate Now



Anyone Can Thistle

On August 1st, [Thistle Hill](#) clothing store in Concord Center will donate 20% of all sales to Open Table. This is a perfect time to stroll into their store and check out their beautiful wares. Whether you're shopping for a gift or indulging yourself, you'll also be helping to feed people. We're grateful to Thistle Hill for being a generous community partner!

SOS Kitchen

Open Table's SOS Kitchen challenges local chefs and our talented kitchen crew to create beautiful, healthy, and delicious meals from our surplus foods. Each week we create hundreds of prepared meals for our guests - a big help to seniors, busy families, those with limited cooking facilities, or anyone who just needs a break from cooking. In our new SOS Kitchen YouTube series, we'll be giving you peeks into the kitchen to see the team in action!

Local "celebrity" chefs donate their time and talent to help feed more people. This week's celebrity is **Chef Mark Valentine of Kitchen to Table Foods**. Watch as he creates a delicious chicken pasta dish.



Watch Chef Mark Valentine create a delicious chicken pasta meal for our guests in the first episode of SOS Kitchen!

