



## News from around the table

Please note: our pantry pickup hours are Tuesdays 1-6:30 and Thursdays 1-4:30. New guests are welcome to come at any time during those hours to pick up their first groceries and to set up a regular appointment time.

## Bumper crop!

The dog days of August bring an abundance of fresh produce from area farms, large and small. For 30 years we have been fortunate to partner with [Gaining Ground](#) and [Drumlin Farm](#), two local organic farms that have provided us with literally TONS of vegetables. This year Drumlin, which normally provides produce to restaurants that have now scaled back, has brought us even more fresh, local, organic produce.



And now we have several new partners! [Aurelia's Garden](#) is a community of passionate volunteers dedicated to growing fresh produce specifically to address local food insecurity. They recently brought us their first food donation, grown in their Wayland garden. And we've been gifted with beautiful blueberries from [Blue Meadow Farm](#) in Sudbury; squash, zucchini and other veggies from the Massachusetts Correctional Institute; and a plethora of produce from local community gardens and private gardeners, as well as the overflow from CSA farm shares.

These smaller contributors bring variety to the table so that we now offer a "Farmer's Market Table" at our drive-thru pantry, giving guests the opportunity to "choose" more produce from what's available. And Open Table now has more produce to bring to our Mobile Pantry Partners (see article below), spreading fresh and healthy food far and wide.



## Save the Date!

Yes, our Annual Meeting is happening, albeit virtually. We'll be presenting our top priorities for the next year while honoring our volunteers who make it all look so easy. So put September 23 on your calendar and look for the link to join us live.

## Welcome to Our New Program Manager

Jill Tsakiris is stepping into the role of Program Manager! Earlier this year, Jill filled in for Executive Director Jeanine Calabria during her sabbatical. She brings deep experience working with nonprofits and will work to help improve our operational systems in order to better our guest experience. Jill is filling the vacancy left by previous Program Manager Samantha Hohl, who is leaving to pursue a new career. We wish Samantha luck as she moves on and look forward to having Jill onboard.



## Going Mobile

Not everyone can come to us, so we're using our refrigerated truck to bring Open Table to them. Our mobile pantry has expanded to include the Assembly of God church in Hudson and a pop-up pantry in Maynard. We've also brought shelf-stable and frozen goods to Concord Carlisle High School for their food distribution program. And we're talking to other towns in our service area to see how we can bring the pantry to even more places.



## SOS Kitchen

Love watching those cooking shows where the chefs get unusual ingredients and have to make a meal? We do, too! And that's what our chefs do each week with our surplus food: we challenge them to make a takeaway meal for our guests. These transformations are so fun to watch, we've started to record and share them. Look for new episodes on our Facebook page and YouTube site.

The chef featured in today's video is Tom Marshall, who came to us when he says he "biked by and got hooked into cooking." You can support Tom's Ride for Food (see article below) at his fundraising page [here](#).

And if you want to know how to make some simple recipes yourself, we'll soon be launching a new series of videos. They'll showcase ways to use the food that comes in the bags each week, such as pizza with veggies. Look for the notice on our website and social media.

## Ride for Food

This fundraising event, organized by Three Squares New England, brings a much-needed boost to the money we need to keep feeding people. We need more help! Please consider joining our team or supporting an existing member. You can see our donation page [here](#).



[Support the Team](#)



## We got the grants!

It takes a village to feed people in need, and we are so fortunate to have the following organizations as part of OUR village. These partners of Open Table have recently given generous grants because they, too, want to cure food insecurity. They also do a lot of other wonderful things for local communities.

[Foundation for MetroWest](#)  
[Maynard Community Chest](#)  
[Acton-Boxborough United Way](#)  
[This Old House/TZP Cares Foundation](#)

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