



News from around the table

Nobel Peace Prize goes to World Food Programme

This year's Nobel Prize committee recognizes the critical connection between conflict and food insecurity by bestowing their peace prize on the World Food Programme (WFP). This organization works in places with ongoing conflict, ensuring that hunger does not become a weapon of war. They realize that turmoil exacerbates food insecurity and work to combat that around the globe.



Here in our corner of the world, Open Table sees firsthand the effect of a global pandemic on families' economic and emotional lives, and works to solve the food aspect of both. We applaud the Nobel Prize committee for honoring WFP and their mission to address world hunger.



Last Call for the Ride for Food

There's still time left to donate to our Ride for Food, but only until November 30th. So far we've raised nearly \$25k toward our goal of \$35k - we're 70%

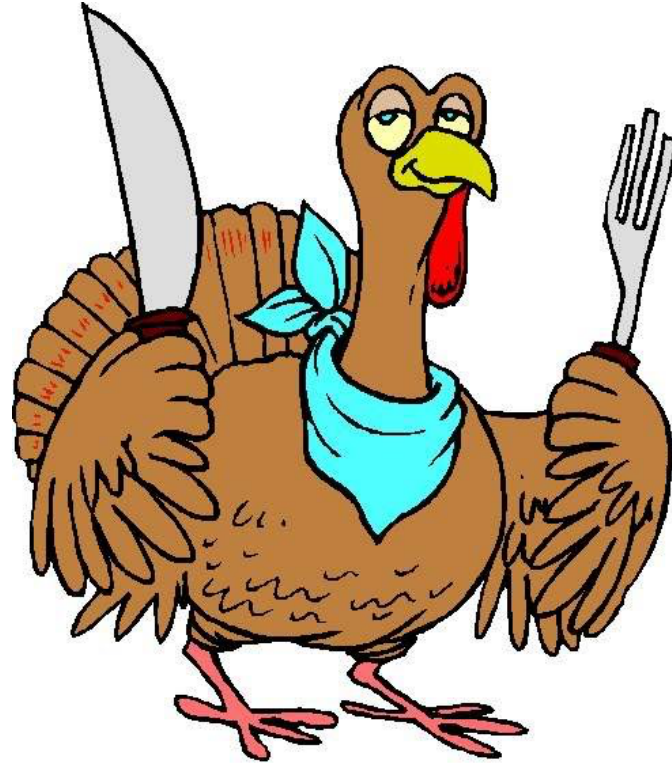
there. Every little bit helps! Our riders have been on their bikes since spring, riding through hill and dale to raise money. Pick one to support [here](#).

[Support the Team](#)

Thanksgiving Plan

This year's holidays will be far different than anything we've seen before, thanks to a global pandemic. Families will be separated, gatherings will be smaller, but the need for food will still be great. To meet that need, and to give people something to celebrate, Open Table will provide 450 prepared Thanksgiving meals for pick up on **Tuesday, November 24th** from 10 am to 6 pm.

This wonderful meal -- including turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, cranberry, vegetable and seasonal dessert -- will be available for REGISTERED Open Table pantry guests only, and will be distributed at our location at 33 Main Street, Maynard.



Reservations for meals will be taken the last week of October during our regular pantry distribution and will continue until we run out of meals.

Please note: there will be no regular pantry hours the week of Thanksgiving, just the Tuesday to pick up your Thanksgiving meal.

Scarecrows!

Nothing says "fall" like a scarecrow or two. And thanks to our crafty staff, Open Table is represented at the annual Scarecrow Festival, sponsored by the [Concord Free Public Library](#). Our parent and child scarecrows join others on the lawn of the Main Library through Friday, October 30. Stop by and take a look at our creations!

And if you take a selfie with them and tag us on Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter ([@Opentablema](#)) with the hashtag [#scareawayhunger](#) you will be entered into a drawing for one of our Open Table aprons! Winner will be drawn on Halloween.



Work Some Magic

There is still time to work some fall magic and bring good, healthy food to families that may be facing food insecurity. With a flick of the wrist and a click of some buttons, you can help us stock up on healthy food choices -- and it's a completely COVID-safe activity, as it is a VIRTUAL food drive. Shop for items [here](#), and when the drive is over the food will be delivered to Open Table and we will distribute it in our pantry and mobile programs. Like magic, there will be more love, less hunger!



[Work Some Magic Now!](#)



Walk for Hunger Thanks

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual **Walk for Hunger**, organized by [Project Bread](#), originally scheduled for May 3rd this year, was canceled. However, The Walk is the largest

community fundraiser to alleviate hunger in Massachusetts and solve its root causes, and the fundraiser continued on - virtually. Under the intrepid leadership of **Leah Whitehead and Suzie Weaver**, the Open Table team raised over \$3,300. This fundraising effort became even more important as food insecurity reached crisis levels due to the pandemic. We are so inspired by the efforts of the team and thankful for all those who supported them. Thank you!

With a Little Help from our Friends...

Late last year, recognizing our need to meet people where they are, the [Osterman Family Foundation](#) granted us seed money to launch our mobile pantry program. They have now doubled down on that investment, granting us an additional 50% more than we asked for this year, allowing us to increase our mobile pantry partnerships by MORE than 50%. We have mobile programs in Hudson, Acton, Maynard and Concord. Our Concord program includes a drive-thru at Concord Carlisle High School and mobile pantry at the COA.

And [Middlesex Savings Bank](#), in addition to other recent gifts, also funded our grant request above and beyond what we asked for -- another generous increase! The funding will help us make changes to our operations so that we can continue to feed people safely as the weather turns colder.



Winter is Coming...

...and with it the cold temperatures that drive us all indoors. Which is why we're working on a plan to keep people safe while keeping our volunteers warm and still getting food to our guests. So far it's looking like the food will move inside, guests will wait in their cars outside, and volunteers will ferry the groceries in between. Stay tuned for more details to follow...

[Donate Now](#)

