



News from around the table

Reminder: Our pantry is closed from December 24th to January 3rd.

#GivingTuesday Goal Smashed



We asked and you came through.

On Giving Tuesday, we had two donors offer to match up to \$10,000, and when we broke through that, our own board chair, Jill Block, offered up another \$2500. When the dust had settled, we had raised almost three times our Giving Tuesday goal. Meaning we can feed hundreds more families.

We still have more to raise to meet our Annual Appeal goal, but thanks to our generous donors, we've got a great head start.

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Holiday Drive a Huge Success

We all know the holidays can be difficult when money is tight, and this year even more so. People are out of work, families unable to gather. So our Family-to-Family Holiday project was

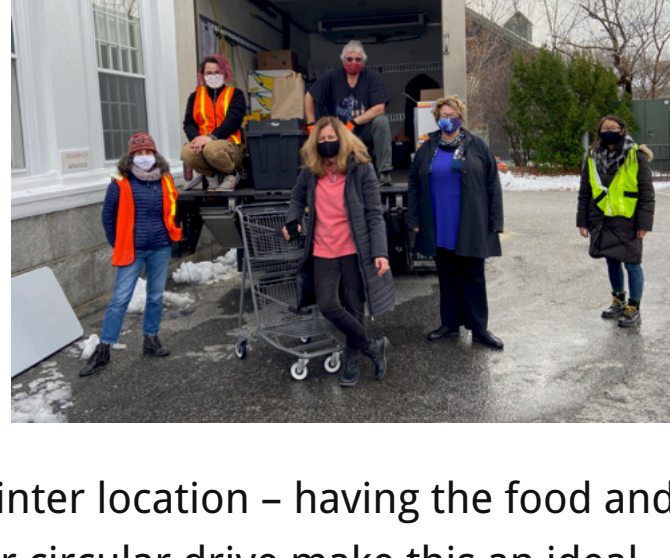
particularly timely. More than 330 families and organizations filled holiday bags for guest families, putting cozy items like hats, gloves and plush throws with family fun night items and baking supplies, in addition to other groceries. Many items are things that don't usually go in our grocery bags, but that make the holidays so much sweeter.

We never expected to get enough donor families to fill bags for every single household we serve, but you all came through, in a big way. Connecting donor families to guest families is a reminder to our guests that their community cares about them. And that's an important message for them to hear anytime, and especially around the holidays.

The bags will be distributed over the next two weeks.

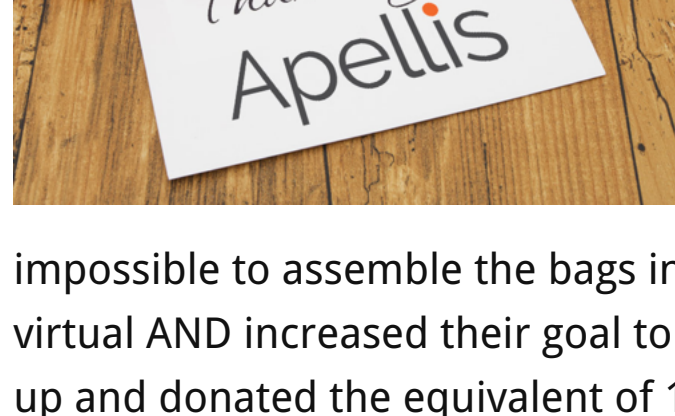
Concord Drive-Thru has a New Home

With winter coming, we needed to move our Concord drive-thru from CCHS to an indoor location. [First Parish of Concord](#) stepped up, and our amazing volunteers successfully transitioned to the new place earlier this month. It's an excellent winter location – having the food and computers inside, and an easy-to-maneuver circular drive make this an ideal winter space.



Special thanks to Terra Buck for their leadership in launching this new location!

If you or someone you know from the Concord or Carlisle community would benefit from additional food, our next distribution will be Wednesday, December 23rd, from 1-2 pm. We'll be distributing our Holiday Kits along with groceries.



It's the (seemingly) Little Things

Last year [Apellis Pharmaceuticals](#) packed and delivered 100 Thanksgiving bags to Open Table.

This year, with the pandemic, it was

impossible to assemble the bags in person – so they took their generous spirit virtual AND increased their goal to 150 bags. The Apellis community stepped up and donated the equivalent of 160 bags to Open Table, exceeding their goal in less than a week! The bags included special items such as coffee or tea, sparkling juice, baking mixes, and dried fruits and nuts. These items are harder to get through our normal free and low-cost sources, and may be considered luxuries to those facing food insecurity – but it's little things like a comforting cup of cocoa or a tasty treat that make the holidays festive and help this unusual year feel a little more normal. Thank you, Apellis, for bringing those feelings of joy to others in our community.

Donor Thanks

There's more than one way to donate, and these wonderful people and organizations have figured that out. Some ran food drives, some made masks for our guests, and one even asked for donations in lieu of birthday gifts. But no matter HOW they gave, they all gave of themselves to continue to feed their neighbors and friends. Here's who we're thanking this month so far:



Girl Scout Troop 82453

[Paino Organics](#)

Maynard High School

[Verrill Farm](#)

[Maynard Golf Course](#)

[Nashoba Brooks](#)

Sudbury Brownie Troop #84523

Concord Carlisle Girl Scouts

[Blossom Station](#)

[Thoreau School](#)

[Fenn School](#)

[Engel & Volkers](#)

[TriCon Church](#)

[Drumlin Farm](#)

[Stow Family Chiropractic](#)

Kathy Allen (masks)

[Steps to Success](#)

Luke (birthday)

[Barrett Sotheby's](#)

[Steps to Success Consultants](#)

Dot & Ellie

Welton Family

[Marx Fencing Academy](#)

Merz Family

Gwinn Family

TriCon Youth Group

Gifts and Grants



The Board of [Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation](#),

recognizing that food insecurity remains a major issue during the COVID-19 crisis, recently approved a generous gift to Open Table. This gift will significantly increase our ability to continue feeding

the growing number of families that are struggling during these unprecedented times. We once again thank Middlesex Bank for their support.

Another longtime supporter, **Crawford Idema Family Foundation**, has awarded Open Table a generous grant to support our general operating expenses for the coming year. We're hoping that 2021 will be a better year for all, and this support will help make it so.

Calling Volunteer Leaders

Want to make a real difference? We're looking for three volunteers to head up our grocery delivery program. If this sounds interesting to you, contact us at

homedelivery@opentable.org. We'll get you the

volunteer job descriptions and connect you

with the creator of the program.



Winter Closure

Open Table will be closed to the public December 23rd - January 3rd, reopening for the new year on January 4th. We will take advantage of this time to reconfigure our space to allow for more efficient and safe service, per our winterization plan.

Volunteers that are needed will be contacted directly.

We wish everyone a safe and happy rest of the year!

Winter Pantry Plans

In preparation for safer winter grocery pick up, Open Table started piloting online grocery orders this month. This will allow us to offer more choice and better match the size of the family to the amount of food we supply.



Come January, we're looking to implement curbside pick up, meaning you'll order online, pull up at your appointed time, and our volunteers will bring your bags out to you. We're working out the kinks before rolling it out to everyone -- more details to come!

[Donate Now](#)



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