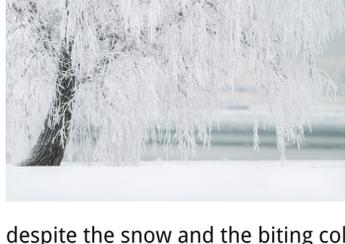




News from Around the Table



February – The Longest Short Month

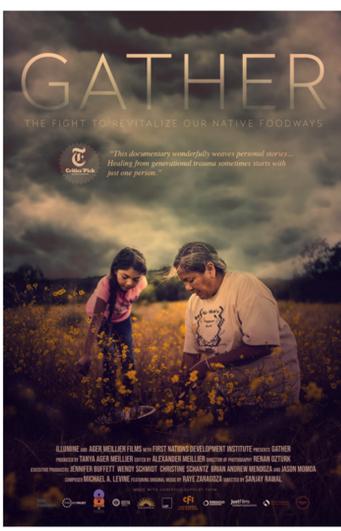
Yes, we know February is only 28 days long, but it always feels so much longer. And for some reason it’s always the SNOWIEST of the winter months. But

despite the snow and the biting cold, we’re still giving groceries to all who need them. No proof of need required.

If you or someone you know needs food, we are here every Tuesday from 1-6:30 pm and Thursday from 1-4:30 pm. And if you live or work in Concord or Carlisle, you can come to our drive-thru on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at First Parish in Concord from 1-2 pm. And we have mobile programs in other towns in partnership with COAs, housing authorities and other organizations. Got questions? Contact us at 978-369-2275, or info@opentable.org.

We’re in This Together

We are fortunate to get a lot of support from our community. So we’re happy to return the favor, collaborating with [Maynard Anti-Racism Alliance \(MARA\)](#) and the [Assabet Co-op Market](#) to air the documentary [Gather](#). This 2020 New York Times Critic’s Pick portrays the growing movement among Native Americans to reclaim their identities through food sovereignty.



The virtual showing of the film takes place Tuesday, March 2, from 6:30-8:30 pm. It’s free but registration is required, and you can register [here](#).



Granted

We have so many organizations that support us, without whom we could never do all that we do. Here are some of the organizations who gave us love this month:

- [Acton Boxborough United Way](#)
- [Cambridge Savings Bank](#)
- [Foundation for MetroWest](#)
- [Greater Lowell Community Foundation](#)
- [Advaita Meditation Center](#)
- [Winstanley Enterprises](#)

We Have a New Volunteer Manager!

It’s Gretchen Findlay, who has a long history of volunteering herself. Before coming to Open Table two years ago and lending her time and energy, she established and managed her OWN nonprofit, [Bicycles 4 Humanity Boston](#). They collect, repair and ship used bicycles to Botswana, Africa, providing mobility to people in need. So she was a natural to put in the position of overseeing our own volunteers.



Says Gretchen, “I am passionate about the mission to relieve food insecurity, love working at the welcoming environment at OT, and feel a sense of community with volunteers working there.” We are happy to have her here, too.

Of course, this means we say farewell to Heather Hernandez as Volunteer Manager but fortunately not goodbye. Heather has made many contributions to Open Table, including successfully implementing pool coordinators and an orientation and placement system. We are happy that she will continue supporting and training our new Volunteer Manager, and has volunteered to handle our donations processing. We wish her well as she focuses more time at home and look forward to working with her in her new role.

Online Ordering

It’s finally happening – after months of planning and testing, we’re ready to roll out our online ordering program. Guests will be able to open an online grocery order and pick their groceries, just as they could when our pantry was in person. This means **more choice** – guests can select what they will actually use; **faster pickup lines** – bags will be marked and ready to go; and a **safer shopping environment** – guests don’t come inside, and volunteers stay warm and dry. It’s a win all around.

And if you’re not comfortable going online, you can always phone in instead.

Get started by going [here](#).

Speaking of Volunteers and Ordering...

...We’re looking for people to help with our new online ordering system. This is a work-from-home opportunity to help those of our clients who aren’t comfortable going online themselves. Shifts are on Saturdays, from 10-12 and 1-3 pm; one volunteer will take incoming calls and one will place outbound calls.



Multi-lingual skills are a plus. If you think this might be a way for you to help Open Table address hunger in our community, contact Sandi at smrowka@opentable.org.

Food Drives

Did you know we get thousands of pounds of food, as well as much-appreciated kids' bags, from individual donors? That's right: neighborhood groups, Girl Scout troops, other charitable organizations that just want to help out. All of it going to feed people in their towns. This is what caring looks like. Here's who we are thanking this



month:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Hanscom AFB Commissary | Amp Your Good |
| Edmonds Road Concord Food Drive | Concord Nashoba Neighborhood |
| Glenn Miglioizzi | Alcott School, Concord |
| Olympia Fencing Center | Sophia Tang |
| Siena Farms | Jennifer Henderson |
| Chris Goff | Georgia Shutzer |
| Jeffrey Freeland | Brenda Verdolino |
| Lovin' Spoonfuls | Jenn Routhier |
| Bullfinchs | |

[Donate Now](#)

