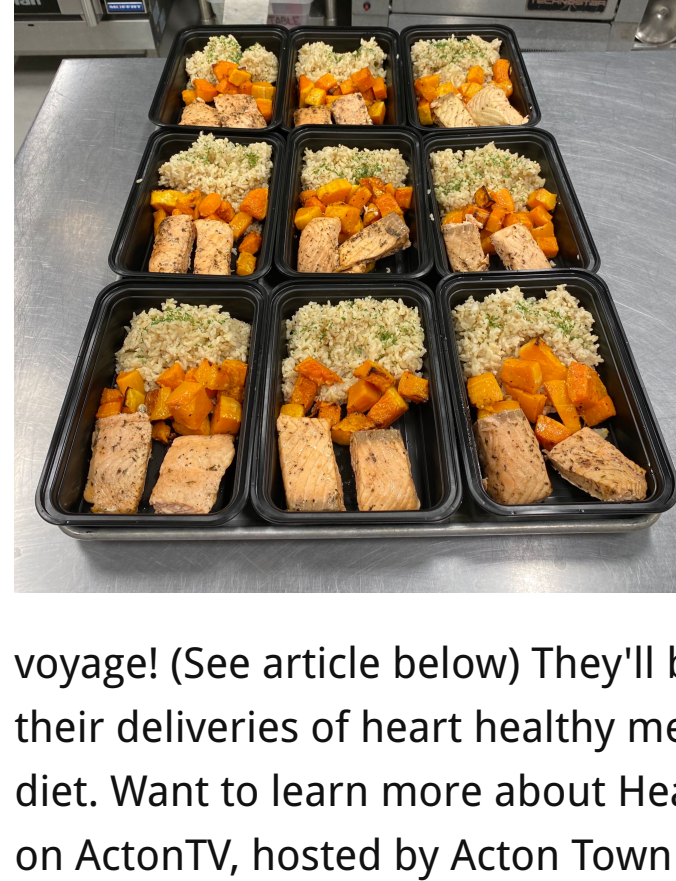




News from Around the Table



New Programs in March

This week we're adding a **new mobile delivery location** to our circuit: Summer Hill Glenn, a community that includes several Chinese-speaking senior citizens. We'll have translators on hand who speak Mandarin so we can fully serve this community.

AND our first **Healthy Helpings** deliveries are happening on Thursday with our new van making its maiden voyage! (See article below) They'll be serving three different COAs to make their deliveries of heart healthy meals and groceries that support the DASH diet. Want to learn more about Healthy Helpings? Tune in to **Java with John** on ActonTV, hosted by Acton Town Manager John Mangiaratti, this Friday (March 26th) at 1pm, when our wonderful Comm Corps intern, Scarlett Cheung will be a guest!

State Food Infrastructure Grant Brings Necessary Improvements

This past year has drastically changed the way Open Table does business, as we pivoted from in-person dinners and pantry service to contactless drive-thru food pick up. Thanks to the Mass. State Food Infrastructure Grant (SFIG) we are working to double our production of healthy prepared meals distributed through our Mobile Meals Program, as well as to purchase new equipment needed for this expansion.



The grant funds allow us to purchase refrigeration units (including Ruth Bader Iceberg pictured above) to store the meals, more packing and labeling equipment, more shelving, and a new cargo van to distribute meals to mobile programs and directly to homes. The van, from [Acton Ford](#), will also allow us to bring food from grocers and farms to Open Table.



Volunteer Opportunities

*Need to get out more?
Time to have a bit of fun and help hungry people at the same time?
Practice your foreign language skills?
Try out a CUTE NEW RIDE with ALL the fun toys (easy to drive and still smells new)? Then check out our new volunteer opportunities!*

BE THE FIRST TO JOIN OPEN TABLE'S VAN DELIVERY TEAM!

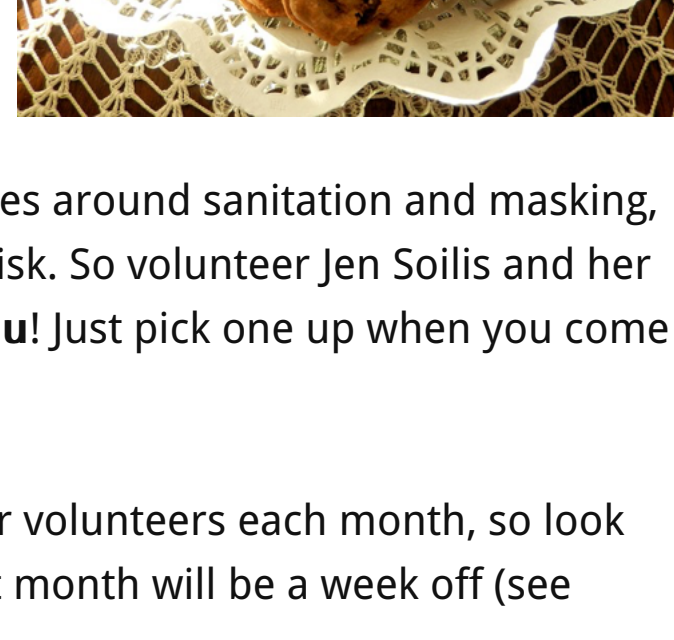
If you have 3 years of driving experience and a clean driving record, you can deliver food to Open Table's partners and clients in our new van. Just let us know that you are interested at volunteer@opentable.org; we will get you all set up and ready to roll. Did we say it is cute and easy to drive???? It is. Really. (Requires CORI check)

If foreign languages are your thing, we're looking for a **Chinese Community Liaison** (CCL) to assist Chinese clients beyond order taking. You'll explain Open Table's mission, how to register, respond to questions, and accompany the delivery van to ensure the orders get to the right people.

We also have a strong need for more Mandarin speakers, as well as Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. For more details contact: smrowka@opentable.org

Volunteer News

First, we want to thank our volunteers who continue to come onsite to do the VERY important work of getting food sorted, packed, distributed, prepared, cooked, packaged and delivered. They are our Unsung Heroes (you'll hear us singing their praises soon!). And even as we continue to follow strict COVID guidelines around sanitation and masking, we know those who show up are taking a risk. So volunteer Jen Soils and her daughter are baking a **sweet treat for you!** Just pick one up when you come in for your shift 3/29-4/1.



We're planning a different way to thank our volunteers each month, so look for that info here and on our website. Next month will be a week off (see article below).

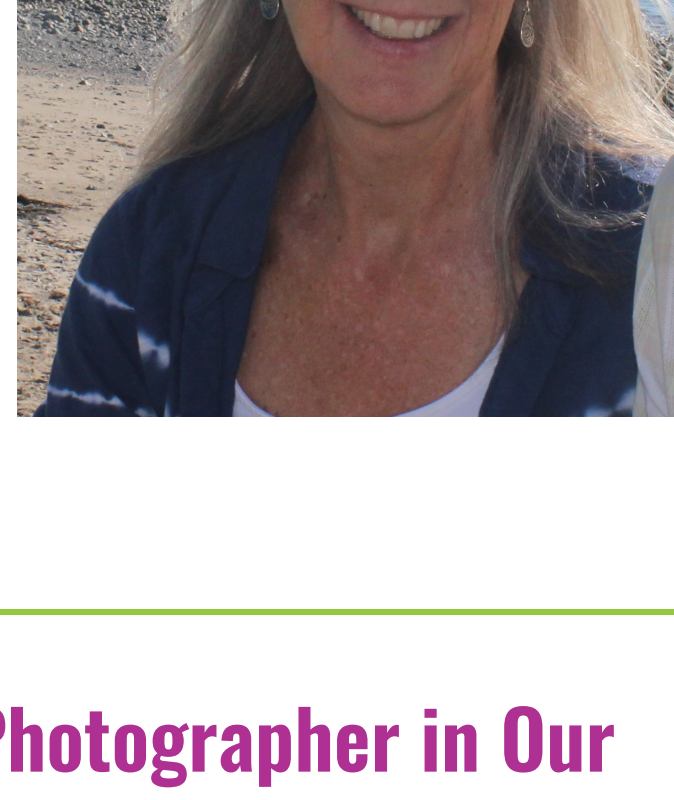
Also, we'll be transitioning to a new volunteer scheduling software system in April, which should make it even easier to schedule your shifts. More details to come.

Spring Break

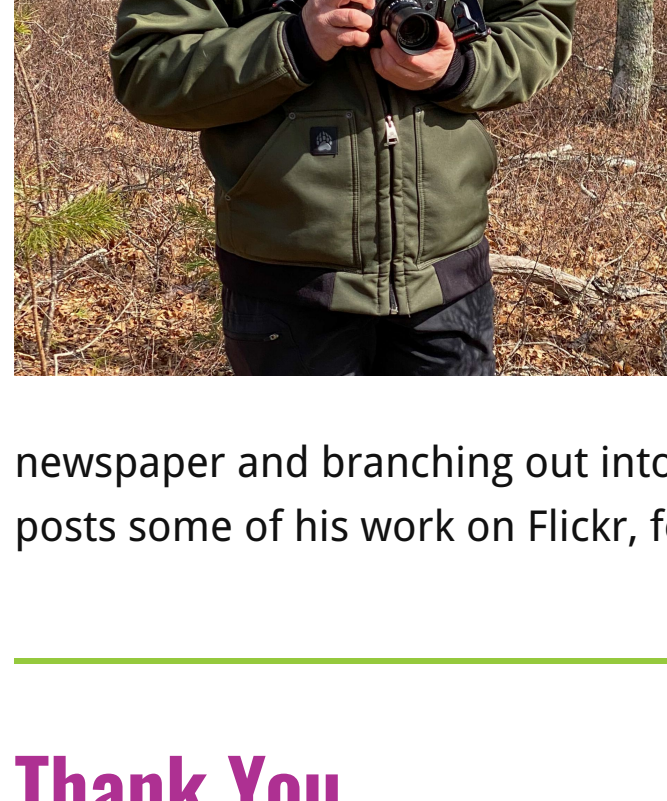
No, not THAT spring break, with wild partying on a beach! It's a break for our staff and volunteers. Recognizing how hard they've all been working, we're giving them some time off. Open Table will be closed the week of **April 19th to the 23rd** so everyone can take a breath and come back renewed, refreshed and ready to resume feeding people.

Celebrating Women Fighting Hunger

March is Women's History Month and we've highlighted some local women who've had a big impact on fighting food insecurity here in Eastern Mass. Our own Julie Neubauer pulled together this list and chronicled their positive outcomes; we've been highlighting the women all month on our Facebook page. Read the whole article [here](#).



(Photo is of Margie Goud Patterson, founder of Open Table.)



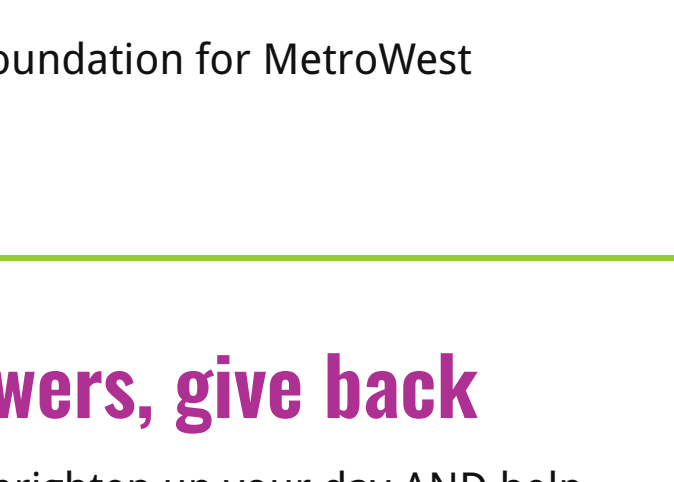
A Photographer in Our Midst

We are happy to announce Colin Valentine will start shooting a long-term photo documentary on Open Table starting this month. While shooting he will also be doing some photography for our website, newsletters, etc. He is fully aware of privacy issues.

Colin started serious photography in the mid-70s, shooting for the local newspaper and branching out into weddings. Say hi when you see him! Colin posts some of his work on Flickr, feel free to check it out [HERE](#).

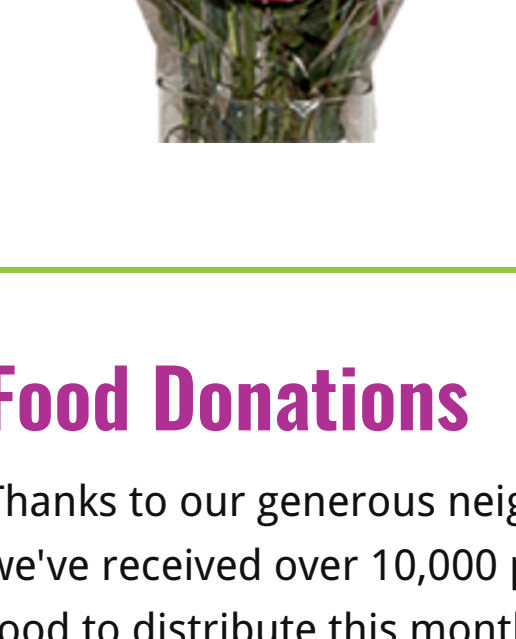
Thank You

Each month we like to thank those organizations that generously grant us funds that allow us to continue fighting food insecurity. This month's grants and gifts included ones from:



- [Greater Boston Food Bank](#)
- Herbert and Esther Atkinson Fund of the Foundation for MetroWest
- Highrock Covenant Church Arlington

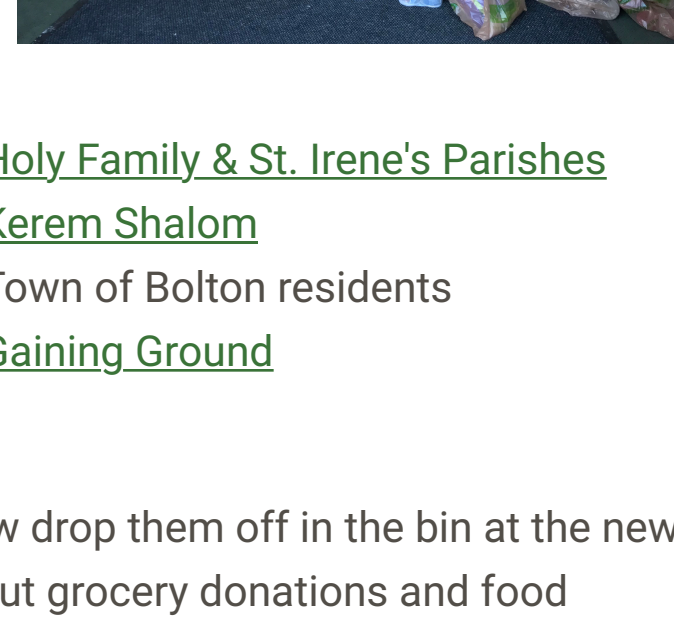
Get flowers, give back



Looking to brighten your day AND help Open Table? Pick up a beautiful bouquet at Stop & Shop in Acton! All month long, when you buy a \$9.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with a red circle sticker, Open Table will get \$1 in donation. Get flowers, give food = More Love, Less Hunger. The store is at 100 Powdermill Road in Acton; more info can be found [HERE](#).

Food Donations

Thanks to our generous neighbors, we've received over 10,000 pounds of food to distribute this month! That includes our first produce delivery of the year: organic carrots and beets. Here's who we have to thank for our bounty:

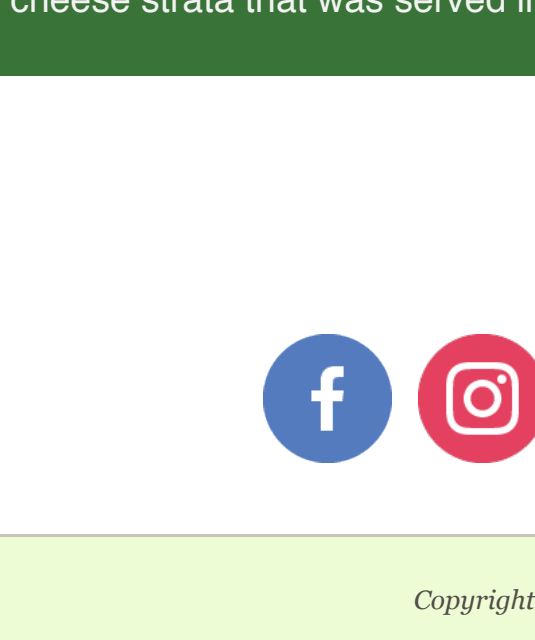


- Amanda Proia & Pampered Chef
- [Aurelia's Garden](#)
- [Brimmer & May](#)
- Hanscom AFB
- [Holy Family & St. Irene's Parishes](#)
- [Kerem Shalom](#)
- Town of Bolton residents
- [Gaining Ground](#)

If you have groceries to donate, you can now drop them off in the bin at the new [Market Basket](#) in Maynard. Learn more about grocery donations and food drives [HERE](#).

And because of YOUR amazing support, we now are fully stocked on **egg cartons**. But we always need **paper shopping bags**, so recycle yours with us!

Fun Food Facts



Eggs: They're not just for breakfast! Did you know that eggs are a great source of protein, and their yolks are one of the few foods that are a natural source of vitamin D? A female hen lays 300 to 325 eggs a year, and produces larger eggs with thinner shells as she grows older. And if you're wondering what color egg a hen will lay, check the color of her earlobes (yes, chickens have them). But remember, the color on the outside does not affect the nutritional value or tastiness!

Open Table regularly provides eggs in our pantry offerings, and cooks them up in our kitchen. Here EGGstraordinary volunteer Edwin Harmon prepares a spinach, pepper, sausage & cheese strata that was served in a recent senior grab & go lunch. Recipe [HERE](#).

[Donate Now](#)

