



## News from Around the Table



## Moms, Honored

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Mother's Day fundraiser! You met the match and donations were doubled thanks to [Cambridge Savings Bank](#)

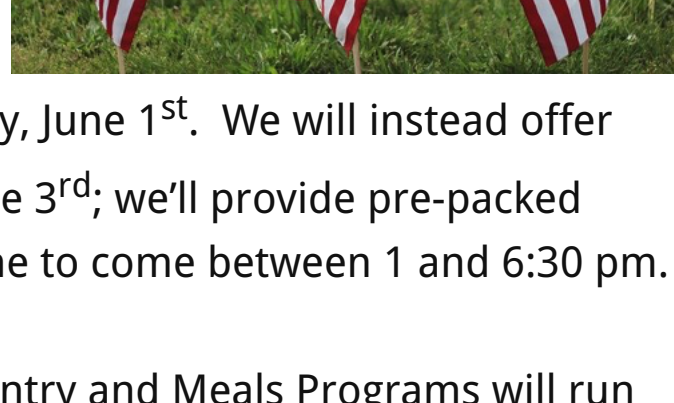
and the [Concord Lions Club](#). By honoring your mom with a donation to Open Table, you've honored countless other local moms, who can now breathe easier knowing they can feed their families. AND you've made your mom proud by being the person she raised you to be: kind, caring and committed. We're thankful to you and your mom, for caring about your community and helping us care for them too.

## Memorial Day Closure

The Memorial Day holiday is impacting the way we do business that week.

Here's what to know: there will be no online or phone ordering for pickup or delivery May 31<sup>st</sup> through June 4<sup>th</sup>, and

no drive-thru pantry in Maynard on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. We will instead offer extended drive-thru hours on Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup>; we'll provide pre-packed bags with some choice. Everyone is welcome to come between 1 and 6:30 pm.



All other programs including our Mobile Pantry and Meals Programs will run as usual Tuesday through Thursday. Any volunteers whose shifts have been cancelled will be notified.



## Farewell to Stephanie Shenton

Stephanie Shenton has had an incredible run as Kitchen Manager and Head Cook at Open Table. She's resigning to pursue other areas of her life that have been neglected while she selflessly gave of herself here. She started at Open Table in 2009 as a head cook, and took on the role of kitchen manager in October of 2020, helping to build our Healthy Helpings and Prepared Meal programs.

Her infectious enthusiasm for team cooking, in-depth knowledge of food and nutrition and positive outlook will be greatly missed. Says one coworker, "Stephanie combines her knowledge of diverse foods with her expertise in nutrition to produce exciting low-sodium meals for Healthy Helpings. With Stephanie's skills, our clients can eat meals that meet their dietary requirements without sacrificing taste or quality!"

We salute Stephanie and all she has done for addressing food insecurity. Her last day will be May 27th - Cooking teams, please stop by to say goodbye 4-5pm.

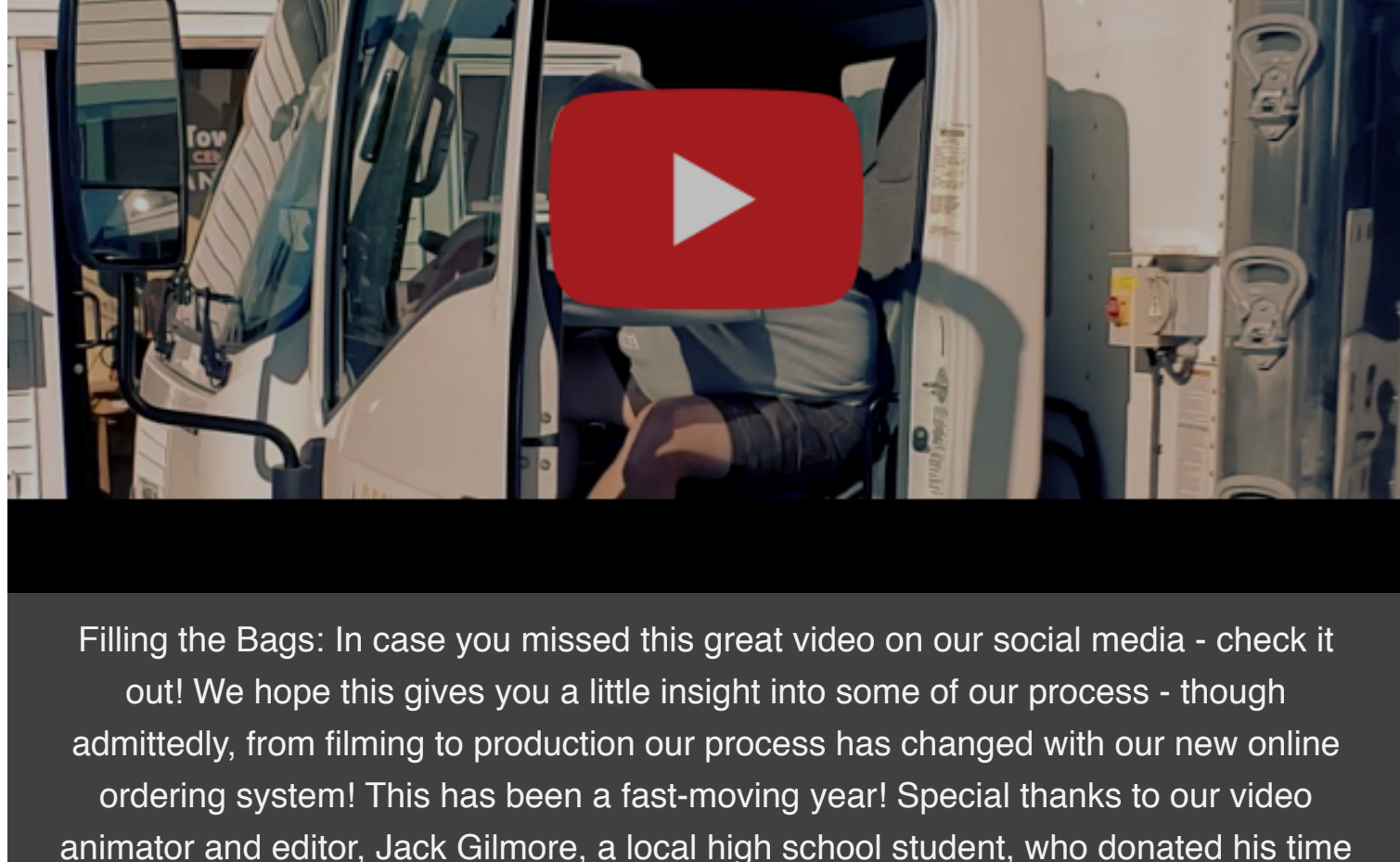
## Volunteer Opportunities

Have you seen our new Volunteer Kiosk? Currently located just inside the main doors, this little station allows volunteers to check in, get updates, pick up our new badges, sanitize and more.



And are you looking for a fun new volunteer activity? We need people to:

- Decorate our Ride for Food bicycle - any artists seeking a fun project?
- Cook in the mornings, particularly during the summer months. Help create some of the 1000 meals we want to get to clients every week!



Filling the Bags: In case you missed this great video on our social media - check it out! We hope this gives you a little insight into some of our process - though admittedly, from filming to production our process has changed with our new online ordering system! This has been a fast-moving year! Special thanks to our video animator and editor, Jack Gilmore, a local high school student, who donated his time and talents to pull the video together!



## Covid Update

We continue to make improvements to our operations, all so we can safely get food to those who need it. At this time, all of our staff and many of our volunteers have been **vaccinated**. Our online ordering has greatly improved our efficiency while offering more choice. And we're working on a strategic plan for how to improve our operations going forward. We'll keep you updated...

## Jeanine Calabria featured in Concord Museum program



The [Concord Museum](#) this month is honoring women of Concord, past and present. *Every Path Laid Open: Women of Concord and the Quest for Equality* celebrates the women who lived here by showcasing artifacts from their collection. A part of the exhibit highlights today's women of Concord, including Open Table's own Executive Director Jeanine Calabria, and her commitment to changing the face of food insecurity here in town. We are proud to have her accomplishments with Open Table acknowledged in this important way.



## Thank you to our May Donors

Our donors are the best, starting with the Bud Ackerman Foundation. Their aim is to "carry on Bud's spirit of giving to our fellow human beings, with an emphasis on proven outcomes." We're happy to be one of the first recipients of this new foundation, allowing us to improve our understanding of the barriers to receiving food support.

Maynard resident Kelly Patterson is feeding her neighbors by bringing in gift cards to [Market Basket](#) and the [Family Delicatessen](#) in Maynard. She raised the money by holding a plant sale selling tomato plants, something she does every year so she can donate to charity. This year she chose Open Table, and we are so grateful.

[Dignity Matters](#), an organization dedicated to ensuring dignity to women and girls by providing sanitary supplies, bras and underwear to those who are disadvantaged, gave us a 2-month supply of menstrual supplies. These are products we don't get usually, and that women have a hard time procuring if they're also trying to pay rent and feed their families.

Here are the others who gave food, kids' bags and high demand dairy products:

Willard School

[Welch Foods](#)

Hanscom AFB

Mary-Anne Shubert

Intel

[Lovin' Spoonfuls](#)

Hellen Lukash/[Keller Williams Realty](#)

[Boston Northwest](#)

[Kerem Shalom](#)

[First Parish in Lincoln](#)

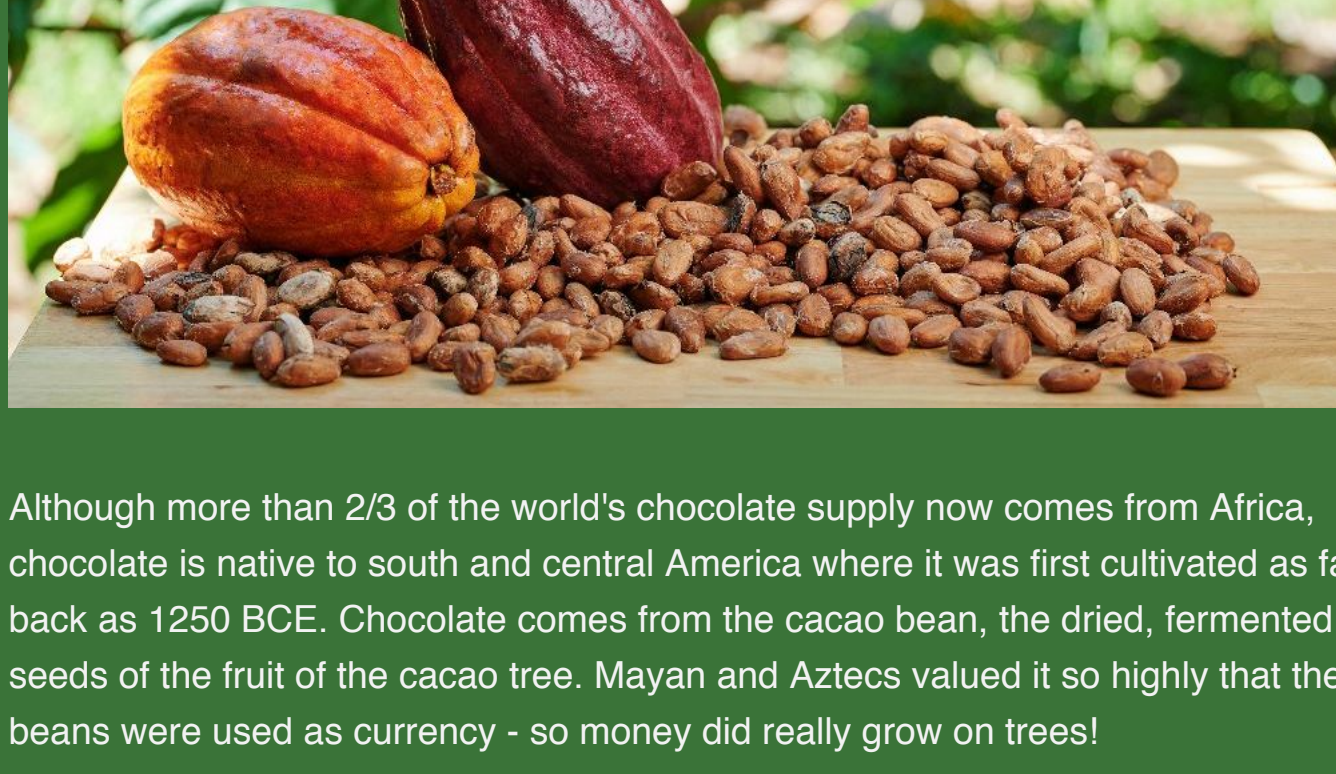
## Call for Riders

Like getting out to ride your bike? Like riding a stationary bike at the gym? Or just like being active while raising money for hunger relief? Then join our Ride for Food team! We're looking to add 10 more riders by the end of May to reach our goal of 20 in total. Meet fun people, join in on training rides, or just give meaning and purpose to your own activities. And the first 10 riders to join our team leaders will receive gift certificates to Gräem Nuts and Chocolate in Concord. There's still time - but hurry!



[Join or Support the Team](#)

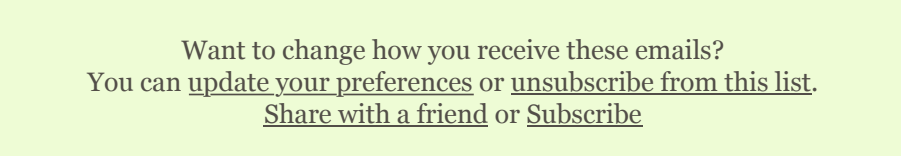
## Fun Food Facts: Chocolate



Although more than 2/3 of the world's chocolate supply now comes from Africa, chocolate is native to south and central America where it was first cultivated as far back as 1250 BCE. Chocolate comes from the cacao bean, the dried, fermented seeds of the fruit of the cacao tree. Mayan and Aztecs valued it so highly that the beans were used as currency - so money did really grow on trees!

One of our favorite chocolate treats that Stephanie Shenton and her team make occasionally are Blonde Brownies. You can find the recipe [HERE](#).

[Donate Now](#)



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