

## News from Around the Table

### Open Table Welcomes Kirsten Lewis

We're pleased to announce that Kirsten Lewis has joined Open Table as Assistant Program Manager. She first learned about Open Table when working as a Care Resource Coordinator for the Contact Tracing Collaborative. "Having reached out to many food pantries around the state, Open Table was extraordinary in consistently providing not only food, but dignity to those who were in isolation and quarantine," Kirsten recounts, "I was extremely excited when I saw the position for Assistant Program Manager listed on the the website and am thrilled to be part of the team."



Kirsten was born and raised in Pittsfield, MA and after graduating from Hampshire College moved out West. After her daughter was born, she moved back East to be closer to family. She and her 15 year old daughter and their cat, Little Man, live in Marlborough. In her spare time Kirsten quilts, gardens and loves listening to music.



### Concord CROP Walk this Weekend

Join in the local walk to end hunger this Sunday, October 17th! The 41st annual Concord Crop Walk starts and ends at First Parish Church at 20 Lexington Road in Concord. The 3.5 kilometer CROP Walk route goes through the historic Minuteman National Park which takes you across the Old North Bridge. Pre-walk music will be provided by the Concord Carlisle High School Pep Band and cookies and cider will be served at the end of the walk. Don't forget to bring Fido - pets on leashes are welcome!

[Learn More or Register](#)

Funds raised by this event go to the Church World Service for worldwide emergency relief of disasters and for fighting the root causes of hunger through community development programs. One quarter of these funds raised will provide substantial contributions to nine local pantry programs including Open Table. See you on Sunday!

### New Donation Center Opening 10/23

We're excited to announce the opening of our new donation center at 40 Beharrell Street in West Concord! This new facility gives us expanded space for collecting and storing shelf-stable goods, while giving people an easy place to drop off donated items. Check us out during West Concord Day on Saturday, October 23, from 10-2 – area businesses will be open and offering goodies. And the [Concord Lions Club](#) be joining us: handing out free popcorn and collecting soup donations - bring a can or two to give a neighbor a quick, warm meal. Hope to see you there!



### 10th Annual Ride for Food a Huge Success!

The day may have been overcast, but the outlook was sunny on October 3rd, as our Ride for Food team biked and hiked their way to \$37k in donations and counting. Kudos to our amazing team of volunteers who trained and rode and showed up to help out at the event! Great people plus food and music made for a successful and worthwhile event.

If you haven't donated but want to, there's still time: you can donate [here](#) through November 30th.

[Support our Ride for Food](#)

### Thanksgiving Partnership

Crosby's Marketplace in Concord is helping fight hunger this Thanksgiving season with grocery bags of Thanksgiving sides you can purchase for those in need. Simply visit Crosby's, purchase a pre-assembled bag of groceries, and these delicious offerings will be made available for our clients. Thank you to Crosby's for their generous support and recognizing that the need continues during the holiday season. And thank you to all the customers who support Open Table by buying these bags for our clients!



### Needed: Community Donations Coordinator

Did you know that food drives are an essential part of Open Table's food acquisition? We're seeking a dedicated volunteer to fill the important role of **Community Donations Coordinator** to help in the coordination of food drives. Get valuable skills and experience to parlay into your next paid job. For more info on this position, and to apply, email [volunteer@opentable.org](mailto:volunteer@opentable.org).



[Email Us](#)

Looking for another way to pitch in? Here are some of our other volunteer opportunities:

- **Deliver to Acton COA:** Pick up meals the Maynard pantry and drop them off at the Acton COA. Weekly on Tuesdays @ 11:30 AM starting 10/19.
- **Weekend Beharrell Group Host:** Be the host at our Beharrell Street donation center for groups coming on the weekend to make and pack kids bags or sort groceries. 2-hour shifts on an as needed basis.
- **Home Deliveries Prep Team :** Volunteer needed to help prepare groceries for our Concord Home Delivery Program. Bags are already packed, but need to be organized and given to drivers for delivery. Wednesday's 1:30-3:30pm.
- **Dishwashers:** Volunteers needed mid-day in the kitchen for an hour to wash dishes in our commercial dishwashing station. Mon, Wed, Thurs 12:00pm, and Tues 1:00pm.

For more openings in volunteer leadership, administrative and "behind-the-scenes" positions, check out our [Help Wanted](#) section on our website.



### September Superstars

Each month we like to recognize some of the many organizations who gave time, dry goods, produce and more to Open Table. Here's some who we have to thank:

- [Alcott Parent Teacher's Group](#)
- [Aurelia's Garden](#)
- [CHNA 15](#)
- [Debra's Natural Gourmet](#)
- [Dignity Matters](#)
- [Drumlin Farm](#)
- [Gaining Ground](#)
- [National Charity League - Middlesex](#)
- [New England Innovation Academy](#)
- [Trinity Episcopal Church](#)

### Fun Food Facts: Pumpkins



The word pumpkin may have derived from *pōhpukun*, a word meaning "grows forth round" to the Wampanoag people right here in Massachusetts, or perhaps from the Greek word *pepon*, which means "large melon". But regardless of where the word came from, pumpkins originated in central America and are now grown on every continent except Antarctica.

It was a Celtic tradition to carve turnips and rutabagas for All Hallows Eve to ward off evil spirits such as *Stingy Jack*. Irish immigrants in America discovered that pumpkins were a better substitute and the Jack-o-lantern was born!

American settlers' Pumpkin "Pie" was more of a soup, made by hollowing out pumpkins, filling with milk, honey and spices, and baking. You can find a more modern recipe on our website [HERE](#). The ingredients for this pie will be included in the Thanksgiving bags for our clients - some of which can be donated via the bags available at Crosby's.



### Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
 \*{{Organization Address}}\*  
 \*{{Organization Phone}}\*  
 \*{{Organization Website}}\*  
 \*{{Unsubscribe}}\*