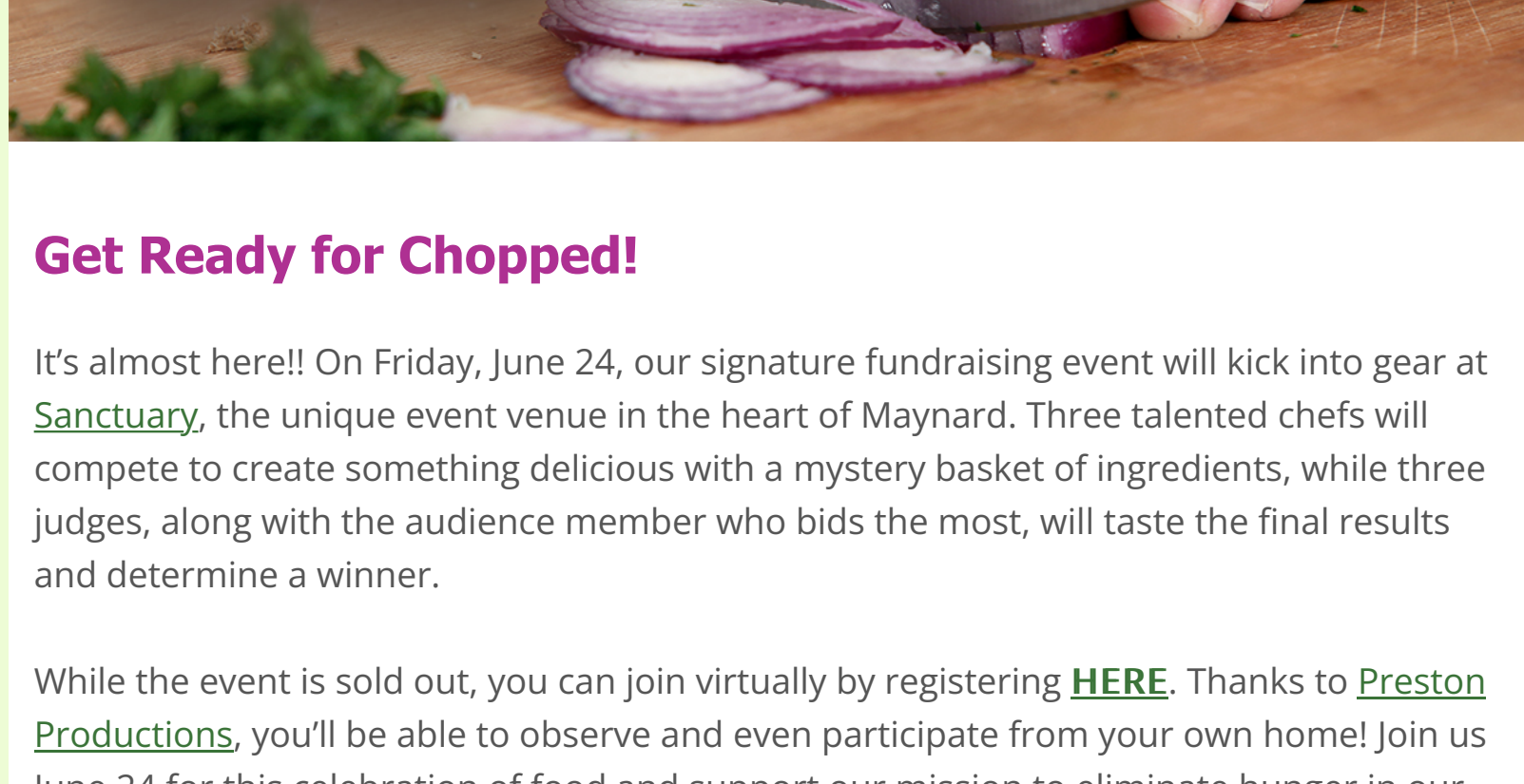




OPEN TABLE

MORE LOVE – LESS HUNGER

News from Around the Table



Get Ready for Chopped!

It's almost here! On Friday, June 24, our signature fundraising event will kick into gear at [Sanctuary](#), the unique event venue in the heart of Maynard. Three talented chefs will compete to create something delicious with a mystery basket of ingredients, while three judges, along with the audience member who bids the most, will taste the final results and determine a winner.

While the event is sold out, you can join virtually by registering [HERE](#). Thanks to [Preston Productions](#), you'll be able to observe and even participate from your own home! Join us June 24 for this celebration of food and support our mission to eliminate hunger in our local communities.

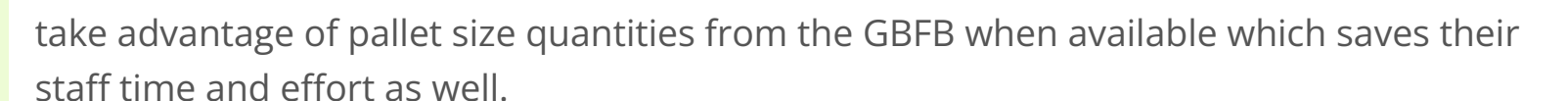
Get Chopped!



GBFB Releases "Gaps in Food Access" Report

The Greater Boston Food Bank does more than just provide food to area food pantries: they also keep abreast of trends in food relief and data on the impact of food insecurity. They recently released a video of their presentation on ways to improve food equity and access. Spoiler alert: it's not just about being hungry. Lack of food impacts many other areas of people's lives. You can view the video above. Or read the full report [HERE](#).

Read Full Report



Open Table Receives ARPA Funds

On June 7th, Open Table staff and volunteers were thrilled to receive a ceremonial check from [State Representative Kate Hogan](#), [State Senator Jamie Eldridge](#), representatives from [Lori Trahan's](#) office, and [Maynard town officials](#) yesterday. The check represents funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). We are deeply grateful for this support.

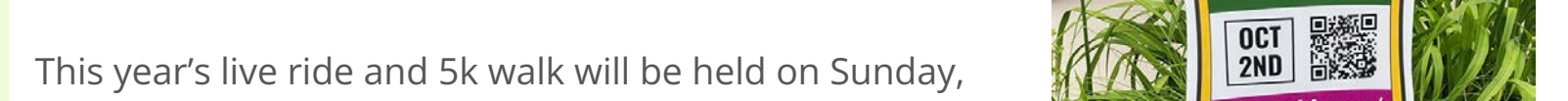
The ARPA monies will be a real investment in the future of our ability to provide more safe and healthy food to people in need. Investing in our warehouse project means our ability to store diverse food options to the diverse community we serve. Not all people want the same food in the same quantity – a small warehouse facility will allow us to also take advantage of pallet size quantities from the GBFB when available which saves their staff time and effort as well.



Book Club at Concord Library

Join Open Table and the [Concord Free Public Library](#) for a discussion of [Beautiful Country](#) by Qian Julie Wang on Thursday, July 21st, 7:00 to 8:30pm at the Fowler branch, 1322 Main Street Concord. The event is free, but space is limited, so registration is requested.

This powerful memoir of growing up as an undocumented immigrant living in poverty in the richest country in the world will provide a basis for discussion of food insecurity in the United States and other issues that newly arrived immigrants face. The discussion will be facilitated in part by Open Table volunteer, Peilin Reed, whose family moved to New England from Taiwan when she was a teen.



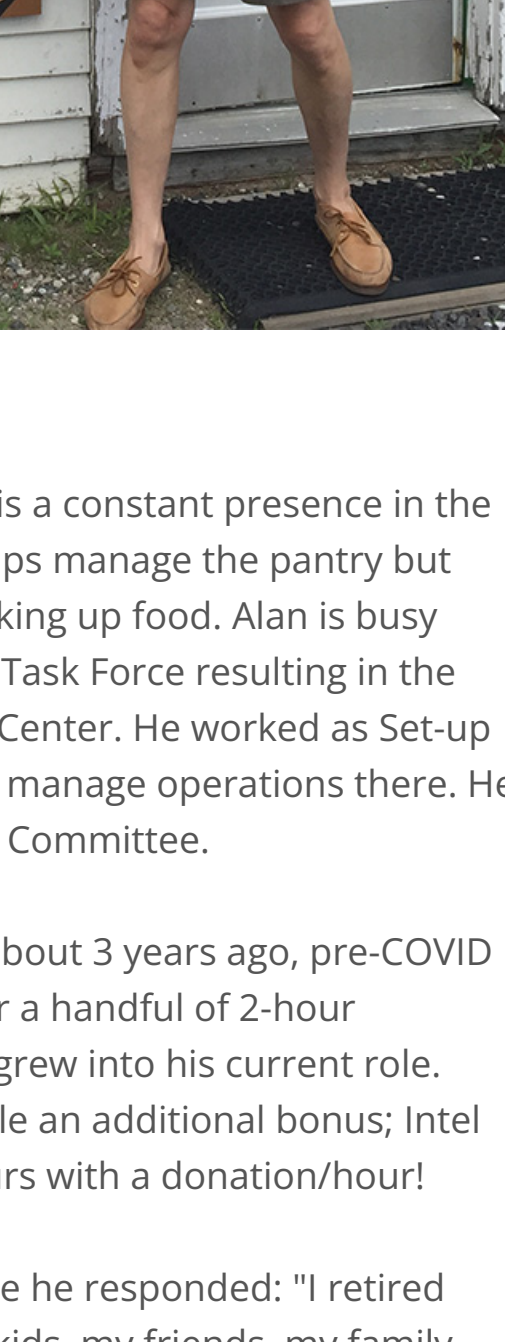
CCCC Awards Innovation

Open Table was honored to receive two generous grants from the [Concord-Carlisle Community Chest](#) at their "Day of Giving" celebration at Verrill Farm on June 9th. The grant awards support the work Open Table is doing to combat hunger in our community. By supporting both our operations and a special project through their Cornerstone Innovation grant initiative, the Community Chest's awards will significantly help Open Table serve more people in need. Executive Director Jeanine Calabria and board member Michele Fisher were on hand to accept the awards.

Ride for Food

It's June, that glorious gateway to summer when the out-of-doors beckons! Want to put all that great exercise to good use? Join our Ride for Food team and raise money for Open Table!

This year's live ride and 5k walk will be held on Sunday, October 2nd at Noble and Greenough School in Dedham. Choose either a 25- or 50-mile route for your ride. Join our team [HERE](#) and get updates for training rides and fun events. If you'd rather participate virtually, the Ride for Food Off the Beaten Path event runs from now until October 2. Participants can choose their own activities and raise funds along the way. All donations to Open Table team members benefit Open Table. Smaller groups or even families can form their own teams and fundraising together.



Join the Team

Questions? Contact Team Leader Patsy Coffin at pcoffin@opentable.org



Volunteer Spotlight: Alan Budris

Many will be surprised to learn that Alan is a volunteer. He is a constant presence in the pantry holding many leadership roles. Most visibly, Alan helps manage the pantry but also fills in wherever needed: cooking, driving the truck, picking up food. Alan is busy between the scenes as well. He chaired the Space Expansion Task Force resulting in the establishment of the Beharrel Street Community Donation Center. He worked as Set-up and Operations Consultant for the Center and continues to manage operations there. He also serves on the Strategic Planning Group and the Grants Committee.

Alan, a long-time Concord resident, started at Open Table about 3 years ago, pre-COVID when indoor shopping and dining were still underway. After a handful of 2-hour volunteer shifts, he began extending his hours and quickly grew into his current role. He logs in about 1000 hours/year. Alan brings to Open Table an additional bonus; Intel Corporation, his prior employer, matches his volunteer hours with a donation/hour!

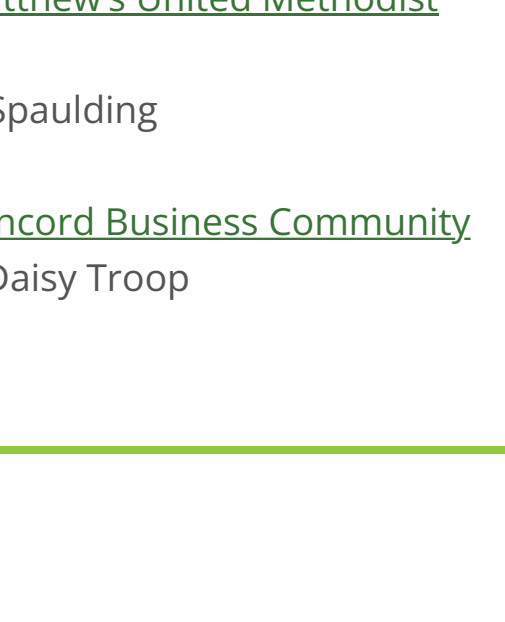
When asked why he gives so much of his time to Open Table he responded: "I retired early from Intel and after traveling, spending time with my kids, my friends, my family and gettin' that punch list done, I was restless. So, here I am. And it is SO important to give back and help others, particularly as domestic and world events evolve and affect local situations. Come Volunteer!"

Favorite vegetable?
We have some wonderful Farm partners – Gaining Ground, Drumlin Farm, Aurelia's Garden, Verrill and many others, including home gardens – it is amazing what they produce. My current obsession (besides the Autumn tomato extravaganza) is fennel, kohlrabi and garlic scape. Yes, that's three!

Favorite local business or restaurant?
Too many excellent restaurants in Maynard to narrow down – everyone should come in and check out the authentic cuisine in Maynard. My fav non-food biz is Kind Goods, just down the street from OT towards the Mill. They have the perfect set of gifts for any occasion, including for your own home. Definitely worth the visit.

Summer Student Internship

This summer Open Table is excited to welcome 24 high school students as part of Open Table's Summer Internship Program. These interns will work with staff to stock our Fresh Market Pantry, distribute thousands of pounds of food and create fresh meals for distribution from our surplus donations, and will be helping out with our Kids Summer Lunch and Snack Program. All while gaining first-hand experience in non-profit food relief and giving back to their community. The first 6 interns started on June 20th and are excited to be volunteering, while also developing leadership, teamwork, workplace, and civic participation skills!



So Thankful for Such a Supportive Community

We are so thankful for having such a supportive community. As food insecurity rises, the community rises to the challenge and donates their time, energy, food, and funds to help out their neighbors. Some shining examples from this month include:

A team from [Welch's](#) (above) returned to the Community Donation Center in West Concord for another day of service, sorting hundreds of pounds of food, creating kids bags, and doing much-needed general organization.

The [West Concord Business Community](#) organized donations and a food drive in memory of our good friend Debra Stark during Spring Into West Concord. Over \$1,350 was raised from generous West Concord businesses, residents, and visitors.

And Students at [Alcott Elementary School](#) made weekly donations of fresh product from their [Student Garden](#) - we hope they will be back to harvest more in the fall!

This month we would also like to thank these supportive donors:

- [Acton Boxborough United Way](#)
- [Alcott Elementary School](#)
- [Boy Scout Troop 132](#)
- [Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation](#)
- [Carlisle Middle School Early Act](#)
- [Concord Carlisle Community Chest](#)
- [CCY Baseball and Softball](#)
- [CCY Lacrosse](#)
- [Congregation Kerem Shalom](#)
- [First Parish in Lincoln](#)

- [Hanscom AFB Commissary](#)
- [Keller Williams Realty](#)
- [McGovern Automotive Group](#)
- [Raspberry Beret](#)
- [Saint Matthew's United Methodist Church](#)
- [Sharon Spaulding](#)
- [Welch's](#)
- [West Concord Business Community](#)
- [Willard Daisy Troop](#)

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