

## News from Around the Table



### Thanks for Helping Us CHOP Away at Hunger!

An amazing night was had by all who attended – both in person and virtually – our third Open Table Chopped for Charity cooking competition! On a beautiful night in June, more than 200 people nibbled on delicious noshes, stalked the Silent Auction table, and cheered on the three chefs who competed for Chopped Champion. And while there WAS a winner, all three were masterful in their use of ingredients and innovative twists on the same base food items. Check out the details, video, and photos from the event [HERE](#).

A highlight of the evening was our Fund A Need, where everyone was asked to make a financial contribution in whatever amount worked for them to renovate and outfit our new Annex. This space, next to our building at 33 Main Street, will be used to store food and supplies in our quest to become a mobile food hub.

We are grateful to all who participated, including the volunteers, judges, chefs, attendees, staff, board members, family and friends for making this one of our most successful events!

[Donate Now](#)



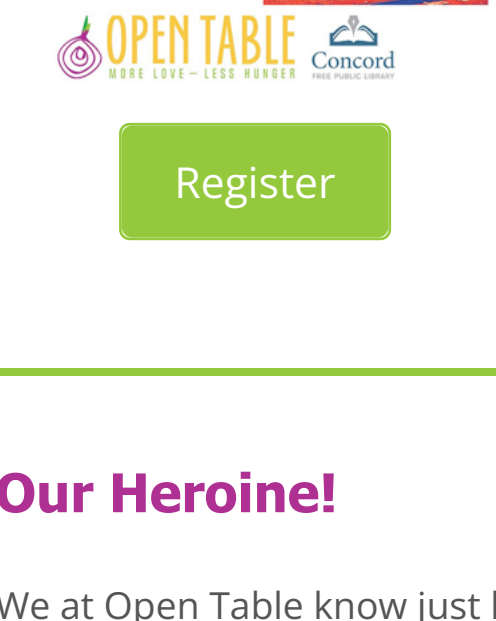
### 73 Days and Counting...

That's how long until this year's Ride for Food. And we need participants! Whether you're an avid biker, a weekend leisure rider, or a cycle class convert, there's a way to be involved. When you join our team, you'll get motivational emails, invites to training rides, and great people to hang out with. All while raising money to help feed people in our area – what could be better??

The event itself takes place Sunday, October 2, at Noble & Greenough School in Dedham. Choose a 25 mile or 50 mile ride, OR if biking's not your thing, choose the 5K walk. It's a great event with food and music, all for a great cause.

You can find more information [HERE](#) or email team leader Patsy Coffin at [pcoffin@opentable.org](mailto:pcoffin@opentable.org). You can register for the Open Table team [HERE](#).

[Join the Team](#)



[Register](#)

### Book Club at Concord Library

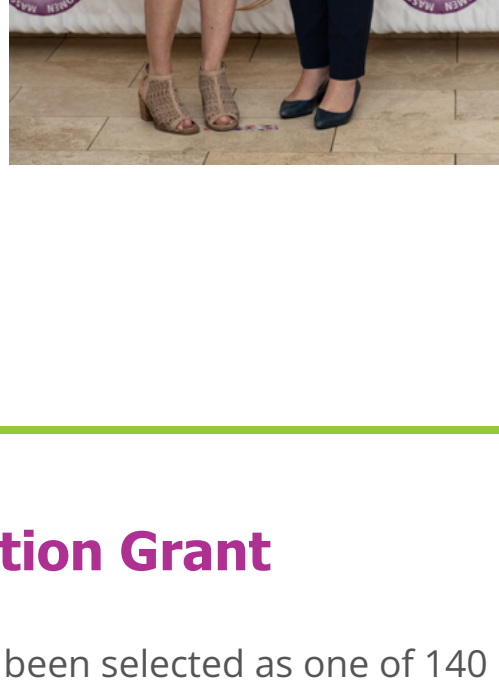
Join Open Table and the [Concord Free Public Library](#) for a discussion of *Beautiful Country* by Qian Julie Wang on Thursday, July 21st, 7:00 to 8:30pm at the Fowler branch, 1322 Main Street Concord. The event is free, but space is limited, so registration is requested.

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.

### Our Heroine!

We at Open Table know just how incredible our Executive Director Jeanine Calabria is: she's indefatigable in her quest to ensure everyone in our area has the food they need. But it's extremely gratifying when others acknowledge this as well, which State Representative Dr. Tami Gouveia did recently when nominating Jeanine for a Commonwealth Heroine award. According to the state's website, these are "women who don't make the news but make the difference." Jeanine was presented with her award at the State House last month.

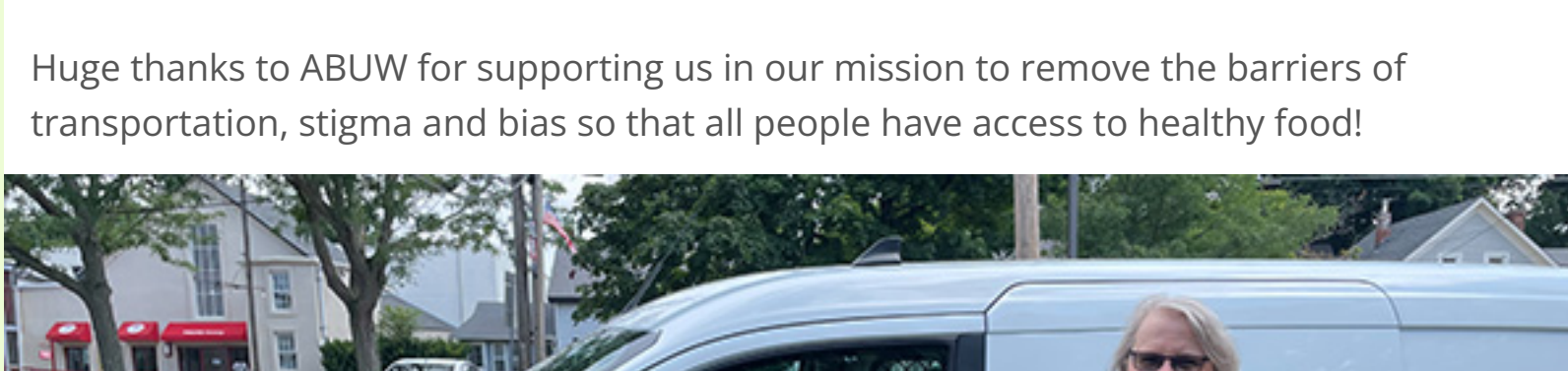
We thank Representative Gouveia for honoring the commitment Jeanine has made to Open Table every day and for highlighting our work to spread more love, less hunger.



### Cummings Foundation Grant

Open Table is proud to have been selected as one of 140 local nonprofits to receive a grant through [Cummings Foundation's](#) \$25million grant program! This funding will help us expand our mobile pantry services, helping us to become a food hub and thus able to support the increased number of individuals and families facing food insecurity during these challenging times.

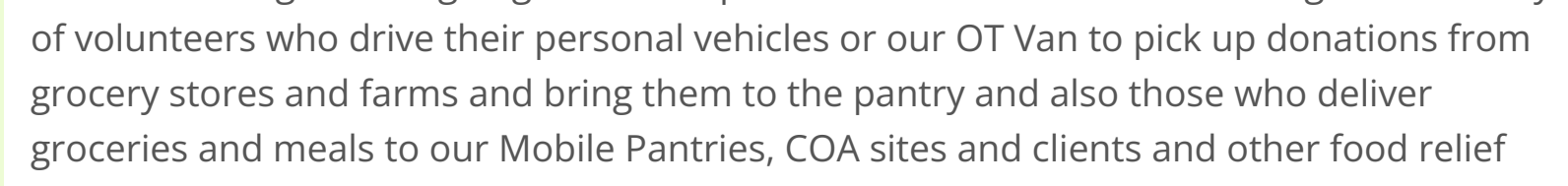
Open Table Board member Michele Fisher and Executive Director Jeanine Calabria attended the Grant Winner Celebration last Thursday evening and enjoyed meeting two leaders of another winning organization, [La Alianza Hispana](#): Marisol Amaya, Executive Director and Lillian Carlo, Program Director. Open Table is collaborating with La Alianza Hispana through a partnership with [The Food Project](#), and together distributing 75 prepared meals each week to seniors in the Greater Boston Latino community.



### Thank You, Neighbor!

Nothing says "good neighbor" like a supportive grant! [Acton Boxborough United Way](#) recently gave us a generous [Community Impact Grant](#), allowing us to serve even more people in need. This partnership is an excellent example of how collaborations across the region are necessary for all of us to create a strong safety net that supports the most vulnerable people in our community.

Huge thanks to ABUW for supporting us in our mission to remove the barriers of transportation, stigma and bias so that all people have access to healthy food!



### Volunteer Spotlight: Jean Husson

These days you'll find Jean working behind the scenes as the Transportation Coordinator for all incoming and outgoing foods at Open Table. This includes overseeing a small army of volunteers who drive their personal vehicles or our OT Van to pick up donations from grocery stores and farms and bring them to the pantry and also those who deliver groceries and meals to our Mobile Pantries, COA sites and clients and other food relief partners. These jobs are essential and must be staffed every week and Jean keeps them running smoothly.

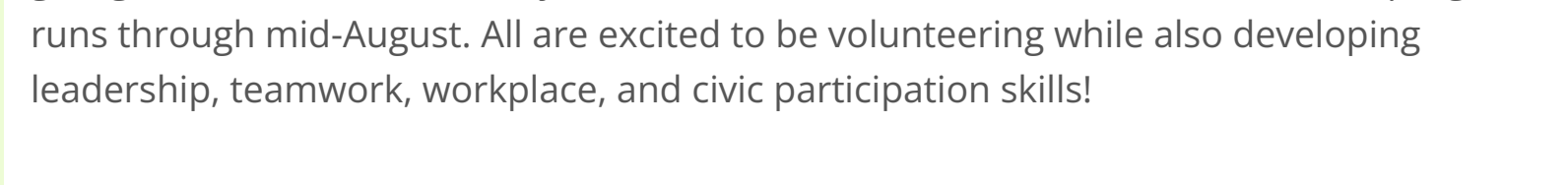
But this is only the most recent of the many volunteer roles that Jean has filled over a long history of volunteering with Open Table. Jean started with OT in 2014, volunteering at the First Parish Church in Concord when it was an all-volunteer operation serving community dinners. Some of her major roles have been serving as volunteer manager, working on the client administration team and volunteering wherever needed as a pinch hitting specialist.

She has been involved in many of the groups that have steered Open Table to becoming what we are today. These include the development of the organizational structure and the transition from all-volunteer to a staff-based organization, the acquisition of and move to our Pantry site in Maynard, the restructuring of services during COVID, and the installation of the volunteer software system.

When asked why she has dedicated so much of her time to Open Table, she replied "because I am appalled that anyone goes hungry in the country." Open Table has been able to grow and successfully address food insecurity in our community due to the hard work and dedication of volunteers like Jean.

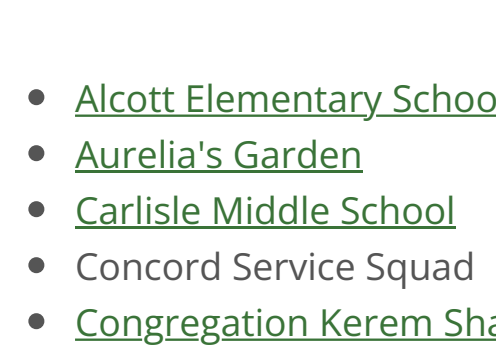
***Favorite Vegetable?***  
Broccoli (yum)

***Favorite local business?***  
[Debra's Natural Gourmet](#), [Barrett's Mill Farm](#), [Hutchins Farm](#), [Verrill Farm](#), and [Hair in Harmony](#)



### 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 are working 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 help out with our Kids Summer Lunch and Snack Program. All that 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 the program runs through mid-August. All are excited to be volunteering while also developing leadership, teamwork, workplace, and civic participation skills!



### Summer Food Drives Really Make a Difference

Concord Service Squad, is a local group of elementary and middle schoolers interested in serving their community. On a hot day in June, these young volunteers were so excited to be running a food drive for Open Table and those in need and collected over 425 of much needed food!

Here are the other organizations that are helping us feed people in June and July:

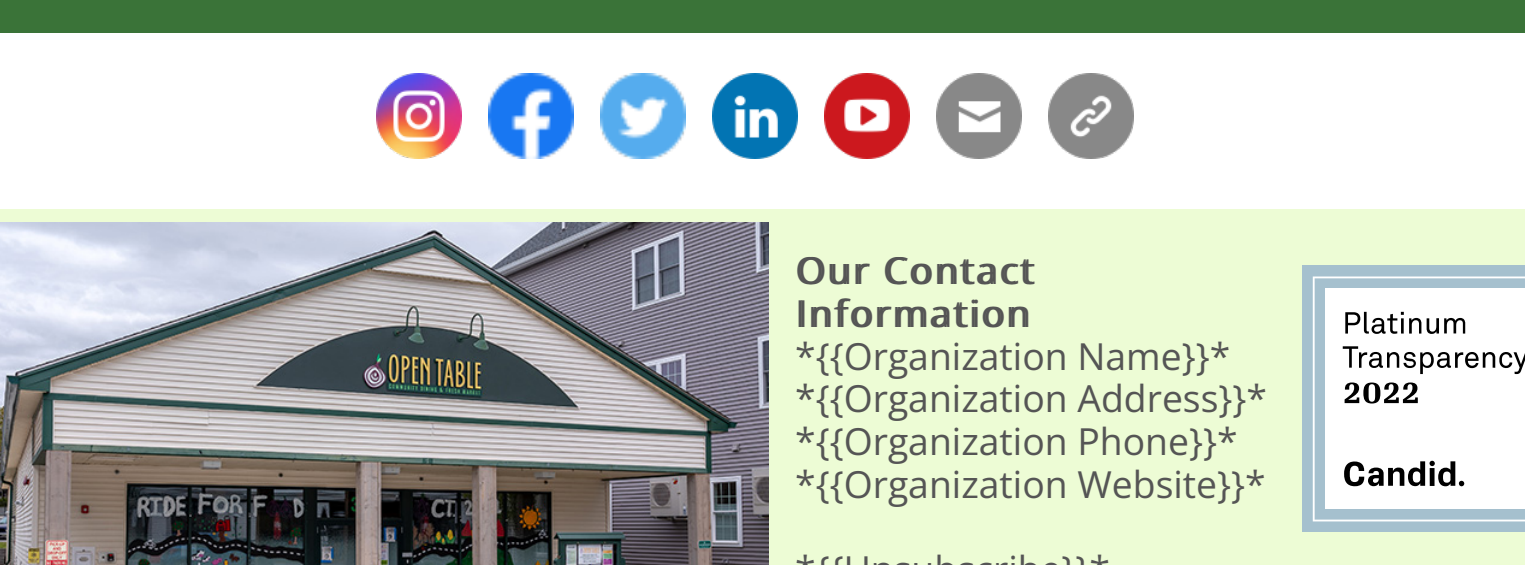
- [Alcott Elementary School](#)
- [Aurelia's Garden](#)
- [Carlisle Middle School](#)
- [Concord Service Squad](#)
- [Congregation Kerem Shalom](#)
- [Cummings Foundation](#)
- [Drumlin Farm](#)
- [Duck Soup](#)
- [Emerson Hospital](#)
- [Gaining Ground](#)
- [Katie Han](#)
- [Alex Hennighausen & Josh Weiner](#)
- [Income Research + Management](#)
- [Maynard High School](#)
- [Maynard Public Library](#)
- [Mary Lou McColl](#)
- [Molly McFadden](#)
- [Middlesex Savings Bank](#)
- [Rescuing Leftover Cuisine](#)
- [Rebecca Snyder](#)
- [St. Athanasius the Great](#)
- [Trinity Episcopal Church](#)
- [Verrill Farm](#)

### Lost and Found

We know you get so involved when volunteering at Open Table, you sometimes leave an item or two behind. So please take a look at our photos to see if any of these items belong to you, and then come pick them up. Anything not picked up by August 1 will find a new home elsewhere.



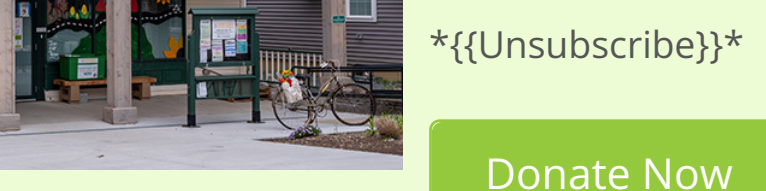
## Fun Food Facts: Green Beans



We're at the height of summer produce and what's better than fresh green beans?? Snappy and bright, they're great raw or lightly steamed, with a little butter and salt, or dressed up and sautéed. This low-calorie veggie comes with vitamins C, K and B6 as well as manganese and calcium. Typically grown either as bush beans (low to the ground) or runner beans (need a pole to tie them up to), they're easy to cultivate and fun to pick. Grab a handful for a healthy side dish to any meat or fish!

Looking for a quick and delicious green bean side dish? Try this recipe for Armenian Green Beans from our executive director, Jeanine Calabria:

[Get Recipe](#)



**Our Contact Information**  
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