

NEWS

FOOD & HOSPITALITY

A Publication of The Open Door

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Greetings!

As we wind down this year, there is much for which to be thankful. At the top of our list, sits a deep well of gratitude for a community that thinks it is important to care for its neighbors in practical ways—a community that knows it is important to alleviate the impact of hunger in the lives of families and children.

Last year, this community—YOU—helped improve the health and lives of 6,225 people by providing 990,087 pounds of good food to residents of Gloucester, Rockport, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Essex and Ipswich. You helped serve breakfast and lunch to 180 homeless families living in hotels in Danvers this summer. You helped pile the produce baskets with fresh fruits and vegetables at our Mobile Markets. You helped fill the bowl of a senior with homemade soup. You helped a child go home with a full tummy at the end of a school day. Simple. Practical. Important.

The first time Mark came to The Open Door, his infant son was in Boston Children's Hospital after birth complications. Caught off guard by their son's health issues, Mark and Jane had no idea then how long their journey would last. To make matters worse—at the same time—Mark lost his job. It was a perfect storm of trouble.

"We went from doing really well, to being on the wrong end of the stick."

It was only when he was down to his last box of pasta that Mark plucked up the courage to come to the Food Pantry. He had always been on the giving side of the counter. Now he needed help. Instead of feeling awkward, Mark was welcomed by the staff and volunteers. As the chef in the family, he was also pleasantly surprised by the abundance of fresh produce, milk, eggs, bread and the variety of choice that met him when he walked through the doors of the Food Pantry.

Now, more than two years later, Mark has a job. His family is happy. His son's health condition has stabilized. They only need to use the Food Pantry occasionally instead of every week.

"We are still trying to climb up the mountain. Without The Open Door's help, our family would have gone without food a lot of nights. Once in a while, I still need to come down there to get food to make a meal, and you are always there to provide for us."

With your help The Open Door can provide food for families like Mark's every week of the year. Here in our corner of Essex County, your help boosts people up the mountain of adversity. Your help stabilizes homes rocked by unexpected loss. Your help brings hope where hope has faded. Your help offers compassion where compassion is needed.

Will you please consider making a donation to help alleviate the impact of hunger in our community this year?

We need your continued support to carry out our simple mission and connect people to good food. Every dollar that you give helps put food on the tables of your neighbors in need. The services of The Open Door have grown out of the generous heart of this community. We cannot do what we do each year without a little help from everyone.

With warm regards from our table to yours,

Julie LaFontaine, Executive Director and The Open Door Team

Yes, I want to help connect people to good food!

\$ 25.00 \$50.00 \$75.00 \$100.00 \$250.00 Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ (To receive updates on events, programs and advocacy.)

Return your donation to:

28 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, MA 01930

DONATE ONLINE: www.FOODPANTRY.org

CONNECT WITH US!



@TheOpenDoorMA

info@foodpantry.org