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NEWS FOOD & HOSPITALITY

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OUR MISSION

The mission of The Open Door is to alleviate the impact of hunger in our community.

We use practical strategies to connect people to good food, to advocate on behalf of those in need, and to engage others in the work of building food security.

WHAT WE DO

- Food Pantry
- Community Meals
- Summer Meals
- Mobile Market
- Holiday Baskets
- SNAP Assistance
- Nutrition Education & Outreach
- Second Glance Thrift Store
- PowerSnack
- Senior Soup & Salad
- Advocacy
- Community Service
- Garden Project
- Good Food Box
- Cooking Classes
- Job Training
- Food Rescue

Find Us. Follow Us. Share Us.



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SecondGlanceThriftStore
@TheOpenDoorMA
@AtTheGlance

Farm to School is Growing in Gloucester

Have you seen our nutrition vans on the road? They rescue food, deliver off-site meals, and now pick up fruits and veggies we purchase from local farms as part of our Farm to School collaboration with the Gloucester Public School District and Backyard Growers.

Last year The Open Door was awarded a national \$100,000 USDA Farm to School grant to connect local kids to good food. The award, divided between The Open Door (TOD), Backyard Growers, and Gloucester Public School District (GPSD) during a two-year period, builds upon an already strong partnership with each organization playing to its strengths.

“Our Farm to School collaboration increases student access to fresh fruits and vegetables,” says TOD Executive Director Julie LaFontaine. “Focusing on our free school-based programs Summer Meals and PowerSnack, and our nutrition education activities, we provide healthy local options while improving student health.”

USDA Farm to School project was established by the Healthy Hunger Free Act (2010) to increase access to local foods in eligible schools. Since 2013, the program has funded 300 projects throughout the U.S. and brought local food into 18,136 schools to impact 10.2 million students including the 3,000 students in the Gloucester Public School District. Our project was one of just four projects to be funded in Massachusetts in 2016.

“Farm to School has helped us develop relationships with local suppliers Alprilla Farms, West Gloucester Orchard, and Cedar Rock Gardens,” said TOD Director of Operations Jen Perry. “We have always received some in-kind food donations from farms for our hunger-relief programs, but now we have the capacity to purchase some local foods for our school-based programs.”

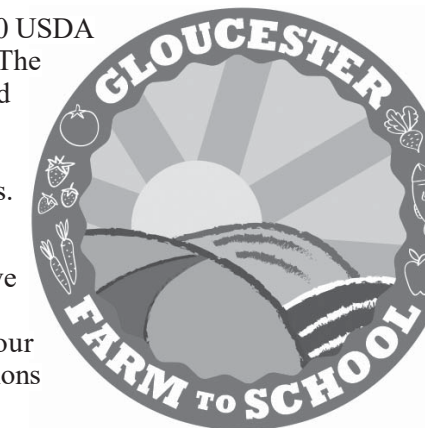


Backyard Growers builds on its expertise to strengthen and expand the existing school garden program at eight schools, and provides Harvest of the Month activities along with Spring Salad Days and Fall Harvest Days. “Good food is fundamental to our health,” says Lara Lepionka, Executive Director of Backyard Growers, “we want kids to be in the process of nurturing it. It’s powerful to make something grow.”

The grant supported the hiring of a food consultant to help GPSD source locally grown food and will provide critical equipment and food service staff training to bring more scratch cooking into the schools.

Superintendent of GPSD, Dr. Richard Safier, says the Farm to School collaboration has “helped every school child in the district experience growing, tasting and eating fresh fruits and vegetables at school. Our goal is to give children experiences that will shift their attitudes and behaviors toward making healthy food choices.”

“Much of Farm to School is building on what each partner does well, and marketing food to kids so they understand where their food comes from,” says Jen. “Activities like Meet the Farmer, Taste Tests, and Harvest of the Month really get kids excited about local food.”



THANK YOU!

If you have already sent a financial contribution to help meet the holiday need, please enjoy the newsletter, and keep us in mind for another time.

I would like to support families in our community with a **ONE-TIME** contribution:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 OTHER: \$ _____

I would like to support families in our community with a **MONTHLY** contribution of \$ _____ (12 Months) Starting: _____ Ending: _____

Please bill my credit card. _____ / _____
Card # Exp. Date

- Options for giving:
- Contribution. My address is listed below.
 - In honor of person(s) listed below. Please notify them of my gift.
 - In memory of: _____
 - Please notify person(s) listed below.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Federal Tax I.D. #22-2513482
Make your donation online at foodpantry.org or send a check to The Open Door, 28 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930



Dear friends,

Our theme this year at The Open Door has been #Nourish.

Nourish by definition means to **provide with the food or other substances necessary for growth, health, and good condition.** The Open Door has truly grown from the heart of a community that nourishes and cares for its own.

Earlier this fall, The Open Door was honored to be recognized by the Health Connector as a Hidden Gem in the community. As part of a state-wide tour, businesses and organizations such as The Open Door were highlighted for their work in making great communities even better. Healthy. Safe for our most vulnerable citizens.

This is a recognition that we wouldn't have received without your support. It is each of YOU who help provide the programs that NOURISH and FEED our neighbors.

From its humble beginnings in the basement of Brown's Mall 38 years ago, YOU have helped The Open Door grow into a community food resource center that serves one in six Gloucester residents and those residents, from nine surrounding cities and towns, who need a little help when times are tough.

Using a prevention-based approach, grounded in nutrition education, and public health, YOU help provide consistent and adequate access to nutrition in a socially acceptable environment.

YOU help us strategically place our programs in areas of greatest need to directly improve the health and welfare of our local citizens.

With the 6,410 people who used our services last year, we had 6,410 opportunities to nourish hope. To nourish health. To nourish the power of community.

Now coming into the months when we as Americans celebrate and give thanks, there are families in our community who are struggling to put food on the table. Your support is needed. As you give thanks this year, will you consider making a gift to support The Open Door? Your support will help us deliver services to those who need a little help making ends meet.

Sincerely,

Julie LaFontaine, Executive Director

Are You a Good Egg?

It's easy to become a member of the Good Egg Club. Your once-monthly donation can help make a difference in the lives of hungry people not just at the holidays, but all year long.

Go to www.foodpantry.org/goodegg and download the Good Egg Pledge Card. Complete it with an amount you can comfortably give each month and return it to us at:

The Open Door
28 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, MA 01930

Questions? Call us at (978) 283-6776 x206



Returning the Good Deed

When Amy-Beth was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), it took two years to be approved for disability benefits. While her husband Jay worked as an EMT, their income for a family of five was too high for Food Stamps. "We got further and further into debt" she says. They got behind on their mortgage, had help from their family, but "there are times, when you just cannot keep asking for help."



This hardworking family found themselves at the food pantry. At first, she and Jay agreed not to tell their three girls. "The help and compassion we received from the folks at The Open Door made a world of difference. I don't just mean by putting food on the table. But it was good food ...often from local farms, or the garden behind The Open Door." The Holiday Basket they received every year meant that they could celebrate Thanksgiving and the holidays with their own traditions.

After five difficult years, Amy-Beth was able to go back to college in 2015 to finish her business degree. She graduated Endicott college in May 2016 and completed her first work anniversary at Harborlight Community Partners this October.

"We have worked hard to teach our girls that you get back what you give, times three. Jay and I felt, and feel, that we have come full circle by giving back to an organization that has given so much to us. You helped us get through the toughest five years of our lives and we are tremendously grateful."

Amy Beth Healey was our guest speaker at the 2016 Autumn Breakfast. Now that she and her family are on the other side of hardship, as a surprise, at the end of her speech, she challenged the room to become monthly Good Egg donors like her family, and also gave five holiday meals so they could return the good deed.

Our Award Winning Volunteers

Every year at The Open Door Autumn Breakfast, we honor volunteers and community partners that share their time, talent and engagement to nourish our community. Awardees Susan Otis and Giselle Rein are featured in our Ipswich newsletter.

Helen Muise Award: Donte Cone, Community Meals



For Donte, "I love my job because I am able to provide services that are meaningful, and it makes me feel proud of myself."

Unsung Hero Award: Applied Materials Food Drive Team



"It's really important for those of us that live in Gloucester to give back to the community we love and work in," says Applied Materials Operation Manager Tim Wood.

Helen Muise Award: Nancy Days, Second Glance



"I love that I am a helper," says Nancy. "I love seeing the growth of Second Glance and all the programs of The Open Door."

Outstanding Community Partner Award: Cape Ann Savings Bank



"Community is what we are all about," says bank President Bucky Rogers. "We believe strongly in giving back."

Helen Muise Award: Lauren Johnson, Food Pantry



"Hunger relief is near and dear to my heart," says Lauren. "It bothers me people do not have food. It bothers me very deeply."

Outstanding Community Partner Award: Backyard Growers



"We want kids to touch the ground where food grows," says Backyard Growers Executive Director Lara Lepionka. "They picked it, they ate it. It's simple!"

GOT IT AT THE GLANCE!

Around this time of year, Dottie Linqata, owner of the local restaurant The Gloucester House, starts hunting for that special platter for Christmas gifts for her near and dear.

Every holiday season for the past six years, Dottie tracks down around 12 special platters or pitchers that she then fills with six kinds of cookies, sprinkles with candy, wraps, and adds a bow.

"I'm not Italian," she says, "but I make Italian cookies. They love my cookies, and the plate! It's such a wonderful way to find something special, donate to The Open Door, and make a great presentation for my cookies!"

Dottie has been a Second Glance shopper for at least 10 years. "When I was a girl, my mother and I would go to yard sales," she says, "Second Glance is my year-long yard sale!"

Do you have a story about a treasure found at Second Glance? Let us know! info@foodpantry.org

