New Space—More Nutrition

As summer heats up, The Open Door is nearing the completion of a 2,000 square foot addition and pantry renovation that increases the organization’s capacity to serve better food to more people. The expansion, started a year ago, doubles the dry storage area and includes a spacious walk-in cooler/freezer unit that enables the food rescue team to safely receive and store perishable food at required temperatures until it can be distributed. Natural light coming through southeast-facing windows floods a new food prep area complete with workstations fully-equipped for meal production. A level, covered loading dock provides direct access for delivery trucks to get food into the building and 14 new parking spots make a visit to The Open Door easier than ever.

The food pantry service area is being reconfigured to provide coordinated, client-centered, high-quality food access that integrates nutrition and choice to improve overall health status. The new model will offer the features and feel of a small grocery store. Large windows will let more light into the shopping area. Alongside the traditional shelves of cereal, cans of corn and jars of peanut butter, the layout will include displays of fresh fruits and vegetables, baskets of bread and muffins, and reach-in coolers stocked with selections of homemade soups, partially prepped ingredients, and meal starter kits to help make the healthy choice the easy choice. Dusky’s Corner, a new component of the pantry, will be regularly stocked with cat and dog food in partnership with Cape Ann Animal Aid.

Clients will be invited to use a grocery cart to “shop” for food. Although each allotment will be based on the number of people in each household, the choices will be 100% made by the client. Volunteers will work with clients to make the service experience both safe and welcoming. When shopping is complete, the weight of each order will be recorded at a checkout counter for accurate tracking and reporting.

The Open Door anticipates a ribbon-cutting date in late September.

School’s Out for the Summer!

The Open Door Summer Meals program picks up nutrition where the schools leave off at the close of the academic year. As a veteran sponsor of the federal Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), The Open Door provides tasty lunch for kids during the 10 weeks they are not in school. With twenty-one sites ranging in locations between Gloucester to the Econo Lodge and Extended Stay hotels in Danvers, the program offers a variety of healthy lunch choices made with fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat milk. The lunches, prepared daily in The Open Door’s newly expanded facility in Gloucester, are offered free to children ages 18 and younger.
We are fortunate to have the assistance of a group of wonderful interns this summer. They have been determined, dedicated, and downright fun to work with. Without all of their help, it would be significantly harder to provide free summer meals for kids at 21 different sites. We'll let them introduce themselves...

My name is Jess Scola, and I’m a Gloucester native who graduated from Boston University with a BS in Journalism in 2007. After several years in a variety of fun and not-so-fun corporate jobs in Boston and New York City, I was inspired to move into the non-profit world. I’m currently completing a Certificate in Mental Health at North Shore Community College, and plan to get a Masters degree in social work or a similar field in the near future. Some things I’m passionate about are women’s issues, civil rights, media, Netflix, cooking, The X-Files, British television, dogs, and the Celtics. My favorite things about being an intern at The Open Door are doing work that helps people and learning something new everyday. — Jess

Hi, I’m Charlotte Braverman and I am from Houston, Texas. I am currently a rising sophomore at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, where I am studying Poverty and Human Capability studies and Economics. I have two younger siblings—a sister Adeline and a brother Cooper—as well as a pug named Alice. In my free time I love to run, read, and journal and I’m a huge fan of Harry Potter. I have loved working at The Open Door and, especially, have enjoyed the opportunities I’ve had to get a closer look at the thoughtful and creative strategies The Open Door uses to connect people to nutritious foods. — Charlotte

My name is Taylor Anderson. I’m from Peabody MA, and a senior at Merrimack College. I am a Health Science major concentrating in Nutrition with minors in Biology and Psychology. I am a three-season college athlete at Merrimack, where I run Cross Country and Track. Along with school I am a waitstaff at the Stonewood Tavern in Peabody. Also in the summer I am a coach for the six and under group at Going the Distance Speed and Conditioning camp in Andover. I enjoy always keeping busy, however, when I do have free time I like hanging out with friends or binging on Netflix. What I find most interesting about the Open Door is just all the different programs we serve. Its absolutely incredible and so heartwarming to see how grateful people are for the services. It really makes each day worth it! — Taylor

I am Julia Toby, and this fall I am going to be a senior at the University of New Hampshire where I am a Nutrition and Wellness major. My plans for after college are hopefully entering an accelerated nursing program at a school in Massachusetts. Then, someday down the road, I would like to go back to school to become a Nurse Practitioner. I want to help and care for people, and by becoming a nurse I will be able to do that. For the past eight years, I have also worked in the bakery at Russell Orchards in Ipswich. I make everything—even our famous cider donuts. When I have free time, my favorite place to go is Burlington, Vermont! What I love most about being an intern at The Open Door is knowing what I am doing is making a positive impact on someone else’s life. — Julia

If you received Shopping Spree Raffle tickets with your newsletter, fill them out and return them to 28 Emerson Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930 along with your donation.

If you did not receive tickets and would like to be entered into a drawing for a 3-minute grocery shopping spree, call 978-283-6776 ext. 205. Tickets are six for $5 and one for $1.

Yes, I want to help The Open Door better serve the community!

☐ $ 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 and raffle stubs to: 28 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, MA  01930
Phone: 978-283-6776 Fax: 978-282-9684

With your support, The Open Door improved the lives of more than 6,000 people last year. Your thoughtful donation helps connect people to good food.