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.

FOOD & HOSPITALITY NEWS

Ipswich Community Food Pantry Opens Doors

Nestled in Agawam Village, at the heart of the Ipswich Housing Authority, is a tiny barn-red building filled with local good food. Green and orange signs proudly point to the new home of The Open Door Ipswich Community Food Pantry.

“We are excited to provide more expanded services to Ipswich and the surrounding neighborhoods,” says Julie LaFontaine, Executive Director of The Open Door. “The former Ipswich Food Pantry board were amazing stewards, and we are delighted to partner with the community to carry on their good work to make sure no one goes hungry.”

In January 2016, after a period of due diligence from both organizations’ boards, the former all-volunteer run Ipswich Food Pantry merged with The Open Door to become The Open Door Ipswich Community Food Pantry, to provide a multi-service food and nutrition resource center for residents of Ipswich, Topsfield, Rowley, Hamilton, and Wenham.

Partnering with the Ipswich Housing Authority and the former board of the Ipswich Food Pantry, The Open Door opened up the new centralized location at Agawam in May to offer handicapped accessibility, parking, and plenty of space for expanded healthy food choices.

Funding from Institution for Savings provided seed money for a refrigerator and freezer, a state grant written by the Ipswich Housing Authority funded some capital improvements for the building, funding from People’s United provided program support, money from visiting Rotarians from Ipswich in England provided a new counter, and local Rotarian muscle painted the beautiful barn for all to see. The Ipswich Lions Club organized and held an Empty Bowl Dinner in November to benefit the new food pantry.

Ipswich Board Members

Joining The Open Door board of directors this fall are Ipswich residents Irene Josephson of Joeset Corporation, and Robert “Bob” Gravino of the Ipswich Rotary Club. Irene is an active member of both the Ipswich and Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce, and treasurer of the Essex County Beekeepers Association in Topsfield. “I am honored to be part of The Open Door,” says Irene. “They provide good food to keep people healthy, and their expertise is welcome here in Ipswich.”

Ten-year Rotarian, retired United States Coast Guard Captain with 34-years of service, and former director of public works in both Gloucester and Ipswich, Bob Gravino brings his dedication to both public and community service to the board. “After years of moving around with the Coast Guard, I learned to appreciate the good work that organizations like The Open Door do in their communities,” he said.
Dear friends,

A few years ago, I visited the Museum of American History in Washington, DC. There, I saw a house that had been transported from Ipswich, MA and reassembled inside the walls of the Smithsonian. You could peek through each window and look back through time to see how past generations lived. However, what has stuck with me most was the quote from Reverend Horace Bushnell which read: “The home is the church of childhood, the hearth and the table its holy rites.”

In these challenging economic times, we see more people who need help holding those basic “holy rites” in place. For what is a hearth without heat and what is a table without food?

Last January, the Ipswich Community Food Pantry merged with The Open Door to become The Open Door Ipswich Community Food Pantry. We relocated the food pantry from the basement of a local church to a more central, handicap-accessible location with Ipswich Housing Authority.

Although our distribution site in Ipswich is new, our service to Ipswich residents is not. We have been supporting Ipswich residents since 1978. Last year, The Open Door provided 77,572 pounds of food to 341 Ipswich households representing 643 people (4.7% of Ipswich’s population) through our pantry in Gloucester, the Mobile Market located at the Ipswich Senior Center and at Agawam Village. Additionally, we have worked with Winthrop Elementary School principal, Sheila McAdams to provide a Summer Meals program for kids for the past three years.

Now, with the support of the community behind us, we can offer a full-service food pantry at Ipswich with fresh milk, eggs, produce, bread, and canned goods on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We want to thank the community and volunteers for welcoming us to your neighborhood. We look forward to working with you to build a resource for Ipswich in Ipswich—a community with a long history of nourishing its own. With your help, we connect families to good nutrition and health.

As you give thanks this year, please consider making a gift to support The Open Door Ipswich Community Food Pantry. Your support will help us deliver services to those who need a little help making ends meet.

Sincerely,

Julie LaFontaine, Executive Director

Ipswich Community Food Pantry Volunteer Award

Volunteers Giselle Reins and Susan Otis received the Helen Muise Community Service Award in front of an appreciative crowd of 300 at The Open Door Autumn Breakfast on October 27 for giving of their time and talent to nourish others at the Ipswich Community Food Pantry.

Together, they owned and operated OTSIREN art gallery in downtown Ipswich. Crows have long been the signature of their collaborative work because they symbolize their commitment to community and working together to make the world a better place.

When Ipswich Community Food Pantry merged with The Open Door earlier this year, the pantry was relocated to Agawam Village where Giselle and Susan live. They were the first to fill out volunteer applications to help in the new building. Now they both volunteer to stock shelves, work the counter, and assist clients as they come in.

Susan loves working at the pantry where she gets to make a “human connection that makes everyone feel good. Connection—it’s an essential human need,” she says.

For Giselle, she loves that The Open Door “is about health, wellness and nutrition. It’s not about empty calories, but about helping people be well.”

Ipswich Community Food Pantry manager Luke Kleindienst is grateful for their support. He says, “they are extremely dedicated. They go above and beyond any call of duty and put their hearts into volunteering. They do it because they love it.” Thank you Susan and Giselle!

First Annual Ipswich Empty Bowl Dinner

Hats off to the Ipswich Lions Club 33N for the First Annual Lions Club Empty Bowl Dinner to support the Ipswich Community Food Pantry held on November 3 at the Hellenic Center.

Nearly 300 Ipswich community members turned out for the benefit, chose a bowl, ate some delicious soup donated by local restaurants Ipswich River Provisions, CK Pearl, Jules’ Kitchen, Ipswich Inn Bed & Breakfast, Vinwood Caterers, and Ipswich Ale Brewer’s Table, and then took their bowls home to remind them that someone in their community is hungry. Artists from Ascension Church, Ipswich Inn Bed & Breakfast, The Bridge at Riverbend, Ipswich Senior Center, First Church of Ipswich, and Girl Scout troops of Topsfield and Middleton created those beautiful one-of-a-kind bowls.

Community volunteers from the Ipswich Lions and Rotary helped make the event a roaring success, and a great night was had by all!

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
Ipswich Community Food Pantry
00 Southern Heights, Ipswich, MA

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