



The Open Door
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The Open Door Autumn Breakfast Returns with Winter Hardship on Horizon

GLOUCESTER – After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, friends of The Open Door will break bread in-person once again at the nonprofit's Autumn Breakfast, an annual fundraiser to kickstart its Holiday Basket and Thanksgiving Food Drive programs.

In 2020 and 2021, The Open Door held virtual Autumn Breakfast events.

"We are overjoyed to welcome people back to the breakfast table and mark the start of our Holiday Basket and Thanksgiving Food Drive programs. As we honor our community and volunteers for their dedication to feeding our neighbors, we know we have a hard winter ahead of us," President and CEO Julie LaFontaine said. "With anticipated hikes to electric bills amid a 40-year high in food prices, all hands will be needed to make sure people have the food they need for the holidays and beyond."

The Autumn Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, October 11 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Beauport Hotel in Gloucester. Limited tickets remain available at autumnbreakfast2022.eventbrite.com.

Awardees to be recognized at the event include:

- Outstanding Community Partner: Ipswich Family YMCA for their dedication through the pandemic and beyond.
- Charlotte Pope Award: Marc Nicastro, of Gloucester, for rolling up his sleeves in the kitchen.

- Helen Muise Award: Tony Gross, of Gloucester, for his versatility and willingness to do what needs to get done.
- Helen Muise Award: Grace Hamada, of Gloucester, for her kind heart and commitment to Second Glance, Thrift Store of The Open Door.

Help for the Holidays

Autumn Breakfast launches The Open Door Holiday Basket and Thanksgiving Food Drive programs.

Last year, The Open Door distributed 2,267 Holiday Baskets for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays to local people who needed a little extra help setting the table. For a donation of \$35, a Holiday Basket provides a family with all the fixings needed to make a holiday meal at home to preserve family traditions and make new memories.

Sponsors of the event have provided \$25,000 to match donations to encourage others to donate to the Holiday Basket program and beyond.

Those unable to attend Autumn Breakfast can donate to The Open Door Holiday Basket program and beyond by visiting FOODPANTRY.org/donate.

Autumn Breakfast also kicks off The Open Door Thanksgiving Food Drive program, bolstering food supplies on the nonprofit's shelves to support both the Holiday Basket program and winter months ahead. This year, The Open Door is encouraging donations of breakfast and brunch items in particular, including:

- Cereal
- Coffee
- Tea
- Cereal Bars
- Granola Bars
- Instant Oatmeal
- Pancake/Waffle Mix
- Maple Syrup
- 100% Juice

To hold a food drive at your place of work, school, place of worship, or other community group, visit FOODPANTRY.org/fooddrive.

The community-wide Thanksgiving Food Drive, held every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, is on November 19 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at participating locations including:

- Market Basket at 101 Gloucester Crossing Road, Gloucester MA 01930
- Stop & Shop at 6 Thatcher Road, Gloucester MA 01930
- Shaw's at 127 Eastern Avenue, Gloucester MA 01930
- Shaw's at 146 High Street, Ipswich MA 01938
- Crosby's Marketplace at 3 Summer Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea MA 01944

- Market Basket at 231 Newburyport Turnpike, Rowley MA 01969

Participants are asked to please avoid donating anything in glass jars for safety.

To learn more about how you can help local people get the food they need, visit
FOODPANTRY.org

About The Open Door

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.

Founded in 1978, The Open Door is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit and community food resource center for low-income residents of Gloucester, Rockport, Manchester, Essex, Ipswich, Hamilton, Boxford, Rowley, Topsfield, and Wenham. **In 2021, The Open Door helped stabilize the lives and health of 8,516 people from 4,176 households through the distribution of 1.83 million pounds of food.**

For more information, visit FOODPANTRY.org.

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