



City of Gloucester
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The Open Door
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Open Door and City of Gloucester Highlight Hunger Action Month

**Mayor Greg Verga Issues Proclamation Naming September Hunger
Action Month**





Gloucester Mayor Greg Verga issues the proclamation declaring September Hunger Action Month (Photo courtesy of The Open Door)

GLOUCESTER – As food costs reach a 40-year-high and people continue to recover financially from the pandemic, The Open Door and the City of Gloucester partner to raise hunger awareness today.

Mayor Greg Verga issued a proclamation naming September Hunger Action Month on Friday, September 23 during a gathering with The Open Door team on the steps of City Hall.

“Rising food costs and inflation have stretched household budgets to the breaking point this year leaving many people wondering how they will feed their families,” said President and CEO Julie LaFontaine. “As a community, we work together to connect people to good food and to close the gap for those who are juggling to cover their basic needs. Hunger Action Day is an opportunity to make a difference and raise awareness, to advocate, volunteer or donate to help our neighbors.”

In 2021, The Open Door connected **8,516 people** from **4,176 families** to **1.83 million** pounds of food.

The Open Door serves 1 in 6 Gloucester residents, plus those who need a little extra help putting food on the table in Rockport, Essex, Ipswich, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Hamilton, Wenham, Topsfield, Boxford, and Rowley. The Open Door also has Mobile Market locations in Danvers and Lynn. A recent MassBudget report announced that 21% of Gloucester residents and 27% of its children live in poverty.

"The Open Door's work to support Essex County's residents is invaluable, and Gloucester is fortunate to have them in our community," said Mayor Greg Verga. "We must continue to bring awareness to this issue, and I am proud to support The Open Door in its work to provide much-needed hunger relief and essential food programming."

Hunger Action Month is observed annually, nationwide in September to raise hunger awareness and spur action to reduce the impact of hunger in local communities. This year, Hunger Action Day is being recognized on Friday, September 23.

Gloucester City Hall has been illuminated with orange lights every night this week to raise hunger awareness. Orange is the color used to symbolize hunger.

Members of the Gloucester City Council will also wear The Open Door Hunger Action Month orange t-shirts at their Tuesday, Sept. 27 meeting.

To view The Open Door's Hunger Action Month video, featuring local leaders including Mayor Verga, Director of Veterans Services and The Open Door Board Director Adam Curcuru, Director of Elder Services Elise Sinagra, Pathways for Children President and CEO Eric Mitchell, Addison Gilbert Hospital Vice President and The Open Door Board Director Jason Andree, and Community Activist Maiuza Alves, [click here](#).

To learn how you can help local people get the food they need, visit [FOODPANTRY.org/hungeractionmonth](https://www.foodpantry.org/hungeractionmonth).

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](https://www.foodpantry.org).