



The Open Door  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Thanksgiving Food Drive and Holiday Baskets to Leave No Plate Empty**

GLOUCESTER – With food prices at a 40-year high, and energy and housing costs stretching family budgets to the brink, local people need help getting all the fixings for that special turkey dinner later this month and groceries for the winter months beyond.

On Saturday, November 19 with help from the community, The Open Door Thanksgiving Food Drive held at six local grocery stores will collect donated food to help stock the nonprofit's pantries for the holidays and beyond. Holiday Baskets will also be distributed that day to local families who need a little extra help setting the table for the holidays. Each Holiday Basket will include a turkey, gravy, potatoes, apples, carrots, cranberry sauce, squash, and all the fixings to make a holiday meal at home.

"Every day, people right here on the North Shore choose between groceries and rent, or utilities and medicine. When it comes to the holidays, our neighbors need a helping hand," President and CEO Julie LaFontaine said. "Our Holiday Basket program and our pantries are here to fill that gap so families get the groceries they need every week. Whether you donate online or come down to a food drive location near you, please join us to help put food on the table for our neighbors."

**Thanksgiving Food Drive: Saturday, November 19 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

On Saturday, November 19 The Open Door Thanksgiving Food Drive will collect food donations for the holiday season and beyond. The Open Door is encouraging donations of breakfast items, including cereal, coffee, tea, cereal and granola bars, instant oatmeal, pancake and waffle mix, maple syrup, and 100% fruit juice. As the holiday season arrives, a surplus of breakfast items available at The Open Door food pantries

supports families as children eat more meals at home over school breaks. It also allows parents, grandparents, and caregivers to prepare special breakfasts at home over the holidays.

Members of the public are asked to please avoid donating items in glass jars, however, for safety.

The Thanksgiving Food Drive begins and 9 a.m. on Saturday, Nov 19 and ends at 3 p.m. Participating locations include:

- 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

### **Holiday Baskets**

To donate to help feed local people through the holidays and beyond, visit [FOODPANTRY.org/donate](https://FOODPANTRY.org/donate).

If you need help getting the food you need to prepare your holiday meal, order a Holiday Basket through The Open Door at no cost at [FOODPANTRY.org/holidaybasket](https://FOODPANTRY.org/holidaybasket).

Holiday Baskets are also available for the December holidays.

Last year, The Open Door distributed 2,267 holiday baskets over the course of the November and December holidays.

For more information, visit [FOODPANTRY.org](https://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](https://FOODPANTRY.org).

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