

# Neighbors In Need

Winter 2020

Bringing healthy food to those in need for more than 35 years

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### Photography

Lisa Smith  
Linda Zimmerman

## 19 Diapers a Month Make a Difference !

Nationwide one-in-three families struggles with diaper need. Recent research by the National Diaper Bank and Huggies confirmed this 2010 finding. The study also shows that just 19 diapers a month often makes all the difference for families! Additional research by the University of Connecticut reveals that providing supplemental diapers to babies in need not only improves the overall health of the baby, but also increases personal income of the families who receive the diapers. In this study, 56% of the parents surveyed reported they had missed work or school because they didn't have the diapers needed to send their children to childcare.

For many years, Neighbors in Need has recognized that families coming to our food pantries may also be struggling to diaper their babies. Each weekday morning in our Lawrence office, we distribute infant supplies at our Diaper Pantry. Since 2017 our Diaper Pantry has grown significantly. We went from distributing 17,000 diapers in 2017, to 50,000 diapers in 2018 and in 2019 we distributed more than

100,000 diapers. We now serve 275 families or 450 children each month. And each of our families receives at least 19 diapers – usually more depending on diaper size. Diapers for older babies are larger and children use fewer diapers as they age.

What can you do to help? Hold a diaper drive! Neighbors in Need accepts donations of diapers (all sizes) and wipes. We also accept donations of infant formula, clothing (up to size 5T) and other infant supplies. You can purchase an item from our Amazon Wishlist. Or make a cash donation so that we can purchase needed items. You can make a difference to baby in need!



Photo by Walaah Khaleel on Unsplash



Neighbors In Need fights hunger locally by distributing healthy food at 13 Food Pantries strategically located in the neighborhoods of Greater Lawrence. 9 of these pantries are open to the public. NIN also helps hungry infants and infants with diaper need, by providing caregivers formula, diapers and other necessities for children under the age of 5 at our Lawrence office.

# Neighbors in Need: 2019 by the Numbers

<p><b>9,700,000</b> Pounds of food donated since 1983</p>	<p><b>115,000</b> Diapers distributed in 2019</p>	<p><b>OVER 900</b> Volunteers last year</p>
<p><b>21,000</b> Bottles of formula to clients in 2019</p>	<p><b>In 2019 250,000</b></p>	<p>Pounds of fresh fruits &amp; vegetables distributed through our "Farming for our Neighbors Program"</p>
<p>Meals provided in 2019 alone! <b>Over 500,000</b></p>	<p><b>2,600</b> Families received a complete holiday meal last year</p>	
<p>Serving the Community Since <b>1983</b></p>	<p><b>46%</b> Of food recipients are children</p>	<p><b>16%</b> Of food recipients are elders</p>



Thank you Jessica's Brick Oven Bakery for donating fresh baked rolls for 600 of our Thanksgiving Meal boxes.



Pike School held a food drive and brought second graders to our Warehouse to weigh, sort and put away the donations. The children were hardworking volunteers and we're grateful for the food.



## Helping Hands

The 35th annual Merrimack Valley Christian Men's Christmas Eve Breakfast contributed 8,000 diapers and more than 500 ounces of infant formula. Thank you!



Superstar volunteer, Samantha Reyes, Notre Dame High School freshman, works every Wednesday at the NIN office

Masconomet Swim & Dive brought 28 swimmers and chaperones to volunteer at the January Greater Lawrence Family Health Center Mobile Market – a huge job on a cold day!!

**Table Talk**



**Apple Pie**

Table Talk donated 30 cases of pies to our Thanksgiving meals, helping make the meals for our Elder Pantries all the more special.



Thanks First Church Methuen for the 1,350 cans of soup collected in February for NIN!

# Bringing holiday food to those in need

On Tuesday, November 26th and Thursday, December 19th we distributed over 1,400 meals for Thanksgiving and 1,200 meals for Christmas to families in need in Greater Lawrence. A huge THANK YOU to all of our dedicated volunteers and generous donors who made this possible!



South Church Andover volunteers and donors filled a rented UHAUL truck with 250 Thanksgiving meals. First Church Methuen, Christ Church Episcopal Andover, Forest Street Church and many other faith partners volunteered and/or donated meals.



FBI Citizens Academy Alumni donated and delivered 25 Thanksgiving meals and volunteered at the Lawrence distribution.



200 volunteers served in the Warehouse including North Parish Church Junior Youth Group, Girl Scout Troop 82081 and many local families



Ballard Vale United Church donated 100 Christmas meals. Thanks also to Christ Church Episcopal Andover, and Regency Methuen for their donated meals.



Volunteers and donors from New Balance, Pfizer, ALKU, Mackinaw Underwriters, and other area businesses saved the day with their donated food, hard work and can do spirit.

Andover High School Football team carried in hundreds of turkey dinners!

Students from Campbell School in Dracut delivering donated meals. We love our school partners: Phillips Academy, Merrimack College, Wood Hill Middle School, Shawsheen Preschool, and Estabrook School.



Julie Brady, NIN Board member and Branch Manager of The Savings Bank in Methuen poses with a donated bag – DCU, Eastern Bank, MVCU, People's United Bank, and Santander all donated bags!

For a more complete list of donors and volunteer groups please visit our holiday meal web page: <http://needfood.org/programs/holiday-meals>

## Contact us:

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Soup's On



Help us to ensure no one in our community goes to bed hungry

Please join us for our largest fundraiser of the year, Soup's On! featuring live & silent auctions, soup samplings from area restaurants, and a cash bar. Our guests receive a bowl handmade by a local artisan. To sponsor Soup's On or to make an item donation to the auction please call or email Neighbors in Need at 978-685-8321 or [linda@needfood.org](mailto:linda@needfood.org). For ticketing information visit our website at [www.needfood.org](http://www.needfood.org).

*Annual Dinner and Auction  
Friday, May 1 at 6:00 PM  
Relief's In  
1 Market St, Lawrence*

