

Neighbors In Need

Winter 2019

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

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Diaper Boom!

Diapers and formula are notoriously expensive, however diaper insecurity is a need that is often overlooked. Diaper need is defined as a lack of sufficient diapers needed to keep babies dry, clean, and healthy. According to the National Diaper Bank Network, of the 11 million babies aged 0-3 years of age, 47% of them are low income, furthermore a third of moms in the US report suffering from diaper need. Despite the very real and growing need for diapers, 100% of direct diaper assistance programs are non-governmental. Those receiving welfare are able to purchase diapers with their benefits, however, only 27% of families in need receive this cash assistance.



One of Neighbors in Need's programs is the Infants in Need program, created to fill the need for diapers in Greater Lawrence. The program offers 20-50 diapers (depending on size) per child per month to families who need them. We also provide formula, wipes, clothing, and other essential items when they are donated to NIN. In 2018, the Infants in Need program was able to distribute 54,325 diapers to families suffering from diaper need— more than triple the prior year!



The difference between having diapers and not greatly impacts the economic prosperity of a family. Diapers cost a family between \$60-\$80 a month, and on average children use 6-10 diapers per day. Daycare facilities require that children be sent to the program with an adequate amount of diapers for the week. This means when parents cannot afford diapers, they cannot send their children to daycare programs, and are therefore unable to go to a job of their own, further exacerbating this cycle of poverty and unmet needs.

We are so blessed by all of our wonderful donors that generously donate diapers, wipes, formula, and other baby items. Without your support we would not be able to do this important work to support the youngest member of the community.



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.

Andover Green Schools Wins EPA Award



In December of 2018 the Andover Public Schools' "Green Schools" food rescue program was recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency for its success in education and community outreach on the issue of food waste. The Green Schools program began in 2017 to ensure that students were recycling appropriate materials, and soon expanded to recover unopened, wholesome food that was being thrown away by students to be repurposed to feed the hungry in the community. Additionally, other food waste was diverted to composting instead of the trash can. In 2017 alone, 226 tons of food was redirected from the incinerator, 9,000 pounds of which were donated to Neighbors in Need for distribution in our pantries.



Many thanks to the food rescue volunteers that pick up food every Friday afternoon from Andover schools and deliver it to the NIN warehouse. You are an integral part of our operations!

Helping Hands

Marsh Grammar School in Methuen held a food drive benefitting NIN in December –they donated 840 pounds of food!



Devoted volunteer **Will Quirnbach** can be found at the Boys and Girls Club pantry every Thursday!



Every year **Pike School** collects food and other supplies for Neighbors in Need. In February, 2nd Graders learned about hunger and food insecurity while volunteering at the Warehouse.



Boy Scout Troop 77 held a food drive at the Andover Stop & Shop grocery store to support NIN around the holidays. They donated 1,277 items for holiday meals!

This past November NIN hosted its first **Families Helping Families volunteer day!** Thank you to everyone who participated in this event helping pack more than 500 Thanksgiving meal baskets and earning 5 tickets to **Walt Disney World** – which will be featured as a Soup's On Auction Item!



We're grateful to the Merrimack Valley **Christian Men's Christmas Eve Breakfast**. In its 34th year, over 250 men attended each donating baby supplies. This event brings us thousands of ounces of formula, diapers and baby wipes every year!



Holiday Meals Success!

On Tuesday, November 20th and Thursday, December 20th we distributed over 1,300 meals for Thanksgiving and 1,000 meals for Christmas to families in need in Greater Lawrence. We are so thankful to all of our dedicated donors and volunteers who made these events possible!



Pfizer, a long time partner of Neighbors in Need volunteers at holiday meal distribution.



Regency at Methuen donates 50 Christmas meals to be delivered to clients. Thank you!



A team of enthusiastic volunteers from ALKU join us for the first time at the Christmas meal distribution.

AHS Football has their "last chance workout" unloading trucks at the Thanksgiving meal distribution before the big game. Thanks Warriors! AHS Basketball help in December. (not pictured)



South Church generously donated 243 Thanksgiving dinners.



Andover's West El collect food for NIN at their Jingle Bell Walk.

Many thanks to the volunteers that help us set up the day before distribution!



NIN vice president Claire Ross helps check in our clients on both distribution days.



Will Green, NIN Board member, and minister at Ballard Vale United Church, standing in a sea of 110 donated holiday meals for delivery.



For a more complete list of donors and volunteers please visit our website: www.needfood.org

Happy Birthday

Margaret!

Long-time NIN Volunteer, Margaret Stevens celebrated her 90th birthday on February 7th, 2019. Margaret can be found on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at our pantries, always eager to help. Thank you for all that you do!



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Bringing healthy food to those in need for 35 years

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 and silent auctions, soup samplings from area restaurants, a cash bar and attendees receive a bowl handmade by a local artisan. For sponsorship opportunities or to make an item donation to the auction please call or email Neighbors in Need at 978-685-8321 or linda@needfood.org. For ticketing information visit our website at www.needfood.org.

Annual Dinner and Auction
Friday, April 26, 2019 at 6:00 PM
Relief's In
1 Market St, Lawrence

