

Neighbors In Need

Summer 2016

celebrating 30 years of feeding the poor & hungry of Lawrence!

Our Board

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Executive Director

Linda Zimmerman

Photography

Alyssa Disabito
Emily Strong
Linda Zimmerman

Farming For Our Neighbors

NIN's Farming for our Neighbors program brings thousands of pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables to our food pantries.



On June 17, 2016 the *New York Times* reported that often food from food pantries can contribute to clients' difficulties with diabetes. This article highlights the efforts being made by a few food pantries to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables that are included in the food they distribute.

This isn't news to Neighbors in Need. We have substantially increased our client's access to produce to help improve their health. In our Farming for our Neighbors program, we actively partner with Farmer Dave's CSA, the Giving Garden, Groundwork Lawrence, Johnson's Highland View Farm, Pleasant Valley Gardens, Andover High School and Smolak Farm. Last year, our clients received 67,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables. This year is no different. Thanks to our farming partners we have already distributed over 48,000 pounds of produce! And recently, we began partnering with Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and the Greater Boston Food Bank to bring a new Mobile Market to Lawrence that will distribute only fresh produce every month.



Thanks to New Balance, Groundwork Lawrence Green Team and South Church Summer of Service for their help on the farm!



South Church Giving Garden bears fruit!



Last summer, South Church in Andover undertook a new initiative to grow produce for Neighbors in Need on land at the Rolling Ridge Conference Center in North Andover. Thanks to more than 150 volunteers, *this well tended plot has already produced 2,000 pounds of vegetables this season!* Hats off to these volunteer farmers!



Soup's On is an overwhelming success — raising more money than ever before!



Thank you Food Partners!!

Andolini's Restaurant
 BJ's Wholesale
 Cedar's Mediterranean Foods
 Jaime's Restaurant
 Jessica's Brick Oven
 Palmer's Restaurant & Tavern
 Prelude
 Raspberries Catering
 Samuel's Restaurant at Andover Inn
 Yella Grille

Sponsors
 Eastern Bank
 The Savings Bank

On April 9, 2016 nearly 200 people gathered at Lawrence's Relief's In to enjoy delicious appetizers, salad, soup, and dessert and bid on many wonderful auction items. Thanks to Emily Strong, NIN Board member and Dan Jacavanco, photographer, NIN debuted a moving video about our work in the Greater Lawrence area. This event wouldn't have been possible without the local businesses who donated food and auction items, our committed supporters, and the talented committee who made it all happen.

Soup's On! Event Team

Emily Strong, Chair
 Janet Clarke Rachel Combs
 Donna Kelley Julie Little
 Claire Ross Lisa Smith
 Amy Smith-Boden
 Cindy Parnagian—The Party Connection
 Amy Joyall - Kitchen Manager
 Mona Goldthwaite - Floor Mgr
 Dan Jacavanco—Video, Photography & Graphic Design
 Judy Torrissi—Relief's In
 Alex Shea Will, Auctioneer



Everyone who attended Soup's On left with a hand-crafted bowl! Thanks to all the local potters who make this possible.



Thanks to the Daher Law Firm and Hannah Cole for these beautiful center pieces.

Andover Schools Food Rescue

40% of food in the United States goes to waste, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Andover mom, Carina Schusterman, noticed that this didn't just happen at home. When she volunteered at her children's school, Sanborn Elementary in Andover, she saw children throwing out much unwanted food that others would have been able to use. Carina worked for more than three years to convince Andover Public Schools that it was OK to rescue this food and to give it families who needed it. Now the program is moving beyond Sanborn Elementary school. Beginning this month, as schools open, Town Officials will roll out the Food Rescue in all 10 schools in Andover. Since last spring, these parents have been donating the rescued food—milk cartons, juice boxes, yogurt, snack bars, fruit—to Neighbors in Need to distribute at our Food Pantries to those in need. This fall we plan to continue this partnership, making regular pick ups at Andover schools.



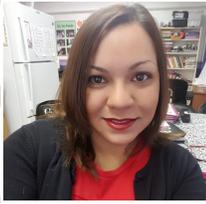
Summer Interns

NIN was blessed this summer with the service of two amazing interns. Brimming with enthusiasm and fresh ideas, we've all benefited from their good works! Forest Foundation Farming Intern and UMass Amherst student majoring in nutrition, Alyssa Disabito, spent endless hours weeding, hoeing, and picking corn as she introduced volunteers from Groundwork Lawrence, South Church Summer of Service and New Balance to the joy of working the earth and providing fresh local produce for the NIN Pantries. David Alamanzar joined us from the Northeast Independent Living Program. With David working the front desk every morning, we served many more clients in need of clothing, diapers, formula and baby food. David also helped at Johnson's Farm, in the warehouse and picking up food from the Food Bank.



Please welcome our new Board Members!

The Neighbors in Need Board has grown. Let us introduce you to our newest members.



Starting her service to NIN over a year ago, Lorie Mendoza is Executive Director at Si Se Puede, a Lawrence after-school program. She brings her experience working with children and families to the NIN Board.



Jorge Collado is a student at Northern Essex Community College, Graduate of the Jericho Road Cultural Inclusion program and a member of the Greater Lawrence Young Professionals.

Brenda Cronin was elected treasurer and brings over 20 years of financial & accounting background with her to Neighbors In Need. Brenda is no stranger to NIN—she's a long-time Holiday Meal donor and all of her children have helped out at Johnson's farm.



Will Green, Pastor at Ballard Vale United Church, brings his faith-based and social action background to our work as well as a strong bond with Ballard Vale, one of our steadfast partners in feeding the hungry of Greater Lawrence.



After her retirement from a long-time career in Human Resources, Claire Ross was ready for a new challenge. She joined our board and took off running! She was instrumental in the purchasing our new van and in recruiting new Soup's On potters.

Julie Little is the bank branch manager at The Savings Bank in Methuen. And she really believes that part of her roll is to be in the community—and she and her staff are. Julie is also a member of the Methuen Rotary and brings her many community connections to her work on the NIN board.



Cultural Inclusion Graduate, Lajja Lantigua comes to NIN with a background in running programs that care for people with dementia. Born and raised in India, Lajja has seen heart breaking hunger and feels blessed to be able to serve at NIN.



We also say a fond farewell to Walter Kreil, who served on the Neighbors in Need board for 9 years—and as treasurer since 2008, and to Linda Piette, Pediatric Nutritionist, who served for more than 13 years and as Soup's On chair. Thanks for your service! We will miss you both!

Score for Hunger!



Thanks to Aamir Dohadwala, soon-to-be 5th grader at Pike School, for organizing Score for Neighbors in Need, a soccer clinic, which took place on June 10th. We are grateful for his energy, his creativity, and his desire to help people. To all who participated – thank you!



Aamir recruited 50 participants and 4 wonderful coaches!



Aamir presents Linda with \$4,000 raised by his event!



New Van!

After many years, NIN finally purchased a new van to pick up and deliver food. Thanks to South Church, Free Church, Charles Daher, and The Savings Bank for helping to make this purchase happen. Not only is this van more safe and reliable, it also helps us to pick up more donations and feed more people!



Neighbors In Need

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celebrating over 30 years of feeding the poor & hungry of Greater Lawrence!



Paul Siegel is a very special volunteer. At 93, he finally decided to retire! He has been volunteering at our Food Pantry at Christ United Methodist Church for 20 years. Thanks to Paul everyone who comes to this Food Pantry gets coffee and cookies while they wait their turn.



Pike School students at Smolak Farms help us to thank the Cummings Foundation \$100K for 100 for picking us!

A special thanks to Michael Weber for picking up bread at Panera this summer!



A big thanks, to enthusiastic supporter & volunteer, Harold Fraser of Lawrence, who helped Neighbors In Need receive \$5,000 from the Social Naturalization Club.



Helping Hands!

Pike student, Talia Jachimowicz, collected baby clothes, toys, bottles, diapers and over 30 cans of baby formula to distribute in our Infants Program!



Andover Soccer Assn, collects 650 pounds of food at Spring Jamboree.

Phillips Academy staff and students packed groceries for 400 families as part of their Non Sibi Day activities! It was an incredible project led by student Brittany Amano and staff Julia Howard & Monique Cueto-Potts, and funded by the Abbott Fund and Sodexo. Food was delivered to kids at Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Si Se Puedes, Manos Felices and MAN, Inc. after school programs.



St. Augustine's Youth Unitas Mission Week participants helped sort food in the warehouse this summer.

