Neighbors In Need

Bringing healthy food to the poor & hungry of Greater Lawrence

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- Linda Zimmerman
- Emily Strong

NIN to open food pantries in Methuen & Andover

Neighbors in Need is excited to announce the opening of two new food pantries in the Greater Lawrence area. In October, we will be opening a pantry at the Methuen Public Schools Family Resource Center at 10 Ditson Place in Methuen. This is our second Methuen food pantry and currently our only evening pantry. Later in the year we will be opening our first pantry in Andover.

Both of these pantries have come about after months of planning and hard work by community leaders in both Methuen and Andover, and Neighbors in Need staff and Board members. Additionally, the Greater Boston Food Bank has supported this initiative with a Capacity Building grant targeting underserved areas.

**Underserved Communities**

Cities and towns in Eastern MA where known hunger relief resources are not currently providing at least **One Meal A Day** to residents struggling with food insecurity. Underserved Communities appear in shades of red on this map.

Data from The Greater Boston Food Bank.

Con’t on p. 2
Neighbors in Need to Open Methuen & Andover Pantries, con’t.

For months Julie Little, The Savings Bank’s Methuen Branch Manager and Neighbors in Need board member, encouraged Neighbors in Need to bring a pantry to her community. She spread the word about Neighbors in Need in Methuen, and engaged other community leaders about the hungry and the need for an additional food pantry. Those conversations have led to a wonderful partnership between Neighbors in Need, Methuen Public Schools and First Church Congregational. Key to this partnership are Judy Scannell, the Superintendent of Methuen Public Schools and Bill Ingraham, Senior Pastor at First Church Congregational. While the pantry will be held in the Methuen Public Schools Family Resource Center, volunteers from First Church Congregational will staff the pantry. Neighbors in Need also has the support of Methuen Rotary and Exchange Club, Holy Family Hospital, Methuen YMCA and many others.

While finalizing our plans to open our new Methuen pantry this month, we’ve also been working with Annmary Connor, Andover’s Director of Elder Services to open our first-ever pantry in the town of Andover. Ever since working with Andover School Lunch Rescue group, Neighbors in Need has been looking for a way to distribute food to the hungry in Andover. And we are well on our way to opening this site - stay tuned for more news about this exciting opportunity in the coming months.

Endings and Beginnings

A huge thanks to Zoe Hastings, who after serving for a number of years as a Board of Director finished her term as Vice President. She’s now serving on our Advisory Council. Zoe we’re so glad you’re still in our circle of friends!

We said good bye this May to Kayla Westhoff, the Community Engagement Fellow from Merrimack College that had worked at Neighbors in Need since September, 2016. Kayla was instrumental in our School Food Rescue efforts and moving forward our Strategic Plan. We wish her luck!

First Church Congregational Methuen members, Ken & Marilyn Peck meet with Eric Fila, manager of the Neighbors in Need Warehouse, preparing to coordinate Methuen pantry volunteers.

Contact us:

P.O. Box 247
Lawrence, MA 01842
Phone: 978-685-8321
New office location:
60 Island St., Ste 214-E
Neighborsinneed@verizon.net
www.needfood.org
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Christina Berthelsen, Community Engagement Fellow from Merrimack College started in August. She’s pictured here receiving a check from the Greater Lawrence Kiwanis Club. Welcome Christina!

Sarah Knowles worked hard in our Warehouse all summer long. She left us this fall to return to school. Sarah we miss you already!
Neighbors in Need helps families with diapers & formula

The Neighbors in Need Infant in Need Program provides formula, baby food, diapers and clothing, to mothers and other caregivers of infants on a monthly basis. Contact: Christi-na@needfood.org for more information or to donate unused or unwanted diapers, formula, coupons or reward codes.

Graphic from No Baby Unhugged 2016 awareness poster

Thank you
2017 Farming Partners
Alternative Corrections
Andover Community Gardens
Andover High School Garden
Farmer Dave’s CSA
The Giving Garden
Groundwork Lawrence
Johnson’s Highland View Farm
Pleasant Valley Gardens
Stevens Coolidge Estate
Project Bread

Top: Youth volunteer washing beets at The Giving Garden. Bottom: Apples grown by the Steven’s

South Church Summer of Service volunteer, Carrie Fitz, distributing produce at a food pantry.
1,200 of your neighbors need food for Thanksgiving.
You can help. Donate a meal basket! Organize a Food Drive!

**Basic Dinner**

*Frozen* Turkey
Fresh Vegetables: squash, broccoli, green beans, carrots, potatoes, onions, celery
Rice & Beans: Pink Beans, Red Beans, Black Beans or Gandules (a favorite)
Stuffing Mix
Gravy
Cranberry Sauce
Bread or Rolls
Dessert: Pie or Cake (NOT FROZEN)

**Extras**

Baking Supplies
Cake or Bread Mix
Pie Ingredients – Apples, Squash, Pumpkin
Fruit, Nuts or Coffee
Paper napkins or other paper goods

To donate meal baskets or food, contact
NeighborsInNeed@verizon.net
To volunteer contact: volunteer@needfood.org