



P.O. Box 2098 Acton, MA 01720

Newsletter

Letter from the Chairperson

Acton Food Pantry and Clothing Closet:

Where:

235 Summer Road
Building #1, Lower Level
Boxborough, MA

Phone:

978-635-9295

When:

Wednesdays
10:00am-7:00pm
Closed 4th Wed of month

The Supper:

When:

Every Wednesday
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

Where:

Acton Congregational Church
12 Concord Road
Acton 01720

Board of Directors:

Chairperson:	Kathy Casaletto
Treasurer:	Nancy Dinkel
Asst. Treasurer:	Sue Smith
Secretary:	Donna Bottari
Supper Directors:	Joy Agule Maxine Bussell Nicole Burkel
Pantry Director:	Kathy Casaletto
Volunteer Coordinator:	Cindy McAuley
Fund Raising:	Steve Rubner Ellie Hertzberg
President Emeritus:	Richard Porter

So much is happening at Community Supper and Food Pantry even as we gear up for our busiest time of year! This Newsletter will inform you of the strides we have made to accommodate the needs of our community while balancing the well-being of our volunteers.

- Read our Annual Report to learn how our organization is growing as we step up the fight to eliminate food insecurity
- Inside you will find the list of our current volunteers, our membership, whose generosity gives life to our organization
- We have a new Board Member and Volunteer Coordinator
- Exciting Supper News
- Check out our new Pantry space at 235 Summer Road, Building #1 in Boxborough
- Consider running a Food Drive. Our list of food needs is below.

There is good news to report: our Pantry numbers remain the same as last year at this time. It is a relief to see them level out. However, we are now consistently serving nearly 200 families every week, a number that was once considered impossible for us to sustain. Responding to that relentless need impacts several factors: cost, man-power, and space.

Those three variables have a bearing on each other and the outcome in ways that make balancing that equation a tricky dynamic; however, we have a system in place that accommodates those fluctuations and guarantees a positive result. We will take care to see that our Operations optimize each factor and, with your help, ensure the continued service we provide to our clients at the Pantry and our guests at our Supper. **Please help us help our neighbors; send a donation today.**

Pantry Wish List

We gratefully accept any food within its expiration date.

Currently we are most in need of:

Black Beans
Cereal
Peanut Butter
Parmalat
Spaghetti Sauce
100% Juice
Diapers

Drop boxes at Donelan's, Roche Bros.,
Middlesex Savings Banks & Main Acton Post
Office



Visit our website at:
www.actoncommunitysupper.org

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT 2010
as presented at the Annual Meeting on October 12, 2010

Welcome to our first Annual Meeting in a very long time! It is a credit to this Board that we find ourselves in the position to carry out our duties in an orderly, efficient manner. Thank you to our volunteers and to each Board member who has made this possible. As we sum up the achievements of the last year, we should note that it is the renewed purpose and the focused agenda of our organization that provided the stability which manifested itself in the progress we have made this year.

In the past year, we have carefully crafted and unanimously ratified new By-laws that outline and reinforce the simple mission of our organization which is to relieve hunger insecurity in our community. Each Board member now serves not only as general overseers of that notion but also assumes a specific role in the organization and is expected to have a deep understanding of the Operations. We have succeeded in maintaining our grassroots organization by integrating our Board and our Operations.

Simultaneously with its formation, our new administrative structure was faced with two unexpected problems: the resignation of our Supper Director of 25 years and the need to quickly move our Pantry to a new location. Both of these losses also presented new opportunities and our Board and our membership rose to the occasion to ensure that we made strides toward new benefits even as we struggled with the effort it entailed. Our Supper budget is a fraction of its former cost since we started to take advantage of the food offered through the GBFB. The meals are freshly prepared and the menus varied; new volunteers were recruited and former ones stepped up to help with new tasks.

Our new Pantry location in Boxborough allows us the autonomy necessary to optimize our Operation. We have the freedom to direct all of our energy to more efficiently and effectively serve our clients. The new space allowed for the installation of a long-needed walk-in freezer and, because of the Board's intimate understanding of the Pantry operation, they supported the cost of its purchase. The freezer allows for more optimal acquisition and distribution of available frozen foods for our clients. Our Clothes Closet is now located at the Pantry where every client has access to free garments when they shop for food.

We have made headway into reaching out to those who need our services. We now work more closely with other social service organizations in town and are included as a participant at Acton Safety Net meetings. We make home deliveries to families referred to us through Housing and the Acton social worker; these are families with no means of transportation to the Pantry. We also have volunteers trained to help clients while at the Pantry to apply online for food stamps. These are new services started this year that allow us to provide support in more specific and meaningful ways. We have begun to collaborate with other local Pantries by sharing information and resources. The GBFB continues to refer agencies to our Pantry as an example of an efficiently run Client Choice program; we benefit by hearing ideas from other Pantries facing problems similar to ours.

Having to quickly find a new home for the Food Pantry exposed us to new, ongoing expenses. Though our Finance Committee deftly reallocated funds within our budget to minimize the impact of the costs of our new lease, the organization recognized that the time had come to formally approach fundraising. This year, for the first time, we have an official Fundraising Committee and it has made our presence known in the community already.

In addition to providing the means to meet the relentless need of those who depend on us for help, it is a necessary role of the Board to plan ahead to sustain the Operations we offer. Our Supper Operation is in the process of being built into a viable new structure under a shared directorship. We look forward to a report on the viability of that transition at our November meeting. Our Pantry Operation has grown enormously over the last two years. We must address those changes and plan for their long-range impact. At our January meeting, I will ask to form a committee that will work to ensure that the responsibilities associated with the Pantry are delegated in a reasonable and sustainable manner. Finally, I hope to find the time to expand the helpful net-working with other Pantries that was begun this year. There is value to sharing information with other agencies that face the same problems and issues we do and I would like to reach out to them and provide a venue for meetings with other Pantry and Supper Directors in the Metrowest area.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the organization this year and confident that the organization will continue to thrive with the help of our 200 member, all-volunteer workforce. For the past year, we have successfully provided nutritious food to nearly 200 families per week at the Pantry and 45 at our Supper. We have sustained those numbers for over a year and there is no sign that they are abating. Thank you to all of our members and to our Board who make this possible through their generous commitment.

Respectfully,

Kathy Casaletto
Chairperson

SUPPER NEWS

In October, 3 families from Leominster, provided, cooked and served a Moroccan coucous dinner to celebrate Ramadan. Organized by Hassan, our executive chef of the day, we peeled, chopped, sauteed, and braised for 2 hours and the resulting meal was really incredible.

Hassan planned not one, but 2 stews, one with beef and the other with chicken, each loaded with fresh vegetables, chickpeas, raisins and flavored with saffron, cumin, cinnamon, parsley and cilantro. Our guests were so appreciative of their dinner, that Hassan and his friends were given a standing ovation.

Our Pantry Director, Kathy, said to Hassan, about the evening: *"Your generous and compassionate views toward those in need manifested themselves last night in the energy and joy you all brought to the Supper! Not only was the food delicious, but the place was lit up by your enthusiasm. You provided both nutritious food and an uplifting atmosphere for our guests; thank you for that."*

This is Hassan's reply when we thanked him for supporting the Acton Community Supper:

"Thanks again for letting us do our most important duty in life which is to look after a fellow human being in time of need."



JOSHUA TREE BENEFIT CONCERT

Perfect Weather! Great Band!

The weather and venue came together as perfectly as the confluence of community support for Community Supper and Food Pantry. Organized and single-handedly orchestrated by Steve Rubner, the Acton Stop & Shop store manager, the event was sponsored by Stop & Shop with the generous support of the Acton Lions Club and the Acton Recreation Department. Thank you to our Board and Pantry volunteers who jumped in to work that day; it was a glorious afternoon.

Results are being tallied right now and the winners of the raffle of Stop and Shop gift certificates are still out there. Winning numbers in our raffle drawing were:

\$50- 1053; \$100- 1212; \$100-3339;
\$250- 1540; \$1000- 1041

Please contact Steve at Stop & Shop if you are holding a winning ticket. Good Luck!

Community Supper and Food Pantry Volunteers 2010

Thank you for all you do!!!

Joy Agule
 Susie Allen
 Dottie Annis
 Jean Bachman
 Charlene Baker
 Mark Banta
 Megan Bartle
 Shellie Barton
 Fred Batstone
 Linda Batstone
 Ricky Ann Bauer
 Anne Becklean
 Rosemary Benson
 Deb Berger
 Rosie Berry
 Nancy Best
 Ianka Bhatia
 Mary Billingsley
 Barbara Birt
 Ruth Blodgett
 Angela Boheim
 Donna Bottari
 Rebecca Bregman
 Ginny Briskie
 Demetra Bristol
 Mark Bristol
 Nancy Buckle
 Robert Burgess
 Nicole Burkel
 Maxine Bussell
 Cathy Cadogan
 Rhett Cahill
 Dale Cali
 Eve Campbell
 Mame Carpenter
 Dan Casaletto
 Kathy Casaletto
 Tina Close
 Pam Cochrane
 Deane Cole
 Pam Collins
 Sandy Connor
 Melissa Cruz
 Rob Cruz
 Dot Curtis
 Alan Cushing
 Jeff D'Agostine
 Carmen Dajer
 Ann Decker
 Joyce Demers
 Antonio DeMur
 Mary Jane DeMur
 Katherine Denault

Megan Denault
 Nancy Dinkel
 Pat Duits
 Betsy Eldridge
 Barbara Epstein
 Marilyn Faherty
 Fay Family
 Ann Fitzgerald
 Karen Fletcher
 Ben Flumerfelt
 Grayce Flumerfelt
 Pam Ford
 Patty Fraser
 Susan Frederickson
 Katy Frey
 Louise Gerhart
 Eric Gilfix
 Dee Glorioso
 Susan Goddard
 Jo Goldman
 Emily Goodwin
 AJ Gotthelf
 Betty Graham
 Alexander Gray
 Amy Green
 Green Family
 Harding Family
 Mary Hayward-
 Specht
 Fran Hearn
 Ellie Hertzberg
 Dale & Doris Hesch
 Carol Hippenmeyer
 Diane Hoff
 Tina Hoff
 Linsey Hurley
 Arlene Issenberg
 Sam Issenberg
 Eileen Jansky
 Mary Jane Jee
 Mark Johnson
 Julia Johnston
 Anne Jones
 Paulette Joyal
 Kim Kembel
 Caroline Kettner
 Jenny Kim
 Family Kirkman
 Judi Kotanchik
 Diane Krasnick
 Sonya Krikorian
 Nancy
 Kumaraswami

Ray Landry
 Paul Lang
 Won Bong Lee
 Bonnie Lobel
 Patricia Londono
 Pat Loria
 Loria Family
 Dean Machamer
 Karen Malo
 Peggy Margo's
 Kate Markowitz
 Cindy McAuley
 Kevin McCreary
 Phyllis McDonough
 Maureen McHugh
 Betty McKee
 Maggie McKinney
 Kim Meusel
 John Moy
 Jim Moynihan
 Bill Murphy
 Mike Murphy
 Charlie Namias
 Chips Naparstek
 Ruma Neogy
 Ann Noeth
 Diane O'Hara
 Susan Osche
 John Pallies
 Barbara Panza
 Sang Park
 Pradnya Patil
 Richard Porter
 Ruth Porter
 Gabrielle Prosnitz
 Nivedha Ram
 Mac Raposo
 Bob Raylor
 Pam Reid
 Denise Reilley
 Kathleen Richard
 Ruth Richards
 Valerie Robinson
 Martha Rounds
 Mary Rowlands
 Steve Rubner
 Susan Russell
 Allison Ryan
 Christine Ryan
 Janet Ryan
 Brian Schutsky
 Jacob/Kellie
 Senghas



The newest member of our Board of Directors and Volunteer Coordinator, Cindy McAuley, is seen here working as a volunteer Wednesday Shopper Aide.

Tony Shen
 Darcy Sidwell
 Deb Simmons
 Doug Simmons
 Sue Smith
 Fran Spayne
 Shirley Spencer
 Carol Steiner
 Joy Sussman
 Kathy Symancyk
 John Toulmin
 Nancy Trainor
 Peg Tremblay
 Will Tuffin
 Charlene Twente
 Kristi Twichell
 Nancy Vaccaro
 Shelley Walton
 Wei Wei Wang
 Barbara Wheeler
 Germaine White
 Philip Yang
 Pauline Zheng
 Gladys Zimmer

Many of our membership have been loyal volunteers for 15 or 20 years or more! Others may be newer but all enjoy the camaraderie between both volunteers and Pantry clients or Supper guests.

Please consider joining a crew at our Supper or Pantry. Your help is needed and very much appreciated.

Contact Cindy through our website:

www.actoncommunitysupper.org

The Pantry is settled and functioning smoothly at 235 Summer Road, Building #1, Lower Level in the Boxborough Business Park. Both volunteers and clients appreciate the many conveniences found in our new space. Though it is only a short six months since our move, the place feels like home to all.



Volunteer Greeter in the Waiting Area



Stocked Distribution Area



Bright, spacious office provides privacy for conducting business



Indian Village Volunteers Sort Their Food Drive Donations



Volunteers Preparing on Morning of a Wednesday Distribution



Acton Community Supper and Food Pantry

Acton Community
Supper

www.actoncommunitysupper.org

P. O. Box 2098
Acton, MA 01720

PHONE:
(978) 635-9295

Food Pantry:
235 Summer Road
Building #1, Lower
Level
Boxborough, MA
01719

Supper:
Acton Congregational
Church
12 Concord Road
Acton, MA 01720



Your Contribution Does Make a Difference. Thank You for Your Help

Enclosed is my donation to Community Supper and Food Pantry, Inc.

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other

Name _____

Street _____

Town/St _____ Zip _____

Please include matching gift form if available. Thank you.

Make checks payable to: **Acton Community Supper and Food Pantry, Inc.**

Mail to: **P.O. Box 2098
Acton, MA 01720**

**ACTON COMMUNITY
SUPPER**

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Acton, MA 01720

