



PARTNERSHIP WITH POWER

Volunteer-donors with an ingenious plan

Morey Phippen has been a volunteer at our pantry counter since 2012, and she and her husband, Brian Adams, have long supported our work. With concerns over climate change and the need for non-profits to go solar, Brian and Morey approached the Center this past spring to make an astounding proposal—let us add solar panels to the Center’s roof and pave the way for others to follow our example! They are looking for other solarizing opportunities like this to support organizations providing food security to low-income families.

“What could be better than solar on the Survival Center roof! Reducing the Center’s utility bills with free energy from the sun will enhance the Center’s mission to promote access to nutritious food in a more sustainable manner,” say Brian and Morey.

LEADING THE WAY: WE’VE GONE SOLAR

A win-win-win collaboration brings energy savings and cost benefits to the Center

We are proud and pleased to announce that we’ve gone solar! Next time you drop by the Center be sure to glance at the roof above the office area. We now have a 9.3 kilowatt photovoltaic array that converts sunlight directly into electricity. Thanks to the generous efforts of local couple Brian Adams and Morey Phippen who conceived of the idea, we were able to enter into a synergistic partnership with **Northeast Solar** of Hatfield and the City of Northampton to solarize the city-owned building.

The solar electric system is expected to generate about \$880 in savings for us in the first year and

increase our savings in the many years thereafter. As owners of the panels, Brian and Morey have the opportunity to take advantage of significant green energy incentives which they plan to pass along to the Center and other food-security organizations. Their plan is to donate the array to the Center after five years. It has been inspiring to be part of a collaborative team all working to craft such a forward-thinking arrangement. We all hope the solarizing of the Center will provide a blueprint to other non-profits and donors looking to move in this environmentally friendly and fiscally prudent direction.



“The Survival Center helps Western Massachusetts locals gain food security and provides resources to our neighbors and friends. That’s sustainability on a whole new level.” —Northeast Solar

We are so grateful to Cooley Dickinson Hospital and PeoplesBank—major sponsors of our Post Office Food Drive.

Post Office Food Drive



WHAT DOES OUR KIDS' SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?

.....
More than **500** kids were served over **10** weeks
.....

We celebrated our **16th** season
.....

We supplied groceries for **33,000** breakfasts and lunches
.....

We distributed **35,000** pounds of food, costing **\$20,000**
.....

MAY 14 WAS AN AMAZING DAY!



Volunteer Appreciation Celebration

It Takes a Village Providing the Essentials for Kids

The timing of the Post Office Food Drive was perfect for the launch of our Kids' Summer Food Program on June 1. Thanks to generous contributions from the community, we greeted the season with our shelves abundantly stocked with a wide variety of food items in every category—perfect for families selecting foods for all ages when school is out of session.

CLIENTS DELIGHTED TO “U-PICK” AT ABUNDANCE FARM

We knew the U-Pick collaboration with Abundance Farm was off to an extraordinary start this summer when 41 Survival Center clients visited the farm on the day the program opened. In total, after just four picking days, 120 people from 90 households had picked 115 pounds of produce, plus fresh flowers, thanks to our amazing neighbors. This represented more visitors from the Center than had taken advantage of the farm during the entire previous summer. What accounted for the difference? In collaboration



with Rabbi Jacob Fine from Congregation B’nai Israel, we expanded our communication and volunteer staffing on both sides of the partnership—offering trained interns to personally usher clients to the farm and orient them upon arrival, and “seek and find” games for children exploring the garden. We’re excited about the possibilities for a CSA work share model in the years ahead.

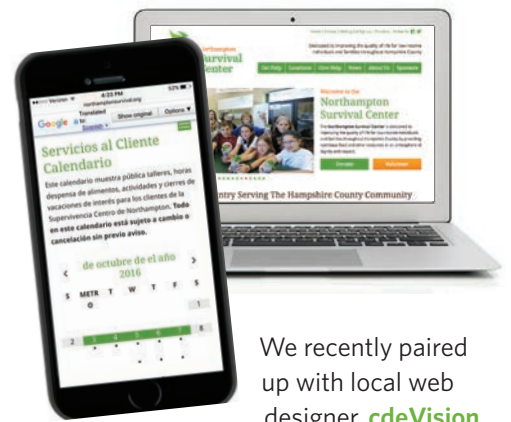
“ We put up a sign during U-Pick letting folks know that there were volunteer opportunities. One man read the sign and said, “sure I have time to volunteer.” He went on to plant an entire bed of lettuce before picking his own veggies. ”

—Shema, Farm Manager,
Abundance Farm



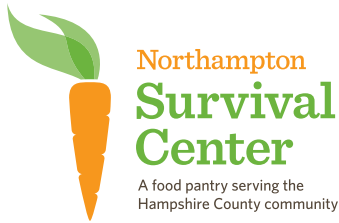
OUR NEW WEBSITE: CLEARLY BETTER

Our new site is mobile friendly and multi-lingual



We recently paired up with local web designer, **cdeVision**,

to help us revamp and improve our website, specifically designing new features that better inform donors, clients, and volunteers about what is happening at the Center. On our home page, you will notice in the right hand corner the green words **Contact**, **Mailing List Sign-up**, and **Translate**. We are excited to say that you can now view our website in eight different languages by clicking “Translate.” You can also sign up for our mailing list or contact us by clicking the two other links. Under “Get Help,” a new **Client Services Calendar** displays monthly workshops, food pantry hours, holiday closures, and activities that take place at the Center. Also, the site is mobile friendly and easy to use if you need directions, hours, or details on how to make a donation.



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United Way of Hampshire County

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

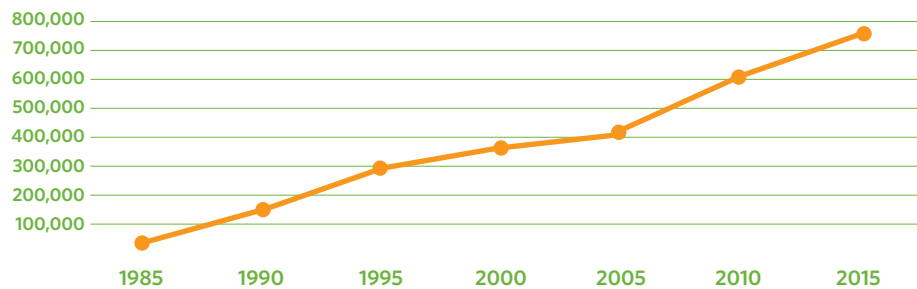
How day-to-day food needs get met in a dynamic community organization



As Program Director for the Center, **Sarah Pease** is responsible for making sure we have enough food every day for our clients. In the last several years, ordering food for the Center has changed in noticeable ways:

- Twice a week, Sarah orders fresh produce and eggs, spending about \$1,000 per week. This allows us to offer a dozen eggs to each household on every visit and has significantly increased our distribution of fresh produce in recent years.
- Once a week, 20 cases of milk are delivered so that every household can take home fresh half-gallons.
- Three times a week, volunteers pick up orders from the Food Bank, frequently bringing back 2,500 to 3,000 pounds of food in a single visit.
- Every week, Sarah also purchases a variety of items like spices, cooking oil, canned fruits and vegetables, soups, cereals, pasta, and yogurt to supplement what she gets from the Food Bank.

INCREASE IN FOOD DISTRIBUTED ANNUALLY (IN POUNDS)



A VARIETY OF WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

Do you have a few hours in your week to fill? Want to meet new friends and make a contribution to your community? Here are some ways to get involved and have fun:

- Picking up** donations from retail shops
- Shopping** at the Food Bank
- Stocking** food pantry shelves
- Checking and Sorting** donated food and clothing
- Serving** clients at the pantry counter
- Recycling** cardboard



We schedule volunteers in 2-hour shifts and ask for a commitment of at least three months. Read more about the experience of volunteering on our website.