

## CUSTOM FOOD BOXES MAKE THEIR DEBUT

Creative problem-solving guided us through a season of expanding choices

We are excited and proud, after much strategizing, to reintroduce choice for clients in the form of custom food boxes for each household. Clients and volunteers alike are thrilled by a return to the personal shopper relationship they enjoyed so much prior to the pandemic.



The evolution toward expanding choice has included volunteers soliciting menu preferences from people at their cars, as well as selection by mail and online for those receiving home delivery.



A new state-of-the-art phone system enables volunteers in headsets to pack groceries for clients who make selections in real time from the physical distance of their cars.



Newly-installed drive-up windows have helped make picking up food safe, easy, friendly, and efficient through any kind of weather.

## TO YOUR DOOR

**Deliveries multiply to meet the demand, far and wide**

Responding to an increased need to receive food at home, we've broadened our outreach options this past year. As pictured, volunteers take supplies to those lacking transportation throughout the hilltowns; Grow Food Northampton, our partner in the pandemic-era Community Food Distribution Project, makes doorstep deliveries to 13 Northampton housing communities each week; a COVID-response taxi grant has allowed us to hire GoGreen Cab to bring groceries to home-bound clients.



“Massachusetts has experienced the largest relative increase of food-insecure individuals in the nation due to COVID-19, and the highest increase of food-insecure children at 102%, according to analysis by Feeding America.”

—Project Bread

How  
your gift  
can help

Economic recovery will take time, and the demand for food assistance remains high. **We need your help to raise an additional \$150,000 to create a COVID Recovery Fund** so we can provide all the meals our community needs as we move out of the pandemic.



“Helping people experience the dignity of making their own choices is a central part of our mission. Our volunteers have been missing the opportunity to connect with clients one-on-one, and are so happy they’re able to work directly with each household in selecting the particular food items that are most needed.”

—Sarah Pease,  
Program Director

## THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS!

Despite a really hard year for businesses, these businesses stepped up even more than ever.



- |                       |                          |                        |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| CIS Abroad            | 3BL Media                | Green River Data       | Pioneer Precision Optics |
| Core Solution Group   | AccuFab Ironworks        | Analysis               | Pioneer Valley Antiques  |
| Ford of Northampton   | Aside Bside Records      | Hope & Feathers        | Dealers                  |
| Hadley Printing       | Bay State Machine        | Framing                | R&R Window               |
| Hampshire             | Company                  | Icarus, Wheaten, &     | Renaissance Builders     |
| Dermatology & Skin    | Bay State Perennial Farm | Finch                  | Renew Window             |
| Health Center         | Beetle Press             | JoiaBeauty             | Cleaning                 |
| INSA                  | Borawski Insurance       | King & Cushman         | Riverbend Animal         |
| Law Offices of John   | Agency                   | Lathrop Community      | Hospital                 |
| P. DiBartolo, Jr.     | Burger King              | of Easthampton         | Russo Opticians          |
| Murduff's Goldsmiths  | Centerchem Products      | Linda Manor Assisted   | Schoen Books             |
| & Engravers           | Coffey & Heady Painting  | Living                 | Shelburne Falls Coffee   |
| Optical Studio        | Commercial Scale &       | Linda Schwartz Brunch! | Roasters                 |
| Ostberg & Associates  | Balance Co.              | Lisa Van Gordon        | State Street Fruit Store |
| Paradise Copies       | Cooper's Corner          | d'Errico, Esq.         | Tandem Ceramics          |
| Proactive Controls    | Home                     | M.J. Moran             | The Berkshire Design     |
| Group                 | Dove Business            | Murphys Realtors       | Group                    |
| River Valley Co-op    | Associates               | Northampton Coffee     | The Darcy Company        |
| The Baker's Pin       | ESP Auto                 | Northampton Financial  | USA Waste & Recycling    |
| Town Fair Tire        | Fierst Bloomberg Ohm     | Services               | Webber & Grinnell        |
| Foundation            | Fleury Lumber Company    | Nourish Juice Bar      | Insurance                |
| Uniquely Greener MA   | Florence Swimming        | Ostrander Law Office   | Williamsburg Market      |
| Whalen Insurance      | Pools                    | Overlook Industries    | Williamsburg Pharmacy    |
| Agency                | Forget Me Not Florist    | Perfect Supplements    | Woodstar Café            |
| Wireless Zone         | Gabriel Amadeus          | Peter Rayton Logging   | Yoga Sanctuary           |
| Foundation for Giving | Cooney                   |                        |                          |
|                       | Photography              |                        |                          |
|                       | George Propane           |                        |                          |
|                       | Goggins Real Estate      |                        |                          |
|                       | Goshen Firefighters      |                        |                          |
|                       | Association              |                        |                          |



## CLIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

New voices and a rich cross-pollination of ideas

This year, as part of our **ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion**, we established an Advisory Committee comprised of current and former clients of the Survival Center.



The committee is helping us improve our programs by sharing a variety of viewpoints and life experiences that broaden the Center's understanding of how best to meet our clients' diverse needs.

An important intention is the **reciprocity of these relationships**. Just as committee members help improve the Center's accessibility and responsiveness, we are facilitating an improved process for ushering in a new generation of board members from various marginalized communities. With mentorship and financial assistance for technology, childcare, and travel expenses, we hope to support the professional development of interested members of this committee toward active board membership—at the Center and beyond.

## INSPIRING NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Josefina Rodriguez**  
I came from the Dominican Republic. After the death of my husband in 2010, I became a client of the Survival Center. The staff here treated me with love, respect, dignity, and without judgment. The food helped me to balance work, family, and school. As a result, my family didn't go hungry as I worked a part-time job as a patient care attendant and earned my associate degree in Liberal Arts at Holyoke Community College. Over the years, I have volunteered for Families with Power, Casa Latina, and the Center for New Americans.



**Jo Ella Tarbuton-Springfield**  
Originally from Texas, I came to the Happy Valley over 20 years ago for college and learned to somehow survive the harsh winters. I think of myself as an Activist posing as an Educator, Substance Abuse Counselor, and Actress. My most famous role is of former slave and social justice advocate Ida B. Wells-Barnett. Joining this board fulfills my maternal grandmother's role of caring and feeding the community. I think of the staff and volunteers of the Survival Center as "Angels on Earth."

## Welcoming new staff



**Chris Oakley**  
**Office Manager**  
My 15 years in the Valley includes working as Executive Director of SHOW Circus Studio, as Old Chapel Manager at UMass, and now serving on the board for Noho Pride. I spend my personal time running a local entertainment company with my husband, and love baking, gardening, sewing, and creating.



**Carolina Dellepiane**  
**Program Coordinator**  
I was born and raised in Argentina. After emigrating to the US for a consulting job

I became interested in non-profits, especially those addressing issues of inequity and social justice. I completed my bachelor's degree at Smith College in 2020, and in my free time enjoy writing, connecting with other immigrant parents, traveling, and hiking.



**Alexander Léger-Small**  
**Distribution Coordinator**  
I have spent my career learning the ins and outs of the food service economy in the Pioneer

Valley, Chicago, and NYC, focusing on the ways that food and the act of gathering to eat can transform communities and relationships. Outside of work, I am an author of short fiction; a designer; and a creator who enjoys swimming, gardening, and playing with my yellow lab.



**Board of Directors**

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Margaret Miller  
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United Way of Hampshire County

**HOORAY!**  
**WE'RE**  
**ACCEPTING**  
**FOOD DONATIONS**  
**ONCE AGAIN**



For more than a year, our generous community has waited patiently for this announcement—we're thrilled to have carved out a space and time to be able to once again accept food donations!

You are now welcome to bring healthy, non-perishable groceries on **Tuesdays and Thursdays between 12 and 3 pm.**

It's important to avoid coming during any other times, when driveway access, warehouse use, and personnel availability are still limited.

We request that you call ahead if you have a large (food drive size) donation, or to ask if we're able to accept a donation of fresh produce.

**Messaging far and wide**

Fortifying our outreach through multiple channels

In order to support food security at a time of unprecedented need, we've stepped up our efforts to reach people who are struggling but don't know we're here for them. We're running Public Service

Announcements on the radio in Spanish and English, posting flyers throughout Hampshire County with special outreach to the hilltowns, and advertising in a variety of print

publications. Please help us spread the word and guide folks to our website, [www.northampton-survival.org](http://www.northampton-survival.org).



**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

**George Shaheen and Susan Farrell**

Susan began volunteering with the Center last summer at our temporary location at Jackson Street School. After a few shifts, she got her husband, George, involved as well and they became a volunteer duo once a week on Fridays. With 30 years of warehouse experience and a familiarity with the ebb and flow of receiving and distributing, George became indispensable with lifting, unloading trucks, outside distribution, and resupplying inventory.

Once food distribution moved back to the building at Prospect Street last August, George and Susan helped reconfigure workspaces for volunteers

and added yet another day of volunteering to their week.

George has filled in for other volunteers who have taken time off, and lends a hand wherever he can, working at our pantry in Goshen and picking up bread and produce at Big Y. Susan says she knows it's hard being in need, and she's glad to be able to help.

They both feel good about being here "doing good work together with good people."

