



THE MORE YOU KNOW

AN IMPORTANT PURPOSE BEHIND THOSE CATCHY PSAs

Every time you take away a few nuggets of information from our newsletter or website, it acts to strengthen the community connections that help fuel our work.

Inflation—Supersized!

Wondering about the effects of inflation on the Center? You're not alone! The answer boils down to two key points: we're still distributing groceries to all the clients who need it, but the **large volume of food we give out** means it costs us more than ever—a lot more!

What volume are we talking about? If you're used to picking up a bunch of bananas at the store from time to time, imagine buying 30,720 pounds of them! Potatoes? Maybe you're grabbing a handful or even a

five-pound bag, while we give out 62,400 potatoes every year. *See below to envision what that looks like!* And we really feel the soaring cost of eggs, having purchased nearly 39,000 of them this year.

We're doing what we can to offset these costs. Today it takes \$115 to make the same impact that a \$100 donation made in 2020. Your support of funds and food—combined with our thriftiness and continuous quest for new sources of support—means we'll be serving our community for as long as we're needed.

I wonder...

How can I connect with the Center's work in a way that's meaningful to me? *See inside for some great ideas.*



How does the rising cost of food affect a large food pantry? *A timely question. See feature story, left.*

How would you describe the Center to someone who needs help? *See back page to learn what programs we're currently running.*

62,400
potatoes

equals

10 cargo
van loads



or

484
wheelbarrow
loads



GETTING THE MOST AND BEST FROM MY DOLLARS

All the basic staples that used to be cheap—flour, salt, olive oil—are really expensive now, like twice as expensive as they used to be. Fresh produce also costs a lot. By coming to the Center, I'm able to save money I would have spent on basics like milk or cheese and use it at the farmers market instead. I go every single week and stretch a little bit of money into so much more using my HIP/SNAP benefits. It's really good food! —Julia, client



Volunteering



“I volunteer for the Northampton Survival Center because I love serving our clients—bringing good food to them and their families. NSC is beyond great!” —Sue Hawes

Local Business Support

“We are a local company that benefits from the business we get from places like the Northampton Survival Center. So, when it comes to giving back, donating to the Center is a wonderful way for us to support our community.”
—Greg and Chris Desrosiers, Hadley Printing



Kids Make a Difference



Kids are some of the Center's most thoughtful donors, often asking for donations to the Center in lieu of birthday gifts or for special occasions like bar or bat mitzvahs. We also routinely receive the proceeds of kids' lemonade stands and bake sales. (A second grader even sent over a donation of 61¢ earlier this year!)



Engaging the Family

“Our family's support of the Survival Center has varied from year to year, from financial donations to volunteering. When our kids were little we brought them on our volunteer shifts to collect bread donations from the grocery stores; they loved helping pile a mountain of bread into our trunk! Now that they're getting older, they save some of their allowance to donate to the Center.”
—Elizabeth Armstrong and Stacey Dakai

Board Service

“I began as a volunteer helping clients pick out their groceries, and as I learned more about the Center, I accepted an invitation to join the board. The Center is run by a great group of people, with a great mission and I'm glad to be a part of that.”
—DeLea Mowatt, board member



Shared Missions

“One of Edwards Church's values is embracing our community. By organizing food and fund drives for the Center, we can help care for others and provide service to those in need. The Center helps us fulfill our mission by allowing us to support theirs.”
—Reverend McSherry and longtime Center volunteer Shauneen Kroll



Bread & Butter Club

“You can sign up for the Bread & Butter Club to make a recurring donation every month. I've been participating for years, and am proud to see how much good my investment in the Center makes possible.”
—Maureen Scanlon



Food and Toiletry Drives

“I attended a Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce meeting where I learned the Northampton Survival Center was low on toiletries. I called on members of the Florence Business & Civic Association and asked them to join me in buying toiletries to donate. By the end of the day, we delivered a car full of toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, razors, deodorant, and shampoo. It's easy to feel overwhelmed and not know how to aid our friends and neighbors, so everyone was eager to help when asked in this concrete way!” —Jennifer Craig Ewars



Connecting Online

“I like and share the Center's posts on social media so that my friends and family can learn about the Center's work in the community.”
—Walter Clune



Awareness-Raising Events



Local clubs and groups (like Western Mass Pagan Pride) host events which celebrate community while also raising awareness and funds for the Center.



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United Way of the Franklin & Hampshire Region

GETTING HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT: FOUR GREAT OPTIONS



1 Drive-through distribution at the Center "I have dietary restrictions, but I love to cook and I get the food I need from the Center. I cook for other people a lot. But with inflation, I couldn't keep feeding others and still afford gas and my bills. Now, I've convinced my friends who qualify to come to the Center too, and we carpool to save on gas and socialize. And I'm back to cooking for friends!"—*Bobbi, client*

2 Curbside pickup "I enjoy interacting with clients when I volunteer for the curbside pickup program. Since clients place their orders online in advance, we have time for a conversation when they come to pick their groceries up. After they get their full order, clients can also choose items from our bonus shelves; it's fun to trade recipes for the produce and other items they discover there."—*Craig Machado, volunteer*



3 Home delivery "We deliver to senior housing, low-income housing, and individual homes. People need delivery for a variety of reasons, most frequently lack of transportation or medical issues. Recently, we even partnered with DoorDash through their charitable arm, which supports hunger relief agencies like ours by providing DoorDash drivers to deliver groceries for us for free."—*Sarah Pease, Program Director*

4 Goshen Pantry "Clients living in one of the 10 hilltowns in our service area can choose whether they visit the Hilltown Pantry in Goshen or our pantry in Northampton. They both have the same groceries, and I think it's great that people from these more rural areas don't have to drive all the way to Northampton to get food."—*Diane Drohan, Hilltown Pantry Manager*



INSIDE THE CENTER—for now

Our new methods of distribution take up much more space than before the pandemic. What was once a welcoming waiting area for clients doesn't look anything like it used to. While we hope to resume indoor programming at some point, we're glad we're able to use the space in creative ways that keep people safe and meet a variety of needs.

PRE-PANDEMIC



TODAY

