



“YAY! I get to see  
what everyone’s  
face looks like!”

—Jennifer, volunteer, happily  
arriving for her shift after the  
mask mandate was lifted



## REINTRODUCTIONS AND REAWAKENINGS

“June 2004

*Dear friend of the Northampton Survival Center...*”

Nineteen years ago today, I wrote a letter introducing myself as the new Executive Director of the Center. A quick glance at my photo from back then reminds me of how much time has gone by since that day and renews my pride in all that we’ve accomplished together through the years.

But I’m not inclined to steep myself in nostalgia for long when there’s so much that is new and lively here, and so much good and important work that calls to us. With every season, our clients face new hardships—economic, pandemic, global, and individual—that challenge us to roll up our sleeves and continue striving to build the robust network of support we’d all want in place if a loved one or neighbor fell on hard times.



### Happy to see each other

In early May, the Center lifted its mask mandate, and the joy of volunteers seeing each other’s full faces was electrifying. Friendships forged from two or three years of volunteering side-by-side throughout the pandemic were illuminated as we’ve all been longing for.

Just weeks later, we were able to hold our first Post Office Food Drive in three years—a celebration of community as volunteers gathered outside to help us unload and sort 20,256 pounds of food to distribute through our pantries.

We’ll have another chance to gather together (again, after a long pandemic hiatus), with music, wine, and food at our Sunset & Vines event at Glendale Ridge Vineyard on the evening of Thursday, September 7. I hope you’ll join us at that very special event.



Thank you for being part of this community with us—with your financial support, your volunteer hours, and your well-wishes. We look forward to what the year ahead will bring, with you by our side.

—Heidi Nortonsmith, Executive Director

**Don’t miss out!** Want to attend events like Sunset & Vines?  
Sign up for our new email list to get the scoop:  
[www.northampton-survival.org/emails/signup](http://www.northampton-survival.org/emails/signup).







Few things are better together than bagels and cream cheese, but we think local businesses and nonprofits make a great pair too. Not only do we regularly share **Tandem Bagels** with our clients, but when Tandem celebrated its 10th birthday this year with cash donations to nonprofits, we were honored to be one of the ten charities they supported.

## SPREAD THE LOVE

*We love sharing in your celebrations! It's wonderful to receive gifts in honor of your special milestones like birthdays, anniversaries, and coming-of-age ceremonies.*



**Hosting an event to benefit the Center? Reach out when you start planning; we've got the recipe for success and we're willing to share:**



### A behind-the-scenes view

Touring the food pantry can be a great way to inspire your event planning in advance or see the results of your donation in action after your event.



### Fresh ideas for connection

We love brainstorming ways to connect your group with our mission. Let's talk!



### Lively and customized promotional materials

We can supply you with posters, newsletters, brochures, and lists of what's in greatest demand at the time of your food or toiletry drive.



### Tips and tricks for a successful event

Learn how to organize your donation before you arrive so we can put it to use as quickly as possible.



### A friendly welcome when your donation arrives

We'll help you arrange your drop-off so a staff person can greet and thank your group at a time when the driveway is easiest to navigate.



### Robust social media promotion

We love sharing photos of your team in action on our pages on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or LinkedIn. Email us images and tag us online.

## What has a bigger impact: donating food or donating money?



We're grateful for both, but **gifts of money** help us the most in feeding our neighbors. No expiration dates, no storage issues. We put your monetary donation to work exactly when we need it, stretching it to bring in the most food possible for every dollar!

## A DAY OF JOY AND GENEROSITY: POST OFFICE FOOD DRIVE 2023



Join us next year—  
mark your calendars  
for May 11, 2024!

## HELLO! I'M ROSE CHERNEFF, DELIVERY & CARE COORDINATOR

I'm excited to be the newest member of the Northampton Survival Center team. Prior to coming here, I worked just down the road at Abundance Farm and had the pleasure of meeting and working with many Northampton Survival Center clients and staff members over the years.



I am thrilled that in this new position I get to continue to be a part of the resilient web of food services here in Northampton.

On my first delivery run, I was bringing fruits and vegetables to one of the approximately 300 clients who receive a weekly bag of fresh produce delivered to their doorsteps. I buzzed to get into an apartment complex, calling out,

"Northampton Survival Center: food delivery!" when I heard a voice that I recognized.

The voice was Shelby's—a client who receives weekly produce deliveries from the Center along with a monthly delivery of pantry goods—and she had opened her door.

As Shelby tells it, she heard my voice and thought, **"I know that voice from somewhere.... It's Rose from the garden!"** We grinned at each other as we reconnected. And as I handed her the bag of produce, we got to catch up, share life updates, hear about how each other's winters had been, and of course, play with her dog, Daisy. We both agreed that it was a highlight of our day to see each other again, and noted how special it was to be able to connect again through the Center's delivery program after having met at Abundance Farm.

Inspired by these moments, I am an enthusiastic part of this team, knowing that delivering healthy food means that our clients have access to the Center regardless of their mobility, access to transportation, or other life circumstances.

Thanks for welcoming me into this community. If you see me driving the Survival Center van around town making food deliveries, please say hi just like Shelby did!

## Expanding trusted connections

Shelby had been coming to the Northampton Survival Center for drive-through distribution, but when she and her mom experienced car troubles last fall, they started receiving food at home.

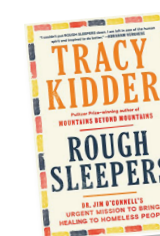
"Delivery has been a great option for my mom and me. Having the same dedicated staff and volunteers doing the delivery week after week really makes a difference because you get to know them and build a trusting relationship."



## DEDICATED TO BOOKS AND COMMUNITY

More than just a place to buy a bestseller, Broadside Bookshop is also deeply committed to the community and a regular supporter of the Northampton Survival Center. Last August, the shop's front window featured books cultivated by Center staff, exploring issues like

food insecurity and celebrating global cuisine. More recently, the bookshop invited us to be part of an event with Tracy Kidder and shared a portion of the night's sales with us. **Thanks, Broadside Bookshop!**







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Northampton Survival Center is an Equal Opportunity provider.



We're a Local Hero!  
 When sourcing food for clients, we buy fresh produce from local providers whenever possible.



United Way of the Franklin & Hampshire Region



This project is made possible by City of Northampton ARPA funds.

## It's a **W I N** for the Survival Center

The Northampton Scrabble Club held a special event this spring to celebrate a love of words and support the community at the same time.

A regular beneficiary of the Club's generosity, the Northampton Survival Center was honored to be among the local charities receiving donations from the event, thanks to those who got together to play Scrabble, participate in raffles, and donate to local causes.

Founded in 2007 by Brett Constantine and Marilyn Schmidt, the Northampton Scrabble Club has been gathering regularly to play the game. Though they've run competitive tournaments in the past, Brett was interested in hosting an event for people

uninterested in the competitive aspect of Scrabble, and thus the Charity Scrabble Party was created.

"We choose to support the Northampton Survival Center because it meets such basic needs of the community—and does it well," said Brett. "We want to give back, to do more with our thriving group of Scrabble players than just meet for fun. We want to continue to build community in broader ways. The Charity Scrabble Party is a group effort by many Scrabble players, and it feels so good to put on a successful fundraiser, share a meal, and play together."



“The Northampton Survival Center does such important and impactful work in our community! It is clear to us at Smith PIRG that everyone involved in the Center's work shares in our deep commitment to bettering our community. For this reason, we are thrilled to partner with them by arranging service activities such as bake sales and collection drives to help support our neighbors.”

—Natalie Laroche '23, Smith College Public Interest Research Group

