Northampton
Survival
Center

WINTER 2025-26

Fresh from the Center

Big Dreams, *BIG NEWS*

With a catalyst food security infrastructure grant secured from the MA Department of Agriculture, we're expanding access to food through two huge program enhancements:

More than Food: Dignity. Respect. Compassion.

"When given the space to dream and the resources to pursue those dreams, wonderful things happen. I am so proud of the incredible Survival Center staff and community that persistently shows us **where dreams go to live**."

— Dane Kuttler, Board member

Climate-controlled food pickup lockers

We're installing 24 temperature-controlled automated food pickup lockers to allow our clients to collect their groceries at a time that is flexible and convenient to their schedules.

Many of our clients work during the day or have caregiving responsibilities. Others are burdened by intermittent access to a car, and some simply prefer confidentiality due to the perceived stigma of visiting a food pantry. **With these lockers, fresh, refrigerated, and frozen food items will be available to clients after-hours and on weekends.**

Two new electric delivery vans

Our delivery program is in high demand. Since spring 2025, the Fresh Van has been visiting low-income, disabled, and senior housing sites every Thursday, providing clients with their choice of fresh produce, milk, eggs, cheese, meat, and bread on every visit, in addition to shelf-stable groceries.

Purchasing two new electric vans will enable us to further expand our delivery program to include Fresh Van access for all delivery clients at every visit and continue this popular program through the winter ahead.

Northampton
Survival Center
Est. 1979

Lately, we've been thinking about the Center like an old-fashioned general store.

Can you picture it?

Shelves stocked with hearty foods, baskets of fresh bread, displays of colorful fruits and vegetables, refrigerators full of local milk and eggs, freezers of meat, neat rows of personal care items and cleaning supplies… no space within a general store ever goes unused!

It's very much like that at the Center, too. We've maximized every inch of space to make sure we have plenty of food to feed our clients, and clients know they can count on us to get the nutritious food they need.

A great deal goes on behind the scenes to ready a store for its customers. Likewise, our staff and volunteers do a lot of prep each week to get ready for our clients, which leads to fully stocked shelves, personalized service, and community connections.

FULLY STOCKED SHELVES

Our warehouse and pantry staff keep track of every item coming in and going out of the Center to make sure we have food to meet our clients' nutritional needs and dietary preferences.

We invest $300,000 annually in our local food economy, with purchases of fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy, eggs, and shelf-stable goods.

Our partnerships with local organizations, retailers, and wholesalers allow us to leverage that money to make a big impact. Each week, we buy 2,000 pounds of produce from Marty's Local, pick up food from the Food Bank multiple times, and receive seasonal produce from farmers and donated contributions from stores, individuals, and food drives.

This year we're on track to distribute nearly $1.9 million worth of food thanks to these partnerships!

ONE-ON-ONE SERVICE

At the Center, every client receives personal service and the ability to choose the groceries that best fit their household's needs.

Our daily menu (available in multiple languages) features nutritious options from every food group. Alongside fresh produce, bread, and dairy, clients can always find pantry staples like pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, beans, and tuna fish. Because our supply is dependent on seasonal offerings and product availability, selection will vary, but our shelves are always stocked with healthy, high-quality ingredients to help families create balanced meals at home.

Volunteers are the magic ingredient in the pantry, suggesting newly arrived items and helping clients choose the groceries that will be most useful for their households.

A HUB FOR COMMUNITY

In the past, the local general store was more than a place to buy groceries—it was the heart of the community.

Neighbors gathered to catch up on the latest news, swap recipes, and share stories while picking up the week's essentials.

Today, our food pantry serves a similar role. Whether they're chatting with volunteers and staff, meeting other families in line, or connecting with community partners and neighbors at the Fresh Van, clients experience connection and the opportunity to build community while picking up their groceries from the Center.

We also love sharing other resources with our clients, happily connecting them with other local agencies and opportunities. Our website even features the monthly Pantry Fresh recipes we provide clients, so everyone can join in a Community Cook-Along.

Northampton
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A food pantry serving
Hampshire County since 1979

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.

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You always get what you need

FOREVER A FOODIE

José loves experimenting with new recipes on weekends.

During the week, he keeps meal-making simple with quick dishes and leftovers. At the Center, a personal shopper volunteer helps him by phone, finding ingredients like a new spice blend or a jar of peppers for both fun weekend cooking and easy weekday meals.

A self-proclaimed foodie, José relies on us for his kitchen basics, while growing cilantro, basil, and mint at home and using HIP benefits to pick up specialty items at local farmers' markets. He's always excited to try something new!

DELIVERING SUCCESS

At 70 years old and legally blind, Daphne was hesitant to ask for help—new places often meant new barriers.

But with her cupboards empty, she took a chance and called our Hilltown Pantry. To her surprise, she qualified for grocery delivery.

A friendly voice on the phone made it easy to ask for what she needed, and soon she was on a first-name basis with her delivery volunteer, who brought her favorite pasta, canned peaches, and coffee right to her door.

Like many people who use the Center, Daphne first called when she was going through a particularly tough time. Today, her situation has stabilized, and Daphne no longer needs our support—but she says it's comforting to know we're just a call away.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Samantha, a busy mom, loves the convenience of curbside pickup at the Center.

After her daughter, Maisie, goes to bed, Samantha places an order through our online pantry and schedules a pickup slot. To cut down on decision-making, she often includes a Green Machine combo bag (a handy mix of canned vegetables and dried beans) and a Pantry Fresh meal kit in her order.

Curbside fits perfectly into Samantha's routine—she grabs her order on her way to school pickup, and Maisie gets a fun afterschool snack with their order.

"I like that I can order at night and pick up later in the week," Samantha says. "I have celiac disease, so it's great to find gluten-free options for me and good food for Maisie. Everything is quick and easy!"