

April Monthly Newsletter

2 messages

Bread of Life <info-breadoflifemalden.org@thebreadoflifeonline.ccsend.com>

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April Monthly Newsletter



Bread of Life

Food for the body...Nurture for the soul

Reflections from our Director

It's hard for me to believe that we began our Under One Roof project 20 years ago, purchased 54 Eastern Ave 10 years ago, and are finally finishing construction of our new food security and affordable housing facility in a few months! Our patience was challenged many times through the years. We planted the seeds, watered, weeded... and waited. Now we're harvesting the crop! The waiting wasn't easy, but it helped us grow and it helped me grow. Through the years, our patience and perseverance have been challenged in many areas. Probably all of us have experienced "compassion fatigue" at some time. For most of human history, people saw the suffering of others directly and, if they were moved to help, they could do so directly. But today we receive news of suffering instantly from around the world. Our compassion can be instantly aroused; we may weep for those we see weeping, but we can't directly help them. In his poem "Jesus Weeps", Michael Guite writes:

*Fatigued compassion is already sleeping
Whilst her worst nightmares stalk the light of day
But we might waken yet, and face those fears,
If we could see ourselves through Jesus' tears.*



As the crises of the housing shortage and high food costs bring more people to the doors of Bread of Life, I'm reminded that we don't have to let our compassion sleep because we are tired or feel overwhelmed. The apostle Paul wrote "So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all." (Galatians 6:9-10, *The Message* translation). And so Bread of Life is moving forward, never giving up on working for the benefit of all. More planting, watering, weeding...and waiting. Thank you for working and waiting with us.

God bless you,
Gabriella Snyder Stelmack
Executive Director

Under One Roof Update

Over the next few weeks, we will have electrical inspection, permanent power connection, installations of drywall, paint, light fixtures, acoustical ceilings, cabinets, and elevator. The anticipated completion date for construction is before the Summer of 2024. The 54 Eastern Ave project will bring all BOL programs under one roof - food pantries, evening meals, backpacks, teen center collaboration, motel shelter food provision, grocery delivery and food access - along with our offices and a multi-purpose hall for expanded programs. The project also provides 14 affordable studio apartments owned and operated by Metro North Housing Corp (MNHC)* to provide permanent housing for very low-income formerly homeless individuals. The lottery held to select the residents of these units was carried out on Feb. 28th. Thank you for your support for this project to provide food security and permanent housing! We could not have done it without you!

Gabriella Snyder Stelmack, Executive Director, Bread of Life



Making a Difference

A volunteer posted a review online at Great NonProfits on 3/20/2024: *"My experience with Bread for Life has been nothing but the best, the people here right from the start have always been kind and it feels like a happy community! The feeling of leaving knowing you've helped so many in the day has been nothing shy of the best. My time here day to day just flies by and its incredible! Truly thankful for everyone here and the environment they created!"* To see more reviews, go to <https://greatnonprofits.org/org/bread-of-life-2>

Community News

Beer + Bites

Join us on April 6 at historic Memorial Hall in Melrose, MA for the sixth Melrose BEER + BITES local craft brew tasting fundraiser, where guests can enjoy 2 oz. pours of a unique assortment of local craft beverages and tasty appetizer "bites" from area food and retail partners. Sponsored by Melrose Highlands Congregational Church, a portion of the proceeds will benefit Bread of Life in Malden. There will again be two tasting sessions due to the continued popularity of the event:

MELROSE
BEER + BITES
local craft brew tasting

APRIL 6, 2024
2-5 PM & 6:30-9:30 PM
www.melrosebeerandbites.com

Everett Backpack Nutrition Program

Monday – Any time from 12-5pm; Evening and Weekend hours possible upon request - Help pack backpacks with breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack items for students in need in Everett schools.

Home Cooks and Bakers - Prepare food at home and deliver to 109 Madison St., Malden, Monday - Friday 12-3pm. Examples: mac and cheese, lasagna, casseroles; sides and prepared and prepared salads; cookies, brownies, cakes, pies.

SCHEDULE AHEAD TO VOLUNTEER (781-397-0404 or Eileen.Mullen@BreadofLifeMalden.org):

General Drivers

Help pick food up from various locations and deliver to our Food Pantry. Help bring food from our Food Pantry to program locations. Schedules vary Monday-Friday.

Shelter Meals Program

Wednesday, 9-11am

Help sort and pack food for homeless families/individuals temporarily housed in motels; load van; stock shelves/refrigerators/freezers.

Food Access Project

Help improve access to nutritious and appropriate food and to our volunteer opportunities for non-English speakers; interpret, and translate/proofread written materials to empower immigrant families.

Contact: Volunteer Coordinator Eileen at 781-397-0404 (main office) or Eileen.Mullen@BreadofLifeMalden.org

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