



Gabriella Snyder Stelmack <collavoc@gmail.com>

February Monthly Newsletter

2 messages

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

Fri, Feb 9, 2024 at 10:02 AM

Reply-To: info@breadoflifemalden.org

To: gabriella.stelmack@breadoflifemalden.org

February Monthly Newsletter



Bread of Life

Food for the body...Nurture for the soul

Reflections from our Director

Often, during these dreary days of winter, my thoughts turn to the need to persevere. It's a virtue much-vaunted in the business and sport arenas for its link to achievement and success, epitomized by this quote from Thomas Edison: "The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time." But what is success in the struggle to eliminate hunger and homelessness, sickness and war? Societies around the globe have worked at various times, in various ways, with varying degrees of success to achieve that vision. But here we are in 2024 with the goal as elusive as ever. Inside us is a deep longing for that world. We might know, or at least suspect, that only God's omnipotence, creativity and love for us can bring that to pass through a new creation. But in the here-and-now, at any time on any day, we may be able to see - if we are attentive and not lulled by familiarity - a window open through which we glimpse briefly that transcendent world-to-come: a volunteer buys underwear for a guest who has been without a home for three years now...a fellow stops by our evening meal after his busy day to deliver dinners to senior citizens who cannot get to the meal site...a senior citizen volunteering in our warehouse sorts produce to make sure that the quality of what is distributed is what she herself would be happy to use. The great vision of the heavenly banquet in the new creation breaks into our limited vision as we persevere. Success? Consider this from Ralph Waldo Emerson:



"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

Thank you for persevering with Bread of Life and achieving the success of knowing that one life - thousands of lives - are breathing easier because you have lived.

God bless you,
Gabriella Snyder Stelmack
Executive Director

Under One Roof Update

During February, exterior siding installation will be completed, drywall will go up, and the elevator will be installed. The anticipated completion date for construction is Spring 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 our nonprofit housing partner, Metro North Housing Corp (MNHC), to provide permanent housing for very low-income formerly homeless individuals. The application deadline for these units was December 15, 2023, as of which date MNHC had received 340 applications. Tenants will be chosen through a lottery. We are deeply grateful to the 1,100+ individuals, businesses, foundations, civic groups, schools and faith communities that contributed to our capital campaign and are transforming the dream into concrete reality!



Making a Difference

In a letter to Bread of Life this month, Whittier School Principal Michael McLucas praised our Backpack Nutrition Program that distributes backpacks and supplies at the LaFayette, Parlin and Whittier schools in Everett:

“Our families have been so appreciative of the support provided by the Bread of Life. As a school with 92% of families in poverty, we have been a critical source of support for many students and parents/guardians. The support that our families have come to rely on during these challenging times has consisted of a variety of bagged food items, personal hygiene items, towels, and laundry

detergent. All efforts from the Bread of Life continue to provide essentials to our families. We've received rave reviews from parents, such as:

'We rely on the food supplied in the backpacks. With food so expensive these days, it helps us out so much!' - Logan.

'We got extra laundry detergent, which helped us out. We appreciate the support!' - Melany.

'We are so grateful to get supplemental food that our kids love! Thank you very much!' - Nathaniel.

We have been enamored with our partnership with the Bread of Life and we greatly appreciate your ongoing support."

Community News

Bread of Life Annual Meeting
Monday, February 26, 2024 5:00
pm (hybrid meeting: in person &
remote) 214 Commercial St., Suite
209, Malden, MA and by Zoom.

A light supper will be provided. Please

RSVP to attend in person or to receive a Zoom link, to gabriella.stelmack@breadoflifemalden.org We welcome anyone who would like to learn more about Bread of Life, including volunteers, prospective Board members, businesses, clergy, mission committee representatives and others. Every Bread of Life Partner Organization is eligible to have one representative vote on business brought before the Annual Meeting.

Agenda:

- **Celebrate what Bread of Life accomplished in 2023, including helping stop food insecurity for thousands of local families, and ongoing construction of our "Under One Roof" facility to centralize our dining hall/multi-function hall, kitchen, food pantry & offices and provide 14 affordable studio apartments.**
- **Accept the 2023 Financial Report and adopt the 2024 Budget**
- **Elect Directors and Officers to the Board**

Bread of Life is a nonprofit, nondenominational, faith-based food security organization based in Malden, MA that provides 1.5 million pounds of free food a year for economically struggling and disadvantaged families, individuals, youth and senior citizens in the North metro Boston area. Bread of Life utilizes



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hundreds of volunteers and dozens of partner organizations to distribute food through our primary programs: food pantries; prepared and congregate meals; grocery delivery to senior citizens; nutrition backpack distribution to at-risk Everett public school youth; food delivery to homeless individuals and families in shelter; and Food Access project to overcome barriers to accessing nutritious food encountered by lower income communities with respect to race, ethnicity, language, culture, age, gender and other factors.


Save the Date!

Join Bread of Life at Frescos, Malden, 775 Eastern Ave., Tuesday, February 20th, 5-8pm

When you order, mention you are supporting Bread of Life and Frescos will donate 15% to benefit BOL!

BREAD OF LIFE
FRESCOS FUNDRAISER!
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH
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Volunteer Opportunities

Arabic, Cantonese, Creole, Mandarin, Portuguese, Spanish speakers welcome!

DROP IN TO VOLUNTEER (no need to contact us beforehand):

Food Pantry, 109 Madison St., Malden

We're OPEN:**Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 12-5pm;****Wednesday 12-6:30pm**

Help load/unload vehicles, sort food, stock shelves/refrigerators/freezers, organize/clean, pack groceries, distribute food, work with the public, interpret, help with data/admin tasks.



Grocery Delivery Program Drivers, Start from 109 Madison St., Malden

Tuesday - Any time from 1-5pm; Wednesday/Thursday - Any time from 10am-5pm

Deliver groceries to homebound individuals in one community in your own car. Serving Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Lynn, North Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield, Winchester, Winthrop, Woburn.

Everett Mobile Market - Location: Lafayette School Parking Lot, 117 Edith St., Everett

Thursday – Any time from 3:30-5pm - *Great for families!* Help provide food for the local neighborhood by helping with all aspects of Food Distribution.

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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