



Gabriella Snyder Stelmack &lt;collavoc@gmail.com&gt;

## May Monthly Newsletter

**Bread of Life** <info-breadoflifemalden.org@thebreadoflifeonline.ccsend.com>  
Reply-To: info@breadoflifemalden.org  
To: collavoc@gmail.com

Mon, May 13, 2024 at 11:03 AM

## May Monthly Newsletter



# Bread of Life

*Food for the body...Nurture for the soul*

### Reflections from our Director

*"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."*

*- John Bunyan*

Bunyan's belief is something we see lived out every day at Bread of Life by our hundreds of volunteers. Doesn't it seem that one of our natural weaknesses as human beings is that we keep a mental log of what we gave compared to what we got? We hear "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours." We do something or give something to someone and in the back of our minds there's an expectation that the person will respond in kind. It can be hard not to keep a balance sheet. And yet, real love "keeps no record of wrongs...It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8.) We see volunteers every day putting real love into practice at Bread of Life. They give with no expectation of being repaid. They give with open hands and hearts to people they often don't even know. They carry a senior citizen's groceries to their car. They do backbreaking work moving, sorting and distributing thousands of pounds of food that will go to neighbors they may never meet. They patiently try to figure out what a patron with very limited English ability is trying to say and what they need. They set aside a special little treat for a shy child at the evening meal. They spend hours cooking a meal they'd be proud to serve to their family, but they serve it to 100 or more people they may never see



again. We are so grateful for our volunteers! In our new facility, we will offer congregate meals again instead of grab-and-go. We will provide client choice shopping in our new food distribution area. We will deliver grocery orders door to door for those who are mobility impaired and elderly. We will make and deliver nutrition backpacks for Everett public school students. We will deliver meals and groceries to homeless families and individuals in shelter. We will handle 1.5 million pounds of food to give to our community members. In short, we will need more volunteers than ever! We hope you'll join us!

God bless you,  
Gabriella Snyder Stelmack  
Executive Director

## Under One Roof Update

Over the next few weeks, we will have finish painting, installation of light fixtures, acoustical ceilings, cabinets, flooring, elevator and mechanical lift. The anticipated completion date for construction is the Summer of 2024. Until we have our Certificate of Occupancy date established, we cannot fix a date for our Grand Opening. But stay tuned!!



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 was held for the 300+ applicants for these units on Feb. 28th and MNHC is proceeding with leasing up the units.

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

Meeting the needs of our community members as unique individuals deserving attention is woven into our work. Our Grocery Delivery Program was scheduled to deliver a food order to a mobility-impaired senior citizen who lives with their cat and who had asked for cat food to be included if possible. The order was filled, but there was a mistake with the address so it didn't get delivered. When we found out, we remedied the problem. The senior emailed us: "Whoever delivered was very kind went out of their way to find right address! I got cat food and I'm happy. And it was raining, so that is 10 stars. That person, if they're paid, deserves a raise. They went back and got the food."



## Community News

### Cambridge Savings Bank

A big thank you to Cambridge Savings Bank. Craig Zecchino, Assistant Vice President /Melrose Branch Manager, presented a \$7,500 food assistance grant to Gabriella and Patty as part of their ongoing support of programs! We are grateful for our partnership with Cambridge Savings Bank and for their dedication to helping Bread of Life and others in our community.



## 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 Needed**, Start from 109 Madison St., Malden Tuesdays - Any time from 1-5pm; Wednesdays/Thursdays - 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.

**Backpack Nutrition Program**, 109 Madison St., Malden

Mondays – Any time from 12-5pm; Evening 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.

**Everett Mobile Market**, Lafayette School Parking [Lot, 117 Edith St., Everett](#)

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

### **SCHEDULE AHEAD TO VOLUNTEER:**

**Evening Meals Program**, First Baptist Church, 493 Main St., Malden

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 3:30-7 pm – Groups welcome! Help with all aspects of preparing, packing and distributing grab and go meals; staffing dining room, unloading van, bringing boxes downstairs, staffing coffee table, monitoring restrooms, interacting with patrons and cleaning.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:Eileen.Mullen@BreadofLifeMalden.org)

*Food for the Body...Nurture for the Soul*

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