

March Monthly Newsletter

1 message

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March Monthly Newsletter



Bread of Life

Food for the body...Nurture for the soul

Reflections from our Director

This past month, the project manager for our Under One Roof building project marvelled that somehow a solution appears to every difficulty we've encountered. Funds, personnel, collaborators, time, equipment have materialized from nowhere. We've seen the same provision for our food security programs. With every obstacle - COVID, insufficient funds, lack of volunteers, tight space, broken vehicles - we've seen a way open to move forward. I have a quotation on the wall of my office that reminds me of this reality. It's from the book of Exodus. Picture the Israelites, led by Moses, having fled slavery in Egypt but now trapped between the Egyptian army pursuing them and the Red Sea in front of them. I can imagine their terror and desperation. But the word Moses gave them was "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today...The Lord will fight for you; you need only be still." (Exodus 14:13,14). We know what happened: the waters parted miraculously and the people walked across on dry land. To my mind, the results for Bread of Life are miraculous too. The foundation for our new building is being poured and we look to completion of construction by year's end. Our food programs surge forward, having provided food access and equity for 122,000 people last year from diverse communities of race, ethnicity, language, culture, religion, age, gender and other factors. Our part, with you our donors and volunteers, is to



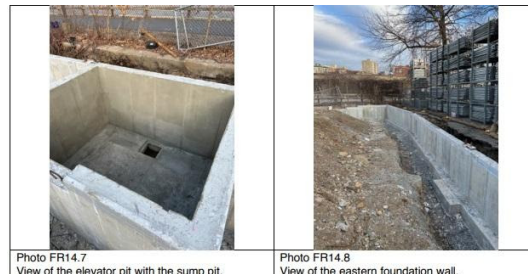
listen, to trust, to let go of our way, to go God's way, to persevere. Thank you for partnering with us and persevering to make a positive impact for food justice in the communities we serve. One of our high student volunteers recently posted online: *"It is difficult to think of the community without Bread of Life...It is great to see the pantry serving so many people in need."*

God bless you,
Gabriella

Gabriella Snyder Stelmack
Executive Director

Under One Roof Update

During March we will be trucking excess soil offsite, completing the concrete pour, and commencing steel erection. When our facility is completed by January 2024, we will have two floors of space for Bread of



Life programs and administration, giving us increased capacity to receive and store food donations, increased scheduling latitude for food distribution, and increased ability to utilize volunteers. Our housing partner, Metro North Housing Corp, will own and operate 14 permanent, rent-subsidized studio apartments on the third floor for local homeless individuals and veterans who will be able to access Bread of Life programs within the facility. Thank you to our 1,100+ individuals, businesses, foundations, civic groups, schools, faith communities, the City of Malden and our state legislators for making this possible!

Making a Difference

Terry W. posted online: *"I was homeless 2 times and the Bread of Life was always there to help me with food and dinners. I am and will always be grateful to them for all they do."*

Sponsorship Opportunity

We are launching a Bread of Life e-news sponsorship opportunity in 2023!

For \$200 sponsorship per month, we will feature your business with a short paragraph about your partnership and support of Bread of Life, along with your logo and a link to your website. We will feature a new business each

month. Please contact Patty Kelly at Patty.Kelly@breadoflifemalden.org and become a Bread of Life e-news sponsor!

Community News

Pre-St. Patrick's Day Event

Bread O'Life is hosting a Pre-St.

Patrick's Day Event at Idle Hands Craft

Ales Thursday, March 16th, 5-7pm.

Join us for a fun event as we share exciting updates about Bread of Life.

Pizza on us!

Raffles and Cash Bar.

Idle Hands is generously donating \$2/ pint to Bread of Life!

\$30 per person, purchase here:

<http://www.breadoflifemalden.org/events>



Bread of Life's Backpack Nutrition Program

A teacher in the Everett Public Schools English Learner Department said about the backpack program: "Kids will never tell you that they need food or they're hungry. They're too ashamed. The backpacks are a great solution. They can say, 'Can I have a snack bag? I love those chips.' But they can actually make meals from the contents. It has cereal, milk, raisins, juice, crackers, tuna, peanut butter, fruit cup, Chef Boy-Ar-Dee, Cup of Soup. One 12-year-old student confided to the teacher that she couldn't get supper at home regularly because her mom worked late. The backpacks supplied her supper."

Did you know since our program began in 2019, over 8,000 backpacks have been distributed to Everett students through Bread of Life's Backpack Nutrition Program?

Read more here in Everett Advocate Newspapers

<https://advocateneews.net/.../malden-based-bread-of-life.../>



Volunteer Opportunities

Cantonese, Creole, Mandarin, Portuguese, Spanish and other language speakers welcome!

Malden Food Pantry, 109 Madison St., Malden



Wednesdays 12-6:30pm; and Mondays, Tuesdays,

Thursdays, Fridays 12-5pm

Come for the whole time or just a few hours. No need to contact us beforehand. Just drop in when you can. Help load/unload food from vehicles, stock shelves/refrigerators/freezers, sort food, organize/clean, pack groceries, help with food distribution, work with the public, do data entry, and more.

Grocery Delivery Program, 109 Madison St., Malden

Wednesdays and Thursdays any time from 10am-5pm

Help deliver boxed groceries to homebound individuals in your vehicle. Serving Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Lynn, North Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield, Winchester, Winthrop, Woburn.

Everett Mobile Market

Come for the whole time or just a few hours. No need to contact us beforehand. Just drop in when you can.

Preparation: Thursdays 8:30-11:30am, 109 Madison St., Malden

Help pack groceries and load food onto truck.

Distribution: Thursdays 3:00-5pm, Lafayette School Parking Lot, 117 Edith St., Everett

Help unload and distribute groceries from truck; register/check people in.

Everett Backpack Nutrition Program, 109 Madison St., Malden

Preparation: Fridays any time from 12-4 pm

Help pack backpacks with breakfast, lunch, supper and snack items for students in need.

Distribution: Mondays 11am-1pm

Help make deliveries to schools.

Food Access Project, 109 Madison St., Malden

Help implement activities and translation to improve food access.

Please Note: Park on the street so our vehicles can come and go freely! Masks are required unless you're vaccinated.

And... There are many other ways to get involved and make a difference too... Be creative!

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

Food for the Body...Nurture for the Soul

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