



Welcome Our New Executive Director!

The Open Pantry is proud to introduce our new executive director, Geoff Bryant. For many years he worked in the software business as a software developer and manager. However, his passion for helping others in need due to poverty or other life circumstances has called him to work in the area of non-profits. He has been doing this for many years through his church in various ministries, especially his twelve years leading volunteers to repair needy people's homes in West Virginia. He coordinated all aspects of this mission, raising money for the project, recruiting volunteers, and leading and participating in work crews. This past year he brought the largest group to ever participate in the West Virginia Work Camp.

Geoff has an easygoing personality and is a tireless worker with a big heart. He is looking forward to using his skills in customer service, budgeting, and management along with his desire to help others. Join us in welcoming Geoff Bryant.

What Is New?

- Thank you Altrusa for holding a food drive in Chelmsford at Market Basket. The food was so appreciated.
- Project Bread's \$10,400 grant will enable us to provide food for many hungry families.
- The Dollar Tree of Tyngsboro collected 10 cases of food. Thank you!
- Our waiting area looks so lovely with the 5 watercolors donated by Gary DeStramp of Western Ave. Studios.
- Nancy DiSalvo, thank you for designing our new logo!
- We are happy to announce that Jody O'Hearn has agreed to be Vice President of the board.
- The board thanks Bob Gillmore for his three terms as a board member.
- Melissa Carino has accepted a position as an **Organizer** at **National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum** and at **NYR Organic US**. The pantry thanks for her hard work and dedication. Melissa made many welcome changes. We wish her luck in her new position.

Keep Our Shelves full by Helping Us Buy a New Truck!

Despite our daily donations of food, each week we transport 6,000 pounds of food to Hurd Street from [The Greater Boston Food Bank](#) and the [Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Inc.](#) We could not do this without our trusty truck. But, alas she is making more and more visits to the garage. Owning a truck allows us to maximize our dollars to purchase more food. Please spread the word that we need a new truck as soon as possible. We REALLY need your help now! Please consider making a contribution today.

Send that contribution to:
Open Pantry of Greater Lowell
13 Hurd Street P.O. Box 7258
Lowell, MA 01852

Or online at:
www.theopenpantry.org

For more information contact our director at:
Director@theopenpantry.org



Our New Logo was Unveiled at the Lowell Summer Music Series

- Kevin Fahy with Peter Aucella of the Lowell Summer Music Series highlighted the pantry at the Great Big Sea concert on August 23rd. We collected many cases of food and over \$250 in donations. Thank you Peter, Kevin, Melissa, and our pantry volunteers. Thank you to all who donated.



Facts About the Pantry

- More than a third of the people served at the pantry are children.
- Many people who come are disabled or elderly.
- According to Feeding America, 36% of households served have at least one working member.
- We are Lowell's oldest food pantry providing food to 1,500 people a month.
- The pantry is staffed with dedicated volunteers and one paid employee.
- The rate of food insecurity (hungry families) in Massachusetts is 12.3%.
- The average cost of an individual meal in the US is \$2.67, but in Greater Lowell it is \$3.08.
- Many months we have as many as 200 people who are new to us and who have never gone to a food pantry before.
- Our annual operating budget is under \$100,000.
- We are a 501(c)3 charity and donations are tax deductible.

Open Pantry Personal Stories

It is hard for many of us to imagine not being able to walk into our kitchen and find a good selection of food. Yet, according to "Feed America" that is the reality for one out of every six people living in America today. Below are quotes from clients and volunteers at the Pantry.

Clients:

- *A furloughed government worker who was forced to come to the pantry said, "I have always been a donor not a client."*
- *One working family of six finds that the pantry helps to "fill the gaps". As former members of the US military, they are finding it difficult to meet the needs of their family due to the difficulty of finding permanent work.*
- *"One month last year there was very little food here. That was a really hard month on my family."*
- *"Last Thanksgiving, we had no money and lots of bills. The turkey we got here gave my family a Thanksgiving holiday."*
- *"I only come when I need it. But it is nice to know it is here. It is comfortable to come in here."*

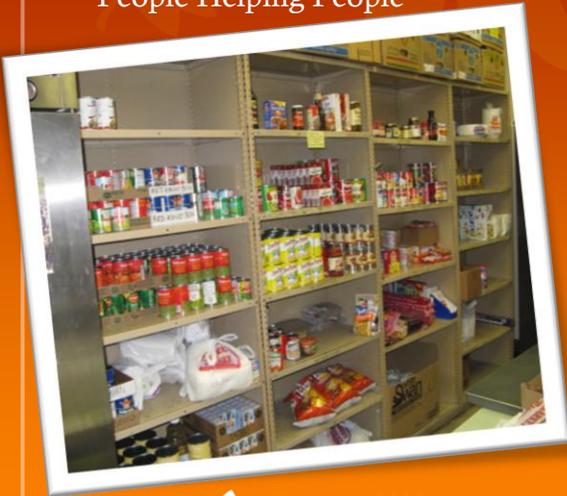
Volunteers:

- *"I have COPD and depression. Coming here and interacting with people feels great. This is the one thing I care about."*
- *"My life changed after a truck accident. I can't work but I like watching people's eyes light up when I give them food. They need this place to get by."*

People Helping People

THE OPEN PANTRY

Mission Statement



Our mission is to relieve hunger in our community. We aim to connect people to a variety of filling, nutritious, and culturally-appropriate food as well as to other community resources; to advocate on behalf of those in need locally, statewide, and nationally; and to engage with others in building food security.

Open Pantry of Greater Lowell

13 Hurd Street

P.O. Box 7258

Lowell, MA 01852

www.theopenpantry.org

info@theopenpantry.org

978.453.6693

www.facebook.com/GreaterLowellOpenPantry

twitter: @TheOpenPantry



Hours of Operation:

**Mondays through Thursdays:
9 AM until noon**

**Wednesday evenings:
5:30 PM until 7 PM**

We ask that clients arrive at least 30 minutes before we close.