

Help When She Needed It Most

JACKIE'S STORY

Each month, 45-year-old Jackie and her three children receive healthy food from the Wellspring Food Pantry in Hull that acquires most of its food products from The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB). This is her story.

"It was about seven years ago, when I moved to Hull after a painful divorce. All I had was my kids, and it was hard. I couldn't find work, and everything here is so expensive. I remember just walking through the town one day with my younger son, who was two then, while my older son and daughter were in school. I was feeling hopeless and very sad, because I didn't have enough money to buy good food for my children."

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harvest:**

GBFB PRESIDENT AND CEO CATHERINE D'AMATO REFLECTS ON HER 20 YEARS AT THE HELM

The Changes I've Seen: 20 Years at GBFB

Dear Friends,

When I arrived at The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) 20 years ago, I found a revered organization that had been playing a vital role in providing food for those in need in eastern Massachusetts. We acquired and distributed 8.9 million pounds of food in 1995. But, we knew we had to do more, become more, to really make a difference in the lives of the one in nine citizens of the Commonwealth who are facing hunger every day.

There is a misconception that hunger is a consequence of not enough food. The answer has less to do with food – there's plenty of food available – and more to do with economic and political obstacles. To solve this problem, we must come together – public, private, nonprofit and philanthropic partners – and pool our resources to be able to acquire and distribute food to those who can't afford to feed themselves and their families.

Today, GBFB embodies that solution. We have stronger member agencies, partners and supporters than ever before. Our strategic objective to provide ONE MEAL A DAY to every individual at risk of hunger is within sight; we're 85% of the way there! Three key developments have made it possible:

First, GBFB now has the mechanical, technical and physical capacity. Since 2009, we've been operating out of our 117,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art Yawkey Distribution Center. The facility's size and sophisticated food storage and distribution capabilities enabled GBFB to distribute a record 51 million pounds of food last year, enough to provide healthy meals to more than 500,000 individuals.

Second, we're not just providing more food, but high-nutrient foods to support healthier lives and communities. We've developed a safe and reliable network of food sources, and three registered dietitians on staff ensure more than three-quarters of our annual distribution meet the highest nutritional standards. *Twenty years ago, we couldn't move a carrot. Now, 25% of the food we provide is fresh fruit and vegetables, some produced by local farmers.*

Finally, GBFB's network of supporters is larger and more passionately committed than ever. Building our operational capacities, sourcing safer, healthier foods, and doing all of this efficiently and effectively has been possible only through the sustained generosity of our donors, partners and volunteers. They know how important our work is to struggling families, and that we honor their contributions by devoting 92 cents of every donated dollar to hunger relief efforts.

Together, we will continue to expand GBFB's reach and impact. Together, we will End Hunger Here.

Sincerely,



Catherine D'Amato, President and CEO



FROM FARM IN NORTHBORO TO LOCAL TABLES

GBFB works with the family-owned and operated Davidian Brothers Farm in Northboro to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to families in need. Enabled through the Commonwealth's Massachusetts Grown Initiative (MGI), GBFB purchased close to 82,000 pounds of high-nutrient produce from the Farm last year, all of which ended up on the tables of families in need across eastern Massachusetts.

"My grandfather started farming here in the 1920's," said David Davidian, who runs the 250-acre, hilltop farm with his brother. "My 94-year-old dad, Kerop 'Kay', is still very involved, and our children also work here. We're into the fourth generation farming in this community!"

GBFB's partnership with Davidian Brothers Farm began when we first sourced their high-quality tomatoes. Soon after, Davidian's expanded their produce offerings. Today, GBFB uses funding provided by the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) to purchase apples, peaches, corn, eggplant, peppers, yellow squash and zucchini from the Farm.

GBFB administers the Commonwealth's MEFAP program on behalf of the four state-wide food banks and uses a portion of the funds to purchase from over 30 local farms. Our partnerships with local farmers support them and the local economy – while helping GBFB to encourage healthy lives and communities. In fact, 82% of GBFB's annual distribution of over 50 million pounds of food meets the highest nutrition standards.

"Davidian Brothers has been part of this community for almost 100 years, and working with GBFB lets us be more engaged and give back. That's a good feeling," concluded David.

GBFB looks forward to continuing to grow relationships with local vendors to support our local economy and to bring together communities to help our neighbors in need.



Photo courtesy of Davidian Farms



JACKIE'S STORY (Continued from p. 1)

"Then, when I needed it most, I looked up and saw a sign on Nantasket Avenue that offered help. Almost by accident, I found Wellspring and all of a sudden things began to get better. Right away, the pantry gave me food so I could feed my kids that evening and for the next few days; and they helped me apply for SNAP benefits. While I waited, I came to the pantry every week.

Food in Hull is expensive, especially fruits and vegetables. My kids are healthier and stronger today, because of the fresh produce and other healthy foods we got from the pantry at Wellspring. When they would come home from school, I was able to give them snacks that were good for them.

Things are so much better, now. We go to the pantry once per month, and I have work cleaning homes. My older son is applying to college and hopes to get a hockey scholarship. My daughter is still in high school, and already working nights. My littlest is thriving in 4th grade.

It's unbelievable, really, how much the pantry and other services from Wellspring have helped my children and me. Today, I'm finishing up classes at Wellspring to get my GED and working toward a driver's license. I'm getting closer to achieving my goal to become a translator at South Shore Hospital. Now I'm excited about my future, and so, so grateful!"

Jackie's family is like so many others in eastern Massachusetts that have working members, but still can't afford enough food to avoid hunger. She and her children are some of the new faces of hunger in our community.

GBFB Offers Grants to Build Agency Capacity

As need has grown, GBFB has continuously expanded capacity to provide more healthy food to families facing hunger in eastern Massachusetts – distributing 51 million pounds of food last year. But, building our own capacity is not enough. We work in partnership with our 550 member agencies (e.g., food pantries, community meal programs, shelters, etc.), who often have limited resources, to help ensure they can keep up with our pace. This partnership is critical to achieving our objective of providing ONE MEAL A DAY to our neighbors in need.

“The GBFB capacity building grant enabled us to provide healthy and tasty dinners to approximately 70 more of our neighbors in need each week. GBFB is helping agencies like us to increase our reach and efficiency in feeding those in need in our communities.”

-Pastor Tim Knapp,
Mt. Calvary Community Supper in Acton, MA

To help our agency partners grow and succeed with us, GBFB’s Agency Capacity Building initiative provides funds to help our community partners develop their resources and invest in infrastructure such as freezers, refrigeration, food storage, transportation and IT.

In 2015, GBFB disbursed \$120,000 in grants to 35 agency partners, funding up to 50% of a project’s cost. Several of the grant recipients are using their funds to introduce, expand or enhance their refrigeration storage capacity – an essential step to offering more of the fruits and vegetables that GBFB provides. Increasingly, they are striving to provide the fresh produce families in need can’t afford, but is critical to their good health.

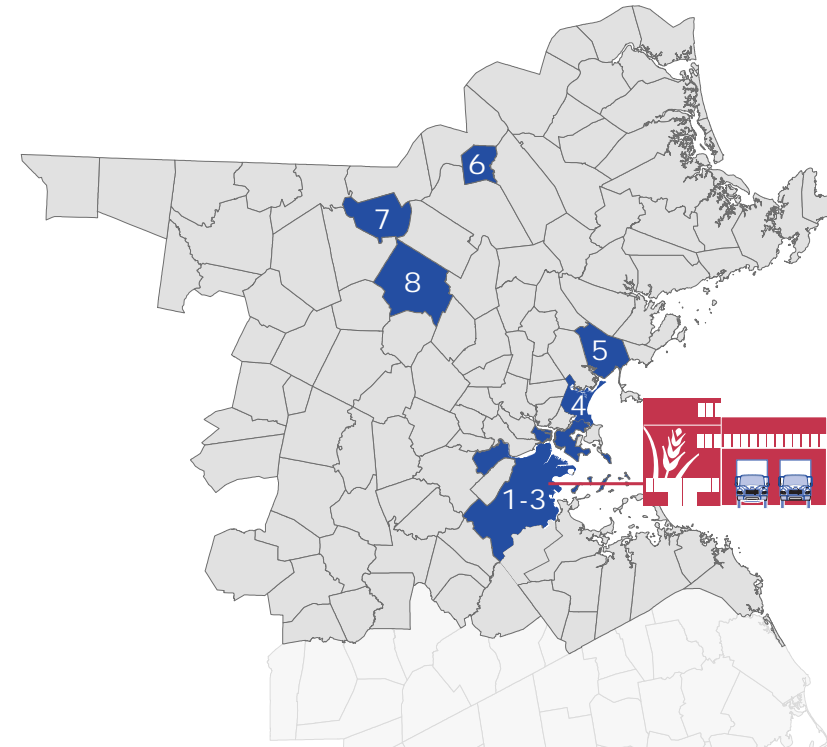
“The GBFB capacity building grant enabled us to provide healthy and tasty dinners to approximately 70 more of our neighbors in need each week.” said Pastor Tim Knapp from Mt. Calvary Community Supper in Acton, MA, “GBFB is helping agencies like us to increase our reach and efficiency in feeding those in need in our communities.”

Evidence shows that GBFB is making a real impact. Last year’s grantees increased their food distribution by 18% over the prior year, and increased the total number of clients served by 850. GBFB grantees also showed a 9% increase in seniors served monthly, and a promising 12% increase in distribution of fresh produce – almost 400,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables.

PHOTOS: Top: GBFB Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Distribution Carol Tienken, pictured center, presents a check to GBFB member agency, Aunt Dot’s Kitchen in Wellspring, MA. Middle to bottom: GBFB’s Agency Capacity Building initiative provides funds to help our community partners develop their resources and invest in infrastructure.



School-Based Pantries Expand to Keep Kids Healthy



GBFB’s expansion of School-Based Pantries will include 8 locations at:

- 1 JAMAICA PLAIN
Hennigan Elementary School
- 2 SOUTH BOSTON
Condon Elementary School/
Tynan Elementary School
(Combined distribution held at Condon)
- 3 ROXBURY
Orchard Gardens School (K-8)
- 4 REVERE
Hill Elementary School
- 5 LYNN
Connery Elementary School
- 6 LAWRENCE
Lawrence High School
(Open to all Lawrence Public School students)
- 7 LOWELL
(Open to 5 Lowell Schools)
- 8 BILLERICA
Marshall Middle School
(Open to all Billerica Public School students)

Launched just four years ago, GBFB’s successful School-based Pantry food distribution program is expanding this fall, from six to eight elementary, middle and high schools throughout eastern Massachusetts. GBFB’s Community Initiatives Team runs the growing program, collaborating with schools throughout eastern Massachusetts to organize monthly distributions of healthy foods to school families in need. The “farmers market” style events, staffed by teachers and other volunteers, served more than 4,500 families and more than 10,000 children last year, helping to ensure they had the high-nutrient foods needed to stay active and healthy. GBFB’s primary corporate partner for School-based Pantries is Our Family Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Stop & Shop, which sponsors four School-based Pantries.

School-based Pantries are scheduled to coincide with all-school events, providing convenience for participating families. Each month, participants fill a 45-pound grocery bag, choosing from a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables; high-protein items such as chicken, fish and tofu; and staples such as rice, pasta and dairy products, including yogurt, milk and cheese. Last year, 45% of the almost 300,000 pounds of the food distributed through the pantries was fresh produce.

“School-based Pantries deliver high-quality food – efficiently and effectively – to the families in our community who need it most,” explains GBFB’s Director of Distribution Services & Nutrition, Kendra Bird, RD, LDN. “We use GIS mapping software to overlay poverty statistics, census information and other services available in a specific area, such as food pantries and meal programs, and use this information to strategically select our target service area based on genuine need or accessibility issues. We then work with the community – in this case, public school administrators and teachers, as well as corporate and other supporters – to address that need together.”

This sophisticated approach has led to a relocation of the School-based Pantry serving the community of Lowell to a more centralized “host” site, STEM Elementary, which will now draw families from five elementary schools. A kick-off BBQ was held at the start of the school year to promote the inaugural pantry at STEM, sponsored by the school’s cafeteria services provider. In addition to their bag of groceries, participating families enjoyed a meal and celebration designed to spread the word about the monthly pantry.



PHOTOS: Citizens Bank and Team GBFB working together to raise dollars and awareness at the Boston Summer Arts Weekend at Copley Square.

Partnering as Good Citizens to End Hunger Here

Area corporations play a critical role in GBFB's mission to End Hunger Here. Their support and partnership is key to enabling our work as we join together to build a stronger, more vibrant community.

Among GBFB's most generous corporate partners is Citizens Bank, one of the oldest and largest financial services firms in the United States. Established in 1828, and with ATMs and branches throughout Massachusetts (and 10 other states), Citizens Bank is deeply rooted in – and committed to – their customers' and colleagues' communities.

"Citizens Bank believes that a good bank gives back to its community and to the people who live there," explains Quincy Miller, President, Citizens Bank, Massachusetts. "We create community partnerships where our corporate giving can have a clear, measureable impact; and our partnership with GBFB has grown and expanded because, together, we are working to end hunger and enhance the quality of life in our community."

Since 2011, when Citizens Bank was honored for their extraordinary leadership in philanthropic and human services with a GBFB Founder's Award, their support has only grown: They've been a member of GBFB's President's Circle for donors contributing \$250,000 or more annually since 2013, and they match individual employee donations to GBFB. In addition, Citizens Bank employees are regular volunteers at our warehouse. Since 2010, they have contributed almost a thousand hours of volunteer service.

Citizens Bank also sponsors two, 26-foot GBFB food delivery trucks, which are the crucial link to our member agencies who get most of their food from GBFB. Since 2013, the trucks have distributed 3.6 million pounds of healthy food, enough to provide close to three million meals to individuals facing hunger. With every mile they travel, these sponsored trucks include the message, "Together, with Citizens Bank, We Can End Hunger Here."

"In addition to their sustained and extraordinary generosity, Citizens Bank is constantly finding new and creative ways to increase their support," adds Suzanne Battit, GBFB's Vice President of External Affairs and Advancement. "By including GBFB in unique, third-party fundraising events like their Halloween "Boo Bash" and Boston Summer Arts Weekend, they help us raise even more dollars while introducing GBFB to new audiences and potential supporters. We are tremendously grateful for all that they do for GBFB and the community."

"We create community partnerships where our corporate giving can have a clear, measureable impact; and our partnership with GBFB has grown and expanded because, together, we are working to end hunger and enhance the quality of life in our community."

- Quincy Miller,
President, Citizens Bank, Massachusetts

A TUESDAY WITH THE KITCHEN CABINET TO BENEFIT GBFB
Join the Kitchen Cabinet, GBFB's young professionals group, at Boston's newest and most talked about venue, Coppersmith's. Mingle and network while enjoying cocktails and delicious bites, and enter our raffle to win some exciting prizes. All ticket and raffle proceeds benefit GBFB. Every \$1 will provide three healthy meals to those in need!



Kitchen Cabinet

WHEN
Tuesday, September 29, 2015
6:00-9:00PM

WHERE
Coppersmith
40 West 3rd Street
South Boston

TICKET PRICE: \$65 (includes cocktails and appetizers)

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:
GBFB.org/kitchencabinet



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2



3



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In addition to the Citizens Bank Boston Summer Arts Weekend (page 6), GBFB is fortunate to have been the nonprofit partner of choice for several events throughout Greater Boston this summer. 1 - GBFB Major Gifts Manager, Stephanie Cummings, participated with her dog at The Color Me Rad 5K Race in Brockton. GBFB was the race's nonprofit beneficiary. 2 - Members of GBFB's Warehouse and Transportation Teams set up donation tables at Fenway Park for the 24th Annual Strike Out Hunger fundraiser with the Red Sox Wives. The two-day event raised \$14,400 enough to provide 43,200 meals. 3 - GBFB has partnered with Let's Talk About Food to bring Kitchen Conversations to the newly-opened Boston Public Market. The Kitchen Conversations booth invites participants to share their food stories. GBFB Senior Nutrition Manager Adriene Worthington (photo-left) kicked things off with Let's Talk About Food's Louisa Kasdon (photo-right). GBFB is also partnering with the Boston Public Market to decrease their food waste. At the end of the day, vendors will have the option to donate unsold leftovers to GBFB's local member agencies. 4 - Team GBFB was back at Boston Magazine's Annual Battle of the Burger, joining the Boston Magazine team and local chefs to raise awareness and funds to support our mission to End Hunger Here.

Corporate Interns + Social Responsibility

In today's competitive business environment, corporations increasingly understand their social responsibility to be engaged and give back to their communities. They also realize the importance of instilling this concept in their employees (and potential employees), as well as their customers. Corporate philanthropy is back to its pre-recession levels, and corporate programs that encourage employees to volunteer and donate to nonprofit causes are strong and growing.



As part of these trends, local corporations are turning to GBFB to add a philanthropic aspect to their college internship programs. This past summer, five groups of corporate summer interns enjoyed a meaningful volunteer experience while being challenged to work as a team outside the office. Together, these college interns donated 1,300 hours of service, enabling GBFB to provide 65,000 meals to families in need.

"Our college interns bring energy and enthusiasm to the food inspecting, sorting and packing they do for us," noted Ginny Hanbridge, Director of GBFB's Community Engagement team. "Their contribution is so immediate and tangible, and they have a wonderful experience working together. We also help them understand how important it is to play their role in ending hunger in our community, and encourage them to come back."

Summer intern groups comprise some of GBFB's close to 26,000 annual volunteers. Last year, dedicated and generous volunteers played a critical role in advancing

GBFB's objective to provide ONE MEAL A DAY to those facing hunger in our communities. Their contribution of time and talent is worth more than \$1,000,000.

State Street (left) sent their summer program interns and another group of interns came from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC, right).

"Our work with GBFB is one way we're providing our college interns – and possible future employees – with a positive and productive philanthropic challenge during their summer at PwC," explained Gillian Orsburn, Campus Recruiting Manager, PwC. "Donating time helps the interns understand PwC's commitment to giving back to the communities where we live and work, and helps us get a better sense of how the interns collaborate toward a common goal in a totally different environment."

For more information about volunteering at GBFB, visit GBFB.org/volunteer