



GBFB.org

Winter 2026

Delivering Healthy Food, No Matter the Distance

“Anytime I can share, I can provide,
I can help people—I feel good.”

— Gina, Waltham

Inside Harvest:

- GBFB's Leadership During the Government Shutdown
- Client Story: Gina in Waltham
- A Place to Turn in Natick
- GBFB Donor Leaves a Legacy of Compassion
- GBFB Makes Landmark Investment in The Salem Pantry
- Celebrating 45 Years of GBFB

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Catherine's Message

Dear Friends,

Recently, I announced my retirement after 30 years at The Greater Boston Food Bank. It has been the honor of my professional life to work alongside the GBFB team, our Eastern Massachusetts community, and supporters like you.

We've taken on historic challenges—from the COVID-19 pandemic to the longest government shutdown last fall—and I'm proud of what we've accomplished together.

Recently, GBFB shared the news of our landmark investment in The Salem Food Pantry to expand regional food access on the North Shore. This partnership establishes a new GBFB regional distribution center—one of our strategically located food hubs throughout Eastern Massachusetts. These hubs reduce the number of miles that small, local food pantries must drive to receive food from GBFB, enhancing our work to improve food access and meet sustainability goals.

We are exploring a similar investment in Bristol County, which has the highest rate of food insecurity in our service area at 46 percent. With the addition of Salem and hopefully, Bristol County, GBFB will have 12 locations serving our neighbors across Eastern Massachusetts.

On January 12, we celebrated Founders Day, GBFB's 45th anniversary. A lot has changed in nearly half a century of operations, but the guiding principle behind all we do remains the same: Food is a human right.

If you're feeling inspired, you can make an impact through our Spring for Meals campaign in March. When money is tight, fresh fruits and vegetables are often the first ingredients people go without, but together, we can help everyone put nutritious meals on the table.

The work to end food insecurity continues, and I am confident in GBFB's ability to build on the progress we've made for many years to come, until hunger no longer exists.

Gratefully,

Catherine D'Amato
President and CEO

**Hunger Free
Eastern
Massachusetts®**

Donate at:
GBFB.org/Harvest



GBFB's Leadership During the Government Shutdown

Throughout 2025, the federal food assistance programs that people rely on suffered repeated cuts, magnifying the issue of food insecurity and increasing demand for food at the pantries and community organizations that GBFB supplies.

Early in the year, the federal government slashed \$4 million from food assistance programs. Over the summer, the passage of the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" enacted a series of cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that will reduce or eliminate benefits for the families, seniors, veterans, and neighbors that we serve.

Compounding all of this was the nation's longest government shutdown during the fall. Many people turned to our hunger-relief network for help, and the unprecedented delay in SNAP benefits triggered a surge in need for food.

GBFB jumped into action. During the shutdown, we:



Increased our daily food distribution by 50 additional full pallets



Delivered more fresh produce to cities and towns across Eastern Massachusetts and expanded production of Family Meal Boxes.



Advocated for SNAP reinstatement at the state and federal level, sending letters to the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, the Healey-Driscoll Administration, and State Legislature.



Worked with the Healey-Driscoll Administration to advance a monthly payment for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP), which GBFB and other food banks used to distribute healthy food for free to people.



Shared information about SNAP and food insecurity in over 50 media interview requests. During the shutdown, GBFB was a trusted voice for information.

**Everyone has a role in ending hunger
in our community.™**





Gina, a Food Pantry Client, Gives Back in Waltham

Rain or shine, you will find Gina greeting food pantry clients as they walk through the Healthy Waltham mobile pantry to pick out fruits, vegetables, and other essential items.

Gina is a food pantry client herself, and says it feels “really, really good” to volunteer there as well. “I feel at home because everybody helps each other,” she says.

Helping others is part of Gina’s day-to-day life. She works at a hospital and is raising two children, ages 14 and 16, after the children’s mother, a good friend of Gina’s, passed away.

“I like to get the fruits and vegetables, because that’s what I like to cook for the kids. They need to eat healthy.”

— **Gina, Waltham**

“I stepped up to help them because I’ve known the family for so long. It was a good opportunity to share what I’ve been given.”

However, providing for a household of three has stretched Gina’s budget. “The money that I make...after the rent, the gas, there’s no money left,” she explains. Food from the pantry supplements her income. “I like to get the fruits and vegetables, because that’s what I like to cook for the kids. They need to eat healthy.”







According to Healthy Waltham pantry manager Maria DiMaggio, there are many households like Gina’s in the community. “We see a lot of young families,” Maria says. “We see some senior citizens. People are trying to stretch their limited incomes...I think we’re providing an important service, a valuable service, and I’m very happy to have The Greater Boston Food Bank as a partner.”

Healthy Waltham reports that 94 percent of the food they distribute is supplied by The Greater Boston Food Bank.

For Gina, volunteering and giving back to the place where she receives food is a given. “Anytime I can share, I can provide, I can help people—I feel good,” she says.

Donate at: [GBFB.org/Harvest](https://www.gbfb.org/harvest)

A Place to Turn in Natick

-  **Location:** Natick, MA
-  **Households Served:** The pantry works off an appointment system, with 280 appointments per week.
-  **Amount of Food from GBFB:** Forty-one percent of the pantry's food comes from GBFB.
-  **Emphasis on Healthy Foods and Client Choice:** A Place to Turn offers as much fresh food as possible. Clients shop and choose the foods they prefer. There is an abundance of fruit and vegetable choices plus meat, fish, chicken, eggs, and dairy products, much of which comes from GBFB.
-  **Helping Kids with School Lunches:** Through the pantry's Healthy Families Program, families with school-age kids get extra fresh fruits, snacks, and juice boxes. The goal is for these children to have the same food and snack brands as their peers at school so that no one feels left out.
-  **Fresh Food Grown On-Site:** There is a town-owned garden behind A Place to Turn, and the pantry owns five of the garden plots. A local garden club takes care of them and staff from the pantry harvest fresh herbs including parsley, cilantro, and basil.



Donor Profile

GBFB Donor Leaves a Legacy of Compassion

Rob Dinsmoor loved to ride bikes, hike, kayak, and, perhaps most of all, walk with his beloved dog, Jack. It was on these walks that Rob would stop and say hello to everyone in his South Hamilton neighborhood.

"He was a kind and generous soul," recalls his sister, Mara. "Many years ago, the town was going to buy a home to use as a halfway house right behind Rob's. Everyone was in an uproar, and when lots of people said, 'not in my backyard,' Rob literally would say 'yes, in my backyard.'" Before long, Rob became acquainted with some of his neighbors in the new house.

It was that care for others that inspired Rob to give to many charitable causes. When he passed away, he left a portion of his estate to GBFB, after donating for many years.

Rob was the author of six books and a writer whose career spanned scriptwriting, medical writing, and humor. When asked why food insecurity was an important cause for Rob, Mara talks about her brother's love of food and gathering people for a meal. "He loved to eat and was a very adventurous eater. When he was younger, he'd have potluck dinners at his house...If I was eating too slowly, he'd look at something on my plate and say, 'are you gonna eat that?'" she remembers with a laugh.

Mara recalls Rob's warmth and humor in all he did. "He had a nice circle of friends and a great sense of humor. We had a bond that way. He'd say one word, I'd say one word, and then we'd burst into laughter."



GBFB Makes Landmark Investment in The Salem Pantry to Expand Food Access

GBFB has awarded a \$2 million grant to The Salem Pantry to strategically expand food access on the North Shore.

The funds will secure a new warehouse in Salem on the borders of Peabody and Lynn. The warehouse's cold storage and freezer space will enable GBFB and The Salem Pantry to provide even more fresh, healthy food to the region north of Boston at a time when food insecurity is on the rise, impacting 37 percent of residents statewide.

From GBFB, food will travel to the new warehouse in Salem where 20 smaller food pantries and community partners in lower Essex County will be able to pick up their orders—exemplifying the importance of collaboration and a strong, efficient hunger-relief network in addressing food insecurity.

This investment is one of the many GBFB is making to fortify and expand our food distribution network throughout Eastern Massachusetts—ensuring that Massachusetts is ready to deliver healthy, nutritious food no matter the distance.



Celebrating 45 Years of GBFB

In a 1984 speech, GBFB founder, Kip Tiernan, spoke about the challenges faced in our earliest days. “It was really hard work, and no freezers, so we had to turn down lots of food. I remember the day we got a truckload of fish, and we were all unloading it and then calling everywhere to come get it, even zoos.”

This story underscores our extraordinary progress. Today, we operate a sophisticated food distribution operation from our 117,000 square foot facility, most recently expanding our refrigeration in 2024 to distribute more healthy, perishable food than ever before. While the work to feed Eastern Massachusetts is ongoing, our 45th year offers an opportunity to look back at our progress with hope for the future.



Spring for Meals

Supported by  DELTA

Fresh Food Fuels Healthier Lives

Your Spring for Meals gift helps GBFB purchase and distribute fresh produce to our hunger-relief Agency Partners. And when you donate today, Delta Air Lines will match all gifts up to \$50,000, **DOUBLING** your impact to deliver even more fruits and vegetables to our neighbors facing hunger.

Donate today at [GBFB.org/Harvest](https://www.gbfb.org/harvest).

