



harvest

GBFB.org

Thanksgiving 2024

Giving Thanks this Holiday Season

“I appreciate what everybody
contributes to making this happen.”

— Serina Saeed, client at the Wakefield Food Pantry

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MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Catherine's Message

Dear Friends,

As we gather with friends and family this holiday season, I'm giving thanks for our GBFB community. GBFB powers the effort to end hunger here in Eastern Massachusetts, and we don't do it alone: it takes the support of donors, volunteers, and our 600 committed food distribution partners. Together, our efforts power 87 million healthy meals onto the tables of our neighbors across 190 cities and towns.

In this issue of Harvest, you'll find stories illustrating how our work together brings valuable healthy foods into every community in need. Most of the food being distributed in these examples is donated by The Greater Boston Food Bank:

- In Framingham, our distribution partner United Way of Tri-County assembles 100 volunteers to distribute holiday meals to their community.
- A group of young Girl Scouts in Wellesley learns about hunger and donates funds from their cookie sales to GBFB.
- Sudbury resident Diane Bevan prepares for a 27-day "Snowman Trek" in the Himalayas, calling on her community to raise \$50,000 for GBFB as she trains.
- Serina Saeed cares for her mother who has disabilities, thoughtfully preparing healthy meals with support from the Wakefield Food Pantry.

The Greater Boston Food Bank is powered by your involvement through the giving of food, funds, and precious volunteer time. This in turn enables us to power the network of distribution partners across Eastern Massachusetts. **Help us this holiday season by making a \$50 gift to provide a complete holiday meal for two families.** Go to GBFB.org/Harvest to make your gift.

Together, we have the power to end hunger here and create food security for everyone. Thanks for sharing your resources with others this holiday season.

Gratefully,



Catherine D'Amato
President and CEO

Donate at:
GBFB.org/Harvest



How \$50 Provides Holiday Meals for Two Families

You donate \$50 to GBFB



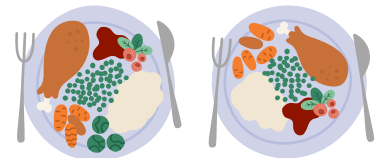
We secure food at a lower cost than retail price



We distribute food to 600 partner agencies across Eastern MA



Two families enjoy complete holiday meals



With GBFB, every donated dollar does more. Through our partnerships and wholesale purchasing power, we use your donations to secure food at a lower cost than retail price.

Thanks to GBFB's purchasing power, the cost to our network of agency partners—the 600 food pantries and meal sites across Eastern Massachusetts where we deliver groceries—is drastically reduced. That happens because of your support. In the past year, GBFB was able to distribute more than 100 million pounds of food throughout that network, reaching hundreds of thousands of people in need.

We're committed to clearly illustrating the impact your donations have in our community. Donate today at GBFB.org/Harvest



Scan here or visit GBFB.org/Harvest to take part in Hunger Free Holidays.



The Wakefield Food Pantry received approximately 172,000 meals in the last year from GBFB.

A Holiday Thanks for Healthy Meals

This holiday season, many of us will give thanks for family, good food, and health—three values that Wakefield resident Serina Saeed holds close.

“I take care of my mother who’s both elderly and [has disabilities], and sometimes it gets hard providing good meals for her,” says Serina, explaining how she shops for fresh produce and lean proteins to look after her mother’s health. When bargain hunting doesn’t make ends meet, Serina turns to the Wakefield Food Pantry, a GBFB partner agency.

Rising costs are a widespread issue, but the Wakefield Food Pantry is meeting a growing demand for food. In addition to approximately 172,000 meals from GBFB in the last year, the pantry received a GBFB Community Investment Grant to purchase a climate-controlled food storage container to increase capacity.

This food empowers neighbors like Serina to put healthy meals on the table. “The fact that I can get beans and

fresh produce makes it easier for me to make healthy meals,” she says, adding that during the holidays, she appreciates the “care packages” the pantry distributes, which include gift cards for purchasing turkeys.

Serina expresses thanks for GBFB’s donors. Donor funds help send food to 600 agencies across Eastern Massachusetts—including Wakefield. “I don’t need the food pantry all the time. I’m very grateful for it when I need it, and I appreciate what everybody contributes to make this happen,” she says.

“The fact that I can get beans and fresh produce makes it easier for me to make healthy meals.”

—**Serina Saeed, client at the Wakefield Food Pantry**

Volunteer Spotlight

Diane Bevan's "Snowman Trek" w GBFB

Since 1999, Diane Bevan, GBFB's 2024 Kip Tiernan Award winner and a Board of Advisors member, has been a tireless supporter of GBFB. She donates, participates in donor thank-a-thons, and volunteers at GBFB's warehouse and fundraising events.

Her next endeavor may be her biggest yet: trekking for 27 days in the Himalayas to raise funds to end hunger here in Eastern Massachusetts.



Diane is an avid hiker as well as a GBFB Board of Advisors member, donor, and volunteer.

"I'm passionate about GBFB and I feel good about combining a big personal goal with a personal mission to help end food insecurity in my community."

—Diane Bevan, GBFB Board of Advisors member, donor, and volunteer

Diane will hike over 10 passes ranging from 11,000 to 17,000 feet along the famously challenging "Snowman Trek" in Bhutan. As she trains, she's setting her sights high, aiming to raise \$50,000 to **Fill the Fridge** at GBFB with healthy food for our neighbors.

"It's a truly daunting challenge for me and I've been working hard to prepare! I'm passionate about GBFB and I feel good about combining a big personal goal with a personal mission to help end food insecurity in my community," Diane explains.



Diane regularly volunteers at GBFB's Yawkey Distribution Center in Boston.

Donor Profile



Girl Scout Troop 64049 donated their cookie proceeds to GBFB.

Girl Scouts in Wellesley Donate to End Hunger Here

Like many fourth graders, the members of Girl Scout Troop 64049 in Wellesley love cute animals. In years past, they donated their cookie sale funds toward wildlife-related causes—until they learned that kids in their community are facing hunger.

"In this year's philanthropy planning, one of the girls mentioned that she had heard some kids get hungry," says Troop Leader and GBFB donor Judith Beswick. "They found that quite shocking."

The girls did their own research and agreed to donate their funds to GBFB to help end hunger here.

"These aren't large sums of money, but I believe the process of learning about needs and ways in which they can pitch in, even as elementary schoolers, is an important thing for my girls," explains Judith.

During the holiday season, the young students' generosity reminds us that everyone has the power to end hunger, whether we donate, advocate, volunteer—or sell cookies.



United Way of Tri-County: 5,000 Holiday Turkeys, 100 Volunteers, and “Lots of Smiles”



Throughout the holiday season, United Way of Tri-County (UWTC) in Framingham, a GBFB partner agency, will distribute an astounding 5,000 turkeys to members of the MetroWest community.

This annual holiday feat is made possible by months of planning, support from volunteers, donors, and GBFB.

 **5,000**
turkeys

 **100**
volunteers

 **15-20**
bags of groceries per family of four

“We’re very grateful for our relationship with The Greater Boston Food Bank,” says Paul Mina, President and CEO. “We’re partners joined at the hip.”

A dedicated hunger-relief partner in the MetroWest region, UWTC operates three food pantries throughout the year, receiving more than 2 million meals from GBFB annually.

UWTC also hosts a satellite dock every Thursday to help distribute healthy food from GBFB to other partners in the area.

Thanksgiving is an especially busy time of year. UWTC coordinates massive outdoor food distributions at each of its pantry locations with the help of 100 volunteers, a day that Paul says is filled with “lots of smiles.”

Paul and his team are especially moved by how the community comes together to participate. “It’s a sea of humanity helping their fellow citizens.”



GBFB Receives Highest Possible Nonprofit Assessment Scores

GBFB is proud to share that we recently earned the highest possible ratings from two nonprofit assessment programs:



A Platinum Seal of Transparency from **Candid** for excelling in terms of financial transparency, sound governance, and a commitment to measuring progress and results.



A four-star rating from **Charity Navigator** for achieving perfect scores in Program Expense and Fundraising Efficiency.

Very few nonprofit organizations receive both distinctions, putting GBFB among the most respected non-profit organizations in the country.

Learn more about our accolades on our website: www.GBFB.org/Harvest

Words of Thanks

“Whoever donates, thank them. It’s amazing. To me this is the biggest gift. I have three bags of food. Now I can’t wait to get home and make stuff.”

– **Christine, client at Acord Food Pantry in Hamilton**

“I am thankful for my family and friends more than anything. For our health, for where I live...and having the resources and ability to do what we do in terms of giving back.”

– **Diane Bevan, GBFB Board of Advisors member, donor, and volunteer**

“I’m thankful for the staff and volunteers who work year-round on holidays, and in tough conditions to make a positive impact in their community. The Greater Boston Food Bank provides critical resources across Eastern Massachusetts, and I am grateful for all they do to help individuals and families who are struggling with food insecurity.”

– **Senator Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett)**

Hunger Free Holidays

Presented by  STOP&SHOP.

The holidays are a time for celebration with family and friends, and you can help make the season brighter. This holiday season, a \$50 donation provides complete holiday meals for two families in Eastern Massachusetts. Thanks to a generous contribution from Stop & Shop, **all gifts will be matched up to \$350,000!**

Donate today or form a fundraising team with family, friends, or coworkers. **Together, we have the power to end hunger here.**

www.GBFB.org/Harvest

