The Pandemics of COVID-19 and Hunger

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The following businesses, organizations and foundations made a gift of $1,000 or more between April 1 and June 30, 2020 (Updated at the time of publication; August 15, 2020.)

AARP
Abandoned Building Brewery
Alekmans DiTusa, LLC
Amanda Foundation, Inc.
Amelia Peabody Charitable Foundation
American Eagle Credit Union
American Outdoor Brands
Amherst Knights of Columbus Council 1619 Inc.
Antonacci Family Foundation
Arbella Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Ark Community Church Inc.
Axia Insurance Services
Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Beatty-Roig Charitable Fund
Berkshire Bank Foundation Inc.
Berkshire Community Action Council, Inc.
Berkshire Gas Company
Berkshire United Way
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Boston Foundation
Bridge Club Dances
C & S Wholesale Grocers, Inc.
Center for Human Development
Clowes Foundation
Colliers Project Leaders USA NE, LLC
Comcast Corporation
Community Foundation of Hampshire County
Community Foundation of New Jersey
Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts
Country Bank for Savings
Crawley Family Foundation
Deerfield Police Relief Association
Dell Giving
Dr. Hauschka Skin Care, Inc.
Ernst Financial Services
Estate Planning Council of Hampden County, Inc.
Eversource Energy
Excel Dryer, Inc.
Fallon Community Health Plan
Farm Credit East Care
Feeding America
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
First Church of Christ in Longmeadow
First Congregational Church, UCC
First Light Power Resources
Freedom Credit Union
GE Foundation
Greenleaf Foods
Health New England
Henry P Kendall Foundation
Hi-De Liners
High Meadow Foundation
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2324
Joy In Childhood Foundation, Inc.
Kestrel Land Trust
Kimball Farms Residents Association
Klarman Foundation
Leo S. Walsh Foundation
Linde Family Foundation
LRVHealth
Mass Mutual-Ins Ops
Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund
National Grid
Nexamp, Inc.
Noonan Energy Corporation
People’s United Community Foundation
PeoplesBank
Pioneer Cold
Pledging Foundation
Price Chopper’s Golub Foundation
Retail Business Services
Rocky’s Ace Hardware
Rotary International District 7890
Salesforce.com Foundation
Scottie’s Tissues
Signature Sound Recordings
Sisters of St. Joseph
Stop & Shop Family Foundation
Target Corporate-Foundation
The Herbert & Neil Singer Foundation
The Janey Fund
The Life Initiative
The Whitehead Foundation
TIAA Charitable
TXJ Foundation, Inc.
Trustees of Reservations
Tufts Health Plan Foundation
UMASS
UMass Five College Federal Credit Union
United Way of Hampshire County, Inc.
Vertex Foundation
Wakefern Food Corporation
Webster Bank
Wesley United Methodist Church
White Lightning Auto Body
Wilbraham United Church
Xeric Foundation
Yankee Candle Company

The top food donors between April 1 and June 30, 2020

1. Big Y*
2. C&S Wholesale Grocers
3. Szawlowski Potato Farms
4. Stop & Shop*
5. Walmart*
6. Bimbo Bread
7. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
8. Salvation Army
9. BJ’s Wholesale Club
10. Cumberland Farms

*multiple stores combined

The Food Bank’s vision is a western Massachusetts where no one goes hungry and everyone has access to nutritious food.

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Cover photo: Food Bank staff member Dale West with her family preparing to ride bikes safely during COVID-19.

The Food Bank is committed to promoting cultural diversity through its board, staff, volunteers and local member feeding sites. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9410.

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Dear Friends,

We are experiencing two pandemics simultaneously – COVID-19 and hunger. Our region’s emergency food network provided food assistance to an average of nearly 105,000 individuals monthly between March and June as compared to about 90,000 monthly during the same time last year. If estimates are correct, we could be assisting as many as 128,000 individuals monthly by the end of the year.

We know how to mitigate both pandemics: COVID-19 by washing our hands, wearing masks and maintaining social distancing; hunger by providing food assistance. To end COVID-19 will require a vaccine.

Ending hunger is more complicated. We know this because there are many underlying causes of hunger that cannot be addressed with simple solutions. Clearly, COVID-19 has exposed social and economic inequities, which are powerful potent injustices, that cannot be ignored if we are to be honest and objective.

Those of us who have employment, income and assets to rely on are clearly privileged and fortunate compared to those without adequate means to make ends meet. However, the current pandemic may be putting even this reality to the test. Can you imagine what it must feel like to not have enough food to feed yourself and your children? ...to endure the pain, stress, anxiety and, frankly, the trauma of witnessing family members, friends, and colleagues living with hunger and COVID-19?

In western Massachusetts, most people at risk of hunger are white because most of the population is white. Yet, much like the rest of the country, communities of color are disproportionately at greater risk of both pandemics. Systemic racism has disenfranchised many individuals from privileges that many of us take for granted... quality healthcare, education, and personal wealth and income to be able to afford decent housing, childcare, and transportation in healthy and safe environments. In fact, people of color are more likely to continue to work in dangerous essential services at low wages trying to make ends meet. These two pandemics, coupled with police abuse,
are exposing yet again inequities in our society that we must acknowledge and do something about. Like you, we at The Food Bank continue to soul search as we carry out our mission. We know that we must deal with the immediate challenge. We must provide more healthy food to more people now. We also know that we must continue to advance long-term solutions to end the pandemic of hunger such as facilitation of the Coalition to End Hunger, advocacy of hunger-free public policy, and support for local farmers, including our investment in a second Food Bank Farm.

We are developing bold plans and would very much welcome your input. Please consider contacting me. I’d be delighted to hear your thoughts and share more about ours. ♦

Andrew Morehouse
Executive Director
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COVID-19 & FOOD INSECURITY IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

FOOD INSECURE NEIGHBORS

Pre-COVID
86,480
1 in 10 residents
22,650
1 in 7 children

COVID-19 2020
127,900 47%*
1 in 7 residents
36,620 63%*
1 in 4 children

*There may be a 47% increase in the number of western Mass. residents and a 63% increase in the number of western Mass. children who will be food insecure by the end of 2020.


COVID-19 & FOOD INSECURITY IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

AVERAGE MONTHLY INDIVIDUALS SERVED

2019 2020

MARCH - MAY

Total: 90,592
New: 9,323 10%*Total: 104,707
New: 25,743 24%*

RISING DEMAND FOR FOOD

The Food Bank’s distribution has increased more than any four-month span in our 38 year history.

POUNDS OF FOOD

2019 2020

MARCH - JUNE

4.1 Million
5.1 Million
+24%*

SNAP APPLICATIONS

2019 2020

MARCH - JUNE

497
433
-13%*
Every vote counts!
This year’s election is an important one. Here are some updates on how you can cast your vote during the pandemic.

The Food Bank Advocacy team is working on federal and state policies that will prevent food insecurity like increasing SNAP benefits, and expanding the Healthy Incentives Program. We have also advocated for Breakfast After the Bell during the past several years, an initiative that Governor Baker signed into law in early August and supports students in low-income schools. We’re also passionate about elections and voter registration. The November election will be one of the most important in our lifetimes. We want to get the word out about some new election policies in Massachusetts.

As of January 1, 2020, we have automatic voter registration for every citizen who applies for or renews a driver’s license, learner’s permit or state ID, or applies for MassHealth or health insurance through Commonwealth Health Connector.

Also, new in Massachusetts is the ability to vote early either in person or by mail – especially useful during a pandemic. Early voting for the primary will be held August 22-28 and October 17-30 for the general election. Register to vote, check your registration status, and see who is on the ballot: www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/.

Important voter links and dates:

- Check your voter registration status: www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx
- Register to vote online: www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/
- Massachusetts Primary Election date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020
  Deadline to register to vote in the primary is Saturday, August 22, 2020, 8 p.m.
  Check who is on the ballot: www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx
- 2020 General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 2020
  The deadline to register to vote in the general election is Saturday, October 24, 2020, 8 p.m.
- NEW for Massachusetts residents: Vote early in person or by mail
  • Early voting for the state primary will be held August 22-28
  • Early voting for the 2020 general election will be held October 17-30
  • Find out more: www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleev/evidx.htm
Q: Why has Stop & Shop made food insecurity a focus of their corporate philanthropy?

A: Stop & Shop is committed to helping the communities we serve enjoy better food and better lives. Stop & Shop has a longstanding history of giving back to the neighborhoods it serves with a focus on fighting hunger. Working with our regional food bank partners, including The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, allows us to follow through on this commitment and do good for our neighbors facing food insecurity.

Q: The Stop & Shop Family Foundation has provided funding for our Mobile Food Bank and other campaigns for many years. When did Stop & Shop get involved in Will Bike 4 Food and why?

A: We are proud of the strong relationship that Stop & Shop and The Food Bank has forged over the past 30 years. We are always looking for ways to positively impact the community. Participating in Will Bike 4 Food is another unique way for us to help The Food Bank to help those in need.

Jasen Hodge, manager at Stop & Shop in Springfield, explains the retailer’s commitment to Will Bike 4 Food. Stop & Shop is the presenting sponsor for the cycling event.

Q: Your employees have participated in Will Bike 4 Food, forming teams with friends and family over the years. Why have they felt the need to participate in Will Bike 4 Food as a corporate team?

A: Our associates are passionate about serving others, both inside our stores and out. We recognize the critical role we played in our communities at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and we received much thanks from our customers during that time. This is our opportunity to give back to our community.

Q: Can you describe your own experiences with Will Bike 4 Food?

A: Like most of our associates, I live in the communities that we serve, and it’s an honor to work for a company that gives so much back. In my experience it has been team building for the store associates and a fun event to be a part of. Whether you are riding a bike or catering the lunch, or at a water stop handing out water, it’s a time that we can all come together and give back to our communities.
Q: Will Bike 4 Food is changing course this year with a month-long virtual event that will allow more cyclists to participate. How would you encourage local companies as well as friends and family to participate?

A: Virtual events are a great way to team build across the community. You can share your experience on social media and create excitement with friends and family. Going virtual even allows people who aren’t residents of Western Massachusetts to participate and help those facing food insecurity here in our community.
Food insecurity can happen to anyone. Please support local families during an unprecedented time of need.

foodbankwma.org/donate

or mail: P.O. Box 160 • Hatfield, MA 01038