

MEDIA ADVISORY



For Immediate Release

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
97 North Hatfield Road
PO Box 160
Hatfield, MA 01038

Date: October 20, 2021

Contact:

Lillian Baulding
Communications
& Engagement Officer
413-203-4907 (direct number)

lillianb@foodbankwma.org

Barnhardt Manufacturing Co. Partners Again with The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Sponsors 'Brown Bag: Food for Elders' Program

HATFIELD, MA- Barnhardt Manufacturing Company today announced a \$10,000 donation to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts for the second year in a row, substantially supporting a program that supplies food to elders. The Brown Bag: Food for Elders Truck program delivers healthy food to more than 5,800 senior citizens a month at 51 councils on aging across Western Massachusetts.

"We are very grateful for Barnhardt's continued commitment to feeding our neighbors in need of food assistance -- especially elders as they remain homebound given the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Andrew Morehouse, Executive Director of the Food Bank. "This generous donation will provide the equivalent of 40,000 healthy meals."

Barnhardt is a major employer in Colrain, employing more than 50 people. The Food Bank sponsorship is the company's most recent philanthropic effort to support western Massachusetts. BMC has long been an active community partner, providing substantial support annually to the Colrain Central School, Colrain Pre-School, Town of Colrain Fire Department, Mohawk Trail Regional High School, The Literacy Project, and the United Way of Franklin County.

A 120-year-old family-owned business run by the fourth generation of Barnhardt's, the company has owned the Colrain facility since 2007. It processes raw cotton, purifying it for use as hygienic material in medical and personal products.

"We are proud to continue helping to provide nutritious meals for elders in western Massachusetts," said Lewis Barnhardt, president, and chief operating officer. "We are committed to supporting our communities."

Established in 1982, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts provides healthy food to more than 105,000 individuals monthly in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties- through independent pantries, meal sites, and shelters, as well as its own direct distribution. The Food Bank provides sustenance to individuals, families, seniors, children, and people with disabilities (including veterans) to lead healthy and meaningful lives. They are a member of Feeding America, a national network of more than 200 food banks.

Image: FBWMA-truck-Barnhardt-logo-10.21.2021: Photo courtesy of The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts

###

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts believes that everyone has a right to healthy food regardless of their circumstances. Serving Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties, The Food Bank leads the region's emergency food network, distributing nutritious food to households with lower incomes. Since 1982, they have been providing individuals facing hunger with the food they need to survive and leading communities towards long-term solutions to food insecurity by addressing its underlying causes. They are committed to creating a Western Massachusetts where no one goes hungry, and everyone has access to nutritious food. For more information, visit foodbankwma.org.



Rural Development

This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.



United Way
of Pioneer Valley