# Neighbors In Need

Summer 2018

Bringing healthy food to those in need for 35 years

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#### **Executive Director**

Linda Zimmerman

### Photography

Giving Garden Volunteers
Linda Zimmerman
Lisa Smith

# Andover Pantry Opens!

On Thursday, June 21, Neighbors in Need, working with the Andover Senior Center and the St. Mathew's Lodge of Masons, opened our first pantry in the town of Andover after almost a year of planning. Open every Thursday afternoon from 4-5 p.m., in the Four Season's Room at the Andover Senior Center, we are serving 75 families each week.



NIN volunteer Wayne Johnson, distributes loaves of bread.



Volunteer, Dave LaPlante from St. Matthews Lodge, distributes frozen fish.



Tosca Chirco, NIN staff with Judy Hajec and Rita Martin, Senior Center volunteers.



Sr. Center Interns, Stephanie Holmes & Robyn Vaillancourt, check in our visitors.

### Thank You, Volunteers!

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless. (Sherry Anderson) In 2017, our volunteers contributed 10,300 hours of support serving in our food pantries, office and warehouse, distributing Thanksgiving and Holiday Meals, and helping plan Soup's On. Here are some of our regular pantry volunteers—we couldn't serve over 850 families a week with out the help of these very generous people.



Ruben Gomez & Fernando de la Cruz at CUMC.



Kathleen Frost & Leo Poldo at Ministerio Wednesday Pantry.



Larry Hevey at MAN Pantry.

If you or your business, school or other group would like to volunteer please email volunteer@needfood.org or call Gaby at 978-685-8321.

## Helping Hands

Linda Zimmerman, NIN Executive Director, receives a \$2,500 grant from The Savings Bank Charitable Foundation.





South Church Summer of Service youth volunteered at our food pantries and warehouse during the month of July. What a wonderful way to give back to their community.



A shout out to all area churches who took part in **Communities Together's** annual Lenten Undies Sunday. In June, Neighbors in Need received 3,000 diapers and underwear collected during this drive.



Thanks to **South Church** for their summer **Love Away Hunger** food drive and to the **Ballard Vale United Church** for their cereal collection. Both are key to helping feed families at our pantries this summer when children are home from school.



NIN received \$1,000 from Methuen Rotary during their June Jubilee.

This school year the Andover School Lunch Rescue volunteers donated 6,295 pounds of food from 8 schools.





Our hats are off to the **Boston Birth Associates** and their No Child Wet Behind Campaign. NIN families are grateful for the 2,679 diapers.



Tanisha Marelis, Huan Gia Vu (both pictured left ) & Martina Rethman volunteered in the office this summer. We appreciated all of their help. Good luck this fall!

The New England Shirdi Sai Parivaar community collected almost 500 pounds of food for NIN and donated enough diapers and formula for 22 families.





The Andover Post Office Letter Carriers helped fill our warehouse shelves with thousands of canned goods and boxes of pasta and cereal from May's Post Office Food Drive. Volunteers from St. Roberts and Methuen High School helped sort the food.

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# We our farming partners

## Giving Garden Grows

South Church's Giving Garden is off to an amazing start—donating 1,000 pounds of produce in July alone for the Neighbors in Need food pantries. This year they increased their growing area and planted a fruit orchard. We're thankful for the promise of a future harvest from these new fruit plantings and for all of the volunteers who help plant and grow at the Giving Garden.



(right) West Middle School students weed the garden

(left) Ben Rowland holds a box of freshly harvested lettuce headed to the Neighbors in Need warehouse for distribution.



Also thanks to:

AHS Sustainable Garden
Andover Community Gardens
Farmer Dave's CSA
West Parish Permaculture Garden
Lawrence Correctional Alternative
Center

All summer long we pick up vegetables from *Pleasant Valley Gardens* in Methuen. This year we have received lettuce, zucchini, yellow squash, peppers and much more. Owner, LuAnne Bonano serves on our Advisory Committee. Thanks, Pleasant Valley!



Farm-fresh Pleasant Valley zucchini ready to go to NIN Pantries.



Our amazing warehouse staff (left to right: Rocco Peluso, Luke Pickard and Tosca Chirco) picking up produce from *Johnson's Highland View Farm* located in Windham, NH. We're grateful for this bounty grown by farmer Scott Johnson, a long-time NIN partner.

### Contact us:

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And all of the many more churches, businesses, schools,

organizations and individual donors who have made donations over the

last year!

