June 2020 News & Updates

Reflections from the Director

What do you have in your bag? When I think about the work of Bread of Life, there's a story that often comes to my mind. Jesus was being followed by a huge crowd who had seen him healing the sick. He wanted to feed them too, so he asked his disciples where they could buy bread for all these people to eat. They were incredulous! How could they possibly afford to buy enough food to give every person even one bite?! One of them (maybe tongue-in-cheek?) pointed out a boy who had five small loaves and two fish. Jesus took them, blessed them...and fed 5,000 families. One detail of this story catches my attention: a boy had the loaves and fish, not a merchant or baker or fishmonger with a stock of product to sell. Maybe the boy was carrying them to his family. They might have been all he had but the clothes on his back. But when Jesus was asking for food, the boy reached into his bag and offered them up. Sometimes we may think that we don't have what it takes to make a difference, to change things, to make things better. If only we had more money or assets or talents or time...then we could do something. But this boy's attitude is worth imitating. He and everyone gathered around knew he didn't have enough food to make a dent in the need, but he offered it up anyway. He put to use what he DID have, instead of lamenting what he DIDN'T have. That's the miracle of Bread of Life. Our volunteers, donors, staff and board don't resign themselves to the status quo, convinced they don't have what it takes to make a difference. Instead, they offer up what they DO have - canned goods for the pantry, a homemade dish to serve six at the evening meal, skills to fix or organize things, facility with languages or numbers, an hour free to sort food or make deliveries, ... and on and on. And the end result is miraculous multiplication of efforts and food. We have seen a doubling since March in the number of families we serve in our food
pantry and the number of evening meals we distribute. We've delivered over 500 grocery orders to senior citizens, disabled residents and self-isolating families in our new grocery delivery program. We've distributed 500 nutrition backpacks to Everett students. We just launched our first mobile market grab 'n go free food distribution in Everett. We're meeting the challenges of these times together by starting where we are, offering what we have, and watching the multiplication of our offerings. What do you have in your bag? We can all be part of this amazing effort.

God bless you, and stay safe,

Gabriella Snyder Stelmack
Executive Director

[Click here for information on our "Under One Roof" Campaign.]

P.S. Our “Under One Roof” campaign continues to gather momentum, despite the crisis. Please like us and follow us on facebook and follow us on twitter. If you know of a house of worship, organization, business, individual, radio or TV show where we can talk about our campaign, please let us know by contacting Patty Kelly, Development Director: Patty.Kelly@breadoflifemalden.org, 781-820-4749.

[Click here to get involved in Bread of Life's work.]

Like us on Facebook   View on Instagram   Follow us on twitter

Virtual Volunteer Recognition Event Thanks ALL BOL's Wonderful Volunteers!

If you were unable to join us for this online event on May 27th, you can catch it here on YouTube.

Congratulations to our 2020 Volunteers of the Year: Sara Brandon (grant writer), Terri O'Brien and Charlene Wilson (Everett Food Pantry), Joanie Barton and Madeline Rotondi (Motel Meals/Teen Outreach), Karen Lynch (Meals Program and Malden Food Pantry) and John Mazaka (Malden Food Pantry).

BOL Wish List

In addition to food items, Bread of Life is in need of these essential items. Drop off Tues-Friday at Bread of Life, 54 Eastern Ave., Malden. Thank you for helping share our request!
Alastair Moock Concert

Special thanks to Alastair Moock for a Facebook Live benefit concert for Bread of Life held on May 26th. Alastair Moock wears many musical hats. He's a Boston Music Awards nominated singer-songwriter, a Grammy nominated family music performer, and a much beloved provider of school assemblies and residencies for students of all ages. The Boston Globe calls him "one of the town’s best and most adventurous songwriters."

To watch the performance [click here](#).

Generation Gap Concert

Many Thanks to Generation Gap who performed a fundraising concert live online! The generous viewers contributed $1,855.00 to the Bread of Life. Thanks to all who contributed! Your support is greatly appreciated!

Everett Mobile Market kicked off on May 28th!

Introducing our first ever mobile food market! We served 4,000 lbs of nutritious food to 240 households who came for drive-thru or walk-up grocery "grab 'n go" at the Lafayette School in Everett. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and to Everett City Councillor Michael McLaughlin for your help. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to helping families.
Delicious Desserts

Here's Bread of Life's John smiling behind his awesome Batman mask because our awesome friends at Hoff's Bakery donated delicious chocolate cakes for Bread of Life's evening meal desserts. Thank you Hoff's, you're a great community partner and we appreciate all you do for Bread of Life!

Melrose Kids Food Drive

Melrose Kids Food Drive collected food from 54 houses one week and delivered to Bread of Life. They've now done a few of these porch pickup food collections. Truly amazing! Thank you Melrose Kids and all who donated!

Chart House Meals

Special thank you to Eamonn and Linda Sheehan. They donated 25 delicious meals from Chart House for Bread of Life's evening meal service: cheeseburger sliders, fried chicken BLTs, and fish sandwiches all with fries! Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you Nicole and Brian at Chart House for preparing the meals while working short staffed. We love our community!

Backpack Support

Bread of Life’s Backpack Nutrition Program is going strong - 500 backpacks filled with food distributed to City of Everett students! We are running low on string backpacks (like the one pictured). Seeking donations from companies and individuals. Please contact Patty 781-820-4749 if you're able to help. Thank you!

Pasta in the house!

We'd like to thank Liberty Bell Roast Beef and Seafood, Melrose for a very generous donation of
cases of pasta. Always an item on Bread of Life's wish list and much appreciated by our families!

Standing in the Gap...

A senior citizen called me to say she had just received the groceries we delivered to her home. She seemed stressed and I wondered if something was wrong with the grocery order. She said "I'm sorry it's difficult for me to speak. I am just so overwhelmed by the kindness of Bread of Life and the kindness of the delivery driver. I am so grateful; you would not believe. Once all this is over, I want to volunteer at Bread of Life and help someone like you helped me."

Shop and Smile

If you shop at Amazon, every purchase will result in a donation to Bread of Life if you register at Amazon Smile and select us as your designated charity. The big shopping season is upon us and this is a great way to give back! You can sign up at Amazon Smile here.

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