Analogy 2020 News & Updates
1 message

Bread of Life <info@breadoflifemalden.org>
Reply-To: info@breadoflifemalden.org
To: collavoc@gmail.com

September 2020 News & Updates

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Reflections from the Director

As Bread of Life celebrates its 40th anniversary, 1980-2020, I’ve been thinking about how my own story intertwines with that of BOL. I took a job at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution fresh out of college, determined to make a career in opera while working as a research technician. A few years later, as I was about to move to the Boston area to be closer to the musical action, I attended a presentation at my church by a woman who was about to become the Minister of Missions at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Malden. Part of her work would be to oversee a new ministry the church had begun to the hungry and homeless. I knew instantly that I wanted to be part of that church and I soon was on the Missions Committee. Meanwhile, I realized that my work in the lab was not using my gifts and passions. I started praying about what work God might be leading me to do. I was drawn to the idea of working oversees in a refugee camp, but it became clear to me that I was too young and inexperienced to have much to offer people in that desperate situation. I needed to stay put and learn a few things. I
started volunteering and doing some sub work at the Pine Street Inn in Boston. Then, in 1988 Tri-City Community Action Program created the position of Homeless Advocate to work at the St. Paul’s evening meal, the ministry that eventually became Bread of Life. It seemed too good to be true. It was the exact fit for a saying of Jesus that tugged at my conscience: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.” Matthew 25:35. I applied for the job and was interviewed by Tri-CAP staff and by Tom Feagley, the ministry director. Amazingly, they hired me! To this day, I see that call to be the greatest miraculous intervention of God in my life. I became a fellow pilgrim with Tom and many, many other loving people with hearts broken by what breaks God’s heart: poverty, hunger, homelessness, injustice, violence, neglect, loneliness.

As we work to build our Under One Roof multi-purpose facility to serve more neighbors well into the future, I’m forever grateful to do this work feeding, advocating, coming alongside, and loving people just like me who are going through hard and lonely places in their lives. And I’m forever grateful for fellow pilgrims like you on the journey.

May God bless Bread of Life with another 40 years and beyond! And may God bless each of you.

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.

BOL Turning 40!

BOL is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year! Millions of meals have been served in our 40 year history, and millions more will be served with your help. In honor of 40 years, we are asking our friends to honor the Bread of Life with a $40 donation. Your donation will support Bread of Life’s capital campaign to build a new facility, and will enable Bread of Life to provide more services for years to come. We kindly ask that you consider making a donation to our fundraiser. Our goal is to have 1,000 donate $40! Your name will be listed on a pennant at Bread of Life’s new building! To donate visit our: Facebook Fundraising Page

Junior Aid Association
Thank you to our friends Junior Aid Association of Malden. On this day they provided over 100 meals to the BOL! Always there to lend a hand to Bread of Life and others!

**Backpack Donation**

Wow! Over 1,300 food items delivered to Bread of Life for our Backpack Nutrition Program to serve more students. We’re in need of certain items; chef boyardee, mac n cheese cups, cups of soup, pudding cups, individual bags of chips, cookies, and tuna pouches. Drop off Tuesday- Friday 12-4pm at 54 Eastern Ave., Malden. Thank you East Boston Savings Bank for your generous donation of backpacks!

**Going Bananas**

Thank you to our friend Ann who called to say she had extra bunches of bananas and asked if Bread of Life would like them for our families. Yes please! This is why our community is so special - because of people like Ann!

**Mask Donations**

Thank you to Anne Gelineau Powers and Charlie Mahoney for visiting and donating 500 masks from Rotary Club of Medford, MA. We’re truly appreciate your continued support!
Check out this Boston Globe article featuring the Bread of Life and our quest to build a new facility!

**Boston Globe Story**

**Evening Meal Wish List**

Bread of Life serves approximately 130 individuals per night Tues- Friday at our evening meal grab n go meal service. Donations always needed and very much appreciated. Thank you for helping BOL feed more families! Please share with those who love to cook.

**Standing in the Gap**

One of our receptionists, while working her last day in the office before social isolating, got a call from a fellow asking if we were still serving the evening meal. She said “Yes we are. It's at 5:30 pm at the First Baptist, but it's outside on the lawn as a take-out grab-and-go meal. And our pantry is still open the usual hours, but also as a grab-and-go.” The fellow said "That's what I like about Bread of Life. You're so dependable. I've called several places, like supermarkets and drug stores and everyone is changing their hours. With Bread of Life, I know if I walk down there, you'll be serving the same as always. It's very comforting."

**Food for the Body...Nurture for the Soul**

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