October Monthly Newsletter

Reflections from our Director

We often think of our trials as things that drain us and wear us down. James, a leader in the first century Church, had a quite different view. “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,” he wrote “because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” (James 1:2,3) What an amazing thought! But you may say “what’s so great about developing more perseverance?” It eventually produces fruit. Samuel Johnson, the 18th century writer of the Dictionary of the English Language, concluded: “Great works are performed not by strength, but by perseverance.”
Bread of Life, our community of volunteers, donors, staff and patrons, has come through the pandemic stronger because we never gave up, we never said “it can’t be done”, we never gave in to discouragement. We persevered. Not only did we serve three times as many people as we did pre-COVID, but we brought our Under One Roof building project through gestation to the point of birth. We are working furiously with our architects, general contractor, engineers, financing entities, attorneys and the City of Malden so we can get shovels in the ground before the end of December. It’s been a long journey. We started looking for a place to centralize all our programs around 2004. We finally found 54 Eastern Ave and purchased it in 2014. Through many unexpected twists and turns, trials and troubles – including loss of development partners and then the pandemic – we persevered. We were tested, we stumbled, we had our doubts, we got discouraged, but we never gave up. And so, we can see this great vision coming to fruition: Bread of Life, Under One Roof,
- with greater capacity and efficiency to provide more families with nutritious groceries and meals
- with greater capacity to utilize volunteers and donations
- with the ability to hold classes and host arts, performance and community events
- with the capacity to run workforce development programs
- and more...

Thank you for partnering with us, believing with us, persevering with us. God bless you,
Gabriella

Bread of Life Walk

Bread of Life Walk in Memory of Beatrice Flammia was held on Sunday, October 3rd at Pine Banks Park. It was a great day to gather together to walk, enjoy pizza, live music and raffles, all to raise awareness and funds for Bread of Life’s Under One Roof campaign. Thank you to all who joined us for this fun event. We look forward to next year’s walk!
Bellevue Golf Club
A big thank you to John Hastings, President, and members of the Bellevue Golf Club in Melrose - they held their second annual golf tournament to benefit Bread of Life, raising $13,300 for our food programs for neighbors in need!

Christian Carman of Celerity
A shout out to Christian Carman of Celerity for shaving your beard for Bread of Life; $2,000 raised for our Under One Roof campaign to build a new facility! Thank you to all who donated to this fun event. And thank you Evan, owner Barbers Den for shaving Christian’s beard in the style that received the most donations.

Cambridge Savings Bank
Thank you Robert Kershaw and Cambridge Savings Bank for generous donation of recyclable bags and hot pads for our Bread of Life families. We appreciate your support!

Shaw's
For the month of October, Bread of Life will receive a $1 donation from each purchase of the $2.50 reusable GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS Bag at the Shaw's Supermarket at 34 Essex Street, Melrose.

Melrose Public School Students
Many thanks to the Melrose High School students for volunteering to help prepare meals for Bread of Life's evening meal service. We appreciate your support!

Standing in the Gap

Everett Backpack Nutrition Program:
Michael McLucas, Principal of the Whittier School in Everett, said “You people are wonderful. Our families not only appreciate the
backpacks but actually depend on them...They really appreciate it when you give them laundry detergent too.”
Pictured from left to right: Nancy Sutera, Assistant Principal; Brandon King and Terri O’Brien, coordinators of Bread of Life’s Everett Backpack Nutrition Program; Michael McLucas, Principal of the Whittier School in Everett; Melissa Disario, Guidance Counselor

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers needed Thursdays between 8:30 am and 12 pm at our pantry, 109 Madison Street, Malden, to help pack groceries for the Everett Mobile Market. Call Charlene at 781-824-0564, or come to 109 Madison Street, Malden.

Volunteers needed Thursdays from 3-5 pm to distribute groceries at the Lafayette School, 117 Edith Street, Everett. Call Charlene at 781-824-0564, or come to the Lafayette School.

There are plenty of other volunteer opportunities available at Bread of Life. If you want to get involved and make a difference please Visit our Website or stop by our pantry at 109 Madison St. Malden, MA.

Food for the Body...Nurture for the Soul

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