Annual Report 2020
Mission

Food Link is a community organization that rescues fresh food, alleviates hunger, and contributes to environmental sustainability.

Vision

Food Link’s vision is a food system without waste, in which everyone has enough.

Food Link plays a critical role at the center of the food rescue system. Our volunteers rescue fresh food from distributors, such as grocery stores and farms, and reallocates these resources to community organizations across eastern Massachusetts who help those who are food insecure.

Food Link couples its dedication to alleviating food insecurity with its commitment to the environment. By rescuing fresh and nutritious food, Food Link keeps fresh food out of the waste system—a cornerstone of protecting our planet.
Food Link’s 2020 fiscal year ran from April 2019–March 2020. In any other year, those dates would be unremarkable. This year, however, March became the dividing line between the “normal world” and a world thrown into confusion by the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown. As we prepared this report, it felt like the stories and data we were sharing represented a lifetime ago. This report highlights only Fiscal Year 2020, a year of tremendous growth for Food Link; growth made possible by your generous donations. It does not reflect the months of uncertainty and food insecurity since March. That is a story for another year and another publication.

In Fiscal Year 2020, Food Link expanded and planned for its future. Thanks to you, we increased every facet of our programs—the amount of good food kept out of the waste stream; the number of organizational partners distributing rescued food; the number of individuals and families receiving food we distributed; and the number of volunteers giving their time to help their neighbors. Your donations made this growth happen. Thank you.

Ensuring that Food Link has a permanent home was also a top priority last year. As we hope you’ve heard, we are opening the Food Link Hub in the near future. The Hub, owned and operated by Food Link, will feature expanded refrigeration and storage, a loading dock, and a sorting area for volunteers. We are ecstatic and we are grateful to you. The creation of the Hub is again only possible because of your generosity to our ongoing Capital Campaign. We are so eager to show you what your support has built.

We remain passionate about our mission to be the bridge between those who have surplus fresh, nutritious food and those who need it in eastern Massachusetts. The COVID-19 outbreak and continued environmental challenges have increased the need for our services substantially. Please know that we couldn’t meet this increased need without you.

Your support allows us to believe that one day eastern Massachusetts will have a food system without waste, in which everyone has enough.

Thank you!
DeAnne Dupont

Food Link founders
DeAnne Dupont and Julie Kremer
Our Impact

APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020

1,800 pounds of food rescued daily

644,000 pounds of food rescued in Fiscal Year 2020

250+ volunteers age 11 - 91

10,000 volunteer hours to sort and distribute food

47 community organizations received food

20,000 people received fresh nutritious food

150 non-profit organizations received free desserts for events, saving their limited funds for their own programming

Program Accomplishments

SUMMERTIME AT THE ARLINGTON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

After schools close for the day or on school breaks, many children are left without enough food to eat, grow, and thrive.

In Arlington, the Boys & Girls Club bridges this gap for many families by providing nutritious food for after-school and camp kids all year long. As Executive Director Derek Curran explained, “Each day, over 400 kids walk through our doors and many of them are hungry when they arrive.”

The Boys & Girls Club does more than just hand out food to kids – it also uses the food to teach them about healthy eating and how to prepare food. Campers and teen summer staffers in 2019 shared their experiences preparing and eating food provided by Food Link.

“I love coming to the Club in the summer because I know I will get breakfast and lunch on the weekdays.”

“I only get to eat salads at the Club because the nice people bring them.”

“The kitchen is my favorite place to work during the summer. Making high-quality food and lunches for the Club kids makes my day. I love when they smile as they are sitting there talking to their friends and enjoying the food that they got to pick to eat.”

“I like eating the fruits. My family can only buy them sometimes.”

“I get to try so many new foods.”
We like to say that Food Link is powered by volunteers. Over 250 regular volunteers, aged 11-91, use their enthusiasm, passion, and skills to fulfill our mission. A dedicated group of regular volunteers in 2019 came from Walnut Street Center, an organization in Medford that supports adults with intellectual disabilities. Every week participants in their Community Based Day Program came to Food Link to sort food, stock shelves, and do general upkeep inside and out. When we open the Food Link Hub, Food Link will be able to host even more groups to assist in our work.

During 2019, participants shared what they learned volunteering at Food Link:
- Ildevert gained cleaning skills he will use when looking for a paid cleaning job
- Talia gained confidence in greeting others and making eye contact
- Su perfected taking the garbage out
- Eric learned to be thorough in cleaning
- Doug improved picking up trash and paying closer attention to his surroundings

Our participants are grateful for the experiences and opportunities that the partnership with Food Link has provided. The skills gained over the years have given participants lifelong tools that can be used in future volunteer, employment, and life ventures.

— Sara O’Brien, Director of Day Services at Walnut Street Center

In 2019, the Winchester Housing Authority (WHA), which manages properties for low-income families, elderly, and the disabled, became a Food Link community partner. Every community, even affluent communities like Winchester, have residents who benefit from receiving nutritious, fresh food at no cost. Jack Hurd, the Executive Director of WHA, reflected, “The Food Link partnership with Winchester Housing Authority this past year has been an overwhelming success! The program enables residents each week to receive many excellent food products and creates important savings on their monthly living expenses.” Residents are grateful for the food donations and assist in bagging bread for distribution to other residents. “The Food Link visit each week has been terrific!” shared Muriel, Winchester resident.

We take the time to get to know our recipients and send them food that is culturally and age appropriate. I love being able to direct the spicy peppers to our Dominican communities, the Caribbean vegetables to a Haitian congregation, and the baby formula to a shelter with young families. We try to use the food we deliver to let recipients know that someone cares about them and wants to make their lives better.

— Nancy

“I treasure my Food Link Tuesdays with the Whole Foods crew. Thank you all for organizing the most rewarding volunteer gig around. I love it.”

— Roblyn
Without Food Link, nearly one million pounds of fresh food would be wasted each year, negatively impacting our environment instead of feeding people in need.
Thank You to Our Supporters

Food Link is a community of caring neighbors banding together to create a more equitable food system where little is wasted and our neighbors are fed. We are only able to fulfill our mission because of thousands of people who freely give their time, energy, strength, and financial support to make eastern Massachusetts a better place to live.

We are blessed with so many amazing volunteers, supporters, and donors. Please know that Food Link succeeds because of individuals like you. Thank you!

Corporate and Foundation Donors

PROGRAMS
• Beaumont Financial Partners
• Carl Forstmann Memorial Foundation
• Community Endowment of Lexington
• Cummings Foundation
• Cummings Properties
• Foundation for MetroWest
• George Lucas Charitable Fund of Calvary Church
• John Mirak Foundation
• Kohl’s Cares
• Leader Bank Charitable Foundation Corporation
• Mifflin Memorial Fund
• New England Patriots Foundation
• People’s United Community Foundation
• PLUS Foundation
• Project Bread
• Roy A. Hunt Foundation, Next Generation Fund
• Russell Colgate Fund
• Shippy Foundation
• The Ludcke Foundation
• The Philanthropy Connection
• Watertown Savings Bank

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
• Town of Arlington, Community Development Block Grant
• Agnes M. Lindsay Charitable Trust
• Cabot Family Charitable Trust
• Dana Home Foundation
• First Church in Cambridge
• Greater Boston Food Bank
• Mifflin Memorial Fund
• Ronald G. Casty Family Foundation
• Symmes Medical Use Non-Profit Corporation
• The Davenport-Hatch Foundation
• The Ludcke Foundation
• The Pittsburgh Foundation
### Statement of Activities

**FOR THE YEAR END MARCH 31, 2020**

#### OPERATING REVENUES AND SUPPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants</td>
<td>$484,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind revenues</td>
<td>$1,221,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events, program and other income</td>
<td>$25,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total operating revenues and support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,730,834</strong></td>
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#### PROGRAM AND SUPPORT SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$1,329,649</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>$162,874</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$197,541</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other supporting activities</td>
<td>$39,165</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total program and support services</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,729,229</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in net assets from operations</td>
<td>$1,605</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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#### NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign contributions</td>
<td>$449,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>$451,599</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets, beginning of year</strong></td>
<td>$822,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets, end of year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,274,478</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Statement of Financial Position

**AS OF MARCH 31, 2020**

#### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$422,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and other receivables</td>
<td>$145,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment net of accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>$1,661,251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>$16,552</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,246,508</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### LIABILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liability</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$163,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt, net of unamortized debt issuance costs</td>
<td>$808,915</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$972,030</strong></td>
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</table>

#### NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without donor restrictions</td>
<td>$643,416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With donor restrictions</td>
<td>$631,062</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,274,478</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,246,508</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Community Supporting Each Other

In 2020, COVID-19 turned the world upside down. The climate crisis wreaked havoc on the planet. Food insecurity doubled almost overnight. Food Link’s relevance came into focus as never before. We have the power to make change and support each other.
Ways to Contribute

**DONATE ONLINE**
Visit us at foodlinkma.org to make a credit card donation online. It’s fast, easy, and secure.

**DONATE ONLINE WITH DONOR ADVISED FUNDS**
If you have a Fidelity, Schwab, or BNY Mellon Donor Advised Fund, you can make your gift online by going to: foodlinkma.org/donate. If your DAF is with another foundation, contact them directly and provide our EIN.

EIN 47-1840355

**DONATE BY MAIL**
Mail your check to Food Link, 17 Brattle Street #17, Arlington, MA 02476

**PLANNED GIVING**
Name Food Link in your will or insurance policy to ensure that we continue to bridge the gap between those with surplus, nutritious food and those who are food insecure.
Bridging the gap between distributors with fresh surplus food and community organizations serving those in need.