

Our Daily Bread Food & Resource Center



111 High Street
Taunton, MA 02780
Tauntonsoupkitchen.org

HIGHLIGHTS

- Working Together
- Wednesday's on the lawn
- Volunteer story
- Reopening
- Thank you
- Remembrance

COVID RESPONSE STATS

- 1,010 food boxes handed out
- 980 hot lunches served
- 56 people served in Resource Center
- 340 Gift cards handed out
- 640 masks handed out
- 520 weekend bags



Working Together

Thanks to the volume of donations from Taunton community members and several local agencies, we were able to help the Family Resource Center, Taunton Human Services, as well as Morton Hospital and New Bedford Covid Programs by supplying over 340 boxes of food to families in need. During the first 17 weeks of the pandemic, we personally provided 670 boxes of food and supplied guests with over 980 hot lunches and take-home bags. We couldn't have done all of this without your support. I wouldn't have enough room in a newsletter to thank everyone individually, but I couldn't be more proud of the residents and businesses in the City of Taunton for

Wednesdays on the Lawn

During this pandemic, we have learned that everybody has had a lot to deal with including isolation, financial hardships, stress, anxiety, and health concerns. Maureen, a social worker volunteer, wanted to be there for guests and volunteers to talk about their feelings and share their stories. To provide a tangible way for our community to support one another and to learn we are more similar than we are different. Each Wednesday on the front lawn, from 10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m., Maureen and her group discuss a different topic and learn new strategies for not just coping, but thriving in the midst of a crisis. Please feel free to drop by and take part in this supportive community. We can really be in it together!

Thanks Maureen.



TWO WAYS TO DONATE NOW

Visit www.tauntonsoupkitchen.org or enclosed you will find a self addressed envelope.
For tax purposes, our EIN# is: 46-2234342

Laura Branco, Care Coordinator
Sstar Care Community Partners Program & ODB Volunteer

Since March, I was able to see firsthand the effects of homelessness in our city, especially during this pandemic. I was able to serve at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, helping support and provide for homeless individuals in our city. Daily lunches were served for homeless, unsheltered guests. Those who were able to cook and had shelter, were provided a box of food, enough for a week. This is where I witnessed firsthand how much need there is in our city. The need was beyond just food. I learned that these individuals were not only struggling to eat daily but they had a great need for clean clothing and access to clean restrooms. This obviously has always been an issue, however, as of March many businesses including the public library and restaurants/coffee shops were not able to allow restroom use due to COVID 19. Therefore, these individuals were left to their own survival skills. My agency along with so many friends and residents of Taunton, provided laundry gift cards, Dunkin Donuts and Honey Dew Donut gift cards for distribution. These cards were provided once a week to only those who were in extreme need of clean clothing and restrooms; the unsheltered homeless guests. The homeless population has grown in the past 6 months. The gratefulness and honesty I witnessed with these individuals was not what anyone sees, or thinks about with the homeless in our city, or any city for that matter. These individuals were humble, honest, and only took what they needed. I met individuals who came to eat after waking up from sleeping in a tent, sometimes in the rain, who at times told me and others that they didn't need another gift card right now because they had a remaining balance they could use. They would take a lunch for the day, but not an extra bag because they received their Department of Transitional Assistance (SNAP) food assistance that week.

Along with the above mentioned, the need for mental health and substance use services have increased. Resources and education were provided to those in need. Referrals were given for services in Taunton and the surrounding areas. This continues to be a struggle as well. So much is needed during these times still. I will continue to advocate for these individuals. I will refer them to resources and seek all the necessities, be it gift cards for clean laundry, Dunkin Donut gift cards for restroom use and a beverage, as they will continue to be a great need.



Re-Opening Our Daily Bread Food and Resource Center

As fall approaches and summer ebbs away, we have been hard at work here at St. Thomas Church and Our Daily Bread Food and Resource Center (ODB). The Parish Hall has been renovated as has ODB. As you reenter our facility you will notice new floors, the stairs have been stained and skid resistant treads installed. As you turn the corner downstairs, you'll notice our newly painted dining area that has been customized with all the necessary amenities to assist guests and volunteers to maintain a healthy social distance. We have cleaned and disinfected every inch of our facility again and again.

In compliance with all CDC and Diocesan recommendations for reopening, we have a new procedure for guests to ensure the safety of everyone. Between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, each guest will check in providing his or her name, address, and telephone number (this is now a requirement for contact tracing). Guests may choose to either dine downstairs or may take a lunch to go. They will be directed downstairs and food will be served cafeteria style with all the safety measures and protocols necessary. We may serve 8 guests in our dining room at a time. Once finished or after provided a to-go lunch, guests will exit out the back door and others will be admitted.

In addition to our Wednesday classes on the front lawn with our volunteer social worker, Maureen, we are also providing showers each Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Glen is also hard at work assisting guests in the Resource Room from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. by appointment only. We've also added phone charging hours to meet the needs of our clients. Phone charging hours are from 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

We are **READY TO GO!**
Here's to the "new normal!"



Thank you to volunteers

The backbone of our program! It is our 52 volunteers who make what we do possible. Words cannot express the gratitude we feel; and meaningful impact that our volunteers have on us and the individuals and families we serve.



Portable showers available on Friday's from 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Provided by The Soupman.



Tribute to Deborah Richardson

In loving memory of our dear friend and colleague Deborah Richardson “The Heart of Our Daily Bread Resource Center” Your daily presence, warm smiles and inspirational quotes will be greatly missed by all. We were blessed to have you as part of our organization. You had the warmest heart with empathy and compassion towards our guests and clients. You will forever be in our hearts

