2019-2020 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Serving Food Pantries, Meal Programs, and Shelters
Dear Supporters,

When our fiscal year 2020 began in July of 2019, we could never have imagined what would lie ahead. When the COVID-19 pandemic became reality, our excellent managers and team members immediately adjusted the manner in which we distribute food to be safe and continue our critical mission - to provide lifesaving food to our neighbors during these extraordinary times. Because of you, this year we were able to distribute 3.96 million pounds of food to people in more than 30 communities. This is an increase of nearly 242,000 meals over the prior year.

MVFB continues following safety measures and restricting access to only staff and a limited number of volunteers. Some of our partner food providers, food pantries, and meal programs suspended services in the early months of COVID-19, including those serving congregate meals and/or unable to provide sufficient distance between staff, volunteers and guests, and those with at-risk volunteers and staff. We urged programs to collaborate and share resources to continue serving our neighbors who needed us more than ever before. We are astounded at the creativity and commitment of our staff, partner food providers, local, state and federal legislators, as well as our corporate, faith based, academic and community partners. They all realized that food is needed to do anything else.

In addition to our usual sources of food, MVFB accepted, stored and distributed Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) boxes of shelf stable food in the summer months, as well as Farm to Families Boxes, which contained meat and dairy products. All of these resources were appreciated and helped our member agencies get lifesaving food to our neighbors.

Our staff and volunteers - some of the true heroes of the pandemic - moved to pre-picking all member agency orders and bringing the food out to the loading dock where it is loaded into food pantry and meal program vehicles. From MVFB food is taken to where it will be prepared in meals to go, or bagged and given to guests – at times in a parking lot or on the sidewalk to maintain social distancing.

**Looking Ahead**

MVFB is an established partner in the region we serve, having been a growing institution since 1991. We are poised to continue serving our community into the remaining months of the pandemic, and beyond.

We are in early stages of a relocation plan that may include purchasing or building a Food Distribution Center that will better serve our member agencies, providing more efficiency in receiving, picking food orders for agencies and distributing food. Ideally the new Food Distribution Center will be situated on one level, with several loading docks and convenient proximity to major highways. We will increase our total square footage from 21,000 ft. to 40,000 – 50,000 ft. We are currently seeking an appropriate building or land on which to build our future Food Bank home.

We hope you’ll remain alongside us as we continue to serve our neighbors.

With Sincerest Gratitude,

Amy L. Pessia  
Executive Director

Jimmy Good  
Board Chairman
OUR PROGRAMS

MVFB operates six hunger relief programs. When COVID-19 hit, we had to quickly adapt those programs to make sure we were able to safely provide the food our neighbors count on. In this section, we want to share some information about our programs during the first portion of Fiscal Year 2020, and also share how those programs adapted to the new circumstances in the final few months of the fiscal year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July 2019-March 2020</th>
<th>March 2020-June 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Food Distribution program</strong> acquires, stores, and distributes food to member agency programs such as food pantries, meal programs, and shelters. The program served 104 agencies, operating 129 programs, in more than 30 communities during FY20.</td>
<td><strong>As MVFB’s member agencies faced increasing demand for food, MVFB met the need by using donations and grant funds to purchase more food than we have in our 30 year history. We also adapted our procedures to minimize contact and maximize efficiency.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Mobile Pantry program</strong> provides monthly grocery delivery to more than 340 homebound individuals who are elderly or whose disabilities prevent them from visiting a food pantry. The same volunteer visits each month to provide a social contact too.</td>
<td><strong>Demand for this program increased significantly. MVFB partnered with new referral sources and provided deliveries to individuals required to quarantine due to contact tracing. While our volunteer program had to be limited, we are proud that no deliveries were missed.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Operation Nourish</strong> provides food for school-age children for weekends and school vacations when they aren’t getting school meals. The program was serving over 1,200 students a month in 22 schools during the 2019-2020 school year.</td>
<td><strong>When schools closed due to the COVID-19 crisis, the program partnered with the schools to distribute bags of food alongside the grab-and-go meals being provided to families by the school system. 2,380 bags of food were distributed in April alone.</strong></td>
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OUR PROGRAMS

July 2019-March 2020

Food Rescue picks up perishable foods from Lowell supermarkets and distributes them to our member agencies while they are still fresh in order to prevent food waste. Prior to the pandemic, the program had rescued 55,611 pounds of food in FY20.

The Community Market is a free farmer’s market offered at four Lowell Housing Authority properties during the summer and early fall. The program served 151 households per month and distributed more than 30,500 pounds of nutritious food.

In partnership with the USDA, the FY20 Summer Lunch program provided over 9,100 lunches and snacks to children participating in summer activities in Lowell.

March 2020-June 2020

MVFB continued to pick up these items and distribute them to our member agencies during this time when food was needed more than ever. From mid-March to the end of June, the program rescued an additional 29,732 pounds of food.

The FY20 Community Market operated from July-November 2019, so had concluded before the COVID-19 crisis began.

Looking ahead to FY21, we operated a shortened season for this program from July-September 2020.

The FY20 Summer Lunch program took place in July and August of 2019, so was completed before COVID-19.

In FY21 (Summer 2020), this program continued providing meals at the limited sites where summer activities were still taking place.
MVFB Member Agencies
Beverly SDA Comm. Food Pantry
Billerica Community Pantry
Bread & Roses
Bridgewell - Market Street
Caleb Group – Chestnut Square
Caleb Group - Sirk Building
Caleb Group - Xavier House
Calvary Kitchen
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
Casa Esperanza
Catholic Charities
CBY Yes
Central Food Ministry
Changing Lives Christian Church
Chelmsford Community Exchange
Christ Church United
Christ Jubilee Food Pantry
Community Action-Amesbury
Community Action-Haverhill
Community Christian Fellowship
Council on Aging
CTI - YouthBuild
CTI - Youth Services (Mill You)
Daybreak Shelter
Dracut Food Pantry
Dwelling House of Hope
End 68 Hours of Hunger
Evangelical Church of Holiness
Full Gospel Church
God’s Helping Hand
Good Samaritan Baptist Church
Grace Lutheran Food Pantry
Great Commission Food Pantry
Greater Lawrence Community Action Council
Haitian Baptist Church
Haverhill Clubhouse
Hearts of Life
Hope Dove
House of Hope
House of Mercy
Immaculate Conception - Newburyport
Immaculate Conception - SVDP, Lowell
In Need Food Pantry
International Veterans Care Services
Key Program
Lazarus House
Leap 4 Education
Leroy’s Lodge
Life Connection Center
Lifelinks (Gilmore St.)
Lifelinks (Overlook Terrace)
Lifelinks (Pondview)
Living Waters
Lowell Alliance
Lowell House Recovery Home
Lowell Transitional Living Center
Megan’s House
Merrimack Valley YMCA
Middlesex Comm. College - Bedford
Middlesex Comm. College – Lowell
Mobile Pantry (MVFB)
Mount of Prayer Food Pantry
Neighbors In Need
New Beginnings
New Hope Community Church
North Shore Moving Market
North Village Senior Housing, Chelmsford
Northern Essex Community College
Open Hand Pantry
Open Pantry
Pathfinder-Bridgewell
Pegasus
Peoples Pantry
Place of Promise
Point After Club
Pregnancy Care Center - Haverhill
Pregnancy Care Center - Lowell
Presidential Gardens
Recovery Cafe (Lowell House)
Renaissance Club
Rescue Ministry
Revival Church - Peabody
Salvation Army - Lawrence
Salvation Army - Newburyport
Salvation Army-Lowell
Shepherd’s Pantry
Somebody Cares
St. Basils - Pantry
St. Benedict
St. Charles - SVDP
St. George Orthodox
St. Marguerite Dracut - SVDP
St. Mary Magdalen - SVDP
Tabernacle Evangelique
Table of Plenty
Tewksbury Community Pantry
UMASS Lowell
UTEC
Veterans NE Outreach
Washington Street Baptist Church
Water Source (Fuente de Agua)
West Congregational Church
Westford Food Pantry
Women’s View
You Forward (VinFen)

MVFB’s Community Market
Francis Gatehouse Mill
Highland Parkway
North Common Village
South Common Village

MVFB’s Summer Lunch
Caleb Group
Christ Jubilee
Eagle Park
Greater Lowell Technical High School
LCHC Teen Block
McPherson Park
North Canal Splash Pad
O’Donnell Splash Pad
Raymond Lord Pool
Salvation Army
Whistler House
YWCA

*Partners List as of 6/30/2020. New members added in FY 2021 are not listed here.

OUR PARTNERS

Our member agency staff and volunteers should be heralded as heroes. These food pantries, meal programs, senior centers, and schools are on the front lines and providing not only food, but a sympathetic ear, as well as other services including rental assistance and advice, health care, fuel assistance and referrals, to help our neighbors navigate this uncharted territory.

- Amy Pessia, MVFB Executive Director
Pounds of Food Distributed 3.96 MILLION

People Served (Monthly Average) 45,812

Member Programs & Sites Served 156

Income Sources
Contract Income (Includes Food Value): 42%
In-Kind Donations: 24.8%
Individual & Corporate Donations: 18.6%
Grants: 11.9%
Fundraisers & Other: 2.7%

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

$100,000 and Above
Digital Federal Credit Union
Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund

$50,000 - $99,999
Anonymous (Foundation)
Cummings Foundation
George P. Bishop Foundation, Inc.
Rockstar Games

$25,000 - $49,999
Eastern Bank Foundation
Globus Medical
Hannaford Supermarket

$10,000 - $24,999
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National Grid
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United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley
Wagner Foundation

$5,000 - $9,999
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Ellen Andre
Anonymous (3)
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August Foundation, Inc.
Coming Incorporated
Deluxe Corporation Foundation
Enterprise Bank & Trust
Frederick E. Weber Charities Corporation
GE Employees Good Neighbor Fund

$1,000 - $4,999
3M Foundation
Ahold Delhaize USA Family Foundation
Anonimous
Arbella Insurance Group
Artemas W. Stearns Trust
BAPS Charities
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The Cole Family
Mike Collins
Collins Aerospace
Robert & Karen Creegan Jr.
Cummings Properties
Robert and Maureen Curran
Ms. D'Auteuil
Debra Dawson
Sue De Mari
Dell Giving
Kristie E. Dodge
William & Kay Doyle
Dracut Food Pantry
Chris Duble
Eat to Give, Inc.
Matthew Edwards
Alan Emmet
Sheila Epstein
Matthew and Judith Fichtenbaum
First Church of Christ, Scientist
Arthur Flores
Robert Fortant
Paul FragaIa
Daniel & Mary Frantz
Fred C. Church
James and Paula Good
Groveland Congregational Church
Dennis Hong
Hope Worldwide-Mass.
IBEW Local 2321
Ko Ishikura
Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union
JOH
JSP Family Foundation
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Keller Williams Merrimack
Roland and Beatrice Lamblot
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Lowell General Hospital
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MGR Electrical Contracting INC
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Frank and Cathy Nackel
New England Medical Insurance Agency
Northeast Association of Realtors
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Vikki Oelerich
Pentucket Bank
People's United Community Foundation
Pfizer Foundation
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Project Bread
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S.P.A.M. Benevolent Fund, Inc.
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Stronge Family Foundation
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Toopin Rigging Company Inc.
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UNICO Merrimack Valley
Unite Serve Inspire
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Visiting Angels
VT Seva
Nikolas Waggner
Walmart Foundation
Daniel Walters
Joseph White
Yardi Systems, Inc.

$500 - $999
Faye Allen
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Allura Salon & Spa LLC
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Susan L Bishow
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Veronica Boutureira
Andrew Boyle
Denise & Lynwood Bryan
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Jill Goldman
Richard Graham
Jonathan Grand
Graybar Electric Supply

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!
Many families have never needed to ask for help before, and maybe even donated or volunteered before the pandemic. We at MVFB often answer calls from people who have no place else to turn. They call MVFB because they find us in an online search, and we listen to their stories and refer them to their closest food pantry, suggest they apply for SNAP, and tell them it’s ok to ask for help.
This list reflects financial donations made between 7/1/2019 and 6/30/2020, and does not include ticket purchases or event sponsorships. We receive many donations throughout the year that help us serve our mission. We strive to be as accurate as possible for our annual report and regret if any names have not been acknowledged. Thank you to all of our supporters on every level!
As we write this report during FY 2021, the need for emergency food in our region remains high. The economic impact of the pandemic will be felt until recovery is well underway for businesses, school districts, colleges and child care, and ultimately families and individuals’ physical and financial health. Our services and the support we receive to continue our mission are critical.

There are a number of ways you can stay involved in the fight against hunger during this critical time. To learn more about any of these, contact us or visit www.mvfb.org.

- Join our Stock the Shelves Club with a recurring monthly donation to make sure food is available all year long.
- Make a food donation or host a food drive! Learn more about hosting a virtual or traditional food drive on our website.
- Every $1 donated provides 3 meals! You can donate securely on our website.
- While our volunteer program has been limited due to COVID-19, volunteer opportunities are still available. You can make home deliveries, fill bags of food, help with neighborhood food drives, and more!
- 2021 is MVFB’s 30th Birthday! Check out our sponsorship opportunities and attend our virtual party on 5/6/21!
- Sponsor or participate in MVFB’s Golf Tournament on 9/13/21.
- Consider making a gift to MVFB in your estate planning.
- Follow MVFB on social media and help us spread the word about the fight against hunger and the many other ways you can be involved!
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Joanne Adamson: Bookkeeper  
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Tony Luna: Senior Warehouse Assistant  
Bobbie Maniatis: Accounts Administrator  
Kelly Proulx: Development & Communications Coordinator  
Leslie Ramos: Program Assistant  
Kiara Velazquez: Program Assistant

**Contact Us**

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