

Table Talk



Newsletter of Our Neighbors' Table Amesbury, Massachusetts

October 2013—January 2014

MEET THE DIRECTORS

Many of you are very familiar with the programs that ONT offers: our Wednesday Meal, our food pantry, and our holiday programs, to name a few. You are probably less familiar with some of the “behind the scenes” work that goes on, particularly with our Board of Directors. What is this board? What does it do? Who is on it? Those are great questions, and in this issue of our newsletter, we’d like to tell you a little bit about our board and the work that it does. Our board currently has 10 members: Todd McDonagh (chair), Joanne Barnes (clerk), Erica Brooks-Sayers (treasurer), Murray Bailey, Bunny Doyle, Jim & Pat Smith, Clint Furnal, Dave Kern, and Joan Bukoskey. The primary responsibility of the board is to direct Our Neighbors’ Table toward achieving its mission to provide our guests with nourishing food, kindness, dignity and community.)

More specifically, board members at ONT ensure that the organization is well-managed; preserve and when necessary, reshape ONT’s mission; act as a bridge between ONT and the community; and are responsible for the overall financial health of our agency.

The board members at ONT serve 2 year terms. All board members are required to serve on at least one committee. We have a nominating committee, a strategic planning committee, a resource development committee (fundraising and food drives), a finance committee, a volunteer committee and a building/space committee. These committees, though chaired by board members, are staffed by a combination of board members and volunteers, and do a lot of the behind the scenes work of Our Neighbors’ Table.

While all of our board committees are very active, there are three board activities we would like to highlight for you: our search for a bigger space; our current fundraising initiative, and our upcoming strategic plan. Our board has been actively looking for a bigger operating space, particularly for our food pantry and for our offices. As many of you know, our food pantry is extremely small, with food being stored in various locations throughout the Main Street Church campus. The board has been searching for a space where the pantry and food storage could all be in the same building and on the same level. If you have been in our office, you know that we are bulging at the seams, so new office space is a huge need. We know that a perfect space is out there somewhere, and the board will continue in its efforts to find it!

Another huge project for the board has been its first ever attempt at fundraising. This October, ONT will be sending out letters to all of our volunteers and all of our donors, asking for help in supporting our many programs. The need for nourishing food in our community is huge, and we are hoping that this letter campaign will help us to be able to better serve our many neighbors in need. This is a big undertaking for our board, and one that we are hoping will be a great success!

DIRECTORS (Continued from page 1)

The next big board project will be strategic planning. We are just finishing our first 3 year strategic plan, and in the coming year, we will be inviting all of our stake holders: guests, volunteers, staff, donors, and community partners to help us put together a plan to guide our agency through the next 3 years.

The board is so proud of all that Our Neighbors' Table accomplishes in the community, and recognizes that none of it could be done without the help of our wonderful volunteers! Whether you serve on a committee, help prepare our Wednesday meal, drive our truck, plan a food drive or stock our pantry shelves, you are the heart and soul of our agency. Because of you, our board can look to the future with optimism and enthusiasm, and continue its work to support our great mission!

Recently, "Sally", a dinner guest at ONT, sat down with Betty V. to talk about our Wednesday meals.

Betty: How long have you been coming to dinner?

Sally: Since October 2011

Betty: What made you start coming?

Sally: When I was laid off from my job of 30 years my friend asked me to go to supper with her there and I obliged her and went, as she saw I was depressed and needed to socialize with other people.

Betty: Why do you keep coming to the dinners?

Sally: I enjoy the dinners and the people I see there.

Betty: How has ONT impacted your life?

Sally: It has shown me that people can and have made an impact on others' lives through being part of this wonderful community called Our Neighbors' Table.

Betty: Have you made an friends at ONT?

Sally: Yes.

Betty: What do you like about our dinners?

Sally: Besides the wonderful food served, I like that the people are very welcoming of all who attend.

INTERVIEW
WITH A
GUEST



NewsLetter
DEADLINE

We welcome your input! The deadline for the next edition of Table Talk will be January 15th. Please send all items to Sue Ranshaw at suzispof@comcast.net.

The next "Table Talk" will be published in early February 2014.

If you wish to be removed from our email list, please reply to this email with the subject line: Unsubscribe. If you picked up a printed copy but would like to be added to the email list, please call the office or email office@ourneighborstable.org.

OVER 100 ATTEND VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

On September 26th, ONT honored the many volunteers who make our programs possible with a Volunteer Recognition Night, held at the Amesbury Cultural Center. Planned by the Volunteer Committee, the event was staffed by the members of the Board of Directors. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts donated by local businesses were served to the more than 100 guests attending.

Todd McDonagh, chair of the Board of Directors, thanked the volunteers and spoke about the goals of the agency and the functions of several of the committees of the board. One of the most surprising statistics that Todd shared: volunteers donate more than 280 hours of service every week (that's equal to 7 full time staff)!



A HOLIDAY SALE WORTH SHOPPING!

Thinking about what you want for Christmas this year?

Tell your friends and family to skip the crowds at the malls and give to your favorite charity – ONT!

“Shop” early and their gift will double! All gifts received by December 1st will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$15,000 by The Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank. That means your gift of \$27 just became \$54 – enough to feed a family of four at the Wednesday meal for a whole month!

Donations can be made TODAY on www.ourneighborstable.org.

Food Drive for Hunger



UPCOMING ONT FOOD DRIVES

Scouting for Food	November 2
Virtual Peanut Butter Drive	November 2
Fill-A-Cruiser	November 23
Amesbury Chamber of Commerce Holiday Drive	December 14

OCTOBER THRU JANUARY ONT CALENDAR

Every Wednesday	4-6 p.m.	Hot Meal-Amesbury
Every Friday	10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Food Pantry-Amesbury
Every Saturday	9:30-Noon	Food Pantry-Amesbury
Every Week for residents of Amesbury and South Hampton, NH		
2 nd and Last Week for residents of Amesbury, Boxford, Byfield, Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury and West Newbury		
First and Third Saturdays	9:30-10:30 a.m.	Merrimac Mobile Food Pantry
Merrimac Senior Center, 100 East Main St., Merrimac.		Merrimac residents only
		Board of Directors
		Volunteer Committee
October 8-December 7		Sign-Ups for Holiday Food
Thursday, Nov. 21	2-4 p.m. or 5-6:30 p.m.	Pick-Up for Thanksgiving groceries (at ONT, Amesbury)
Wednesday, Dec. 11	4-6 p.m.	Photos with Santa and Special Christmas Meal
December 19	2-4 p.m. or 5-6:30 p.m.	Pick-Up Christmas Groceries (at ONT, Amesbury)
ONT will be closed December 22—January 1		



Our Mission

Hunger comes in many forms. Our Neighbors' Table is committed to establishing a community that provides for the whole person with nourishing food, kindness and dignity.

We're on the web! Visit our website, www.ourneighborstable.org, and "Like" us on [Facebook](#) to stay connected!

Lyndsey Haight, Executive Director, Lyndsey@ourneighborstable.org

Lori Townsend, Pantry Director, Lori@ourneighborstable.org

(p) 978-388-1907; (f) 978-388-4972

PO Box 592, 145 Main St., Amesbury, MA 01913