



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



2018 AT A GLANCE



1,054,483
meals



4,100
people



1,000
children



695
seniors



186
military
veterans



688
active
volunteers



\$476,000
in local food
donations



\$0.85
average cost
per meal

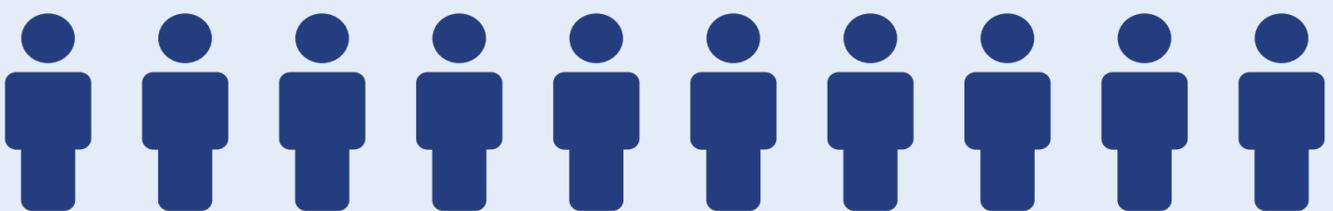
PATH TO FOOD SECURITY

MERRIMAC



401 people served out of 410 people identified as food insecure (98%)

AMESBURY



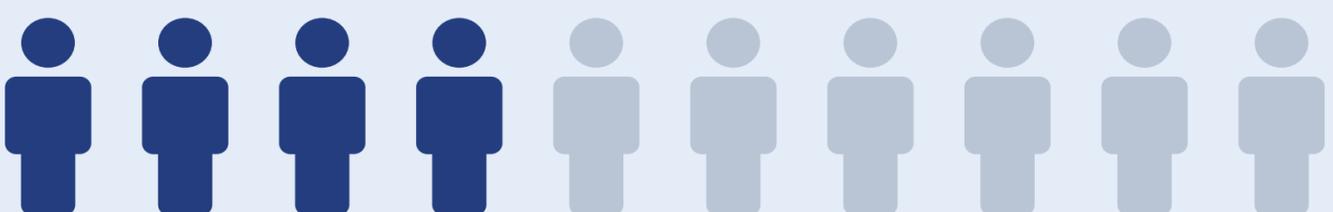
1,915 people served out of 1,240 identified as food insecure (154%)

SALISBURY



616 people served out of 650 identified as food insecure (95%)

NEWBURYPORT



523 people served out of 1,310 identified as food insecure (40%)

FOOD SECURITY STARTS WITH YOU



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.

ourneighborstable.org



AMESBURY: OUR FIRST FOOD-SECURE CITY!

Our 2017-20 Strategic Plan: A Path to Food Security laid out the steps needed to help us achieve food security across our service region. In 2018, we are proud to have declared the City of Amesbury as the first Food-Secure City. There were 3 important steps to creating a food secure community:

1. Understand the need
2. Create effective programs that provide dignified service and directly respond to the needs of the community
3. Engage the entire community

Understand the Need. Our founders saw need among their neighbors back in 1992, and, since then, ONT has kept its ear to the ground and its eyes and mind open to hear directly from the community what barriers kept our neighbors worrying about getting their next meal. The growing need after the 2008 recession was the catalyst for focusing our work in the 12 communities of northeastern Essex County and for building the Jardis-Taylor Center. Thanks to our strong partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, we could put data behind what our community was telling us. As of 2015, we estimated 1,240 Amesbury residents living in food insecure households. And, by that time, we were already serving more than that. In fact, we've been serving more than 1200 Amesbury residents since 2013. In 2018, we served over 2,000 – that's 1 out of every 8 people living in Amesbury.

Create Effective Programs. Serving 2,000 Amesbury residents is a direct result of creating an environment that welcomes everyone and focuses on nurturing their dignity, even on their darkest day. While we started with a simple weekly dinner every Wednesday, our programs have continued to evolve and expand to eliminate any barriers that stand between our neighbors and the food they need to thrive. Our Amesbury Market has radically changed the face of food assistance and empowers our guests to make choices and be in control of their daily life again. But our central market cannot serve anyone. Amesbury is a model for creative partnerships, with two additional mobile markets delivered to Amesbury Housing Authority residents and home delivered groceries and monthly food drops at the Senior Center in partnership with the Amesbury Council on Aging. Our Summer Lunch Program, food rescue

activities and student-led food drives provide an opportunity for us to do outreach through the schools to reach families where they are.

Engage the Community. Whether you're someone who needs help today or someone helping out a friend tomorrow; whether you're the Mayor or the librarian; whether you're a soccer coach or teaching yoga at the senior center; whether you're a local business that sponsors a Wednesday Meal or just someone who shops at Stop & Shop – you know about Our Neighbors' Table. You know that there are people in your community who are struggling to support themselves or their families. You know there's a way to help. For 27 years, residents of Amesbury have worked hard to reach out to one another and to ensure that no one goes hungry.

Thank you to the 500+ volunteers; 340 businesses, churches, scouts, students, clubs and neighborhoods sponsoring, hosting food drives, and serving; and 1,500 residents who have made a donation to further our mission. The entire City of Amesbury should feel proud of this accomplishment. Our Neighbors' Table feels proud of the role we could play in bringing the community together to become food secure.

So now what? We're going to share our learning and draw from Amesbury's success to inspire and mobilize the other 11 communities we serve and make sure everyone is food secure!

Fresh fruits and vegetables on every plate.

**120,000 POUNDS
SERVED IN 2018**



NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN NEWBURYPORT

ONT launched exciting new partnerships in Newburyport Community Service of Newburyport had been a long-time partner with ONT, often cross-referring families or sharing ideas to better serve the community. In 2018, collaboration between the two organizations evolved to the next step – living together! CSN moved to its new home at St. Paul's Church and extended an invitation to ONT to utilize part of their space to host a weekly market.





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Opened in June 2018, the Newburyport Market operates every Thursday from 11-2:00 and has already provided much-needed groceries to more than 200 households across Newburyport, Newbury and West Newbury. Having both organizations under one roof allows guests to access fresh foods at ONT’s market and connect with staff at CSN for help with dental care, summer camps, fuel assistance and clothing.

Just as ONT opened its Newburyport Market, creative ideas were flowing at Newburyport Public Schools. On the heels of their involvement with the Food Security Advisory Group, NPS leaders wanted to bridge the gap to better support the

district's children and their families. Modeling after a produce market hosted at the elementary school in Ipswich, a Farmers' Market was launched at the Bresnahan Elementary School Summer School Program. The weekly market welcomed all Summer School teachers, staff, students and volunteers and was a great way to introduce healthy eating and ensure all families had plenty of nutritious food at home to fuel their children's minds and bodies. Over the summer, ONT trucked in more than 4,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables and dozens of volunteers to help make the first Bresnahan School's Farmers' Market a success!

An important piece of creating a food secure region is to connect with families where they are, to talk about their needs and to help connect them to resources. Our Neighbors' Table and Children's Health Care are partnering up to do just that! Utilizing the Hunger Vital Signs™, created by Children's HealthWatch and endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, ONT and CHC will integrate food insecurity screening into all child visits at the CHC Newburyport Upper and Lower Offices. More details will come in 2019 as this work is implemented, but this partnership would not be possible if not for a 3-year, \$150,000 grant received from the Mary Alice Arakelian Foundation.



CREATING A FOOD SECURE REGION

Food Security Advisory Group (FSAG) is a collective of leaders across the region who understand the prevalence and impact of food insecurity in our community. FSAG members serve an advisory role to local needs assessments, champion food security as an important cause in their respective community or organization, facilitate participation of staff and community members in the assessment or program development process, and endorse intervention strategies to increase access to food. Regional Food Security cannot happen without a collective commitment. We are proud to partner with our FSAG members and applaud the work of its Assessment Working Group that carried out the first community assessment in 2018.

What did we learn? In 2018, ONT and its FSAG Assessment Working Group disseminated food security questionnaires across Amesbury, Merrimac, Salisbury, and Newburyport. In a short 30 days, we were able to collect 245 completed surveys implemented randomly and voluntarily across community events, senior centers, libraries, Anna Jaques Hospital, Children's Health Care, and on social media. Of those 245 responses, 60 people (25%) indicated that they had worried about running out of food or they had run out of food before they could get more. The number one barrier to food was not having enough money, even though most respondents reported employment as their primary source of income.

2018 FSAG PARTNERS

City of Amesbury Mayor

Ken Gray

City of Newburyport Mayor Donna Holaday

Salisbury Town Manager

Neil Harrington

Anna Jaques Hospital

Children's Health Care

Merrimac Police Department

Newburyport Public Schools

Amesbury Public Schools

Pentucket Regional Schools

Triton Regional Schools

Greater Boston Food Bank

Salisbury Council on Aging

Newburyport Council on Aging

Amesbury Council on Aging

Merrimac Council on Aging

For the full report and more information about the activities of the Food Security Advisory Group, visit **OURNEIGHBORSTABLE.ORG/FSAG**.