

**A message from the Director:**

This issue celebrates YOU and the difference you and your fellow volunteers and supporters have made in the lives of so many. As you will read on, every penny or can you have donated, every minute you have devoted, and every time you share your experiences with friends, family, and perfect strangers, you are providing food to someone who needs it. While signs indicate that the economy is improving, we continue to see new faces of hunger every day right here in our community. It's no easy feat to move 500,000 pounds of food, but with your help, that is exactly what we did in 2013. More than 2,200 individuals, including more than 600 children in our communities had access to nutritious, local food thanks to the programs here at ONT. So we start 2014 by thanking YOU for all you do to end hunger in our community and wishing you a year of health and happiness.

Lyndsey Haight  
 Executive Director



Mike Mullins of Stone Ridge Properties presents a \$5,000 check to (from left) ONT Treasurer Erica Brooks-Sayers and Executive Director Lyndsey Haight, and Board Chair Todd McDonagh (far right), matching donations collected in December.

**\$1, \$2, \$3...MORE!**

Last Fall, ONT put out its first-ever formal fundraising appeal hoping to close the gap between our existing resources and the significant increase in demand that we've experienced in the last two years—attendance doubled since 2011 at our weekly pantry! We put out the call and once again, you all responded with incredible generosity. From the pennies left in the Pennies for Poverty change jars, to the \$5 tithing at your places of worship, to the checks you wrote and the online donations you made, it all adds up to a BIG difference.

Our good friends at Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank gave us a big boost of confidence with their pledge to match our November campaign. Thanks to you, we were able to DOUBLE our fundraising results with a \$15,000 matching grant from Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank, followed in December with another generous \$5,000 matching grant from Stone Ridge Properties. Most of that money goes to providing fresh food items in our meals and pantry and making sure we have a team to respond to our volunteers, donors, and, most importantly, our neighbors in need. Thank you to everyone who contributes to Our Neighbors' Table. Your contribution is

**The Hungry Are BANKING on Us!**

Join our local banks in their 2nd annual month-long collection. Drop off your food or toiletry donation to any of these bank/credit union branches across Newburyport, Amesbury, Merrimac, Salisbury, and Newbury during the month of March:

- Align Credit Union
- Citizens Bank
- Eastern Bank
- Institution for Savings
- Haverhill Bank
- Louise E. Mills Federal Credit Union
- Merrimac Savings Bank
- Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank
- The Provident Bank
- RTN Federal Credit Union
- St. Jean's Credit Union
- TD Bank



**You made a BIG difference in 2013!**

**More than 17,000 guests** found help at Our Neighbors' Table, including more than 6,500 guests to the Wednesday Meal and almost 11,000 visitors to our pantries in Amesbury and Merrimac.

**Nearly 500,000 lbs of food (380,000 meals)** were distributed to people in need—half of which were fresh food items like *milk, eggs, fruits and vegetables, meats, yogurts, hummus.*

More than 60 Amesbury families had peace of mind knowing their children had **nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack foods** for the summer thanks to the Summer Lunch Program.

More than **150 seniors living in Amesbury, Merrimac and Groveland** had access to **nutritious food right at their doorsteps** thanks to our partnerships with the Amesbury/Merrimac Housing Authority and the Amesbury, Groveland, and Merrimac Councils on Aging.



**Food Pantry Donations Needed**

**We need FULL-SIZED TOILETRIES:**

- ✓ Shampoo
- ✓ Toothpaste
- ✓ Toothbrushes
- ✓ Deodorant
- ✓ Bar Soap
- ✓ Shaving Cream
- ✓ Disposable Razors
- ✓ Diapers (sizes 4+)



**Did you miss the last food drive?**

Grab the next one—coming to a school, church, grocery store, or bank near you!

Think you are seeing more food drives popping up these days? Well, there's a reason for that! Since 2012, the Food Drive Committee has been working to make sure we have

have enough food drives scheduled to keep our pantry shelves stocked throughout the calendar year. The all-volunteer committee is composed of three sub-committees: business, faith communities and youth. Our current members include Andrea Bailey, Anne Gagne, Aubrie Hume, Michelle Mahair, Rosemary Piper, John Massaua, Danielle Holmes, Heather King, Jill Hooper, Louise Cramer, Erica Brooks-Sayers and Joan Bukoskey (Chair).

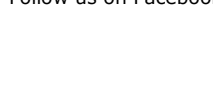
In the last two years, this committee has created many new opportunities for food drives throughout the greater Amesbury area. These include wonderful new participation by area churches; increased opportunities in the schools; very successful food Election Day Food Drive in Amesbury; the region-wide Hungry are Banking on us food drive (coming this March to a bank near you!); and three "virtual" food drives (instead of collecting an actual food item, we collect money for that item and purchase it on the donor's behalf). We've even had Sparhawk students dressing up in a chicken suit to collect "virtual" cans of chicken!

In the year ahead, we will be planning more "virtual" drives, especially focusing on fresh food items for our pantry. This will take some out of the box thinking and some really creative ideas, but this group is up to the challenge and will continue to find new ways to get fresher, healthier food choices for our guests.

Organizing a food drive is easy and fun, and we provide you with suggestions and resources tailored to your organization! If you are interested in joining this committee or if you would like to learn more about hosting a food drive or a "virtual" food drive, please contact Joan Bukoskey at [community@ourneighborstable.org](mailto:community@ourneighborstable.org). Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who serve on this committee, and thank you to everyone in the community who hosts a food drive for Our Neighbors' Table.

YOU keep our pantry stocked!

Now collecting items for **Easter Baskets: small toys, individually wrapped candy, crayons, books, bubbles, teen toiletries.**  
 Email: [Lyndsey@ourneighborstable.org](mailto:Lyndsey@ourneighborstable.org)  
 for more info.

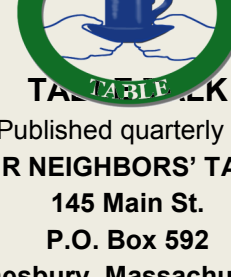


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**Donate Now!**

**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.**



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**OUR NEIGHBORS' TABLE**  
 145 Main St.  
 P.O. Box 592  
 Amesbury, Massachusetts  
 01913  
 Phone: 978-388-1907  
 Website: [ourneighborstable.org](http://ourneighborstable.org)  
 Lyndsey Haight, *Executive Director*

Unsubscribe:  
[email\\_Lyndsey@ourneighborstable.org](mailto:email_Lyndsey@ourneighborstable.org), subject: UNSUBSCRIBE