



Fall 2020

Table of Plenty in Chelmsford Newsletter

TOPIC Now Serving Grab 'N Go Meals



In June, Table of Plenty started serving dinner once again at the Chelmsford Senior Center, but now as a Grab 'N Go meal. In addition to providing a delicious and nutritious dinner to our guests who drive through, we now pack a bag of groceries to distribute to each car. Prior to shutting down due to the pandemic, we were averaging around 100 guests at each meal. We presently are serving 200—250 meals each week, and handing out 75-90 bags of groceries. While it is difficult to see the need increase, we are grateful for the tremendous support from the community and our volunteers which allows us to be able to meet this need.

The Bags of Groceries—Where does all the food come from?

Donations of non-perishable food items are collected every Tuesday morning from 9:00—Noon at the Chelmsford Senior Center. A team of volunteers come each week to receive the goods, sort them, and then bag them so they are ready to be handed out that afternoon when our guests come to the Grab 'N Go.



Where the donations come from:

- Many of our long time volunteers and friends stop by on a regular basis.
- Each week our Chefs get food from the Merrimack Valley Food Bank.
- KJ's Caffe donates bagels and muffins each week.
- Some groups and churches in our community collect on a regular basis: Chinese Bible Church of Greater Lowell; LifeLinks; Congregation Shalom donates food and also recently donated a number of Supermarket Gift Cards which were handed out to our guests on Halloween; Fresh Produce from Aldersgate Church, John Bowles and the Community Garden, Jen Melanson and the Gardens for Good, and Stan Reible
- Food Drives—Aggregate Industries (see following article); Representative Tom Golden held a Halloween Food Drive to benefit the Chelmsford Community Exchange and Table of Plenty; Sarah Evans and Girl Scout Troop 63112; Leadership in Motion Everywhere at Chelmsford High School; The Byam Elementary School Association held a food drive this summer which was so successful they decided to enlist the rest of the Chelmsford Public Schools. Beginning this December, one school will host a Food Drive each month.



Aggregate Industries Donation

Aggregate Industries is a local asphalt, paving and crushed stone supplier, but during the month of September the company and its employees additionally wanted to focus on how to help their community during this pandemic. Identifying food insecurity as a challenging issue, they got to work. Vice President and General Manager, Bob Andersson, grew up in Chelmsford and when he heard about Table of Plenty, knew that his company could help to provide funding and groceries.

The Aggregate team at the Chelmsford plant ran a food drive at work and collected a huge truckload of food which they delivered to Table of Plenty.

Aggregate Industries wanted to make a monetary donation as well. Going the extra mile, the team decided to reach out to their business partners to see if they wanted to participate. In total, Aggregate Industries and its business partners generously donated over \$19,000 to Table of Plenty to help to continue to offer meals and groceries to those in need! Companies that pitched in include All States Materials Group, Allied Paving Corp., Atlantic Paving Corp., BitCon Corp., D & R Paving, E.J. Paving Company, Inc., Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming, Inc., HaulHub Technologies, Indus, Pavements Inc., Irving, Milinazzo Paving Corp., Mystic Motor Transportation, Inc., Nashoba Paving Co., Nocella Paving, Sunshine Paving Corporation and U.S. Pavement Services.



THANK YOU!

Trunk or Treat



Thank you to the Byam and Harrington Elementary Schools for organizing the "Battle of the Boos" where Families and Community Groups were invited to decorate a car trunk for Halloween. Guests then drove through the high school parking lot to enjoy the creations, and were asked to donate a non-perishable food item for Table of Plenty. Thanks, also, to Board Member Merri Serra who created Table of Plenty's Trunk! It was BOO-tiful!

Thank You to Our Meal Sponsors and Donors

The following donors either sponsored a meal, or contributed an amount equal or greater than a meal sponsorship:

- ◆ Aggregate Industries
- ◆ Aldersgate United Methodist Church
- ◆ Don and Dot Ayer
- ◆ Chelmsford Friends of the Library
- ◆ Chelmsford Women of Today
- ◆ Christopher's Towing
- ◆ Congregation Shalom
- ◆ Democracy Forward
- ◆ ERA Key Realty Services
- ◆ Matt and Judith Fichtenbaum
- ◆ Gervais Family/Drum Hill Liquors
- ◆ Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union
- ◆ Sue Kent
- ◆ Ken and Jean Kriedberg
- ◆ L'Hussier Tax Services
- ◆ Lifepoint Church
- ◆ Lockheed Martin
- ◆ In Memory of Maureen McKeown, Founder of Table of Plenty
- ◆ Northern Bank & Trust
- ◆ Molly Rawding
- ◆ Jill Richards
- ◆ In Memory of Eric Sullivan
- ◆ In Memory of Meghan Sullivan
- ◆ Trinity E.M.S. Inc.

...and many more businesses and friends who wish to remain anonymous.

Many thanks to all for your generosity.



If you or your business are interested in sponsoring a meal, contact Table of Plenty at 978-710-8EAT(8328) or tableofplentyinchelmsford@gmail.com.

Wear Your TOPIC Pride—Sweatshirts Available



As a donor, volunteer, or supporter, we thank you for all that you do for our guests and community! With the cold weather here now, the Table of Plenty Board has coordinated with Center Sports in Chelmsford to produce sweatshirts embroidered with our logo.

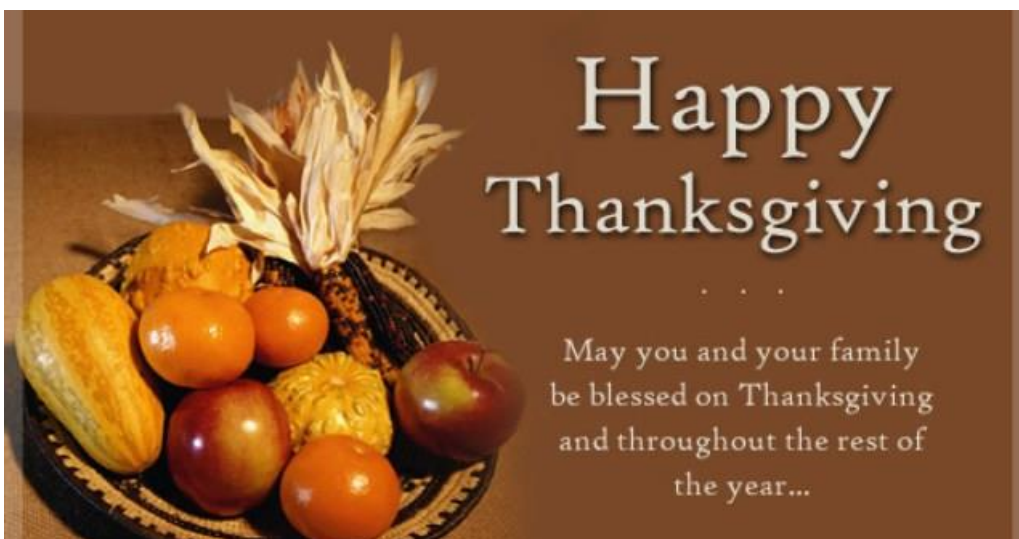
If you would like to purchase one, you can do so online by clicking here:

<https://tableofplentychelmsford.itemorder.com/>

If you are more comfortable shopping in person, or want to check on sizing, you can also go in to Center Sports – located at 4 Alpine Lane.

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at tableofplentyinchelmsford@gmail.com.

Thank you and stay warm!



President's Message

There's a lot to be grateful for this Thanksgiving! Sure, I miss eating out in restaurants and entertaining as much as everyone. I miss seeing my nieces and nephews, miss running into a store without a mask, miss the spontaneity of a last minute get together with friends. But, for all the negatives that Covid-19 has brought, there truly IS much for which to be grateful!

Table of Plenty has thrived during the past few months! We have reinvented the way we fulfill our mission to provide a nourishing meal to those in need. Our Grab 'n Go meals have been a huge success, and I am so thankful to our teams of cooks and volunteers who have contributed to that success. We also continue to provide a bag of non-perishables to each car that comes through the parking lot on Tuesday night, and those groceries would not be possible without the support of so many in our community who drop off food each week. Many houses of worship and organizations have held food drives which continue to fill our coffers. Some have held fundraisers and purchased gift cards for us to distribute to our guests. We have forged partnerships with local businesses to help us continue to serve the community. And, Table of Plenty has a committed Board of Directors who step forward to help whenever they are asked.

For all of that, I am truly grateful!



Mary Moriarty

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