



NOVEMBER 2024

Table of Plenty in Chelmsford Newsletter

Holcim Donation

For the fifth year in a row, Holcim (formerly Aggregate Industries), a local asphalt, paving and crushed stone supplier, ran a fundraiser and food drive to benefit Table of Plenty and the Chelmsford Food Pantry. Holcim Vice President and General Manager, Bob Andersson, who grew up in Chelmsford, spearheads this effort along with a dedicated team of employees who are committed to giving to our two organizations to help sustain the weekly dinners and food distribution. The Holcim team at the Chelmsford plant ran a food drive at work and collected a truckload of food which they delivered to the Food Pantry.

They also make a monetary donation each year. Going the extra mile, the team reaches out to their business partners to encourage them to participate. In total, Holcim and its business partners generously donated over **\$86,000** to Table of Plenty and the Chelmsford Food Pantry to help to continue to offer meals and groceries to those in need! We are overwhelmed by their tremendous efforts and generous donation!

THANK YOU!



Know Your Neighbor Night

In their efforts to build community and reduce social isolation, Age-Friendly Chelmsford chose October as “Know Your Neighbor” month. Many thanks to our friends from this campaign who joined us at dinner on October 29th to get to know our guests and encourage them to get to know each other better! They brought name tags, buttons, and ice breaker chat cards. While there’s never any shortage of conversation at Table of Plenty, guests said they met new friends at other tables, and also learned information about their tablemates that they had not known before!



Pictured: Debi Siriani, Senior Center Human Services Director; Jen Melanson, Town of Chelmsford Community Services Coordinator; Otie Doldt-Harpin, TOPIC Volunteer; Craig Bonaceto, TOPIC President; Elena Dear, Senior Center Outreach Director

Community Outreach and Partnerships

The Table of Plenty Board and volunteers have always had wonderful relationships with the town and other nonprofits, but over the last few months, we have made a concerted effort to meet with our partners to see how we can collaborate to more broadly address food insecurity in Chelmsford. Our newly formed *Outreach Committee* has met with representatives of the Chelmsford Food Pantry, the Chelmsford Public Schools Guidance Office, the Senior Center Outreach Office, the Town of Chelmsford Community Services Coordinator, and Meals on Wheels, to forge new partnerships.

We can accomplish so much more when we work together!



Grab N' Go Meals

In September and October, the Senior Center was doing renovations on their HVAC system. Table of Plenty “pivoted” once again and provided “Grab N’ Go” meals for five weeks. Thanks to all our guests and volunteers who went with the flow! And a big thank you to the Senior Center for accommodating us in the parking lot!

Volunteers: Rachel, Ruthe, Denise, Joe and Chris serve meals curbside.



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:

- ◆ **Aldersgate United Methodist Church**
- ◆ **In Memory of Kelly Boshar**
- ◆ **In Memory of Peg Cassels and Cathleen Naughton**
- ◆ **Norman Eisenmann**
- ◆ **Emmanuel Church**
- ◆ **Matt and Judy Fichtenbaum**
- ◆ **Hancock Building Association**
- ◆ **Hannafords**
- ◆ **Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union**
- ◆ **Ken and Jean Kriedberg**
- ◆ **Michael L'Hussier**
- ◆ **Lockheed Martin**
- ◆ **In Memory of Maureen McKeown**
- ◆ **Milltown Plumbing and Heating**
- ◆ **Mount Pleasant Golf Club**
- ◆ **In Memory of Fred Noonan**
- ◆ **Diana Nguyen**
- ◆ **Molly Rawding**



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

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

Many thanks to all for your generosity!

President's Message

As I look out my office window, I am not thrilled with the approximately 83 million leaves to rake. But I am thankful for the beauty of autumn in New England and for the nutrients in the soil those leaves will replenish come spring.

The Thanksgiving season provides an opportunity to reflect on the good things we have in our lives that we are grateful for – the things that we sometimes overlook or otherwise take for granted. In my personal life, intentionally cultivating gratitude has helped me to approach even the most daunting situations with optimism. Setting aside just a few minutes each day to reflect on the good things that happened that I am thankful for has made a tremendous difference in my mental health. I am ready to rake leaves!

Here at Table of Plenty, we have many things to be thankful for! For one, we are thankful for the incredible generosity that we continue to receive from businesses and individual donors. This year, we received a record-breaking donation from Holcim – a staggering \$86,000 that we also share with the Chelmsford Food Pantry. Thanks to this generosity, we are well-positioned to continue fulfill our mission to address food insecurity and social isolation. This generosity has also enabled us to expand our community outreach activities to further address food insecurity for infants, students, families, and seniors.

For another, we are thankful for the continued support that we receive from the Town of Chelmsford and the Chelmsford Senior Center. They allow us to use their wonderful facility to serve our meal each week. When we could not serve meals in the Hall due to construction, they also flexibly accommodated our Grab and Go service. We look forward to continued partnership with the Senior Center.

We are also thankful for our amazing volunteers who cook, serve, perform cleanup duties, entertain our guests with music, donate birthday cakes, grow produce, transport donations, and otherwise do the many tasks that are required to serve an average of 120 guests each week. Table of Plenty could not exist without your tireless service.

And we are grateful for our guests who join us each week. The kindness and appreciation they share with us means so much. Their joy in the meal and in each other's company also lifts all of us—cooks, cleaners, and servers alike. Thank you for building our community.

Thank you to each and every one of you for the role you play in our mission! Our community is a brighter place thanks to all of you.

In gratitude,
Craig



Craig Bonaceto



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