



SPRING 2024

Table of Plenty in Chelmsford Newsletter

Holiday Fun!

We are grateful for our volunteers and friends from the community who make our holidays a little extra special. December of course brought our annual visit from Santa while we sang carols. On President's Day, we enjoyed the antics of Abe Lincoln and George Washington (volunteers Paul and Otie) while enjoying dinner. Ava, Quinn, and Ailish from Heavey Quinn Irish Dance entertained us on St. Patrick's Day with their beautiful step dancing.



Thank You...

To **Nissan of Merrimack Valley** who chose Table of Plenty as one of their “12 for 12 Committed to the Community” which included a \$1000 donation.



To **Hannaford** who gives back to local organizations through their Fight Hunger Bag program. Hannaford also sponsored our meal on April 30th and sent a crew to volunteer!

To **Stop & Shop** who donated through their Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet program.



Thank You Retiring Board Members

Mike Kendrick and Merri Serra were two of the original founders of Table of Plenty, who sat around Maureen McKeown's dining room table over 12 years ago, figuring out where to locate this operation, how to fund it, the number of volunteers needed, and a host of other logistics. Their intelligence, creativity, strong work-ethic, and overall concern and friendliness toward volunteers and guests alike has been instrumental in furthering and supporting our mission. While we know we will still see them, we will miss their daily presence. We wish them all the best in their next chapter, and send them off with much love and appreciation.



Farewell Paulette "Paule" Grout

In February, Table of Plenty said farewell to one of our cherished guests, Paule, who passed away. A meal in her memory was sponsored in April, where we remembered her friendliness, great conversation, gratefulness, and joy to be around.



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 Church
- ♦ Jim Barrett and Lynne Connors
- ♦ The Chelmsford Lions Club
- ♦ Choice, Inc.
- ♦ The Family of Doris David
- ♦ Emmanuel Church
- ♦ Matt and Judy Fichtenbaum
- ♦ Jim and Claire Frassica
- ♦ In Memory of Paule Grout
- ♦ Hancock Building Association
- ♦ Hannaford
- ♦ Andrea Jackson
- ♦ Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union
- ♦ Ken and Jean Krieger
- ♦ In Memory of Greg Leath
- ♦ Michael L'Hussier
- ♦ Lockheed Martin
- ♦ Lowell Five Bank
- ♦ Mary and Frans First Wedding Anniversary
- ♦ In Memory of Kyle Marzeoti
- ♦ In Memory of Maureen McKeown
- ♦ In Memory of Kathy McNeany
- ♦ Millipore Sigma
- ♦ Mount Pleasant Golf Club
- ♦ Diana Nguyen
- ♦ In Memory of Fred Noonan
- ♦ In Memory of Bernadette Queen
- ♦ Teri and Peter Ralbovsky
- ♦ Molly Rawding
- ♦ Jill Richards
- ♦ In Memory of Pat Schroeder
- ♦ In Honor of the Steele and Kett Families
- ♦ In Memory of Barry Steinmann
- ♦ In Memory of Eric Sullivan
- ♦ In Memory of Robert Topjian and Alicia Krysiak
- ♦ In Memory of Ruth Zwiebel

...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.

President's Message

Thanks to the dedication of our founding Board members, two of whom recently retired and are featured in this newsletter, Table of Plenty was able to open its doors and begin serving meals in May of 2010. We served our first meal to 7 guests. By comparison, we recently served a record number of sit-down guests, 180, at a meal in October! In fact, we served 5 meals in 2023 alone with over 135 guests. It is staggering to look back on how Table of Plenty has grown and matured into the organization that it is today.

These are some of the measurable ways that quantify the strength of our organization and its impact on the community. But there are also many things that we cannot easily measure. The social isolation that we have helped to alleviate. The important place we play in our guests' and volunteers' lives. The community that we have built together. The small acts of kindness that brighten our guests' lives each week.

Some of our longtime guests, like Paule who recently passed away, have been coming to Table of Plenty nearly since we first began serving meals. They become part of our Table of Plenty family. I am incredibly thankful to our amazing volunteers for helping to create something special that our guests look forward to each week — something that keeps people wanting to come back. You've helped to create a space where people come to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, and also a space where people come together to heal after a loss.

Loneliness has been called a public health crisis by the Surgeon General — one that shortens lives and diminishes spirits in much the same way that hunger does. Table of Plenty has been fulfilling its mission to alleviate both loneliness and hunger through our simple but incredibly important mission. As we look forward to 2024 and our 14th year in operation, we are as committed as ever to continuing our mission to address food insecurity in our community.

In gratitude,
Craig



Craig Bonaceto

In the Kitchen



Our St. Patrick's Day Menu of a traditional corned beef and cabbage meal drew our largest crowd yet this year with 167 guests. Here, our Kitchen Team from that night gets ready to spring into action.

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Vice President: Diane Taylor

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Clerk: Kathy Clark

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Mike Kendrick

Merri Serra

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