

Food Justice Organizations in Boston that Aim to Reduce Food Insecurity

In this document, we have compiled a list of various organizations in the Boston area which work within the issues of food justice and food insecurity. For each entry we have provided an organization's name, history, volunteer description, and how to become a volunteer. We hope that you are able to find a community service opportunity which interests you and can fit in your schedule. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out!



Brookline Food Pantry

Volunteer Description: Volunteers are a vital part of the Brookline Food Pantry operations. Many individuals devote several hours each week to ensure the success of our pantry and have helped to feed hundreds of Brookline families and individuals.

Things to know about volunteering

- All volunteers will undergo a pre-screening process before being accepted to volunteer.
- All volunteers will be required to wear masks and follow social distancing practices while working in the pantry.
- All volunteers will be required to follow strict hygiene habits, such as frequent hand-washing, and will be monitored for health.

Accepting Volunteers?

- They currently have a full team of volunteers, but that can change at any time, so they are always looking for volunteers to join their waitlist.

Address: There are three food pantry locations

- 15 St. Paul Street, St. Paul Church
- 55A Egmont Street, Community Room
- 226 High Street. Community Room

Links:

Volunteer Inquiry Form: <https://www.brooklinefoodpantry.org/volunteer-inquiry-form.html>

Brookline Thrives (Part of the Brookline Food Pantry)

Mission Statement

- Things may be a little different due to COVID-19, but our mission remains the same - provide free weekend meals to any Brookline school family who may benefit from additional options over the weekend. This is the program's 3rd year in operations. In past years, the program has run at Lincoln, Pierce, Florida Ruffin Ridley (formerly CCS) and BEEP. Because not all students are currently learning inside Brookline public schools, Brookline Thrives has expanded to be available to all school families across the district. Depending on where your student is currently learning will determine where and when you may get Thrives bags (details below).

Volunteer Description

- Many volunteer shifts are available, with more dates coming soon!
- Bag packing on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and evenings.
- Helping with Thursday deliveries of bags to schools.
- Distributing bags at a school meal location on Friday afternoons.

Accepting Volunteers?

- Brookline Thrives is currently looking for volunteers!

Address

- United Parish Church, 210 Harvard St., Brookline

Links

Info page: <https://www.brooklinefoodpantry.org/brookline-thrives.html>

Signups Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0e45a8a722a5fd0-thrives1>

Greater Boston Food Bank

Mission Statement

Through the compassion and commitment of our supporters, staff, partners and volunteers, The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) takes a bold, innovative and multi-pronged approach to achieve our mission to end hunger here.

GBFB is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England and among the largest food banks in the country. Last year, we distributed 98.8 million pounds of nutritious food to people who struggle to have enough to eat. We are committed to increasing our food distribution to provide three meals a day to every person in need in Eastern Massachusetts while supporting healthy lives and healthy communities. Our progress toward this goal is documented by town on our interactive map.

The Greater Boston Food Bank is a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief organization.

Through compassion and action, together we can create a hunger free Eastern Massachusetts.

Volunteer Description

Volunteers at The Greater Boston Food Bank play a critical role in helping to end hunger in Eastern Massachusetts, and their role is even more critical now given the COVID-19 crisis. We are currently accepting 15 or fewer volunteers per shift. Individuals and small groups may apply. Our Kids Who Care and Families for Impact volunteering opportunities are temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 crisis and public health recommendations related to large gatherings of people.

Things to know about Volunteering

Volunteer shift schedule: Monday – Saturday: 9 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 4 pm

To ensure the safety of volunteers and our front-line staff we've instituted the following changes to our volunteer program:

- Our Kids Who Care and Families for Impact volunteering opportunities are temporarily suspended.
- Volunteer shifts will be limited to 15 individuals per shift.
- Volunteers will be asked to sanitize their hands upon entering the building. We will provide volunteers with disposable gloves.
- Volunteer tasks will focus on high need/critical projects like our CSFP and Brown Bag boxes for seniors and additional food sorting projects.

We ask that individuals who aren't feeling well (especially if you have a fever or cough), has been in contact with someone who is sick, or that has been to countries on the CDC watch list (or are close to someone who has) not to sign-up for a volunteer shift at this time.

Accepting Volunteers?

Yes! GBFB is always looking for volunteers either on a limited, or a long-term basis.

Address

70 S Bay Ave, Boston, MA 02118

Links:

Website: <https://www.gbfb.org/get-involved/volunteer/individual-volunteering/>

Community Fridges

Community Fridges are a mutual aid initiative by members of local Boston communities who aim to reduce food insecurity among their neighbors. These grassroots initiatives source food donations from individuals, businesses, and food rescue organizations. The main principle of the fridge is that anyone can donate to it, and anyone can take what they need from it. The Community Fridges are located around the Boston area, with the two closest being the Allston Community Fridge and the Fenway Community Fridge. Other fridges are located in Dorchester, Roslindale, Somerville, Cambridge, and Brighton! Fridges are looking for volunteers to clean and organize the fridges throughout the week, so take a look at the link below to find their social media accounts to find out how to get involved.

Eater Boston has created a comprehensive guide on what the community fridges are, where they are located, and how to get involved. Take a look at this article to find out how to get involved!

<https://boston.eater.com/maps/community-fridges-boston>

(Content has been pasted from Eater Boston @<https://boston.eater.com/maps/community-fridges-boston>):

“Mutual aid initiatives have been springing up nationwide during the pandemic, as community members look for ways to address food insecurity and other needs of their neighbors. Mutual aid takes many forms: hyperlocal spreadsheets connecting those who need something with those who can provide it; massive texting chains of neighbors helping neighbors with everything from childcare to transportation; fundraisers aimed at helping people with groceries or rent; and more.

And then there are community fridges, which have begun to appear in neighborhoods nationwide, including in and around Boston. These outdoor fridges, often built under a roof alongside some pantry shelves, are typically monitored and stocked by volunteers, filled with everything from fresh produce to canned goods and sometimes even toiletries and other non-food household essentials.

Whether you need groceries or have extra to give, or you're looking to volunteer, here's where to find community fridges that are currently operational in the Boston area. Something missing from this map? Email the Eater Boston team.

Note that several other fridges are coming soon: South Boston, Lynn, Cambridge's Harvard Square, Brighton, and possibly two more in Somerville. Plus, the Jamaica Plain community fridge, one of the first to appear in the region, is temporarily out of order and seeking a new host."

Rescuing Leftover Cuisine

Mission Statement

Rescuing Leftover Cuisine is a national 501(c)3 non-profit food rescue organization, operating in 16 cities and headquartered in New York City, that provides solutions to prevent excess wholesome cuisine from being wasted. RLC provides services such as food waste consulting, excess food delivery, co-branding services, and tax credit assistance.

Volunteer Description

Volunteers are the vital link between our food donor and human service agency partners. In short, they ARE Rescuing Leftover Cuisine, and that means to be a volunteer you are...

Resourceful

You're an independent operator, and willing and able to find solutions to unexpected issues

Leaders

Not interested in sitting in the background, you're ready to step up and lead the fight against food waste and food insecurity in our communities and inspire others to do the same

Committed

You understand the gravity of what we do, and you're committed to ensuring that our partners receive a reliable food rescue service so that no food is wasted while the hungry are in need

Things to know about Volunteering

Volunteer Food Rescuers help us transport food from our food donor partners to local homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other human service agencies in our communities. Each food rescue event typically takes less than an hour. Food rescues may be completed by public transport, by personal vehicle, on foot and even by bicycle. With just an hour of your time, you can help reduce food waste and provide meals to those who need it most all around the country!

Our food rescue events are scheduled to occur on a recurring, weekly basis, and take place morning, noon, and night, seven days a week. Whether it's once-a-month, once-a-week, or once-a day we are in need of your help as we seek to provide a reliable food rescue service by fostering community connections to reduce food waste and food insecurity!

Accepting Volunteers?

Yes! Sign up for an account at this link: <https://www.rescuingleftovercuisine.org/volunteer>. After signing up, you will have access to their calendar of events that detail the times and locations of the food routes they need coverage for.

Links

Website: <https://www.rescuingleftovercuisine.org/>

Volunteer Signup: <https://www.rescuingleftovercuisine.org/volunteer>

Fresh Truck Mobile Market

Fresh Truck History

Fresh Truck operates retrofitted school buses as mobile markets bringing fresh food to neighborhoods across Boston. It all started while Josh was working as a health educator at the MGH Charlestown Healthcare Center. He kept hearing from his families that it was difficult to shop for healthy food — at that time, the only grocery store in the neighborhood was shutting down for a year-long renovation. The health center had no way of solving for the fact that patients didn't have access to the food they needed to stay healthy. It was this experience that inspired Fresh truck to rethink the traditional grocery store model, make it mobile and bring food closer to the people that need it the most. In 2018, we expanded our efforts to address health disparities by developing Fresh Connect, a platform that makes it possible for health care providers to prescribe food as medicine. We have a big vision for the future of food and healthcare, and we are only just getting started.

Volunteer Description

Hungry to help? We can't do this alone. We need Fresh Truck volunteers, like you, to help make our wheels go round. We are on a mission to bring healthy food to the communities that need it most during the COVID crisis. Will you join us?

As a volunteer, you will directly support the Fresh Truck 'Open Air' Market by:

- Filling and bagging shopper orders on the bus
- Cleaning/Sanitizing equipment & materials
- Greeting & monitoring the flow of the line
- Taking order(s) from shoppers

COVID-19 PREVENTION:

- Volunteers should monitor their temperature prior to their shift to ensure a normal temperature

- If you are experiencing any possible COVID symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath) or have had contact with any suspected COVID case, call the volunteer organizer and cancel your shift (617-297-7685)
- If you have traveled outside the state in the last 14 days, call the volunteer organizer and cancel your shift. (617-297-7685).

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING BEFORE SIGNING UP:

- Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to participate even if accompanied by an adult.
- Volunteers are expected to read the Volunteer Handbook before arriving for their shift.
- Volunteers are expected to work for the entire shift duration. Please take note of the finishing time.
- Volunteers need to come prepared to wear a face mask at all times on the truck. We can/will provide all of the necessary safety materials if you don't have your own (masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, etc.).
- At the end of the shift, volunteers may take home \$10 worth of free groceries as a thank you for your support!

Accepting Volunteers?

Yes! Take a look at their calendar of events to see if there is a location/shift that works for you!

Address

The location will depend on which location you chose and at what time you choose.

Links

Website: <https://www.aboutfresh.org/>

Calendar of Events: <https://www.aboutfresh.org/fresh-truck/#volunteer>

Daily Table

(Not currently accepting volunteers due to COVID)

Mission Statement

Daily Table is a nonprofit community grocer dedicated to providing fresh, tasty, convenient and nutritious food to communities most in need at prices everyone can afford

We believe that delicious and wholesome food should be available to all. We help communities make great food choices by making it convenient and affordable to choose tasty and fresh meals and groceries. By partnering with a network of growers, manufacturers, and other suppliers, we source high-quality food at low costs and make it available to everyone in our communities at prices designed for even a SNAP budget.

Our stores provide a selection of fresh produce, grocery staples and made-from-scratch prepared foods at prices low enough to fit within every budget. We believe in providing a shopping experience that fosters a sense of agency around your health (you can afford to eat well!), and the dignity of providing a helping hand, not a handout. We believe in creating livable wage jobs, with a strong preference for hiring directly from our neighborhoods.

Volunteer Description

Volunteers are an integral part of the Daily Table family. As we continue to grow, the need for volunteers grows. Volunteers can expect to sort produce, label and package foods, help to cook in the kitchen, stock retail shelves, or reorganize the freezer!

Things to know about Volunteering

We ask that kitchen volunteers work with us for a minimum of 3 hours. All other volunteers are welcome to donate as much time as they would like/are able.

If you previously signed up for a slot to volunteer, we apologize but will not be accepting volunteers at this time. Thank you for your support of Daily Table.

Accepting Volunteers?

Not at this time

Address

Locations



DORCHESTER

450 Washington Street
Dorchester, MA 02124

617-506-0219



ROXBURY

2201 Washington Street
Roxbury, MA 02119

617-516-8174



CENTRAL SQUARE

684 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139

617-945-1924

Links:

Website: <https://dailytable.org/>