



## **Sudbury Community Food Pantry**

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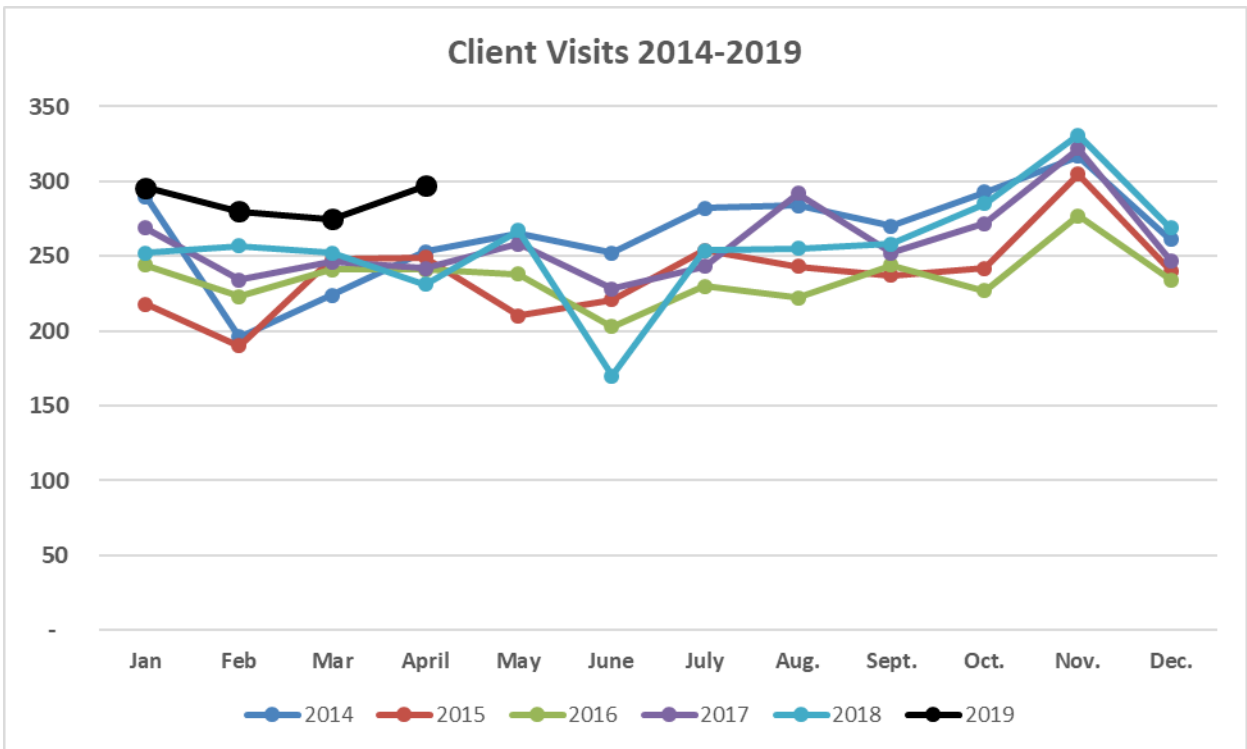
### ***The Sudbury Community Food Pantry 2018 A year in Review***

To our numerous, supporters, donors, and our all-volunteer, staff who made our 2018 programs, successful- THANK YOU. You are our champions and we look forward to working together in 2019 and beyond.

The Sudbury Community Food Pantry celebrated its 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. The 91 volunteers, contributed 6,422 hours, in order, to serve our clients. Their commitment and dedication has enabled us to aid people who are struggling financially by providing them with wholesome food and personal care items that promote healthy living and doing so in a manner that respects their dignity. We have heard on numerous occasions from our clients and our peers in other towns that clients of their pantry have described the Sudbury food pantry as a place with a friendly and welcoming environment.

Some of the tasks performed by our volunteers are: coordinating volunteers, monitoring the pantry answering machine, stocking shelves, picking up from: donation boxes at Sudbury Farms and Shaw's, purchases from The Greater Boston Food Bank, delivering them to the pantry, distributing the food, registering the clients, taking cardboard to the landfill. While others process the food collected in the various food drives and deliveries from the GBFB. Our volunteers have enabled *The Sudbury Community Food Pantry* to become an exceptional organization.

2018 was a year with surprises. With the economy growing day by day and the unemployment numbers low, we expected the amount of people seeking assistance from our pantry would be down. However, we registered 376 new clients in 2018. To our surprise, the demand was flat compared to 2017. (See graph below). The big surprise is that YTD January – April 2019 client visits are up **15.5%**, serving 155 additional families. If this trend continues, in 2019 we will have 3,561 family visits to the pantry. This will be an all-time record. This shows the need for your continued support to meet this increasing need.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
<b>2014</b>	290	196	224	253	265	252	282	284	270	293	317	261	3,187
<b>2015</b>	218	190	248	249	210	221	254	243	237	242	305	240	2,857
<b>2016</b>	244	223	241	241	238	203	230	222	244	227	277	234	2,824
<b>2017</b>	269	234	246	242	258	228	243	292	252	272	322	247	3,105
<b>2018</b>	252	257	252	231	267	170	254	255	258	285	331	269	3,081
<b>2019</b>	296	280	275	297									

Again, this year the GBFB was unable to commit to any quantity of Turkeys for Thanksgiving. Because of this situation, we purchased 600 \$30 food gift cards honored by local supermarkets, which we distributed in November and December. Our clients were delighted since it gave them choices specific to their needs.

## **2018**

Towns served - Families served - Family members - Client visits

59                      911                      2,691                      3,088

**Family Members** -33.4% under 18, and 9.8% over 64. These 43.2% are the most vulnerable to Food Insecurity.

19.8% of clients are from Sudbury. The majority of the rest reside in Metro-West area with 9.9% from Worcester County. We are truly a regional Food Pantry.

We provided 19,096 shopping bags of groceries to our clients. This averages 6.2 shopping bags of food per visit. To make that happen we purchased 158,028 lbs. of food and personal care products from the GBFB with a retail value of \$159,918. Our purchases from the GBFB cost an average of \$.189/Lb. We also purchase food from local stores when items not available from GBFB. In 2018, we spent \$4,921 in supermarkets and purchased \$17,265 in food gift cards.

We distributed 54,545 lbs. of produce and 21,678 lbs. of meat, poultry & seafood.

<u>Source Produce</u>			
GBFB	Gaining Ground Farm	Rescued <sup>(1)</sup>	Local Farmers est.
28,345 lbs.	8,428 lbs.	17,557 lbs.	215 lbs.
<u>Source Meat, Poultry &amp; Seafood</u>			
	GBFB	Rescued <sup>(1)</sup>	
	21,228 lbs.	450 lbs.	

The Sudbury Elementary Schools Collected a record 56,023 items with an estimated retail value of \$98,040 and comprised approximately 31% of the food distributed. This was an all-time record.

This would not have happened if it were not for the commitment of the students; faculty and the volunteer parents who help organize the food drive and transport the collected items to the pantry.

We purchase 59% of what we distribute from the GBFB, with the remaining 11% of the food distributed comes from supermarket purchases, food drives and donation boxes in Sudbury Farms and Shaw's.

In 2016 we entered into a partnership with *Lovin' Spoonfuls*, a nonprofit, to provide us twice a week with rescued <sup>(1)</sup> food from Supermarkets in Milford and Sudbury.

We also collaborated with *Hope and Comfort* another nonprofit who provides us personal care products monthly.

None of the above could have happened if it were not for the many volunteers we have on our team who give generously of their time.

## **2018**

1. We expanded our refrigeration capacity from 18 <sup>CU. FT</sup> to 36 <sup>CU. FT</sup> thus enabling us to increase the amount of dairy products and fresh produce we provide our clients.
2. We increased storage capacity for dry goods by 1,360<sup>cf</sup> with an on-site environmentally controlled storage container. This was possible by a

generous donation from Our Lady of Fatima parish and grants from TJX and Metro West Foundation. The cost of this project was \$25,047

A special thanks to Our Lady of Fatima Parish who has graciously hosted us since our inception in 1990.

The Board of Directors:

Pat Mullen-Executive Director

Deborah Oppenheimer Deputy Director

George Connor-Treasurer

Judy Alpert- Clerk/Secretary

Lily Gordon

Mary Wing

Diane Melanson

Stuart Hoover

- (1) Food rescue involves taking excess food that is not sellable but is still usable and distributing it to those who need it. This is food, which would otherwise be discarded; it is not spoiled, rotten or out of code. The food may not look perfect but is still nutritious and delicious.