



Build the **Heart** of Our Community

We rescue fresh food to nourish our community.
Your support will help us build the Food Link Hub
and dramatically increase our impact.



“When we started collecting bread a few nights a week in our minivans, we could not have imagined the Food Link of 2020.”

Julie Kremer and DeAnne Dupont





Dear Friends,

So much has changed in only eight years. Back in 2012, when we started collecting bread a few nights a week in our minivans, we could not have imagined the Food Link of 2020.

This year, we are embarking on a capital project to transform our new Arlington location into the Food Link Hub. The Hub will enable us to accommodate new food

donors, recipients, and volunteers, and to grow dramatically over the next five years. But the Hub will be more than a food-in/food-out operations center, it will be the heart of our community.

Volunteers have powered Food Link since the beginning. In the Hub, we will finally have an accessible, efficient, and comfortable space for volunteers to collect, sort, and distribute fresh, nutritious food. We will also have the space we have long desired to jump-start education initiatives about food waste, environmental sustainability, and nutrition.

We can only realize our vision for the Food Link Hub with your support. We have launched a \$3.25 million Capital Campaign to renovate the building. As 2020 begins, we are 40% of the way toward this goal. Please read our Case for Support to learn more about the Hub, its energy efficiency, and how it will grow our efforts to address food insecurity, combat food waste, and build community in eastern Massachusetts.

We hope that you will consider a donation. Your gift will make a critical difference in the health and well-being of your neighbors.

With gratitude,

Julie Kremer and DeAnne Dupont

Link
Enrich Our Community
LinkMA.org
819-4225





Our Next Step

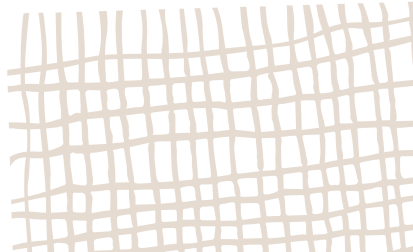
Food Link aspires to have a food system without waste, in which everyone has enough. We rescue surplus fresh food that would otherwise be wasted and deliver it to community organizations serving people in need.

We have surpassed the limits of our current facilities and need to expand to meet the growing demand for our services.

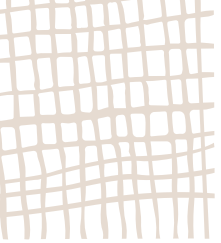


We are now creating the Food Link Hub that will serve as the heart of our community.

An environmentally-sustainable and accessible building will enable our staff and 250+ volunteers to efficiently and effectively accomplish our mission. Expanded facilities with increased storage and refrigeration will enable us to grow dramatically in the next five years.







Our Story

Julie Kremer and DeAnne Dupont started Food Link in 2012, when they began rescuing unsold fresh food. Confronted with the reality of fresh, nutritious food going to waste, they recognized the synergy of delivering food to community organizations that feed those in need.

Over the past 8 years, Food Link has linked millions of pounds of food, which would have otherwise been wasted, with people in the community.



In 2019, we collected and distributed over

600,000 pounds of food,

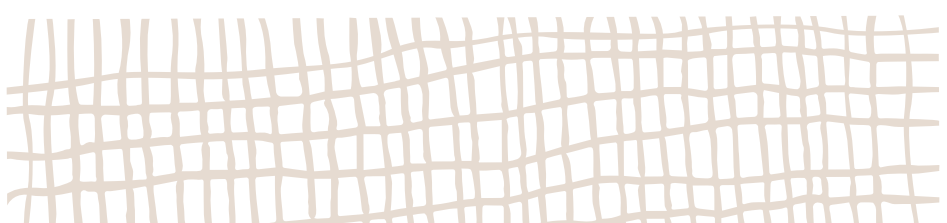
which is the equivalent of

500,000 meals.

In its existence, Food Link has diverted a cumulative total of

3 million pounds of food

from the waste stream.





“We have a client who has a child with a dairy allergy. They were not able to afford non-dairy milk, and were extremely excited that we had non-dairy milk to give her.”

Abby Li Ward | NFI Family Resource Center of Greater Lowell



Our Model

We collect nutritious food from grocery stores, wholesalers, and farms, and deliver it to community organizations serving people in need. But Food Link is so much more than just a food transportation system.

We take pride in nourishing the bodies of the hungry and the spirit of the community by bringing food to the places where people already live, learn, and play. We work to tailor the size, timing, and make-up of our deliveries to meet the needs of our partner organizations and those they serve, 7 days a week, 363 days a year.

This has cemented Food Link's strong reputation among community partners and donors as a nimble, flexible, and dependable organization. In being so, we deliver food with dignity, promote human connection, and build community.



25+

grocers, wholesalers, and farmers
who provide fresh food



50+

community organizations who
feed the food insecure



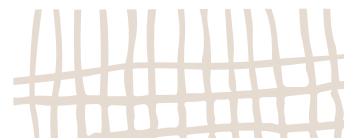
250+

volunteers serving their neighbors



5

staff members



Our Community



Serving 20 communities in eastern Massachusetts

Arlington	Billerica	Everett	Malden	Waltham
Attleboro	Boston	Lawrence	Medford	Watertown
Bedford	Burlington	Lexington	Somerville	Winchester
Belmont	Cambridge	Lowell	Wakefield	Woburn



Collecting fresh food from 25+ grocers, wholesalers, and farmers such as:

Trader Joe's	Costco	Wicked Bagels	Walden Local Meats
Stop & Shop	Russo's	Panera Bread	Wakefield Public Schools
La Patisserie	Wegmans	Whole Foods Market	Community Farms



Partnering with 50+ community organizations serving people where they live, learn, and play including:

Arlington Boys & Girls Club

Casa Nueva Vida

Joseph M. Tierney Learning Center

Bedford Senior Center

House of Hope

Lowell Transitional Living Center

Belmont Food Pantry

Housing Families, Inc.

Medford Veterans Services

Bunker Hill Community College

Project Soup

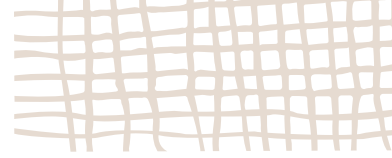
Jewish Family & Children Services



“Food Link’s donations have been an integral part of our being able to serve homeless and low-income families consistently.”

Khalilah Imani Tyre | Housing Families



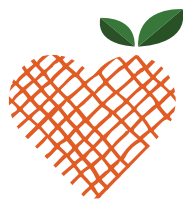


Our Challenge

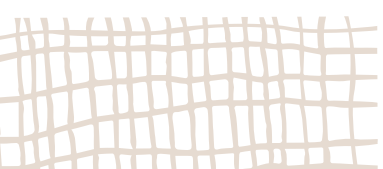
Routinely, we turn away food donors and community organizations because we don't have capacity, knowing that food is being wasted, people are hungry, and community members are missing out on rewarding opportunities.

In 2018, Food Link took a giant step toward addressing this challenge by purchasing its own building, which is located at 108 Summer Street in Arlington. This building, once renovated, will give us the ability to say 'yes' to those organizations seeking to partner with us, and enable us to increase our impact.

Our operations staff is ready to act on lists of shelters, senior centers, and youth programs who need food; grocery stores, farm shares, and trucking companies that have food to donate; and service organizations seeking volunteer opportunities in an accessible building.



We have surpassed the limits of our facilities and need to expand to meet the demand for our services.





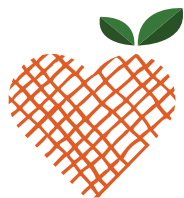


Our Plan

We are creating the Food Link Hub, which will open in 2020 and will serve as the heart of our community.

We will strategically grow Food Link's operations, and by 2025, we anticipate Food Link will:

- divert 2 million pounds of food annually from the waste stream
- deliver enough food to our community for 1.6 million meals annually
- tailor deliveries to meet the dietary, cultural, and scheduling needs of our partners



Food Link is now engaged in a \$3.25 million Capital Campaign to create the Food Link Hub



The Food Link Hub will work for the community...

The Hub will dramatically increase Food Link's capacity to rescue and redistribute food, streamline our operations, and meet the needs of recipients by providing:



A loading dock that accommodates large vehicles with pallets of surplus food



Expanded cold storage allowing for just-in-time food deliveries that meet recipient needs



Indoor food sorting space for volunteers, away from inclement weather



An accessible building to welcome a wider range of volunteer groups and visitors



A community space for education sessions on food waste, environmental sustainability, and nutrition



...and the environment.

The Hub is designed to be a High-Performance Building and minimize Food Link's impact on the environment. This is achieved by integrating:



Solar panels that are projected to offset the energy use of the refrigeration



Air Source VRF Heat Pump for climate control



High R-value insulation and windows to reduce energy consumption and operating costs



Repurposed and discontinued building materials and supplies



Our Future

The need to nourish our community continues to grow. Cuts to food-relief services across the nation make news regularly. Despite food abundance, people still go hungry. Research shows that 1 out of 9 Americans struggles with hunger and 40% of food is wasted; left in the fields, on the supermarket shelves, or on our plates. Meanwhile, food waste strains our planet.

Together we can make change locally. Your gift will make a critical difference in the health and well-being of your neighbors.

The Food Link Hub will dramatically increase our impact in our community. With your support, we will collect more surplus food, matching it with more of your neighbors and keeping more food out of the waste stream.

Will you consider a gift to make the Food Link Hub a reality?



Help us build the heart of our community.



“I am proud to support such an impactful and thoughtful organization. Food Link improves our community through their commitment to sustainability and combatting waste, while simultaneously encouraging connection.”

- \$100,000 donor to the Capital Campaign, Arlington MA



Our Mission

Food Link is a community organization that rescues fresh food, alleviates hunger, and contributes to environmental sustainability.

To learn more about Food Link and our capital project to build the heart of the community, please visit www.foodlinkma.org.

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