

The logo for Food Link, featuring the words "Food" and "Link" stacked vertically in a white, sans-serif font. A small green leaf icon is positioned above the letter 'o' in "Food". The logo is set against a solid orange rectangular background.

Food  
Link

The text "Annual Report" is centered in a white, serif font. The "2020" is rendered in a large, white, outlined font, with the numbers overlapping the "Report" text. The background is a close-up photograph of various fresh produce, including a yellow squash, a head of green broccoli, a green bell pepper, and an orange, all set against a dark background.

Annual  
Report

2020

# Mission

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

# Vision

Food Link's vision is a food system without waste, in which everyone has enough.



**Food Link plays a critical role at the center of the food rescue system.** Our volunteers rescue fresh food from distributors, such as grocery stores and farms, and reallocate these resources to community organizations across eastern Massachusetts who help those who are food insecure.

Food Link couples its dedication to alleviating food insecurity with its commitment to the environment. By rescuing fresh and nutritious food, Food Link keeps fresh food out of the waste system—a cornerstone of protecting our planet.

# A Message From the Executive Director

Food Link's 2020 fiscal year ran from April 2019-March 2020. In any other year, those dates would be unremarkable. This year, however, March became the dividing line between the "normal world" and a world thrown into confusion by the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown. As we prepared this report, it felt like the stories and data we were sharing represented a lifetime ago. This report highlights only Fiscal Year 2020, a year of tremendous growth for Food Link; growth made possible by your generous donations. It does not reflect the months of uncertainty and food insecurity since March. That is a story for another year and another publication.

## **In Fiscal Year 2020, Food Link expanded and planned for its future.**

Thanks to you, we increased every facet of our programs—the amount of good food kept out of the waste stream; the number of organizational partners distributing rescued food; the number of individuals and families receiving food we distributed; and the number of volunteers giving their time to help their neighbors. Your donations made this growth happen. Thank you.

Ensuring that Food Link has a permanent home was also a top priority last year. As we hope you've heard, we are opening the Food Link Hub in the near future. The Hub, owned and operated by Food Link,

will feature expanded refrigeration and storage, a loading dock, and a sorting area for volunteers. We are ecstatic and we are grateful to you. The creation of the Hub is again only possible because of your generosity to our ongoing Capital Campaign. We are so eager to show you what your support has built.

We remain passionate about our mission to be the bridge between those who have surplus fresh, nutritious food and those who need it in eastern Massachusetts. The COVID-19 outbreak and continued environmental challenges have increased the need for our services substantially. Please know that we couldn't meet this increased need without you.

**Your support allows us to believe that one day eastern Massachusetts will have a food system without waste, in which everyone has enough.**

Thank you!  
DeAnne Dupont



Food Link founders  
DeAnne Dupont and  
Julie Kremer



## **Board of Directors**

- Nora Mann, Chair
- Ivan Basch, Secretary
- Howard Benjamin, Assistant Treasurer
- Judi Bohn
- DeAnne Dupont, President
- Julie Kremer, Vice-President
- Annie LaCourt
- Heidi Logan
- Geoffrey Myrus, Treasurer
- Darryl Caffee, Assistant Secretary & Compliance Officer
- Shoba Reginald

## **Staff**

- DeAnne Dupont, Executive Director
- Julie Kremer, Director of Strategic Initiatives
- Alex Kramer, Logistics Coordinator
- Emma Lowenstein, Operations Associate
- Kathleen Mulvaney, Development & Communications Manager
- Jodie Smith, Administrative & Development Coordinator
- Elise Springuel, Operations Manager
- Bridget Wright, Program Assistant

# Our Impact

APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020



**1,800  
pounds**

of food rescued daily

**644,000  
pounds**

of food rescued in Fiscal  
Year 2020



**250+  
volunteers**

age 11 - 91

**10,000  
volunteer**

hours to sort and  
distribute food



**47  
community**

organizations received food

**20,000  
people**

received fresh  
nutritious food

**150 non-profit  
organizations**

received free desserts for events,  
saving their limited funds for their  
own programming

# Program Accomplishments

## SUMMERTIME AT THE ARLINGTON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

**After schools close for the day or on school breaks, many children are left without enough food to eat, grow, and thrive.**

In Arlington, the Boys & Girls Club bridges this gap for many families by providing nutritious food for after-school and camp kids all year long. As Executive Director Derek Curran explained, "Each day, over 400 kids walk through our doors and many of them are hungry when they arrive."

The Boys & Girls Club does more than just hand out food to kids – it also uses the food to teach them about healthy eating and how to prepare food. Campers and teen summer staffers in 2019 shared their experiences preparing and eating food provided by Food Link.

“

**“I like eating the fruits. My family can only buy them sometimes.”**

**“I love coming to the Club in the summer because I know I will get breakfast and lunch on the weekdays.”**

**“I only get to eat salads at the Club because the nice people bring them.”**

**“I get to try so many new foods.”**

**“The kitchen is my favorite place to work during the summer. Making high-quality food and lunches for the Club kids makes my day. I love when they smile as they are sitting there talking to their friends and enjoying the food that they got to pick to eat.”**

## WALNUT STREET CENTER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

**We like to say that Food Link is powered by volunteers. Over 250 regular volunteers, aged 11-91, use their enthusiasm, passion, and skills to fulfill our mission.** A dedicated group of regular volunteers in 2019 came from Walnut Street Center, an organization in Medford that supports adults with intellectual disabilities. Every week participants in their Community Based Day Program came to Food Link to sort food, stock shelves, and do general upkeep inside and out. When we open the Food Link Hub, Food Link will be able to host even more groups to assist in our work.



### During 2019, participants shared what they learned volunteering at Food Link

- Ildevert gained cleaning skills he will use when looking for a paid cleaning job
- Talia gained confidence in greeting others and making eye contact
- Su perfected taking the garbage out
- Eric learned to be thorough in cleaning
- Doug improved picking up trash and paying closer attention to his surroundings

**“Our participants are grateful for the experiences and opportunities that the partnership with Food Link has provided.**

The skills gained over the years have given participants lifelong tools that can be used in future volunteer, employment, and life ventures.”

– Sara O’Brien, Director of Day Services at Walnut Street Center



## WINCHESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY PARTNERED WITH FOOD LINK IN 2019

In 2019, the Winchester Housing Authority (WHA), which manages properties for low-income families, elderly, and the disabled, became a Food Link community partner. Every community, even affluent communities like Winchester, have residents who benefit from receiving nutritious, fresh food at no cost. Jack Hurd, the Executive Director of WHA, reflected, “The Food Link partnership with Winchester Housing Authority this past year has been an overwhelming success! The program enables residents each week to receive many excellent food products and creates important savings on their monthly living expenses.” Residents are grateful for the food donations and assist in bagging bread for distribution to other residents. “The Food Link visit each week has been terrific!” shared Muriel, Winchester resident.

## FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS

**“I treasure my Food Link Tuesdays with the Whole Foods crew.**

Thank you all for organizing the most rewarding volunteer gig around. I love it.”

– Roblyn

**“We take the time to get to know our recipients and send them food that is culturally and age appropriate.**

I love being able to direct the spicy peppers to our Dominican communities, the Caribbean vegetables to a Haitian congregation, and the baby formula to a shelter with young families. We try to use the food we deliver to let recipients know that someone cares about them and wants to make their lives better.”

– Nancy

# Donors & Recipients

## Food Donors

- Brite Harvest Farm - Lexington
- Costco - Waltham
- Great Harvest Bread - Lexington
- JFCS Family Table - Waltham
- La Patisserie - Winchester
- Lexington Community Farm
- Magic Bites - Arlington
- Neighborhood Produce - Somerville
- Panera - Burlington / Lexington
- Plough & Stars Project - Medford
- Red Fire Farm - Watertown
- Russo's - Waltham
- Stop & Shop - Arlington
- Trader Joe's - Arlington / Burlington / Fresh Pond
- Wakefield Public Schools
- Walden Local Meats - Billerica

- Wegmans - Medford
- Whole Foods Market - Arlington / Fresh Pond / Medford
- Wicked Bagel - Lexington

## Food Recipients

- American Legion Post 39 - Arlington
- Arlington Boys & Girls Club
- Arlington EATS / Thompson School Snack Program
- Arlington EATS Market
- Arlington Housing Authority Residences (Chestnut, Cusack, Drake Village, Menotomy Manor)
- Arlington Senior Center
- Bedford Senior Center

- Belmont Food Pantry
- Belmont Senior Center
- Bunker Hill Community College - Charlestown
- Caritas Communities - Arlington
- Casa Nueva Vida - Lawrence
- CFCS / Teens Learning Choices - Malden
- Chesterbrook Community Foundation - Waltham
- Daybreak Shelter - Lawrence
- Douglas House - Lexington
- Eliot Community Health Services, YAVP - Arlington
- Emmanuel Evangelical Church - Everett
- Fidelity House - Arlington
- Holy Family Coptic Church - Attleboro
- House of Hope - Lowell
- Housing Families, Inc. - Medford
- JFCS Family Table Marketplace - Waltham
- Joseph M. Tierney Learning Center - Boston
- Lazarus House - Lawrence
- LEX Eat Together - Lexington

- Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry
- Lowell Transitional Living Center
- Massachusetts Bay Veterans Center - Somerville
- Material Aid & Advocacy - Cambridge
- Medford Community Cupboard
- Medford Family Life
- Medford Senior Center
- Medford Veterans Services
- Medford VFW Post 1012
- Medford Housing Authority (Walkling Court)
- Neighbors Eating All Together (NEAT) - Arlington
- NFI Family Resource Center - Lowell
- Project Soup - Somerville
- Stan Kaszanek House - Malden
- Twelve Step Education Program of New England - Billerica
- Washington Street Residence - Malden
- Wayside Youth & Family Support - STEPS Young Adult Resource Center - Arlington
- Winchester Housing Authority Residences



**Without Food Link, nearly one million pounds of fresh food would be wasted each year, negatively impacting our environment instead of feeding people in need.**

# Thank You to Our Supporters



Food Link is a community of caring neighbors banding together to create a more equitable food system where little is wasted and our neighbors are fed. We are only able to fulfill our mission because of thousands of people who freely give their time, energy, strength, and financial support to make eastern Massachusetts a better place to live.

**We are blessed with so many amazing volunteers, supporters, and donors. Please know that Food Link succeeds because of individuals like you. Thank you!**

## Corporate and Foundation Donors

### PROGRAMS

- Beaumont Financial Partners
- Carl Forstmann Memorial Foundation
- Community Endowment of Lexington
- Cummings Foundation
- Cummings Properties
- Foundation for MetroWest
- George Lucas Charitable Fund of Calvary Church
- John Mirak Foundation
- Kohl's Cares
- Leader Bank Charitable Foundation Corporation
- Mifflin Memorial Fund
- New England Patriots Foundation
- People's United Community Foundation
- PLUS Foundation
- Project Bread
- Roy A. Hunt Foundation, Next Generation Fund
- Russell Colgate Fund
- Shippy Foundation
- The Ludcke Foundation
- The Philanthropy Connection
- Watertown Savings Bank

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- Town of Arlington, Community Development Block Grant
- Agnes M. Lindsay Charitable Trust
- Cabot Family Charitable Trust
- Dana Home Foundation
- First Church in Cambridge
- Greater Boston Food Bank
- Mifflin Memorial Fund
- Ronald G. Casty Family Foundation
- Symmes Medical Use Non-Profit Corporation
- The Davenport-Hatch Foundation
- The Ludcke Foundation
- The Pittsburgh Foundation



# Statement of Activities

FOR THE YEAR END MARCH 31, 2020

## OPERATING REVENUES AND SUPPORT

Contributions and grants	\$ 484,503
In-kind revenues	1,221,229
Special events, program and other income	25,102

**Total operating revenues and support** **\$ 1,730,834**

## PROGRAM AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Program services	\$ 1,329,649
Management and general	162,874
Fundraising	197,541
Other supporting activities	39,165

**Total program and support services** **\$ 1,729,229**  
Change in net assets from operations 1,605

## NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES

**Capital Campaign contributions** **\$ 449,994**  
**Change in net assets** **451,599**

**Net assets, beginning of year** **822,879**  
**Net assets, end of year** **\$ 1,274,478**

# Statement of Financial Position

AS OF MARCH 31, 2020



## ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 422,965
Grants and other receivables	145,740
Property and equipment net of accumulated depreciation	1,661,251
Other assets	16,552

**Total assets** **\$ 2,246,508**

## LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 163,115
Debt, net of unamortized debt issuance costs	808,915

**Total liabilities** **\$ 972,030**

## NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions	\$ 643,416
With donor restrictions	631,062

**Total net assets** **1,274,478**

**Total liabilities and net assets** **\$ 2,246,508**



# A Community Supporting Each Other

In 2020, COVID-19 turned the world upside down. The climate crisis wreaked havoc on the planet. Food insecurity doubled almost overnight. Food Link's relevance came into focus as never before. We have the power to make change and support each other.



# Ways to Contribute



## **DONATE ONLINE**

Visit us at [foodlinkma.org](https://foodlinkma.org) to make a credit card donation online. It's fast, easy, and secure.



## **DONATE ONLINE WITH DONOR ADVISED FUNDS**

If you have a Fidelity, Schwab, or BNY Mellon Donor Advised Fund, you can make your gift online by going to: [foodlinkma.org/donate](https://foodlinkma.org/donate). If your DAF is with another foundation, contact them directly and provide our EIN.

**EIN 47-1840355**



## **DONATE BY MAIL**

Mail your check to Food Link, 17 Brattle Street #17, Arlington, MA 02476



## **PLANNED GIVING**

Name Food Link in your will or insurance policy to ensure that we continue to bridge the gap between those with surplus, nutritious food and those who are food insecure.



Join Our  
Community

..... **Bridging the gap** .....

between distributors with  
fresh surplus food and  
community organizations  
serving those in need



Food Link

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