

Open Table

Caring for Families & Creating Community



2011

Open Table offers weekly community supper programs and pantries in Concord and Maynard to more than 225 guests, including many children – no questions asked.

Our Mission

Founded in 1989, Open Table's mission is to address hunger and social isolation in our area, while respecting the privacy and dignity of our guests in a welcoming community of support.

FROM A GUEST TO OPEN TABLE'S DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS:

"Hold on to the magic that you share each week. Thank you so much for picking up my spirits so often throughout the year."

Maynard on the move!

In early December, our Maynard community supper program moved into a wonderful **new location at the Clock Tower building in Maynard.**

As a result of the significant growth in the Maynard program over the last three years, we needed to move to a larger and better equipped facility. Our new location meets our combined needs of convenience for our guests, adequate kitchen facilities and a larger dining space.

Most importantly, we now have the space and the required refrigeration to offer a weekly pantry program that includes fresh produce, eggs, cheese and milk, similar to the program provided in Concord each week. In our ongoing effort to reduce our environmental footprint, we now have access to dishwashers that allowed us to discontinue the use of paper and plastic dinner setups and move to reusable plates and utensils.

The Maynard community supper program has hit its stride with a strong and collaborative management team, including several new volunteers. The energy of the Maynard team is palpable. Key positions including site team leader, kitchen manager, dinner manager, guest liaison and volunteer coordinator have been filled with highly talented and committed volunteers. As the Maynard effort evolves into a more comprehensive program, volunteer opportunities exist. To become involved and learn more, visit www.opentable.org.



Open Table is going GREEN!

Our monthly **e-blast** lets you know what's going on! It's short and to the point. Receive a monthly snapshot of our activities and upcoming events.

Stay in touch by signing up at www.opentable.org.



Concord & Maynard
OPEN TABLE

www.opentable.org

The Chairman and President's Message

Dear Open Table Supporters and Friends,

Imagine our reaction when Open Table was recognized as a model hunger program by Project Bread at their recent October grant awards ceremony! While we take pride in our achievements, we focus our attention on continuing to make changes and improvements in response to changes within our community. Here is what we are focused on this year:

- **Healthy and nutritious food.** Our objective remains unchanged: to consistently provide meals that are healthy, nourishing and appealing. We serve balanced meals using fresh produce, and we provide fresh vegetables and fruits in our pantries each week of the year. Providing fresh produce throughout the year is costly but important to us and our guests, many of whom have specialized health-related needs and dietary restrictions.
- **Guest Discretionary Support.** We know our guests as individuals with differing needs and we are sensitive to times when unforeseen circumstances cause our guests to require special assistance.

We work to address these needs by either identifying outside resources or providing direct help as necessary. We do this while respecting the privacy and dignity of our guests. Harriet Kaufman, President Emerita, heads our guest support program.

- **Increasing Guest Population.** Open Table is now serving over 225 people each week and we see an increasing number of families (and children) coming into our community supper locations each month. Further, we see increasing personal need within our guest population as the weak economy continues to impact the less fortunate more severely than the rest of us. While we welcome and help our guests, we recognize that their needs are creating pressures on our program that we have not experienced in the past.

We are in the midst of implementing substantial changes to accommodate our expanded guest population as we deal with space limitations and overcrowding at our locations.

We need your support – now more than ever. We are committed to all we have described above but need your continued financial support. Your contribution will help us provide the increased number of meals, groceries and fresh produce that our guests have come to rely on, assist those with unexpected circumstances, and support our new facility and growth in Maynard. Because of you, Open Table is able to provide healthy food in a safe and comforting environment to all who come. As always, we thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Robert Rodriguez, Chairman

Peter Hilton, President



Robert Rodriguez (l) and Peter Hilton (r).

Board of Directors

Robert A. Rodriguez
Chairman

Peter D. Hilton
President

Harriet G. Kaufman
President Emerita

James B. Terry
Treasurer

Megan H. Christopher
Clerk

William W. Barnes

Linda L. Escobedo

Jim Di Giovanni

Douglas Meagher

Joseph W. Mullin

Claudia Nimar

Sandra L. Tilley

Lyn Zurbrigg

Operations

Ray Andrews

Barbara Blankenship

Susan J. Evans

Lynneath Floyd

Amy Gordon

Marilyn Hughes

Susanne Jarnryd

Jane Lifton

Troy B. Liston

Dottie MacKeen

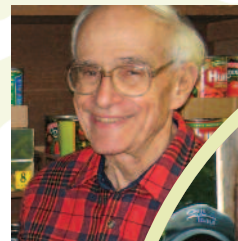
Pat Alexander
Oliphant

Lisa Anne Richards

Martha Shugrue

Kathryn S. Ticknor

Julie Williams



"We all watch the news and hear about the economic woes facing many families. Add major life changes into the mix and you may easily end up with a family in transition, utilizing resources it never thought it would have to. Thanks to Open Table, families like mine are blessed to receive help in many forms." OPEN TABLE GUEST

Community Businesses & Organizations – We thank you!

Hundreds of generous businesses, organizations and donors make personal contributions of time, money and food throughout the year to ensure that there is “always a place at the table” for all

Open Table guests. The Board of Directors want to acknowledge the generous support given to Open Table by local and regional businesses, and community, faith and school groups. For a list of our community supporters, go to www.opentable.org/contributors.

Local farms donate a significant amount of fresh produce during the growing season – an enormous benefit to our guests.

Community food drives provide much needed staples throughout the remainder of the year.



“When I came to Open Table, oh my, I was surprised! We noticed a lot of vegetables, a table full of vegetables, and you choose whatever you want. With all the groceries, milk, eggs, etc. we receive, we are no longer worried what our next meal will be. That’s why I’m so happy with Open Table – the kind of food they give us, it’s the kind of food I want, healthy food for my children.”

Caring for Guests & Building Community

The Guest Support Program

The guest support program at Open Table is fundamental to our belief in community.

Our guests experience unforeseen challenges, both large and small, that can become overwhelming. Many of our guests do not have access to additional funds, advocacy or support. We use a network of community human service agencies, social workers and faith communities with whom Open Table has built strong relationships, and our discretionary fund to help our guests overcome these challenges.

In many of these situations, our guests know how to help each other.

They make a personal connection, share knowledge about resources, and make recommendations based on their own experience. They provide emotional support to one another as well. Frequently our guests drive those who would otherwise be unable to come to a supper location. They also deliver groceries, offer prayers, and provide temporary shelter.

This year a number of our guests have lost their housing. Open Table volunteers, as well as community resources, joined together to help – identifying and sometimes paying for temporary housing, providing food, legal advice, and assistance in finding new housing opportunities. Volunteers borrowed trucks and vans and assisted our guest families with moving. Other guests experienced sudden or prolonged illness, unemployment, or unexpected car or home repair expenses. We use the guest discretionary fund to provide assistance when other sources are not available or timely. **In all that we do, we work to respect the privacy and dignity of our guests.**



This past Mother’s Day, guests at Open Table enjoyed the gift of a beautiful basket created and donated by another guest that included bath and beauty products!

How Can YOU Help Now?

- Give generously to the Annual Appeal.
Every matching company gift really counts.
- Request donations to Open Table “in lieu of gifts” for any special occasion.
- Donate to the pantry or organize a food drive.
- Volunteer.
- Donate online at www.opentable.org

Become an
**OPEN TABLE
SUPPORTER!**



Make a difference!

Sign up for Open Table's e-blast
and be informed.

www.opentable.org

“Without a place like Open Table, many of us might be spending our week alone.” OPEN TABLE GUEST



CELEBRATING Open Table's Volunteers

We are 200+ active volunteers, committing over 10,000 hours of time, talent, energy and enthusiasm each year. Our volunteers include cooks, pantry workers, food bank drivers, drivers delivering meals and providing guest transport, special event volunteers and many others from throughout our entire community. To learn more about volunteer opportunities go to www.opentable.org/volunteer.



Do You Know?

- We are an all-volunteer organization.
- We serve all who come.
- Our guests are served healthy dinners twice a week.
- Nourishing food is purchased for each prepared meal.
- Fresh produce and dairy, in addition to staples, are sent home with guests weekly.
- “Kids’ Bags” containing healthy snack and child-friendly foods go to families each week.
- School supplies, shoe vouchers and holiday gifts are given to all our school-aged guests.
- We provide discreet assistance to guests who need special help.



In May, volunteers came together to watch the movie “Ratatouille” and enjoy each other’s company. The movie’s theme “anyone can cook” reflects our philosophy at Open Table that “anyone can volunteer”!

Concord:

978.369.2275

P.O. Box 42, Concord, MA 01742

Maynard:

978.823.0082

P.O. Box 404, Maynard, MA 01754



Some Statistics

- We serve 225+ guests each week.
- 10,700 meals are served annually.
- 12,600 bags of pantry groceries are distributed annually.
- 200+ volunteers commit 10,000 hours of volunteer time.
- 94% of expenditures are for food and related guest needs.