



The Open Door  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021**

## **The Open Door Announces 2021 Thanksgiving Food Drive**

GLOUCESTER – As the community looks forward to the holiday season, The Open Door is pleased to announce its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive this Saturday, a day where neighbors can help their neighbors in need.

### **WHEN:**

Saturday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### **WHERE:**

- Market Basket 101 Gloucester Crossing Road, Gloucester MA
- Stop & Shop 6 Thatcher Road, Gloucester MA
- Shaw's 127 Eastern Ave., Gloucester MA
- Crosby's Marketplace 3 Summer St., Manchester-by-the-Sea MA
- Shaw's 146 High St., Ipswich MA
- Market Basket 231 Newburyport Turnpike, Rowley MA

### **WHAT:**

Each year, The Open Door organizes a community-wide Thanksgiving Food Drive event to encourage donations of key food items so that local people and families go hunger-free this holiday season – and beyond. During this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive, The Open Door staff, volunteers, and partner organizations will be accepting donations at six participating grocery stores throughout the nonprofit's service area.

**This year, The Open Door is specifically asking for cereal donations. Cereal is consistently an item in high demand for The Open Door.**

“Your donation puts food in the hands of people right here in our community facing hunger,” President and CEO Julie LaFontaine said. “As we all prepare to celebrate and gather with loved ones, please consider making a donation so that everyone can have hunger-free holidays this year.”

Those that cannot donate during the Thanksgiving Food Drive can donate during business hours at The Open Door at 28 Emerson Ave., Gloucester MA. Monetary donations can also be made online at [FOODPANTRY.org/donate](https://FOODPANTRY.org/donate).

Local organizations joining The Open Door for its Thanksgiving Food Drive include the Gloucester Police Department, We Are All in This Together and Pingree School students and staff, who will be at Market Basket in Gloucester; Ipswich YMCA, who will be at Market Basket in Rowley; and Manchester-Essex Rotary Club, who will be at Crosby’s Marketplace in Manchester-by-the-Sea.

### **About The Open Door**

The mission of The Open Door is to alleviate the impact of hunger in our community. We use practical strategies to connect people to good food, to advocate on behalf of those in need, and to engage others in the work of building food security.

Founded in 1978, The Open Door is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit and community food resource center for low-income residents of Gloucester, Rockport, Manchester, Essex, Ipswich, Hamilton, Boxford, Rowley, Topsfield, and Wenham. In 2020, The Open Door helped stabilize the lives and health of 9,681 unduplicated people from 4,703 households through the distribution of 2.46 million pounds of food, amounting to 2.05 million meals. Requests for food assistance during this pandemic year were up 27 percent.

For more information, visit [FOODPANTRY.org](https://FOODPANTRY.org).

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