



The Open Door
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Stamp Out Hunger Drive by NALC Branch 25 Nets Approximately 15,300 Pounds of Food for The Open Door



Gloucester letter carrier Louie Tzioumas, left, and Gloucester letter carrier Eric Brown unload food donations at The Open Door during Saturday's food drive. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)

CAPE ANN— Letter carriers from Gloucester, Ipswich, Manchester-by-the-Sea, and Rockport collected approximately 15,300 pounds of food donations for The Open Door during Saturday’s Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Stamp Out Hunger is a nationwide initiative spearheaded by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), and Saturday marked the 30th annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. NALC Branch 25 oversaw local participation in the event on Cape Ann and in Ipswich.

“Stamp Out Hunger is an event steeped in the spirit of community. The day starts with people leaving bagged food donations by their mailboxes, our local letter carriers go above and beyond collecting and delivering those donations, and volunteers help along the way,” President and CEO Julie LaFontaine said. “At the end of the day, our shelves are stocked with food people need, and our inventory is bolstered for weeks to come. It’s all about neighbors helping neighbors.”

Through the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, residents of Gloucester, Ipswich, Manchester-by-the-Sea, and Rockport had the opportunity to make food donations by leaving bagged donations by their mailboxes Saturday morning. The Open Door requested most needed items from residents including coffee, condiments, cooking oil, peanut butter, and tuna.

“It’s a perfect fit, leaving food by a mailbox. Letter carriers go to every single mailbox every single day. It’s a simple thing to do,” said Bruce Johnson, of Essex, a retired Gloucester letter carrier who continues to organize NALC Branch 25’s annual food drive. “I know I feel so much gratitude helping someone that just deserves a helping hand.”

State Sen. Bruce Tarr, Rep. Ann Margaret Ferrante, and Gloucester Mayor Greg Verga also attended the event at The Open Door on Saturday thanking the letter carriers and volunteers for their dedicated service to the community.

Approximately 45 volunteers of The Open Door supported letter carriers Saturday morning as donations were collected, delivered, and unloaded, including members of Gloucester’s Mass Mudders club. At The Open Door’s campus at 28 Emerson Ave. in Gloucester, volunteers also helped sort donations to be added to the nonprofit’s inventory for clients. By the end of the day, food had been stocked directly onto shelves to be distributed in groceries starting Monday morning.

Saturday’s event was the first in-person Stamp Out Hunger Food drive since the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

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 2021, The Open Door helped stabilize the lives and health of 8,516 people from 4,176 households through the distribution of 1.83 million pounds of food.**

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

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DJ Taylor, age 3, of Gloucester, helps unload food during Saturday's Stamp Out Hunger food drive. Taylor and his father, Mass Mudders volunteer Darren Taylor, picked up and delivered food donations throughout the day Saturday. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)



Mail trucks line up to drop off food donations at The Open Door during NALC Branch 25's Stamp Out Hunger food drive on Saturday. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)



Volunteers Maureen Terrill, of Manchester-by-the-Sea, on left, and Jane Troller, of Ipswich, sort food donations at The Open Door. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)



The Open Door President and CEO Julie LaFontaine, left, and Gloucester Mayor Greg Verga. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)



From left: The Open Door President and CEO Julie LaFontaine, State Sen. Bruce Tarr, DJ Taylor, age 3, of Gloucester, and Mass Mudders volunteer Darren Taylor, of Gloucester. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)



Rep. Ann Margaret Ferrante, left, chats with volunteer Aria McElhenny, of Gloucester, during Saturday's Stamp Out Hunger food drive. (Photo Courtesy of The Open Door)