



Dear Salem Pantry Supporter,

For thirty years, The Salem Pantry has worked to address hunger and food insecurity in the Salem community. Having grown from an entirely volunteer-run organization to one that (*as of last week*) now employs two full-time staff, The Salem Pantry has always pushed the limits of its capacity to mobilize and support members of our community in need of food.

In recent weeks, as many community members face the loss of work, concern over where they might acquire food for their children, and an overall sense of economic upheaval and anxiety, we have seen a substantial rise in the need for food access since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Salem Pantry is quickly and strategically expanding services to meet this need in the following ways:

Bolstering our Mobile Market program: Our 2 Mobile Markets, Espacio and Salem State, have seen a significant increase in both pounds distributed and clients served. For many clients, this is the first time that they are accessing our services. At this week's Mobile Markets, we provided a combined 11,600 lbs to 290 households (*98 of whom were first-time attendees*).

School Grocery Assistance: When Salem Public Schools closed, we partnered with the district to develop a new, emergency distribution model to provide groceries for children and families at 14 locations throughout the city on a weekly basis. During our second week of Grocery Assistance, we provided 9,750 lbs to 325 families.

Home Deliveries: We are working with the Salem Board of Public Health and other partners to support seniors & other vulnerable members of the community in need of home deliveries. We delivered 2300 lbs to 61 households during our initial phase of deliveries.

Strengthening Agency Partnerships: We are expanding partnership efforts with other community agencies, including North Shore CDC and LifeBridge, to support their client's access to food.

All of these expanded and new services have developed rapidly, and we are making adjustments each week to best serve the community. We are also committed to following CDC and Salem Public Health Department recommendations around social distancing and safety best practices for our clients, volunteers, and staff.

None of this work would be possible without you! Your financial support allows The Salem Pantry to acquire more food, put more vehicles on the road and to expand & sustain these emergency operations. Your volunteer support allows us to pack, distribute, and operate our distributions each day!

During the COVID-19 crisis and beyond, your support through donations and volunteerism is crucial for The Salem Pantry in our work to fight hunger in our Salem community. Please join us!

Thank you,
Robyn Burns
Executive Director

Feeding Salem for 30 Years
www.thesalempantry.org