



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Investing in our
community's long-term
health

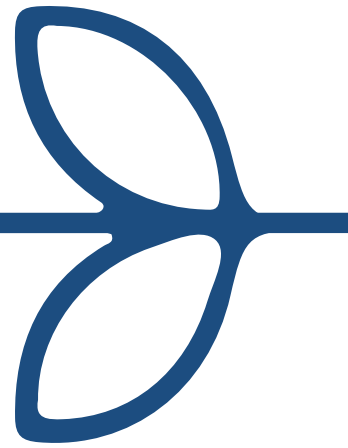




“ The Bethel Food Pantry is an absolutely vital community resource, especially in these uncertain economic times.

~ Jessie Perkins, Executive Director,
Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS.



This has been our slogan for thirty-two years and one that will guide us as we plan for the next thirty-two years. Now is a critical moment in our history as we seek a permanent home for the two halves of our nonprofit; the District Exchange and the Food Pantry. We serve individuals and families in Oxford County who are food and clothing insecure. Our opportunity to purchase the 281 Walkers Mills Road in Bethel is now and it is a building as big as our vision for Western Maine's future.

I've been involved with this organization for twenty years and over that time have seen the impact of our work within the community we serve. While our region is large, our community is tight knit, allowing us to be aware of events that impact individuals or families and in turn, respond to that need. Whether it be the Pandemic, a forty-year flood or a chimney fire, we Western Mainers put aside our differences and help each other. And to think that two decades ago we gave clients a few cans of beans or a small bag of clothes. Our organization has grown with our community.

Now, we are a 501 c3 nonprofit with programs that serve all of our constituencies. Our choice market allows client/neighbors to choose the items needed each week. Our Snack and Backpack programs are available in all the local schools. Our Farm to Pantry program serves country pantries and supplements local farms.

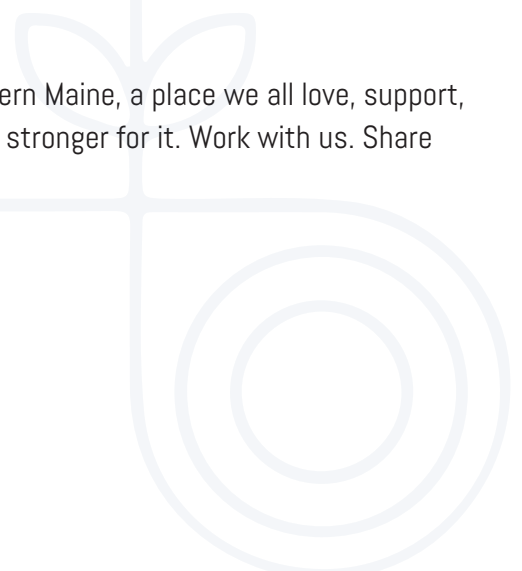
The purchase of 281 Walkers Mills Road will enable us to increase our Food Pantry capacity and create a suitable space for the District Exchange, which has been unable to operate for the past three years. We know this building well. With modest renovations, we will be able to transform it into a highly functional space that will allow us to better serve all of our clients now and long into the future.

Our mission is to provide food and clothing to anyone who needs help. We do this through a wide range of programs that reach individuals, families, children and seniors throughout Oxford County, which is comprised of 34 towns and 4 unorganized territories, but no cities. We are committed to responding to and providing help to families as the need arises.

Join us as we prepare for a future that defies prediction. Here in Western Maine, a place we all love, support, and protect, we can get this done knowing that our community will be stronger for it. Work with us. Share Maine's future.

Help us be the change Western Maine needs,

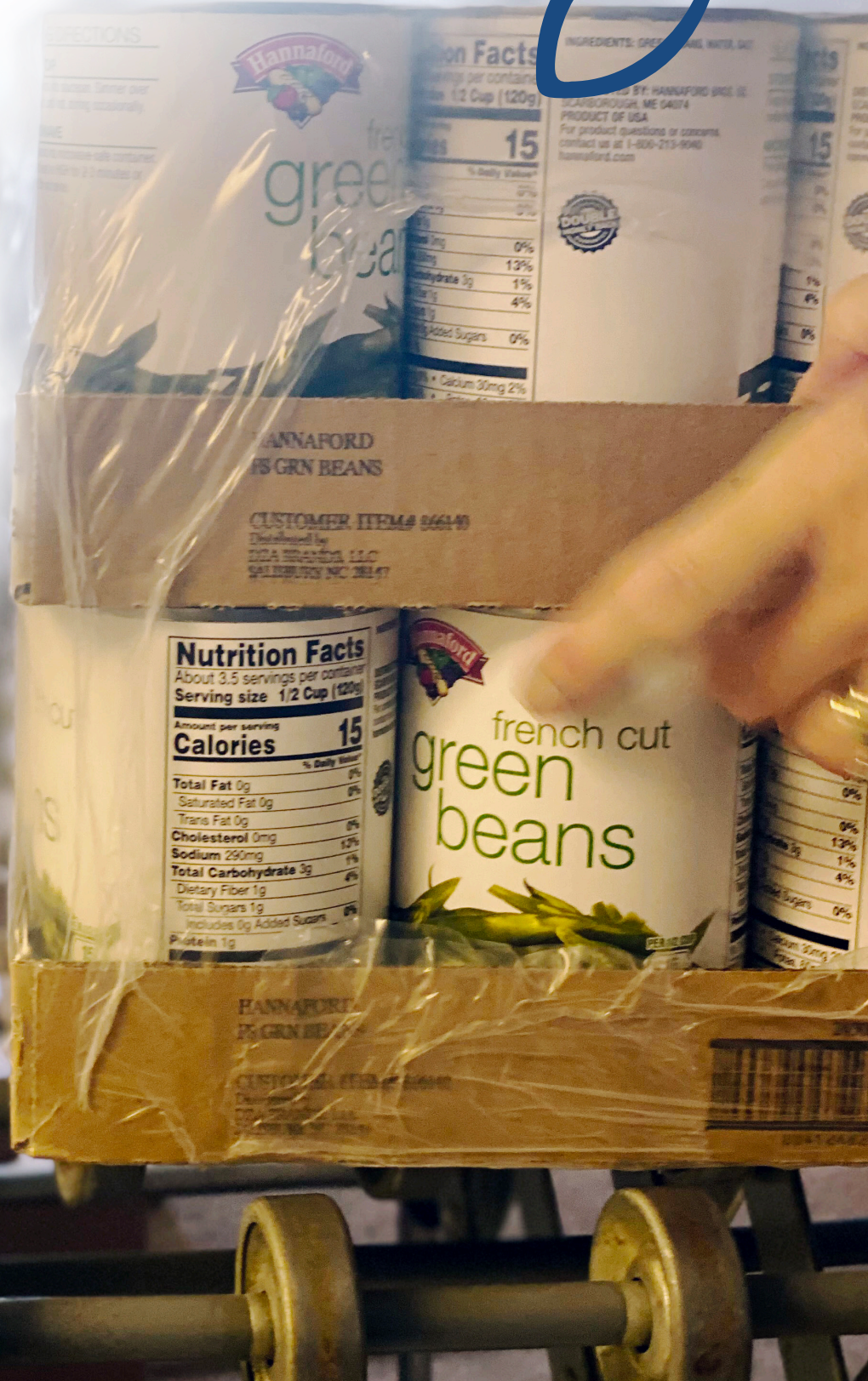
Dave Bean
Executive Director
Bethel Area District Exchange and Food Pantry



TODAY



We see an ever increasing population in need of food and clothing. This is primarily due to rising food costs and the reduction in SNAP benefits. To respond to these very real needs, we dig deep into our community to deliver food to stay-at-home residents and to take orders from car bound client/neighbors and deliver their food in real time. Our Farm-to-Pantry Program supports both local Farms and Food Pantries throughout the county.





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If it can be said that a community is only as successful as its ability to provide for the neediest of its members, then the Bethel Area District Exchange and Food Pantry deserves much of the credit for that level of success in our area.

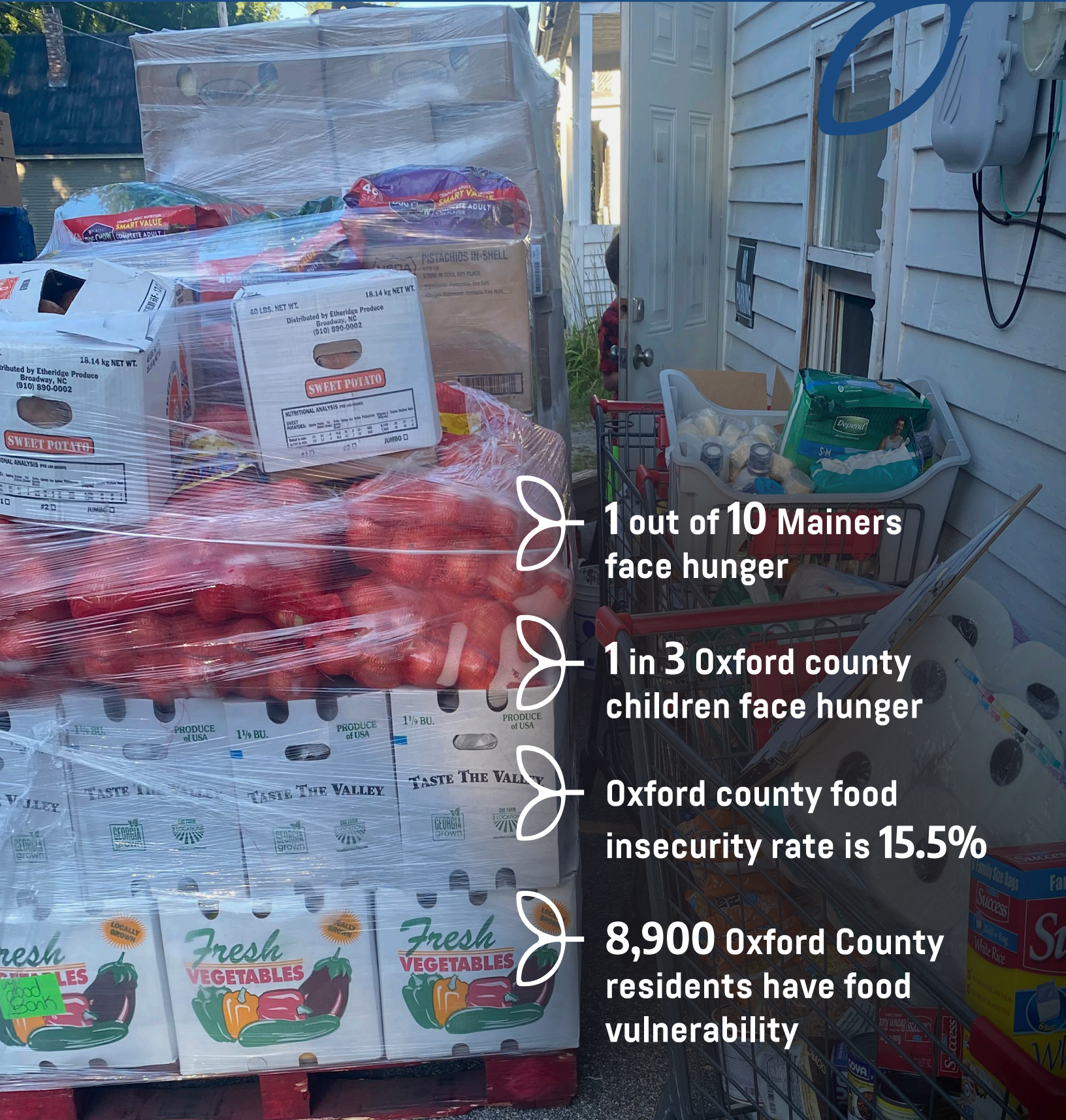
~ David Murphy, MSAD44 Superintendent

FUTURE



We have seen a twelve percent increase in new families seeking support in 2023. Alongside the growth in need, our food costs have doubled. We recognize that life circumstances can change without warning. A change in job, health or family situation can all have a significant impact on families, many of whom are living on tight budgets. By working in collaboration with area food pantries, soup kitchens, farms, and other nonprofit organizations we are able to respond to the needs at hand. We stand ready to support all of Western Maine. Everyone's participation is vital.

A GROWING NEED



1 out of 10 Mainers face hunger

1 in 3 Oxford county children face hunger

Oxford county food insecurity rate is 15.5%

8,900 Oxford County residents have food vulnerability



PROGRAMS



FOOD PANTRY DELIVERY PROGRAM

Home delivery is available by request.

DISTRICT EXCHANGE EMERGENCY PROGRAM

Food is just a phone call away when needed.

DISTRICT EXCHANGE CLOTHING CLOSETS (CPS, TMS, TMH)

Clothing closets at each public school, supports all students.

FOOD PANTRY EMERGENCY PROGRAM

After a fire or other crisis, we deliver.

SENIOR BOXES

Every individual age 60 and over is eligible for additional food.

BACKPACK PROGRAM

When school is in session, we provide meals and snacks over the weekend to bridge the gap.

SNACK PROGRAM

We provide snacks for all local public school students.

REPANT! PROGRAM

We create and sell tote bags from used pants and the proceeds support the Smile Fund and our nonprofit.

FARM TO PANTRY PROGRAM

We deliver produce and fruit from local farms to area food pantries.

EMERGENCY DELIVERY

We arrange for delivery of food pantry food to residents in emergencies.

PROGRAM FACTS

281

FAMILIES SERVED EACH MONTH

50%

SHOP CHOICE MARKET ONCE A MONTH

30%

SHOP CHOICE MARKET TWICE A MONTH

20%

SHOP CHOICE MARKET THREE TIMES A MONTH

8.5 tons

FOOD DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY IN 2022

\$4,000

MONTHLY COST OF FOOD AND ESSENTIAL ITEMS IN 2023

135

VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT ALL PROGRAMS

COLLABORATE WITH 6

FOOD PANTRIES IN OXFORD COUNTY

COLLABORATE WITH 5

LOCAL FARMS, ENSURING CLIENTS RECEIVE THE FRESHEST LOCAL PRODUCE

\$160,000

CURRENT YEARLY OPERATING BUDGET

The District Exchange recycles all unsellable clothing through Apparel Impact, a veteran owned and operated nonprofit.

OUR CAMPAIGN

at a Glance

ENRICHING Western Maine

INVESTING Through Infrastructure

CREATING Opportunities

ENHANCING the Quality of Life

Our Campaign

is straightforward.

IMAGINE a building devoted to feeding, clothing, and supporting all Western Maine residents

ENVISION an open, flexible, and efficient space

EXPAND your understanding about what nonprofits do

THINK expansively

DEEPEN your understanding of client needs

CULTIVATE deep community connections

LEVERAGE all regional alliances





THE CHALLENGE



Our goal is to purchase the 281 Walkers Mills Road as our permanent home, while completely upgrading the capacity of our Food Pantry, and reopening the District Exchange alongside it.

OUR NEW HOME

281 Walkers Mills Road will provide over 3,000 square feet for our Food Pantry and almost 1,000 square feet for our District Exchange. The food pantry space will be three times the current size with a walk-in cooler and a walk-in freezer providing twelve times the cooling and freezing capacity currently available.

CAMPAIGN BUDGET

Purchase 281 Walkers Mills Road	\$ 700,000.00
Building Renovations	\$ 80,000.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 41,400.00
Walk in cooler and walk in freezer	\$ 50,000.00
10% Cost Overrun	\$ 17,140.00
Campaign Costs	\$ 71,000.00

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Campaign Total

\$ 959,540.00



STAFF

- Dave Bean**, Executive Director
- Mary McVey**, Food Pantry Director
- Sue Lowe**, District Exchange Co-Director
- Jane Chandler**, District Exchange Co-Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Stephanie Herbeck**, Bethel, ME
Board Chair
- Lloyd Sweetzer**, Bethel, ME
Vice Chair
- Monica Gordon**, Albany, ME
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- Heather Hale-Nevis**, Bethel, ME
- Hope Schroy**, Newry, ME

THANK YOU



Bethel maine

Area District Exchange & Food Pantry

16 Church Street | Bethel, ME 04217 | bethelareafoodpantry.org



COMMITMENT FORM

I/we wish to make a commitment to Bethel Area District Exchange & Food Pantry's Neighbors Helping Neighbors Campaign.

Contact Information

First and Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Phone: _____ (mobile) _____ (home) _____ (work)

Email: _____

Commitment Details

I/we will commit \$ _____ as a:

- Yearly Pledge* Monthly Pledge * When would you like a pledge reminder sent to you? _____
- Cash Gift Gift of Securities Other _____

Gift Allocation for Multi-Year Commitment

	Capital Campaign			Annual Giving		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Total Annual Commitment(s)						

Payment Instructions (please choose one)

- Check enclosed for \$ _____
Please make checks made payable to **Bethel Area District Exchange & Food Pantry**.
- I'd like to pay with my credit card. Payments can be made at www.bethelareafoodpantry.org.
Please let us know if you'd prefer us to process your payment.

Acknowledgment Please note how you would like this gift to be acknowledged.

- I/we are making this gift anonymously
- Acknowledge this gift with the following name(s): _____
This gift is in honor of in memory of Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____