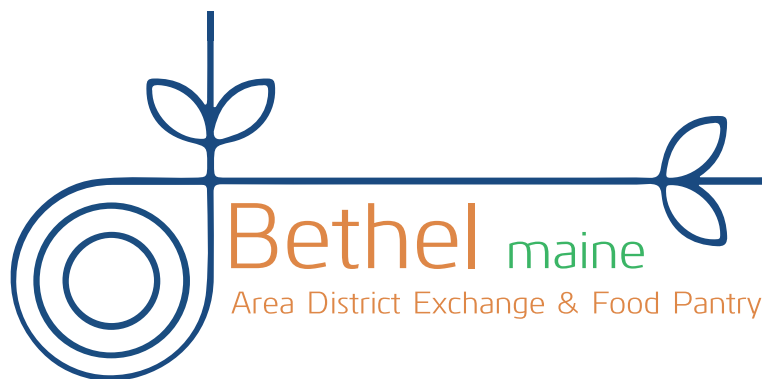




Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Investing in our
community's long-term
health

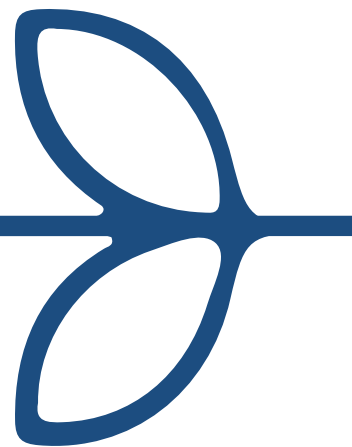





District Exchange
Open Monday, Wednesday,
and Saturday
9:00-11:00 a.m.
www.bethelareafoodpantry.org

DISTRICT
EXCHANGE
THRIFT
SHOP
OPEN

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS.



Dear Friend,

My name is Dave Bean and I am the Executive Director of the Bethel Area District Exchange and Food Pantry, a local nonprofit that has fed and clothed Western Maine and was co-founded by Maryvonne Wheeler in 1992.

After years of operating in rented basement spaces, we purchased our new building at 279 Walkers Mills Road across from Telstar High School. For the first time in over a decade, both our food pantry and our clothing exchange are located in the same building and open at the same times: Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday 9:00-11:00 a.m. every week. In our continued effort to fight food and clothing insecurity, our new building is the bright, spacious answer to Western Maine's needs.

About us: We are more than the food pantry you have known and loved for years! Over the past two years, we have become a Market Choice Pantry, which means that Neighbors grab a cart and shop for the items they need. Studies show that giving clients choice about food pantry items both reduces food waste and alleviates food anxiety. Our pantry is filled with the canned and shelf stable goods you might expect to find, but also stocked with protein, health and wellness products, and fresh local produce. We support Snack Programs, Backpack Programs, and Clothing Exchanges in Andover School, Crescent Park Elementary School, Woodstock Elementary School, and Telstar Middle and High School. Our Farm To Pantry Program partners with Good Shepherd Food Bank to support the farms and food pantries of Oxford County, bringing needed income to area farmers and fresh local produce to area food pantries. Through Feeding America, our new OrderAhead Program allows Neighbors to order food pantry items online and either have them delivered to their car or delivered to their home, allowing us to better serve those with transportation challenges or disabilities. As always, we provide emergency clothing and food when Neighbors are in need.

Growth: Since 2022 we have experienced a 237% increase in unduplicated family visits, and over the past six months 5,000 Neighbors shopped at the Food Pantry. We serve up to 128 Neighbor families per week at the Food Pantry, and the Clothing Exchange serves 300 Neighbors every month.

Fundraising: Phase One of our Capital Campaign launched in 2024 and will raise critical funds to repair our facility, pave our extensive parking lots, and install a propane generator to power all the vital building systems, even during flood events like those we all experienced in December. The Neighbors you support serve your meals, plow your driveway, fix your water heater, and work increasingly hard as Western Maine's cost of living continues to climb. We ask you to please join our team.

Call for a building tour, visit our website or scan the QR code for ways to donate and help us support all our Western Maine Neighbors.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature of Dave Bean in black ink, enclosed in a simple black oval border.

Dave Bean, Executive Director
c: 207-890-4022
executivedirector@bethelfoodpantry.org

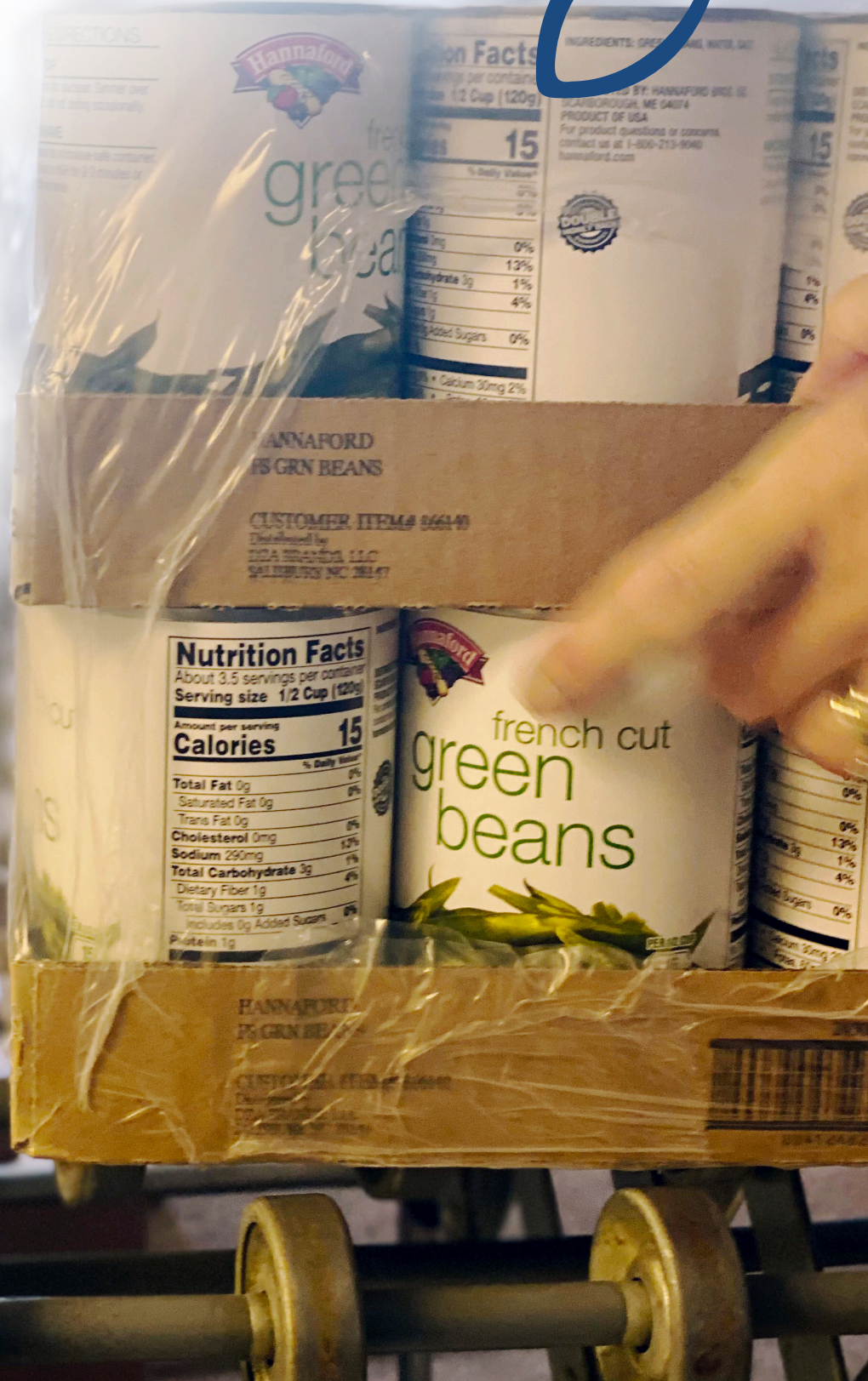
@BADEandFP



venmo

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.




PLEASE SELECT ONLY A
FEW DIFFERENT
FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES FOR
YOUR FAMILY,
REMEMBERING WE
SERVE 100 FAMILIES
ON A WEEKLY BASIS

1 Packaged
Salad





FUTURE



We have seen a 200% increase in new families seeking support in 2024. 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.

ORDER AHEAD PROGRAM

An online food ordering system for pickup or delivery.

COMPUTER/TABLET PROGRAM

We help Neighbors who are job searching or doing school work get the device and the training they need.



PROGRAM FACTS

473

UNDUPLICATED FAMILIES

9,927

INDIVIDUAL DUPLICATED VISITS

8.5 tons

FOOD DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY IN 2022

\$5,000

**MONTHLY COST OF FOOD AND ESSENTIAL
ITEMS IN 2023**

135

VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT ALL PROGRAMS

COLLABORATE WITH 7

FOOD PANTRIES IN OXFORD COUNTY

COLLABORATE WITH 4

**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



ALREADY, WE'VE ...

- Renovated and opened the new District Exchange (August 2023)
- Renovated and opened the new Food Pantry (September 2023)
- Constructed a 300 square foot commercial cooler/freezer for ten times the capacity (January 2024).

OUR GOALS ARE TO ...

- Complete work on our building and grounds
- Pay off our Genesis Fund loan free and clear

OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE...

PHASE ONE

Emergency Generator	\$ 25,000.00
Apartment Two	\$ 12,000.00
Siding/Fascia Repair	\$ 5,000.00
Pave Parking Lots	\$ 65,000.00
Phase One Total	\$ 107,000.00

PHASE TWO

Financial Sustainability	\$ 213,500.00
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PHASE THREE

Complete Financial Sustainability	\$ 213,500.00
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Capital Campaign Total	\$ 534,000.00
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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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Maryvonne Wheeler, Bethel, ME
Board Administrator

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Heidi Holt, Bethel, ME

Heather Hale-Nevis, Bethel, ME

Hope Schroy, Newry, ME

THANK YOU



Bethel maine

Area District Exchange & Food Pantry

279 Walkers Mills Road | Bethel, ME 04217 | bethelareafoodpantry.org