

Fall
Winter
2020

B Beverly Bootstraps
EMBRACE · EDUCATE · EMPOWER

FOOD *for* THOUGHT

Strengthening our community one neighbor at a time.



Food for kids and so much more.

We met the Taylor* family last winter when their school nurse referred them for the Kids Weekend Food Program. They were new to Beverly and living in a shelter when the nurse noticed that they needed some help. All four children started receiving our bag of healthy snacks from the school each Friday. This ensured they would have some food to eat when they were not in school and wouldn't have access to the school food program.

When we signed the children up for the Kids Weekend Food program, we also contacted Sophia, their mom, to see how else we might be able to help her family. She immediately signed up to use the Food Pantry, and was thrilled they would have fresh fruits and vegetables to eat, something that was near impossible on her current food budget.

Through all of the upheaval, Sophia was thankful that she was still working and the family was quickly able to find an apartment to move into. However, because they were starting over, they didn't have enough in savings for the security deposit. After working with one of our Case Managers to see if we could help, we were able to assist them in securing

(cont'd on pg 2)

*name changed and stock photo used for client privacy

BECAUSE OF YOU...

Food for Kids (from cover)

the apartment and creating a new home.

Just when it felt like the Taylors were starting to get settled into their new life in Beverly, COVID-19 changed everything. They were once again faced with many challenges, including how to keep enough food in the house now that all four kids were home from school. Sophia was happy to hear that Beverly Bootstraps would again be there to help during this difficult time. Being able to come to the Food Pantry every week since March through the Kids Food program has made a big difference in their lives.

Sophia graciously said, "Thank God I can keep food in my kitchen!"

Since then, we have provided free backpacks this fall so they'd have all the supplies needed to start the new school year. Sophia also registered her children for the Adopt-A-Family holiday gift program.

"I would never have been able to provide a good holiday for my kids. I'm so thankful that Beverly Bootstraps helps people like us. I don't know where we'd be right now without them," she said.

It is through the continued generosity of all who support us that we are able to help families like the Taylors through their difficult times.

Kids Food available through end of year

We will be continuing to offer our Summer Food program – now called the Kids Food program – through the end of the year. This program allows clients with children to visit the Food Pantry once a week instead of every other. With the effects of the pandemic continuing and even getting worse for many, as well as half of the district attending school remotely to begin the school year, it was obvious that families needed access to this additional Food Pantry visit to continue. Thanks to a generous grant from the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation, we are able to help these vulnerable families for several more months.



Helping Seniors stay safe at home

Until a vaccine is available, seniors will continue to face the greatest health risk in this crisis. Therefore we have extended food delivery through the end of the year to those living at Turtle Woods and Turtle Creek. Harborlight Community Partners was eager to pilot this program in their facility and to extend it as long as possible. Thank you to Beverly Hospital, a member of Beth Israel Lahey Health, for funding this program over the last few months.



Thanks to you...

We want to thank each and every one of you who showed your support for those in our community by donating to our Help Feed Beverly campaign.

Because of your generosity, we have been able to help people continue to feed their families, enabled seniors to stay safe by delivering food right to their doors, helped so many keep up on their rent, assisted the newly jobless navigate the unemployment process and apply for SNAP benefits and so much more.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Fighting hunger through Community Meals

For many years, the Beverly community has provided free nightly dinners to our most vulnerable citizens at various churches around the city. Beverly Bootstraps recently became a host of several of the dinners, in partnership with Root in Salem. They provide the cooked food, while we coordinate the logistics at the meal site and provide volunteers to help prepare and serve it. We are proud to join this effort and continue to fight hunger in our community.

Yes! Thanksgiving Meals and Adopt-a-Family Holiday Gift programs will continue

We will still offer our traditional and important holiday programs this year and will adjust them as necessary to make them safe for all. We hope you will continue to take part too! There are limited opportunities so we encourage you to sign up soon. (see page 5 for more info)

Weekend Food helping again

This fall, we are again working with Beverly Public schools to help feed kids who are in need of healthy snacks when not in school. As in years past, volunteers will be helping to prepare bags full of healthy snacks, which we will then deliver to the schools once a week. The goal is to help keep these children fed when they are not in school and/or are working remotely.

We are proud to be working together with Beverly Public Schools to help keep kids fed.



A remote restart for Adult Education

After being put on hold for the spring and summer, our Adult Education programs have restarted remotely for the fall. Students in both the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and



HiSET (High School Equivalency Test), teachers and volunteers are adjusting quickly to the new online format. ESOL classes happen via Zoom in small groups at prescheduled days and times so students can learn and practice their language skills, while HiSET classes are one-on-one sessions at mutually agreeable times for both the student and tutor. We are thankful that all involved have been so adaptable and we are able to continue to help our students progress toward their educational goals.

Keeping clients in homes

Even though our Case Managers have been working remotely, they continue to help our clients get by during these most difficult times. One of the biggest needs has been for rent relief. With funds from a generous Essex County Community Foundation grant and funding from United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, we have been able to help.











After her husband abruptly left, and the shut-down caused Jessica, now a single mother, to lose her restaurant job, she was struggling to pay her rent. She came to us for help, and while she was out finding a new job, we were finding her rental assistance. In the end, she was able not only to stay in her apartment but also to find child care for her daughter.*

The generosity of our community is what helps us to continue to be here for those in need.

*name changed for client privacy

YOUR IMPACT OVER THE LAST YEAR

With your support, together we've been able to...

<p>Provide</p>  <p>602</p> <p>backpacks and</p>  <p>637</p> <p>holiday gifts to local children so they have the same experiences as their peers</p>	<p>Help</p>  <p>4,520</p> <p>individuals throughout all programs improve their lives</p>	<p>Provide</p>  <p>11,789</p> <p>visits to the Food Pantry including deliveries to seniors</p> <p>That's a</p>  <p>35%</p> <p>increase in number of visits from last year</p>
<p>Get</p>  <p>\$358,041</p> <p>in tax refunds for our EITC clients</p> <p>That's</p>  <p>214</p> <p>very happy people who can catch up on their bills</p>	<p>Help</p>  <p>222</p> <p>people become better educated to lead to greater self-sufficiency</p>	<p>In response to COVID-19 we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• implemented a new socially distanced food pantry model• introduced food deliveries to low-income senior housing• created remote/virtual Case Management so that clients could still reach out for assistance• helped over 300 new individuals

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Fixins for the Feast!

Build a bag filled with all the Thanksgiving “fixins” to help your neighbors in need. Each year, with your help, we give out over 450 turkeys and all the ingredients to make a Thanksgiving dinner. This year, we have pivoted the program for client, staff and volunteer safety from a shopping experience to a curbside pick-up of pre-filled bags of all the fixins for the feast. Please donate a meal by filling a Fixins for the Feast bag.

To sign up to donate, please go to: <http://bit.ly/FixinsBags>. Then double-brown bag your donation and double check to make sure all nine items below are included in each bag. Please bring your completed bags to 35 Park Street, Beverly, on Saturday, November 14, from 10am-2pm. Bag drop off will be curbside. Drive up, pop your trunk, and our staff will unload your donation.



- French's fried onions • Cranberry sauce • Canned gravy • Chicken broth • Cream of mushroom soup • Instant mashed potatoes (family size) • Canned green beans • Stuffing mix • Cake mix/frosting, brownie or quick bread mix

Provide a holiday breakfast

Who doesn't love a nice hot breakfast on a holiday morning? Our clients sure do! You can make a family's holiday even brighter by providing a breakfast in a bag: either pancake mix, syrup and hot chocolate; or muffin mix, jam and hot chocolate.

To register to donate, please go to <http://bit.ly/HolidayBreakfastBags>. Then deliver your filled breakfast bag(s) to Beverly Bootstraps during the week of November 30th. For more info go to <https://www.beverlybootstraps.org/what-we-do/youth-family/#aaf>

Adopt a family for the holidays

We anticipate the need for holiday gifts for families will be even greater this season – please consider taking part in the Adopt-A-Family program. You will be able to pick the family with the number of children that you want to/are able to help. Then you'll shop with a provided wish list in hand for the gifts that will make the holiday a happy one. Because “it is in giving that we receive.” To become a donor, go to: <https://www.roonga.com/bbaaf20> to adopt your family. *Note: there are limited opportunities to help so we encourage you to sign up soon!*



Ways to give

‘Tis the season of giving. Have you considered these ways that you can support Beverly Bootstraps:

- Gifts of Stock
- Memorial Gifts
- Planned Giving
- Celebrations for Bootstraps

To learn more go to BeverlyBootstraps.org/donate





Election Day Food Drive

The Beverly Citywide PTO is hosting the Election Day Food Drive in Beverly again this year. Please bring an item or several from the Fixins for the Feast bags list above/left with you when you go to any of the Beverly polling locations on Tuesday, November 3, to cast your ballot. You'll be helping feed locals in need.

HOURS

OFFICE & SERVICES

35 Park Street, Beverly
PHONE: 978-927-1561
BeverlyBootstraps.org

*For Case Management services,
please fill out form at
www.bit.ly/bootstraps_help
or call the number above.*

THRIFT SHOP

198 Rantoul Street, Beverly
PHONE: 978-921-4710
M-F 10:00am-4:00pm
Sat 10:00am-2:00pm

FOOD PANTRY HOURS

M, Th 10:00am-2:00pm
T 2:00pm-6:00pm
W 10:00am-6:00pm

Thrift Shop now open Saturday

The Thrift Shop is now open on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm for shopping! When we reopened after the shut-down, we weren't sure how long it would take people to readjust to being in public spaces. But if the turn-out on Monday through Friday is any indication, we should be good and busy on Saturdays too. We are happy to welcome back our weekend shoppers (with masks).

Thrift Shopping for the holidays

Why shop for the holidays at the Beverly Bootstraps Thrift Shop? It's a great way to go green with your holiday shopping, it's shopping local, and each Thrift Shop purchase is literally making a donation to a great cause – the programs and services of Beverly Bootstraps.

Follow us

Stay up to date on the agency's latest news with our monthly emailed newsletters. And learn about upcoming sales and more by joining the Thrift Shop's mailing list. To sign up for either or both, go to <https://www.beverlybootstraps.org/about-us/#contact>

Follow and tag both Beverly Bootstraps and Beverly Bootstraps Thrift Shop on Facebook and Instagram.

THE ANNUAL APPEAL IS ON ITS WAY



Look for our annual appeal in your mailbox and read about Maggie's struggles. Even if you've given to our emergency fund, we encourage you to donate through the annual appeal mailing. The funds raised through this appeal will support families like Maggie's during these challenging times.

Thank you for giving back locally!

For more info, see BeverlyBootstraps.org, visit our online event calendar and follow us on  and 

This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper.