



Community E-Newsletter

February 2023

We couldn't do it without you



*Alfred and Eileen, a proud retired couple, who have always kept up with paying their bills, started facing unexpected financial problems when their electric bill went up considerably in December. Although they are in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, the couple suddenly found themselves struggling to pay their utility bills.

According to National Grid, a typical residential electric consumer using 600 kWh (kilowatt-hours) saw their monthly bill rise from \$179 in the 2021-2022 winter season to around \$293 in the 2022-2023 winter season. That's a 64% increase year-over-year.

Over the years, Alfred and Eileen learned how to live within their means. They carefully budget for groceries each week, never leave extra lights on and enjoy playing cards together instead of paying for expensive cable. Living this way has paid off for them, until now.

"We are on a fixed income and cannot afford to pay these larger bills. We have always been able to make ends meet and now we can't." Eileen shared.

This recent increase has prompted individuals in the community, like Alfred and Eileen, to come to Beverly Bootstraps. Our Case Managers help assess a client's financial and living situations, then facilitate connections with community resources and services. Consulting with our Case Managers provided Alfred and Eileen with rental assistance and even LIHEAP heating assistance.

By guiding our clients through signing up for government benefits and creating personalized action plans, we can promote a path to sustainability. Thanks to the continued support and generosity of our donors, we are able to help clients stay housed and warm, especially during this wintertime.

*Name changed and stock photo used for client privacy

Exciting news

Do You Need Food and Can't Access Our Pantry?

Our Automated Refrigerated Food Lockers will launch in downtown Beverly soon. If you or someone you know are experiencing food insecurity and cannot make it to our Food Pantry during the week, please fill out [this form>>](#)



Be in the Know with Thrift Shop Sale Alerts

Did you know all artwork and mirrors are 50% off at the Thrift Shop this week?

Stay in the loop on all our amazing sales and other important updates by signing up to be part of their email list!

Sign up [here](#) to receive Thrift Shop Sales Alerts.



How you can help

Share the Love this Valentine's!

For Valentine's Day, we want to **Share the Love** by holding a month-long Food Drive. We are asking for [Heart Healthy food](#) donations to help fill our Food Pantry shelves!

Our Food Pantry is also in need of: **Low Sugar Cereal, Baby Diapers (sizes 3+), Adult Diapers (all sizes), and wipes.**

Donations can be dropped off at our 35 Park Street office or placed in our collection boxes located at:

- Stop & Shop, 224 Elliott Street, Beverly

Share the Love this month by donating Heart Healthy items to our Food Pantry!

1. Oatmeal	5. Beans
2. Whole Grain Cereals (Bran Flakes, Shredded Wheat, etc.)	6. Dried Fruit
4. Brown Rice	7. All Natural Peanut Butter
5. Nuts	8. Canned Tuna Fish

Donations can be dropped off at 35 Park Street,
Monday - Thursday from 10:00 am- 5:00 pm or
Friday from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm.

B BeverlyBootstraps
EMBRACE · EDUCATE · EMPOWER

- Stop & Shop, 37 Enon Street, Beverly
- Shaw's, 71 Dodge Street, Beverly
- Beverly Council on Aging, 90 Colon Street, Beverly

We appreciate your support!

2023 Letter to the Editor

In 2022, we saw our Food Pantry visits reach an all-time high, with nearly 13,000 visits over the year. With rampant inflation over the last year, a possible looming recession, and the recently announced end of SNAP Emergency Allotments, that number will likely only grow.



As the need in the community continues to grow, so does our need for support. Read the full [Letter to the Editor](#).

Paper Bags Wanted

Our Thrift Shop and Food Pantry are in need of paper bags and newspapers—they can have logos on them!

If you have any (or a lot) that you no longer use or need, please drop them off at 35 Park Street or our Thrift Shop on 189 Rantoul Street. Thank you!



Thank you!

BHS Winter Sports Teams

Thank you to all the [Beverly High School](#) Winter Sports Teams for hosting Food Drives to help fill our Food Pantry!



BHS Indoor Track Team Pasta Drive



BHS Wrestling Team Food Drive

Mario Antonio's in Beverly

Mario Antonio's Barbershop in Beverly held a raffle over the holidays to raise money to support us. We recently gave them a tour of our building, to show them the important services and programs donations like theirs will be supporting.

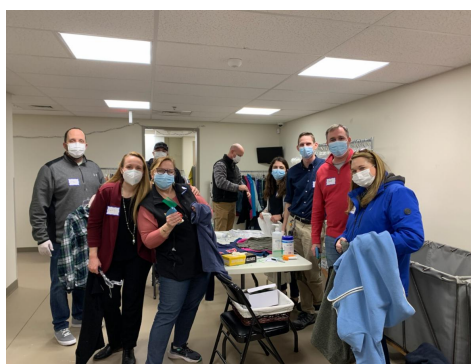
Thank you for thinking of us. We are so thrilled to have partners in the community like you!



MilliporeSigma Spends an Afternoon with BB

MilliporeSigma in Danvers packed Snack Bags and recently held a food drive for us. Together, they donated almost 200 pounds of items for our Food Pantry. Their team also took a tour of our building, and helped sort and tag clothes at our Thrift Shop!

Thank you for all your support!



Happenings

BHS Pasta Palooza

Friday, February 10, Varsity Game at 6:30 PM, JV Game at 5:00 PM
Beverly High School— Field House

The Beverly High School Girls Basketball Team is holding a Boxed Pasta Drive for us. Students get in FREE when they bring 2 boxes of pasta with them! Remember to bring your pasta when you cheer for the team!

Bishop Fenwick Peanut Butter Drive

Saturday, February 11, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, February 15, 6:00 PM

McVann Skating Rink, Peabody

The Bishop Fenwick Boys Hockey Team is collecting Peanut Butter for Beverly Bootstraps. When you go to support their home games, don't forget to bring a jar with you!

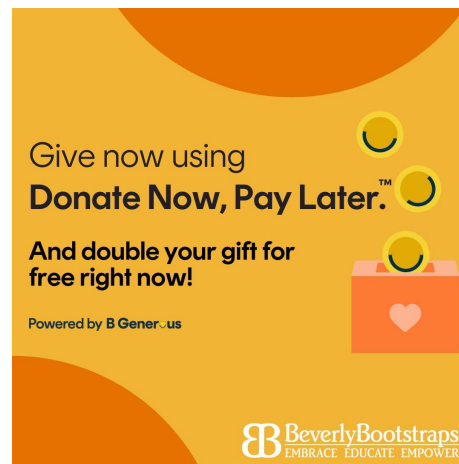
The Friendly Toast Fundraiser

Taking place at all 8 of their MA and NH locations

The Friendly Toast is holding a charity program where they donate \$1 directly to Beverly Bootstraps for every special sold over the next 5-8 weeks!

Upcoming Closings

- **Monday, February 20 (Presidents Day): Agency, Offices, Food Pantry, and Thrift Shop CLOSED.**



To learn more, click on these handy links:

Volunteer



Host a drive



Events



Visit our site



Contact us



BB News



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