

Newton Food Pantry
www.newtonfoodpantry.org
Jeff Lemberg, Executive Director
jeff@newtonfoodpantry.org
617-775-8227



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Newton Food Pantry Announces Construction of Brand-New Building!

The Newton Food Pantry is thrilled to announce the construction of the first-ever standalone food pantry in Newton. This much-anticipated building project marks a major milestone in support of the organization's mission to alleviate food insecurity and provide essential hunger-relief services to individuals and families in need.

Right now in Newton, **more than 4,100 people live at or below the federal poverty level**. And according to a recent Greater Boston Food Bank study, **nearly 6,000 Newton residents regularly experience food insecurity**, defined as lacking consistent access to enough nutritious and dietarily appropriate food to lead a healthy and active life. The number of people seeking hunger-relief services from the Newton Food Pantry has skyrocketed over the last 5 years, and we know many more may soon need our help.

The new facility, located at 131 Rumford Avenue in Auburndale, will significantly enhance the Newton Food Pantry's capacity to meet this growing demand. With increased storage, expanded service areas, modernized infrastructure, and dedicated parking, the new pantry will be better equipped to serve everyone in Newton who requires our assistance.

"For years, we've seen a steady rise in the number of individuals and families relying on our services," said Jeff Lemberg, executive director of the Newton Food Pantry. "This new pantry represents hope for our community – a place where neighbors can find nourishment, connection and support in times of need."

The Newton Food Pantry is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit and provides supplemental food assistance to more than 2,500 Newton residents. It has operated out of the basement of Newton City Hall for the past 8 years and previously served the community from the basement of the Waban Library Center and the First Unitarian Universalist Society church in West Newton.

The organization has a staff of only 3 ½, but more than 130 dedicated volunteers lend their time and talent each week. The Newton Food Pantry is a choice pantry, meaning people can select for themselves the nutritious, dietarily appropriate and culturally relevant foods they and their families need and want. This includes fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, dairy, proteins, and breads, as well as healthy nonperishable items and personal-care products such as toothpaste, baby diapers, and more – all free of charge.

Construction of the new 5,000-square-foot, single-story food pantry, to be led by Pidgeon & Co., a women-owned construction management firm based out of Malden, is expected to begin this spring. The organization projects a grand opening in early spring of 2026. At that time, the pantry will move out of Newton City Hall. The project is made possible through the generous contributions of local individuals, foundations and area businesses – including an area developer who donated the land to the Newton Food Pantry – that are deeply committed to helping end hunger in Newton.

But there is still much work ahead! The Newton Food Pantry welcomes the community's support to help it prepare for expanded client services and operations. Every contribution will enable the organization to create a welcoming and service-rich space that reflects the generosity and resilience of Newton.

"We are excited about the positive impact this new pantry will have on our clients and on the future of hunger-relief services in Newton," said Cindy Wayne, president of the Newton Food Pantry's board of directors. "But this is only the beginning – we need the community's ongoing support to make this dream a long-term reality."

For more information about the new pantry project, including how to donate or volunteer, please visit the Newton Food Pantry website at <https://newtonfoodpantry.org/about-us/our-new-building/> or contact Executive Director Jeff Lemberg at jeff@newtonfoodpantry.org.