



THE AFB NEWS BEET



AUGUSTA FOOD BANK HELPING THOSE IN NEED SINCE 1981

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Contact Information

9 Summer Street

Augusta, ME 04330

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Food distribution takes place at St. Mark's Parish Hall Monday through Thursday, 12:30 - 2 p.m. and Monday evening from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

The Beet Goes On . . .

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the *AFB News Beet*! Thanks for taking some time to read about how we've been helping out our community.

4th Annual Dinner & Auction - A Great Success!

Over 215 people attended our 4th Annual Dinner & Auction on Saturday, November 1, 2014, at the Calumet Club! We owe a great deal of thanks to our generous sponsors. This year that list included Truckload Sponsors: *On Target & Summit Natural Gas; Case Sponsors:* *Central Maine Power, Charlie's Family of Dealerships, KV Federal Credit Union, NRF Distributors & O'Connor Auto Park; Basket Sponsors:* *J&S Oil, JS McCarthy & Kennebec Savings Bank.* We also received support from: *G&E Roofing, Bangor Savings Bank, Augusta Fuel Company & Matthew Maloney State Farm Agent. Color Storm Inc.* from Belgrade graciously printed our tickets and programs.

And of course the evening wouldn't have been a success without the folks who attended! There was a live auction, as well as a silent auction and a silent dessert auction, renamed this year to "Mary's Delectable Delights" in honor of Mary Whalen, a beloved volunteer with us for many years before her passing in February. We had more than 45 desserts and raised over \$1000 on desserts alone! All in all it was a fantastic evening in support of our mission to provide food for those in need.

We have seen a 16% increase in the amount of people we are providing food for over last year, and with winter coming we know the need will remain high. Our program definitely takes a community wide effort, and we are so very thankful for such a successful event which raised just over \$27,000! - Abbie Perry

Our Mission

The Augusta Food Bank welcomes eligible residents of Augusta and Manchester and provides them with groceries to help bridge the gap between their current circumstance and adequate nutrition.

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When I have food, help me to remember the hungry; when I have work, help me to remember the jobless;

When I have a warm home, help me to remember the homeless; when I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer;

And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency, bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help, by word and deed those who cry out for what we take for granted. Samuel F. Pugh-

**Donation Opportunities**

**Redeem your bottles and cans** at the following centers and ask for credit to our account:

- Neighborhood Redemption*
- Damon's Beverage*
- Bub's Redemption*
- Capitol Containers*
- Clynk Accounts*

**Help fulfill our wish list:** office supplies-pens,pencils, markers, photocopy paper; children's activities - crayons, coloring books; cookbooks for distribution to clients.

**From the Executive Director**

We have been quite busy of late welcoming many different **volunteer groups** including a local girl scout troop, Hall-Dale High School Day of Caring, and Key Club (who sends students every other week to help!), Cony High School Day of Caring, Ameriprise Financial, Pierce Atwood Attorneys, Central Maine Power, Maple Tree Community School, Maranacook Middle School, Maranacook High School & a group from the UU Church.

A few **highlights** from the past 6 months: We have collected thousands of pounds of food from the NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, held a Yard Sale, hosted a Good Shepherd Food Mobile where almost 300 families received some additional food resources, held a volunteer appreciation dinner, held a Cooking Matters class, spoke with the Augusta Kiwanis Club, and held a Free Produce & Bread Giveaway (distributed about 4000 pounds of food in just 3 hours!). We collected and received food from many food drives at various businesses & organizations including both the United Way Food Pantry Project as well as fresh produce from UMA Community Gardens.

We have started up two **new programs** since our last edition. First, we have partnered with the *Children's Center* to help them start an emergency food pantry at their Augusta location, as well as helped them with a backpack program for some at risk kids to bring food home during the weekend. We are excited to be a part of this collaboration! Second, we have started a *Weekend Pack* program, to help some area students with additional food resources over the weekend. See more details on page 3 including possible ways you can help!

Our main program, our daily distribution from 9 Summer Street, has been busier than ever before. **We have already had more requests in 2014 from January-November than in all of 2013.** We have provided food for 16% more people for the same time period from last year to this, including a whopping 23% increase in the number of children getting assistance from us. We anticipate the need staying at this level at least through the winter, which means we will be relying on the continued support of the community at large, as well as our phenomenal group of dedicated volunteers who give tirelessly of themselves.

As we head into 2015, we are faced with a growing uncertainty for our location. We are **approaching a crossroad** in our organization's long history of service to the Augusta and Manchester communities. We are uncertain of the prospects of staying at 9 Summer Street. We should know by early spring

whether or not we will be able to continue using this location. As you may be aware, we operate out of 3 locations: our pantry and distribution center at 9 Summer Street; our warehouse on Bangor Street; and space at South Parish Congregational Church where we operate our Kids Packs program. The ideal solution would be to consolidate all of our services under one roof. We have been actively seeking a new, appropriate location. Our dedicated group of volunteers and board members are brainstorming all possibilities. If you can assist us in this search for a new location, we would be most grateful.

Thanks again for reading! Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Cheers! -Abbie

Please visit our website [www.augustafoodbank.org](http://www.augustafoodbank.org), where you will find an abundance of information.

Interesting statistics are available in "Hunger in Maine 2014" a study by Good Shepherd Food Bank and Feeding America. View the report at [www.gsfb.org/news/2014/10/14/face-of-hunger-in-maine](http://www.gsfb.org/news/2014/10/14/face-of-hunger-in-maine).

### Introducing Our Newest Program: "Weekend Packs"

*"If we can conquer space, we can conquer childhood hunger."* - Buzz Aldrin

The issue of childhood hunger is one that hits close to home for many people. One area that has been gaining national attention of late is the issue of kids having enough to eat at home over the weekend. Many programs have been started nationwide to address this concern. This spring we wrote a grant asking for funds to support our ongoing "Kids Packs" program and to reach out into the Augusta schools to help address the weekend hunger issue. We were very fortunate to receive some funding from the John T. Gorman Foundation for this! Since September we have been able to provide a "weekend pack" of food items to 60 area school students. We work closely with some Augusta educators as they identify the children in need. We procure and purchase the food items which are transported weekly to Cony High School where a special needs classroom works to pack all 60 bags. Another teacher then transports the bags to the schools where they are discreetly distributed each Friday. We were asked by one of the schools if we could possibly provide a few more bags as they have recently had many students who could use the extra resources. Like you, we have a hard time saying "no", so starting in January we will be distributing 72 bags each weekend! Donations needed for this program include macaroni & cheese, rice mixes, cans of carrots, small cans of mixed fruit or peaches, and small boxes of cereal.

There is one area where we really need some help. We have decided to focus on using reusable, rather than disposable, bags each week. So far we have received donations of bags from the following companies:

**Maine General, United Way of Kennebec Valley, United Insurance, The Bank of Maine, Bangor Savings Bank, New Dimensions Federal Credit Union, and the Augusta Civic Center (on behalf of Northcenter Foods).** Why help? Well, you get your name in the next newsletter! And a picture of your bag on our Facebook page! And the feeling that you're doing something so easy to give back to your community! Email Abbie at [augustafoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:augustafoodbank@gmail.com) to let us know you can help with this!

*Upbeet Events - 2015 Dates To Be Announced: April Walk for Hunger - June Yard Sale - November Annual Dinner & Auction*

Visit us at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) Augusta Food Bank

## Popular Programs

Kids Packs: We provide extra food for kids during summer and school vacations including cereal, milk, yogurt, canned fruit, pasta, juices, and granola bars. We have distributed over 5,000 Kids Packs since the program started. In 2014 our Kids Packs program has expanded to provide services six months of the year.

Home Delivery: Once a month we offer home delivery of one week's worth of groceries for those who are homebound. At present we are making between 15 -20 deliveries each month.

Senior Housing: When surplus items such as squash, dry beans, peanut butter and canned goods are available, we deliver to the Senior Reduced Income Housing Units in the Augusta area. With each delivery we help close to 300 individuals.

Weekend Back Packs: This new program we recently launched in the Augusta schools through funding we received from the John T. Gorman Foundation provides extra food for students in need during weekends. We are presently distributing 60 packs a week.

## Volunteer Appreciation

The Augusta Food Bank began in 1981 with a small group of volunteers. Today over 80 volunteers continue the work the founders started. On September 30, 2014, we recognized our volunteers with an Appreciation Supper held at St. Mark's. Our special honoree, Della Kimball, is featured in this edition's "Appreciation Spotlight". The Appreciation Supper was planned and executed by - you guessed it - a small group of dedicated volunteers. All who attended received a decorated Mason jar with pre-packaged ingredients to make a batch of scones. Yummmmm!



## Appreciation Spotlight

Today our *appreciation spotlight* shines brightly on **Della Kimball**, one of the longest active volunteers in Augusta Food Bank history! Della started volunteering around 1981 at the inception of the food bank. She, along with her husband Ashe, manned our middle table distributing meats, refrigerated foods, bread and bakery products, and personal care items. After Ashe's passing, Della continued to serve clients every Thursday until recently. During warmer months she would rush home after her weekly food bank job to mow her lawn! Thank you, Della, for your many years of inspirational service.

## Augusta Community Suppers: Part of the Food Stream

*"There are genuinely sufficient resources in the world to ensure that no one, nowhere, at no time should go hungry."* - Ed Asner

Community Free Suppers have always been a part of how communities give to those in need. When Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallowell stopped serving free Sunday lunches, South Parish Congregational Church in Augusta took over. A group of people from various churches would create the menu and bring the food to the South Parish kitchen every Sunday morning. This provided a lunch not only for those who attended but also a take-out meal for many area nursing homes and individual/elderly/disabled persons who needed a meal. It was a large and successful undertaking for many years, but this, too, came to an end.

Enter the *Augusta Angel Food Network* and the community suppers. For 6 years now, a free supper has been served every Saturday night (see schedule/location below). Over the years the AFB has been able to

be part of this process. Because we have been able to benefit from food from various sources like the Good Shepherd Food Bank, private companies, the government, and other generous souls, we are able to help provide needed food for the suppers. In turn, when the suppers have left over food that they can't use or freeze, off it goes to the Bread of Life Shelter where it is received with much gratitude. Win-Win-Win! It feels so good to be part of a food stream that not only helps people but also redistributes food that may not get eaten otherwise.

### Weekly Saturday Supper Schedule

1st Saturday - St. Mark's Episcopal Church

4th Saturday - Penney Memorial Baptist Church

2nd Saturday - South Parish Church, UCC

5th Saturday - Prince of Peace (noon at Bread of Life Kitchen)

3rd Saturday - Green Street Methodist Church

Other smaller churches contribute volunteers, food, and money. These include Unitarian Universalist Church, Temple Beth El, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. In the summer months, the suppers are put on through a combined effort of the UU church, St. Mark's and St. Barnabas. Everyone is welcome to visit one of the churches on a Saturday night, sit back, and enjoy a home cooked meal! -Helen Forbes

### From Our AFB President

It was my pleasure to recently meet two employees from Camden National Bank. Brent Vicnaire, Market Manager at the Armory Street branch, and Ken Demuth, Assistant Manager of the Bangor Street location, presented the AFB with a check for \$1,200! What makes this so very special is that these funds come directly from their associates through Camden National Bank's Community Spirit of Giving. - Nancy Haines -

### Thank You to Our May -November 2014 Donors!

Listed below are donors who contributed \$200 or more. In all we had 136 donors during this time period!

*United Way of Kennebec Valley, John T. Gorman Foundation, Elsie & William Viles Foundation, Maine Education Credit Union, Kennebec Valley Federal Credit Union, Kennebec Savings Bank, Ken Fortin, Camden National Bank, Integrated Waste Solutions, Inc., Tim McLellan, Town of Manchester, Penney Memorial United Baptist Church, Ed & May Coffin, NETCo Inc., Longfellow's Greenhouses, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, New Dimensions Federal Credit Union, Pamela Morin, Charles & Nancy Shuman, Carol Linker, Inc., St. Michael Parish, The Bank of Maine, Daniel & Judith Wathen, Patrick Whalen, Edith Gingras, Ronald Bechard, Manchester Community Church, GAP, FAME, Peter & Melissa Merfeld, Ruby Gems Red Hat Society, Joan Bartlett, Unitarian Universalist Community Church, Paul Tellow, Lorraine Fallona, Wendy Wingate, Adam Vachon, Office of the District Attorney of Kennebec County (donation made to GSFB & credited to AFB account)*

*"I went to bed hungry many nights as a child. It was a Dream that dressed me up when I was ragged, and it was a Dream that filled me up when I was hungry. Now it's my Dream to see that no child in this world ever goes hungry, certainly not here in America, the most bountiful country in the world. We can do better... we must!" -Dolly Parton-*



Augusta Food Bank  
9 Summer Street  
Augusta, ME 04330

**BE A BEET BOOSTER !**

*Join the community in supporting the AFB by going online to [augustafoodbank.org](http://augustafoodbank.org) or by using the donation form below.*



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First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Box # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT: CHECK ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MASTERCARD \_\_\_\_\_ DISCOVER \_\_\_\_\_ AMERICAN EXPRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to Augusta Food Bank, 9 Summer Street, Augusta, ME 04330**

The AFB is a 501C-3 non-profit organization.

