



## Wakefield Food Pantry Fact Sheet – FY 2024 Draft

### WHAT

We are a community-based non-profit whose mission is to provide a variety of food, household necessities, and support to those in need. We strive to offer a welcoming environment and to serve others with respect, dignity, and compassion. Between July 2023 and June 2024, the Wakefield Food Pantry:

- Served approximately 765 families, visiting us 6,505 times (a 23% increase over the prior year),
- Enabled families and individuals access to 23,396 bags of food, approximately 273,000 meals,
- Delivered food to two of our low-income senior housing facilities via our *Senior Distribution Program*,
- Stocked a grab and go “*Quick Stop*” at the Senior Center,
- Provided additional food for families with children through our *Kids First Program* during the summer,
- Stocked a mini pantry at the Galvin Middle School,
- Supplemented food given at the veterans’ monthly food distribution through our *Veteran’s Program*,
- Provided emergency food bins to churches and the police department for those in immediate need, and
- Promoted and maintained the *Little Free Pantries* located around town.

### WHO

The people we serve:

- 21% Senior Citizens
- 27% are families with children (351 total children)
- 54% are single person households
- 13% are disabled

### WHY

People visit us for several reasons including:

- Job loss, stagnant wages or low paying job,
- Health issues and the high costs associated with an illness,
- Disabled or elderly, living on a fixed income,
- Single parent households,
- Mental health issues.

### HOW

Through food, funding, staffing and other resources provided by:

- A caring, generous community,
- Dedicated business and community partners,
- A wonderful group of over 90 volunteers,
- A committed Board of Directors, and
- The Greater Boston Food Bank.

### HUNGER FACTS

- One in three people in Massachusetts are food insecure.
- Cost of food is the leading cause of food insecurity—73% of food-insecure individuals said that high inflation and rising food costs were the biggest barriers.
- Most of those making minimum wage (\$31,200) earn too much to qualify for government assistance.
- SNAP benefits (food stamps) are too low to allow people to purchase enough food.
- Massachusetts residents are at a higher hunger risk because of higher housing, fuel and utility costs.

### CONTACT US

For further information visit our website at [www.wakefieldfoodpantry.org](http://www.wakefieldfoodpantry.org), call us at 781-245-2510 or email us at [info@wakefieldfoodpantry.org](mailto:info@wakefieldfoodpantry.org).