



BREAD AND BOARD

The NSKS Newsletter

www.NSKS.org

The Greater Nashua Community will be one that ensures that the basic needs of all its members are met in a sustainable, accessible, and dignified way. The Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter will provide food and shelter to vulnerable individuals and families in the Greater Nashua Region in a dignified and sustainable manner. NSKS works to increase access to a full spectrum of basic needs through advocacy, targeted programs, and collaboration with other organizations.

No one should be hungry or homeless in our community.

Fall 2020

SUCSESSES AMID COVID-19

► A single man came to our shelter in the spring, a casualty of a self-employed businessman having to close his business and losing his income. He stayed several weeks and then went on his way. He reached out to us recently. He was able to reopen his business. He's earning a living again. He stopped in last week to give us a donation to thank us for being there when he needed help.

► One of the new, smaller projects of NSKS has been to place several shelter clients in housing as a gateway out of homelessness. The clients must be employed and be able to pay rent. Because of poor credit records, prior eviction records, and income ineligibility, many clients cannot secure housing on their own. NSKS stepped up, found an apartment, and negotiated with the landlord. Five Star Hotel Furniture in Nashua helped us furnish the apartment, so it looks great! During this pandemic, the apartment has given several clients a pathway out of the shelter. The response from clients eligible for the apartment has been phenomenal – they are so appreciative!

► A client came to our Employment Advocate looking for help with their resume. It needed to be rewritten and look more professional. The client recently wrote Donna: "I want to say thank you and to say that after we met, I applied for

a position in the school district of Nashua and have been working there since. Thank you so much for taking the time to help me. I will never forget your help and I hope one day I can repay you. In the meantime, I am trying to learn as much as I can to be able to help others."

► Many people were, and still are, making the difficult decision to stay at home during COVID-19. NSKS has coordinated with the United Way of Greater Nashua to deliver fresh produce to 8 various locations, Monday – Friday. From March – July we have distributed over 25,500 pounds of fresh fruits & vegetables!

► In July, we received city approval to erect tents in our parking lot to provide outdoor dining, per COVID recommendations. Our clients appreciate having a place to eat their "To Go" hot meals we serve for both Breakfast and Dinner.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 7, 2020

for our 20th Annual Auction Fundraiser.
"Envision a Brighter Future" will be virtual!

FMI: <https://nks.org/dinner-auction/>

**To Sign In, Sponsor, View Items:
<https://one.bidpal.net/NSKSGala2020>**



NASHUA
SOUP KITCHEN
& SHELTER, INC.



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Telephone: 889-7770 www.nks.org

Find us on Facebook: Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Inc.

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YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!

Amazing things donors made possible in FY20:

- 22,493 breakfast meals served
- 21,509 visits for fresh fruits and vegetables and bread
- 50,420 dinner meals served
- 9,590 food baskets given to households
- 14,205 frozen Nashua Meals for Kids produced and distributed
- 7,895 pounds of produce distributed with Nashua Meals for Kids frozen dinners
- 14,058 bags of toiletries and personal care items distributed
- 12,762 nights of emergency shelter to 347 homeless persons: 290 adults, 57 children. We sheltered 26 families
- 30 families, including 27 children, received financial assistance to prevent homelessness
- 159 Birthday bags (packed with party supplies, cake mix, candles and gifts) provided to the parent of a child celebrating a birthday
- 21,404 diapers distributed
- Clients took 201 showers and washed 493 loads of laundry
- 216 pounds of produce grown in NSKS garden beds
- 607 clients were helped by our Employment & Education advocate.
- Individuals and families served come from Nashua, Hudson, Hollis, Wilton, Milford, Amherst, Merrimack, Pelham, and Mont Vernon
- Volunteers and supporters come from the above cities & towns and beyond

EARLY AUCTION SPONSORS

Thank you to these businesses who have already pledged their support for our “Envision a Brighter Future” virtual fundraiser on November 7th:

Full Bellies Champion Sponsor
Granite Subaru

Stocked Fridge Sponsor
Eversolve

Full Pantry Guardian
Eaton & Berube Insurance Agency
Enterprise Bank
Nash Foundation

Sunny Side Up Breakfast Backer
Focused Eyecare
Jeanne D’Arc Credit Union
Southern New Hampshire Health

Please consider becoming a Sponsor.
FMI: <https://nsks.org/dinner-auction/>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS BLOG

The other day, I had a chance encounter with one of the local Nashua clergy and he started talking about the difference between this year and 2008, what we previously referred to as the “Big Recession”. Twelve years ago, he was working in a suburb outside of Boston. In his congregation were people of considerable means. I don’t know what significant wealth would mean to you, but it is safe to say such families were not scarce on Sunday morning worship. When the recession hit, the first thing he heard was “batten down the hatches!”, “eliminate mission!” “we need to ensure we can make it!” The contrast with Nashua was striking. Here, when the pandemic hit, his congregation said, “Let’s take care of mission first!” “If we make sure we help the community, we know we can figure out things internally!”

The contrast between the two congregations struck a note with me. I have lived across the country and in large cities as well as small towns. Nashua has a generous spirit which is not evident everywhere. You may have noticed how we have been, with the help of others, setting up 16 mobile pantries and increasing our food assistance to ten local area schools. This would not have been possible without you. When the crisis really began to hit, all of the staff were wondering how we were going to make it work. The answer of course was through the support of our community. Thank you! We can not say it enough and we will need to keep on saying it in the months and years ahead. We consider ourselves lucky to have so many who “have our backs” and for that we say “Thank you!” again and again.

Gratefully yours,

Michael

WISH LIST

➤ **Sponsorships, advertisers, and participants for our 20th Annual “Envision a Brighter Future” virtual fundraiser Auction on November 7th.** It will be different but still be an amazing time! To sign in, order Heat & Eat dinners, preview items and view other ways to help, go to: <https://one.bidpal.net/NSKSGala2020>

➤ Watch for our “**30 Acts of Kindness for the Holidays**” List on our Facebook & our website to help fill our Holiday Food Boxes

➤ **Financial contributions:** one dollar will help us purchase nearly six pounds of food

Our Top Ten most-needed items are:

1. Rice – any type or brand, 2# bags are best
2. Jars of Peanut Butter
3. Canned Fruits/Fruit cups for kids
4. Canned Protein – Tuna, Chicken, Turkey, Ham, Beans (Black, Kidney, Garbanzo)
5. Shampoo
6. Body Wash or Bars of Soap
7. Toothbrush & toothpaste
8. Razors and Shaving Cream
9. Deodorant (men’s or women’s)
10. Diapers – Large or X-Large – any brand

***Please remember your donations support our work.
Please give as generously as you are able so we
can continue to help the families who come
to us in order to survive.***