



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.

Summer 2021

A GRANT FROM ORACLE

Our NSKS has received a grant from Oracle, a global leader in cloud applications and platform services. The \$20,000 grant aims to provide fresh meals, supplementary groceries (both on site and throughout Nashua), and support the NSKS Education and Employment program, assisting people throughout the Hillsborough County area to acquire or better their education and employment status, for individuals in need in the Hillsborough County area.

Colleen Cassity, Executive Director of Oracle Corporate Citizenship, stated *"Oracle is committed to advancing education, protecting the environment, and enriching community life. Each year, we award grants to a select set of excellent nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations around the world. Through grants and support from Oracle Volunteers, we work to improve the quality of life in the communities where we do business. Your work is vital to achieving these ends and we are delighted to support Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter this year."*

Michael Reinke, NSKS's Executive Director, noted *"Despite the challenges of COVID-19, organizations such as Oracle have enabled NSKS to provide lifesaving services to our friends and neighbors in Nashua and beyond. Because of the pandemic, NSKS has seen many new clients, many of whom never thought they would be in need of our services, but that's why we're here. When your world is turned upside-down, NSKS is here to help without barriers or judgment. We are proud to be of service to our community when we are needed most."*

In its fiscal year 2020, NSKS provided nearly 73,000 meals, 9,590

supplementary food baskets, 21,509 visits for fresh fruits and vegetables, and 12,762 nights of emergency shelter to homeless persons, 57 of whom were children.

NH GIVES June 8th – 9th

Hosted by the NH Center for Nonprofits, NH Gives is the state's largest day-of-giving, bringing together hundreds of nonprofits and tens of thousands of donors to raise as much money and awareness as possible for the causes served by NH's nonprofit sector.

Starting on Tuesday, June 8th at 6:00PM until Wednesday, June 9th at 6:00PM, our community will have 24 hours (one day!) to celebrate giving across New Hampshire. NSKS will be part of this state-wide effort. To support our campaign, go to <https://www.nhgives.org/organizations/nashua-soup-kitchen-and-shelter> Thank you!

JOIN US JUNE 16th at 5PM

Please join us for the launch of our Spring Street Forward Campaign! Help us celebrate our plans to transform the former Sacred Heart Elementary School at 35 Spring Street into our new emergency shelter!

This socially distanced outdoor event will be held in the grassy area behind Citizens Bank, next to 35 Spring Street. It will feature a brief speaking program, music, refreshments, and an opportunity to tour the future shelter in small groups.

RSVP to rsvp@nsks.org

Virtual Option: [facebook.com/NSKandS](https://www.facebook.com/NSKandS)

Rain Date: Thursday, June 17th 5PM



NASHUA
SOUP KITCHEN
& SHELTER, INC.



P.O. Box 3116 • Nashua, NH 03061

Telephone: 889-7770 www.nks.org

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

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Please remember NSKS this summer.

Donations slow down during this time. Please return the enclosed envelope with a gift. Those who depend on us thank you.

"BAG HUNGER™" IS BACK

We are thrilled to let you know you can **Bag Hunger™** again at the Nashua Hannaford. We kick off the program Memorial Day weekend and it continues through the 4th of July weekend.

It's easy –look for our hanging laminated poster at each checkout. Ask your cashier to scan the Bag Hunger™ coupon which corresponds to what you want to give. You can select \$2, \$5, or \$10. 100% of all donations collected will go to the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter. We are grateful to Nashua Hannaford for their participation & you for your generosity. We hope as you celebrate summer with picnics & cookouts, you'll remember those we help in our community.

NSKS URBAN GARDENS

Our gardens are growing again! We've secured additional green space behind Citizens Bank at 41 Spring Street (across from the Post Office) that can provide additional beds of fresh produce for families in need. We are looking for sponsors that can donate \$150 this season to provide funds to support a family with seedlings, nutrients, tools, and hands-on education to grow healthy fresh vegetables to support their families through our partnership with Grow Nashua. FMI email meghan@nsks.org

SAVE THE DATE

21st Annual NSKS Dinner Auction
Saturday, November 6, 2021

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Summer is on its way and we need your help with our annual "Backpacks for Back to School" Program. We collect new backpacks and school supplies for families trying to live on minimum wage, staying at our shelters, or coming to the soup kitchen for food. New backpacks & school supplies always bring joy to the students who get them.

Donations can be dropped off August 2nd – August 6th, 9AM – 4PM. We need volunteers to help sort, organize, assemble & distribute. Go to <https://nsks.org/project/nsks-backpacks-for-back-to-school/> page for our School Supply List & ways to volunteer. **FMI email carol@nsks.org**

WELCOMING VOLUNTEERS

If people continue to get vaccinated and COVID restrictions are relaxed, we plan to welcome back volunteers at NSKS beginning sometime in JULY! If you are a former group leader who was regularly scheduled to come in previous to COVID, we look forward to welcoming you back!

Please check <https://nsks.org/volunteer/> for our latest updates and changes to our Volunteer Program.

WISH LIST

Most-Needed Items: • Cereal: any type, brand, or size, hot or cold
• Soups: any brand, flavor (broth or hearty), canned or boxed • Pea-

nut Butter, Nut Butter • Canned Fruit • Rice • Shampoo • Toilet Paper: any size packages; families are given ONE roll • Body Wash or Bars of Soap • Toothpaste & Toothbrushes • Deodorant • Tampons, Maxi Pads

SUMMER MOBILE PANTRIES

If you know someone struggling to feed their family, please share this list of where to pick up free fresh produce this summer.

Monday-Friday 11am-12:30pm at the following two locations each day, starting April 19:

Monday: Dr. Crisp Elementary School and Marguerite's Place

Tuesday: River Pines Mobile Home Park and Major Drive

Wednesday: Ledge Street Elementary School and Nashua PAL

Thursday: Fairgrounds Elementary School and Greater Nashua Dental Connection

Friday: Sullivan Terrace apartments and Crossways Church, downtown location

Lil' Free Farmstand Location Days

Starting June 25:

Friday: Arlington St. Community Center

Saturday: PAL

Sunday: Unitarian Universalist Church

Healthy food access = healthy lives. **FMI email meghan@nsks.org**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BLOG

"Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire." Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Every day, the burners on the stove light up in the kitchen made possible through the 2013 capital campaign. I confess that I take it for granted in much the same way I assume the coffee machine will brew coffee or the toaster will heat my bread. What would it mean to discover fire? A recent article for the Smithsonian concludes fire was a game changer for humanity: *"Fire brought hominids out of the trees; by frightening away nocturnal predators, it enabled Homo erectus to sleep safely on the ground, which was part of the process by which bipedalism (and perhaps mind-expanding dreaming) evolved. By bringing people together at one place and time to eat, fire laid the groundwork for pair bonding and, indeed, for human society."*

Fire made possible human society. Now consider Teilhard's observation regarding love. If we harness the energies of love, we will have discovered fire for the second time. It is an amazing statement. This is the work that I see happening at NSKS every day: assisting a man living in his car in the parking lot of a local grocery store, a bike voucher issued to ensure someone can get to work and not wear out his shoes, and growing vegetables with someone experiencing homelessness so that we all will have healthy food to eat. These are just several of the recent examples of how together, we have been harnessing the energies of love. The campaign for Spring St. Forward provides another. Please join us on June 16th at 5pm and thank you for all of your support and thank you for making this effort possible.

In peace, Michael Reinke