



Preble Street

Food Values

We believe that everyone deserves food and shelter.

We believe food pantries and soup kitchens must be welcoming places where all are treated with respect and empathy.

We want to offer nourishing meals to anyone who comes through our doors in a warm safe space where they can also enjoy a connection to community.

Understanding the complexities of poverty, we don't judge our hungry neighbors. And knowing that hunger is more than a physical need, we feed people as much as they like within our means.

We know that to those who have nothing, choice around something—even the smallest portion of food—is important and is appreciated and offers dignity.

Because we know that relying on a soup kitchen or food pantry is a sign of greater needs, we are also committed to staffing food programs with professional caseworkers, who can assist people with responding to crises and moving beyond hunger.

We welcome partners who share these values to help us fulfill our mission.

MAINE HUNGER INITIATIVE

Responding to a hunger crisis that has grown unabated for decades by meeting immediate food needs, addressing food supply problems, and developing long-term solutions to hunger.

Emergency Food Services

Distributing **550,000 meals a year** to meet the basic needs of the most impoverished residents of Maine's largest urban area

- Soup Kitchens in 3 locations provide nutritious meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner 365 days a year to hungry children, adults, elders, families
- Food Pantry distributes grocery supplements weekly to households facing economic hardship, disabilities, cultural challenges, etc.
- Social work services at food programs empower people to move beyond hunger and poverty.

Organizing Food Pantries

Coordinating efforts of Cumberland County pantries working together to alleviate hunger and create a blueprint for a sustainable, replicable system through:

- Regional food pantry meetings and cooperation
- Technical assistance and trainings
- Food sourcing partnerships (e.g. Farm to Pantry)
- Best practice research and implementation

Promoting Federal Nutrition Services

Creating and supporting Summer Meals for children in nine Maine counties

Anti-Hunger Advocacy

Raising public will to promote self-sufficient families and healthy communities by partnering with AARP Maine, Maine Center for Economic Policy, Maine Council of Churches, Maine Equal Justice Partners, and Muskie School of Public Service to eliminate conditions that force people to depend on food programs by:

- Supporting anti-hunger legislation
- Identifying public policy priorities
- Serving on the Maine Task Force to End Student Hunger in Maine
- Organizing testimony by people who experience food insecurity
- Advocating for Food Supplement benefits
- Helping initiate and lead the Campaign for Food Security in Cumberland County
- Participating in the North East Regional Anti-Hunger Network and the National Anti-Hunger and Opportunity Corps



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