

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact

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Preble Street providing over 1,000 Thanksgiving feasts to Mainers in need

On Thanksgiving Day, Preble Street Mobile Food Services will load hot Thanksgiving meals into the van to deliver to people staying at area shelters and on the streets

PORTLAND, ME (November 26, 2020) — Through its food pantry, soup kitchens, and Mobile Food Services, Preble Street is providing over 1,000 Thanksgiving feasts to Mainers in need this year. Weeks of coordination and holiday prep will culminate in a mass delivery of hot meals to area shelters and people living on the streets at 3pm on Thanksgiving Day. **The media are invited to the Mobile Food Services Kitchen at 252 Oxford St at 2:45pm to see the prepared meals being loaded into the Mobile Food Services van for delivery and to speak to a Preble Street representative.** The van will depart at 3:15pm.

Preble Street began giving out Thanksgiving Feast boxes — containing a turkey, fresh produce, and ample ingredients for a full holiday meal — to individuals and families at their regular food pantry on Tuesday, November 17, and will continue to do so through Wednesday, November 25. Thanksgiving Feast boxes are also being delivered by caseworkers to people being served through over a dozen Preble Street programs. The boxes are accompanied by handmade cards created by students at local schools. On Thanksgiving Day, the Teen Center and Florence House kitchens will also provide a festive holiday meal to youth and women experiencing homelessness in Portland.

“We are providing a record number of meals through our Food Programs, this year. We’re on track to serve well over 1 million meals in 2020, which is mind blowing to us,” said Executive Director Mark Swann. “This has been a tough year for everybody, but especially for our neighbors living on the streets and families who are barely able to pay rent and are struggling to put food on the table. To be able to lift their spirits and give them that gift of a full holiday meal — we’re giving over 1,000 turkeys, 1,000 feasts to over 1,000 people — it’s really something. And it’s all thanks to our hard-working staff, the volunteers who join us every day, and the many people in our community who have donated food and funds to make this happen.”

For the privacy and dignity of the people we serve, we ask that media please refrain from filming or photographing clients receiving meals from Preble Street on Thanksgiving Day.

Preble Street is a nonprofit human service agency serving the most vulnerable people in Maine since 1975 through innovative, best-practice, client-centered programs. In addition to the largest direct service emergency food program in northern New England, Preble Street operates low-barrier programs throughout Maine providing 24/365 services for individuals and families, including homeless youth, women, veterans, and survivors of human trafficking, driven by its

mission to meet urgent needs, empower people to move beyond the crises in their lives, and advocate for solutions to homelessness, hunger, and poverty. PrebleStreet.org

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