

A photograph of the Burlington Food Pantry building, a long wooden structure with a metal roof, set against a backdrop of trees. In the foreground, a sign with the text 'Burlington FOOD PANTRY' is visible. The text 'BURLINGTON FOOD PANTRY' is overlaid in large white letters across the top of the image, and 'ANNUAL REPORT' is overlaid in white italicized letters below it.

BURLINGTON FOOD PANTRY *ANNUAL REPORT*

2021/2022

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OUR MISSION

We are committed to responding to the needs of our community and the surrounding towns through food distribution.

We believe that access to sufficient nutritious food is a basic human right and will increase self-sufficiency, instill hope, and help to ensure that food relief has a meaningful, enduring impact.

Burlington Food Pantry is an equal opportunity provider, open to the public.



OUR BOARD

President and Director

Maureen Bean

Secretary

Heather Melton

Treasurer

Elaine Rich

Board Members

Anne Moffett

Debra Cardin



ABOUT & HISTORY

Burlington Food Pantry is a non-profit organization founded in response to increased food insecurity in a rural Maine community correlated with the COVID-19 pandemic. A local church had a food pantry supported by the Chester Food Cupboard, and had been in operation for over 30 years.

In March of 2020, when schools closed in response to the pandemic, Maureen Bean started delivering school lunches to local families. When families began asking for additional food, Maureen saw a significant need in the community. She partnered with Good Shepherd Food Bank, and opened the Burlington Food Pantry.

The organization started with less than twenty families seeking weekly support. Through word of mouth, news about the pantry spread throughout the community. Due to increased need of the neighboring communities, volunteers began picking up larger loads of food utilizing borrowed trucks and trailers. Hannaford Supermarket located in Lincoln, Maine began offering two weekly pickups of donated food.

Maureen and volunteers would go to the Good Shepherd Food Bank's warehouse in Hampden for USDA shipments of food weekly. Figuring out where to operate out of was an immediate concern that needed to be addressed.

A local farmer offered a building at 27 Barker Road in Burlington to serve as a temporary food pantry. After a health setback in December 2020, he was unable to continue loaning his building. Finding a permanent location was an immediate concern that needed to be addressed. After a local news station published a story about the pantry's needs, the owners of a local hardware store, Ware-Butler, reached out and offered their support.

Builders sat down with Ware-Butler, and then presented a plan to Maureen. Knowing they had some time, she began scouting out a place to build. Donations made it possible for a plot of land across the road from the Burlington Town Office to be leased and a physical structure built.

The property already had a concrete slab, which allowed for construction to begin on April 21st, 2021. In three and a half weeks, the pantry had permanently relocated to 1510 Long Ridge Road, in Burlington, Maine. After leasing the land for a year, funds were raised to purchase the land. Fortunately, the owner agreed.

"The pantry is really amazing! Everybody works so well together. So much incredible food goes out each week!"



MEET THE DIRECTOR

Maureen is currently a retired educator making her home in Burlington, Maine. She was born and raised in Lincoln, Maine. Her college years were spent in South Carolina where she received a Bachelor's of Arts in Education then on to Georgia for graduate work. Her career took her to Georgia, Florida and the last 20 years were spent in Texas, teaching in both the traditional classroom as well as the corporate sector. In 2008, she returned to Maine where she quickly became active in the field of education at SAD 67 (Lincoln).

Maureen has served on the school boards of RSU 31 (Howland / Enfield), RSU 41 (Milo) and Region III Vocational School in Lincoln as well. Presently she is the chairman of the Burlington School District. When local schools closed due the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, Maureen began delivering meals to the homes of school children. When their parents started asking for food, Maureen partnered with Good Shepherd Food Bank and established Burlington Food Pantry where she is currently the director, serving more than 300 households within a 60 mile radius.



In December of 2021 she received the spirit of America Foundation Award from the Penobscot County Commissioner and in March of 2022 she received the State of Maine Spirit of America Foundation Award from the Maine Senate and House of Representatives.

Maureen also serves on the board of Save-A-Life Recovery Network in Lincoln where together a difference can be made.

NEIGHBORS SERVED

When the pantry moved into the new building, they were serving 100 families bi-weekly. As the pantry provided a significant amount of food and the drive was substantial for many, bi-weekly allowed families to come. The pantry operates on a drive-through model, allowing volunteers to load each vehicle with an abundance of pre-packaged bags and boxes of food in just a few minutes with no need for the driver to exit their vehicle. Most recently, the pantry has been serving 250-300 bi-weekly, which is approximately 1,200 people.

The pantry serves a 60 mile radius, meeting the needs of families in two counties (Penobscot and Hancock). Primary towns include Burlington, Lowell, Grand Falls Township, Enfield, and Lincoln.

60% of Burlington's population comes to each distribution day.

The pantry also serves families from Howland, Greenbush, Milford, Springfield, Lee, Webster Plantation, Medway, East Millinocket, and as far north as Prentiss.

There are no qualifiers to receive services from Burlington Food Pantry. Neighbors are asked for their name, town of residence, and how many people are in their household. This is for the pantry's records, but the information is kept confidential.

It's a challenge to keep up with the pantry's needs. President Maureen Bean keeps six months ahead on the budget.

In addition to serving individuals and families, they stock pantries at two local churches, provide food to a bi-weekly after school club in Howland, Maine, stock shelves in two retirement homes, offer after hours appointments, and deliver food on a case by case basis, per request.



**250-300
families
bi-weekly**

**Serving a
60 mile
radius**



The Good Shepherd Food Bank delivers 20,000 lbs of food bi-weekly to Burlington Food Pantry for a total of 40,000 lbs delivered monthly. These deliveries include 16,000 lbs of fresh produce, with the remaining 4,000 lbs including dried goods, frozen food, household items, and sundries. Each family receives approximately 160 lbs of food each distribution, or 320 lbs of food per month.

The pantry offers pre-packed boxes and bags of food. On average, families spend six minutes in line. The pantry focuses on offering healthy, shelf-stable options as well as snacks, drinks, fresh dairy, produce, and meats. There are also limited choices of extras offered, which include coffee,

tea, diapers, household items such as cleaners, and sundries. This allows families to choose what they need, and decline what they won't use. The pantry accommodates dietary restrictions by offering gluten free items, and vegetarian/vegan options. Everyone receives the same staple items each week, as well as a rotating variety of extras.

Families are encouraged by Maureen to "please use what you can and share what you can't." It gives them a good feeling to share with others. Local businesses have created take it or leave it tables in laundromats, local thrift stores, and retirement homes.

OUR VOLUNTEERS



"Maureen and her team are wonderful!"

The ages of the volunteers vary from 18-70. The majority of the volunteers are retirees, as well as high school students, college students, and young parents. There are opportunities for groups, and individuals outside of regular hours who wish to volunteer but can't on truck or distribution days.

The Burlington Food Pantry averages 30 volunteers on a distribution day, which occurs two Fridays a month. On truck delivery days, which occur two Thursdays a month, 20 volunteers arrive. The truck empties about 17 pallets. The volunteers break down the pallets, pack the food onto shelves, and then box and bag the food.

"Great teamwork. Thank you for all you do."

"You're doing very good things and this guy appreciates it!"



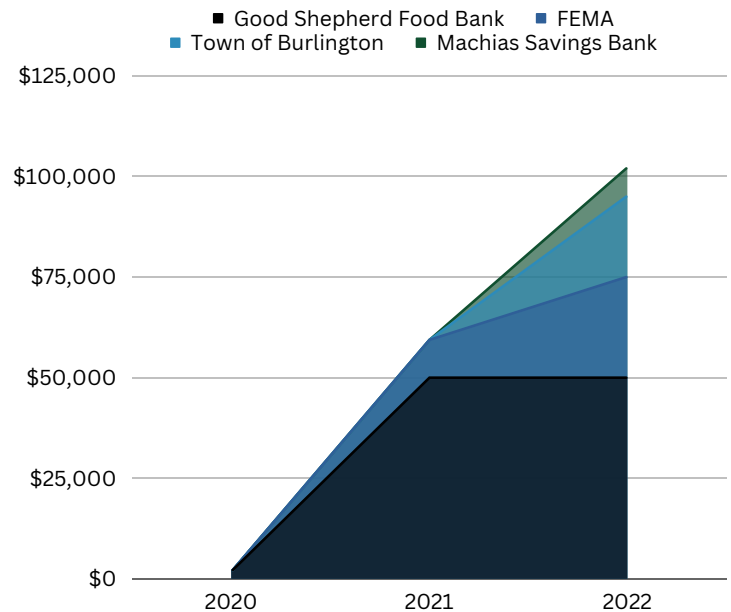
GRANTS | DONATIONS

Grants are the primary source of funding for the pantry.

- **Total for 2020: \$2,165**
 - Good Shepherd Food Bank awarded 3 grants, \$865, \$700, and \$600.
- **Total for 2021: \$59,385.71**
 - FEMA awarded \$9,385.71 in reimbursable funds.
 - Good Shepherd Food Bank granted \$50,000.
- **Total for 2022: \$102,000**
 - Good Shepherd Food Bank granted \$50,000.
 - The Town of Burlington gave \$20,000 of funds from the American Rescue Plan.
 - Machias Savings Bank gifted \$2,000 and then provided an additional grant of \$5,000.
 - FEMA gave \$25,000 to spend on food by the end of the year.
- **Anticipated for 2023**
 - The pantry was granted \$35,000 earmarked for food by the Penobscot County Commissioners' Office.

Donations come primarily through word-of-mouth. Ware-Butler, a local hardware store, donated the majority of what was needed for the first part of the pantry's building. Two Go-FundMe campaigns raised \$13,000.

Two local churches send monthly gifts of \$100 and \$300. The food pantry collects returnables, which gives about \$400 a month. They place donation jars at the local stores which generate about \$200 a month. Extra food is offered on a donation-basis. All donations, large and small, have been greatly appreciated!



THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR PARTNERS

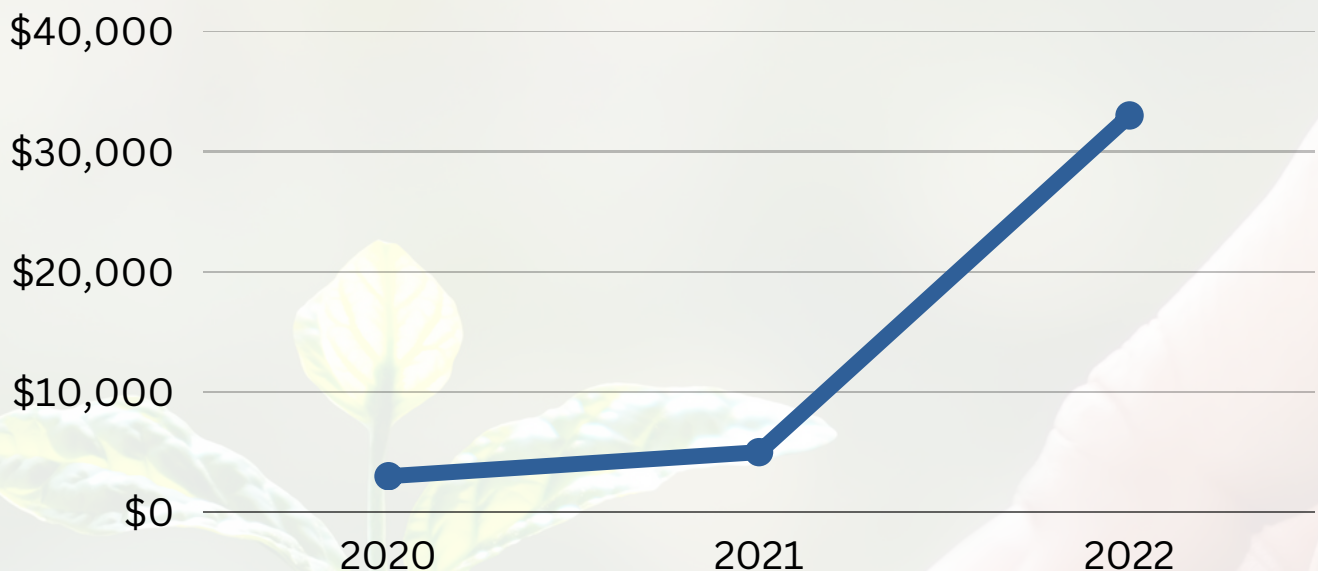


Good Shepherd
FOOD BANK OF MAINE



FINANCES

- In 2020, it cost \$3,000.00 to run the food pantry.
- In 2021, that number increased to \$5,000.00.
- In 2022, the cost increased to \$33,000.00.
- Costs will continue to rise in 2023 with increased need, inflation, and decreased access to government resources, such as food assistance.



ANNUAL UPKEEP

- Landscaping (grass cutting and snow removal) = \$700.00
- Insurance = \$1,000.00
- Electricity = \$2,400.00
- Generator (propane) = \$300.00

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Secured funds, purchased land, and built the food pantry.
- Served 300 families, approximately 1,200 people, monthly from 15 communities and two counties.
- Created an expanded network of regular volunteers.
- Addressed food insecurity in a food desert.
- Created a drive-through model which provides anonymity and privacy for participating neighbors.
- Provided one-on-one appointments to serve the community after hours.
- Created a culture shift around how the community viewed and utilized the food pantry. Encouraged a compassionate, non-judgmental atmosphere that allowed people to maintain their dignity.
- Maintained high standards in regards to food offered, with options, healthy choices, meeting dietary restrictions, and discarding damaged food.
- Raised approximately \$162,000.00 through grants and charitable donations.
- Director Maureen Bean received the Spirit of America Foundation award from the Maine Senate, House of Representatives, and Penobscot County Commissioners' Office for her hardwork and dedication in establishing the Burlington Food Pantry.

"Whoop whoop for great people at Burlington Food Pantry!"

2023 GOALS

- Continue providing healthy, wholesome, easily-accessible food to the greater Burlington community and beyond.
- Increase the amount of weekly volunteers.
- Continue to operate in the black through fundraising and applying for and receiving grants.
- Maintain the facility in good working order.

"Thank you for everything all of you do. What a blessing."

Get Involved

Burlington Food Pantry has been in existence for more than twenty to thirty years. We are partnered with Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine and Feeding American Corporation.

We are always looking for volunteers to help pack boxes, bags, and cars!

300+

Families served on pantry day

20,000

Pounds of food distributed on pantry day

1,200

Monthly volunteer work hours