



The Berkshire Food Project seeks to alleviate hunger, food insecurity, and social isolation by serving healthy, no cost meals and connecting people to other resources, all in a dignified and respectful manner.

Find us inside the First Congregational Church on Summer Street between Ashland & Church Streets in downtown North Adams, MA.

## Happy Holidays! Happy New Year!

December is truly a festive month with so many holidays! Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, Las Posadas, Diwali, Christmas and New Year's Eve make this a month for family gatherings, special events and of course, special meals!

Our traditional Christmas dinner of ham and scalloped potatoes will be served during our normal hours (12 - 1 PM) on Monday, December 23. We are expecting a visit from Santa that day and will have some goody bags too.

We will also be distributing some special grocery items between now and then - to make the holidays special AND to make sure that everyone has food at home when we close for the holiday.

The Berkshire Food Project is closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If you are looking for a place to volunteer or to find a FREE Christmas dinner on Christmas Day, head to the American Legion Post 125. From 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM they invite you to be their guest for a Christmas ham dinner.

From all of us at the Berkshire Food Project,

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
Happy New Year!

And best wishes on any other December holiday you may be celebrating!



A photo from last year's Christmas dinner, featuring Santa's visit.

## Want to Know Why Aaron Oster is Our Hero?

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## Catching Up With Val

It's been over two years since our former director, Val Schwarz, retired, so when she stopped in at Thanksgiving we caught up with her.

Val is really living her best life these days -

She is a foster mom to three teenage boys! And if that wasn't enough to keep a person busy, Val is taking voice lessons and learning to drum.

And she can be found in the pool at the Y, especially during pool yoga sessions. Somehow she is finding time to read! Right now she's planning a super summer vacation too. It seems like Val is as busy as ever - and hardly retired!

Thanks for catching up with us Val!



We are expecting to have some live music on Thursday 12/19. Members of the North County Chorale will be here to perform! Join Us!



Click here to see a recent piece about BFP airing on Spectrum News 1

## BLUE Christmas

All of these festivities can make a person feel sad or left out. A Blue Christmas service for those who find the holidays difficult will be offered at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at All Saints Berkshires Episcopal Church on Summer Street in North Adams - right down the street from the BFP. The service will include meditations, reflections, music and prayer.

## Aaron Oster and The Month of Movember



As more and more people learn about food insecurity and realize that they can make a difference, the BFP has been the recipient of some very innovative and generous people. You may recall a recent hot dog eating contest... or the inspiring North Country Christmas Concert.. or a food drive at your children's school or your faith based institution. But nothing has come close to the efforts of Aaron Oster and A-OK Berkshire Barbecue!

During the moustache oriented month of "Movember" Aaron participated in a fundraising campaign that involved growing a mustache and raising money for the BFP. This wildly successful campaign raised THOUSANDS of dollars for the BFP. And raised awareness about the issue of food insecurity in northern Berkshire.

But there's more! This year wasn't the first Thanksgiving that Aaron devoted hours of time to carving our Thanksgiving turkeys. In fact, before A-OK had even opened Aaron was here carving turkeys for us!

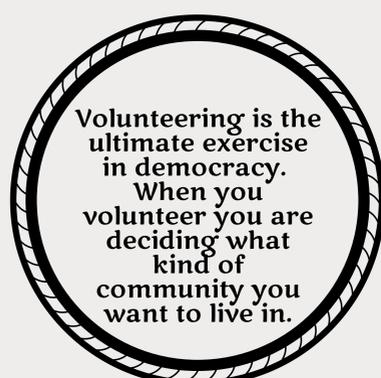
And he and his wife Alex Oster and partner Orion Howard, all of A-OK Berkshire Barbecue, are running another promotion - Feed it Forward North Adams. Anyone can go to A-OK and purchase an entree for \$13 which will be donated to a person in need of a meal, and A-OK will add a side dish to the meal too! This is especially helpful as A-OK is open evenings and weekends, when the BFP is not. It brings much needed food to people who need it when we can't.

A-OK Berkshire Barbecue is located outside MASS MoCA in the old Sprague Gatehouse. You can order your food to go or you can have it brought to you inside Bright Ideas Brewing located right across the parking lot. (The MASS MoCA ice skating rink is being installed steps away.)

Aaron has brought so much to northern Berkshire - you can see why he's our hero!

We serve lunch every weekday from noon until 1 PM. Our doors open at 11:30 AM for snacks and beverages. There is NO criteria and no questions asked. Join us any weekday!

Are you coming from Williamstown? Volunteers and Diners Can get a FREE RIDE from Williamstown! You can arrange A FREE ROUNDTRIP RIDE any Tuesday or Thursday. Call by Monday of the week during which you want a ride - 413-458-9831. Tell the operator you want to arrange a free ride to the Berkshire Food Project. Use the ride service Tuesday AND Thursday if you would like - there's no limit! For more information you can also call Kim at 413-664-7378. For a ride call 413-458-9831. Rides provided by a grant from the Fund for Williamstown of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.



Click here for our volunteer application.