



Berkshire Food Project
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Kitchen Manager

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There are many ways for people to provide financial assistance to the Berkshire Food Project.

- They can put donations in the mailbox mounted on the wall in the dining room.
- They can go to our website (www.berkshirefoodproject.org) and click on "Make a Donation".
- They can write a check and mail it to the BFP at PO Box 651, North Adams, MA 01247.

The Volunteers' Update November 2017

A GREAT EVENING!



On November 16, the Berkshire Food Project (BFP) held our first quarterly volunteer workshop. Eleven volunteers and all of our staff gathered for discussion and learning.

Thanks to all who participated! Those who attended said they really enjoyed the evening, which included a brief ServSafe presentation by Eric Engel and an activity to demonstrate the difference between labeling somebody and understanding what group experiences and knowledge they may have. We also began seeking feedback about the BFP Volunteer experience with our fall survey.

Please be sure to get a copy of the survey and let us know how we can improve the experience of volunteering at the BFP!

We are hoping to hold volunteer workshops quarterly and to have more volunteers participate in the future. Please ask those volunteers that did attend about the evening – they said it wasn't what they were expecting!

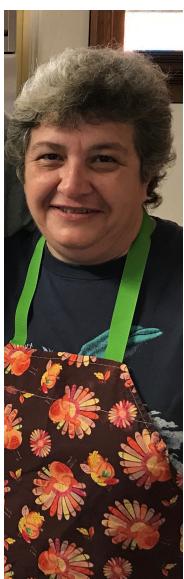


Future issues of this update will be posted in the kitchen and e-mailed to volunteers who sign up for the volunteer mailing list.

Sign up by adding your e-mail to the list in the kitchen.

WHAT A DAY!!

On November 17, in the middle of lunch service and with Thanksgiving preparations making the kitchen twice as busy as usual, we had a surprise inspection by the North Adams Board of Health. We got a perfect score – they didn't find a single thing out of compliance with the public health code. To have an inspection in the midst of all that activity and still be completely in compliance is really impressive – please be sure to congratulate our kitchen manager **Darlene Ellis** on



her ability to maintain safe conditions throughout our daily activities. If you find we sometimes seem nitpicky about little things in the kitchen, it's because those little things are how we keep the kitchen and food safe for all and reduce the chance of any foodborne illness.

The health department occasionally will stop in and check to make sure we are maintaining a clean and safe kitchen for everybody working and eating at the BFP as a matter of routine. It's so routine, some of the volunteers on November 17 didn't even know the inspectors were there – but it's reassuring for all to know they were there and found our kitchen to be in compliance! Thank you to all of the volunteers who help us keep it that way every day and a big shout out to Darlene for all of her hard work making sure we do.

A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

January 15 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day and in northern Berkshire County that means a day of opportunities to serve, learn and celebrate. The BFP participates in the community events that day and welcome volunteers to join us. See Kim or Darlene if you want to be part of our activities that day.

EVERY VOLUNTEER IS A VALUED MEMBER OF THE TEAM

This time of the year people start thinking about all of the things they have to be thankful about; the holidays are a time of giving and giving back. So it seems like this time of year we have a lot of volunteers who come in for a single shift, or maybe just a couple during the holidays. This might be frustrating to the "regulars" who have to show the new people where things are and the proper procedures, knowing these fresh faces are only going to be here once or twice.

We appreciate all of our volunteers – it would be impossible for us to feed the number of people we do every day without all of you! It's great for people to come in and see how much our volunteers accomplish every day and to understand the importance of our work. Sometimes that volunteer who comes in just once tells dozens of people about the experience, leading to increased awareness and support of the BFP. Sometimes that single shift will stick with a person and when their own circumstances permit, they come back to volunteer more regularly. Students coming in gain perspective that may impact their future career choices and a busy but influential business person may get insight from a single shift that leads them to change policy or shift focus of their company's philanthropy.

We may think that no single volunteer working a single shift is going to change the world, but we don't know the long term and far reaching impact that experience may have.

Thank you to all of our regulars, whether your regular shift is every day, once a week, once a month, once a year – your commitment to the BFP is appreciated and needed. And thank you also to those volunteers who have managed to stop in just once – we appreciate you and hope you will share your experience and spread the word.

THANK YOU and Best Wishes to you as we enter this season of winter holidays!

