



An Emergency Food Pantry and Referral Service for Hampshire County
265 Prospect Street Northampton, MA 01060 (413) 586-6564 www.TheNSC.org

November, 2008

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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

These days, concerned friends and donors urgently ask, "How are things at the Survival Center? Are you seeing a lot more people? How are you coping with the high cost of food and the weakening economy?"

The Center *is* a very busy place these days, as a record number of new clients flock to us for help putting food on their tables. But this simple answer omits an important truth – **the Northampton Survival Center is a joyful place, flourishing with community support:**

On any given weekday, a cadre of some 20 or more volunteers busily prepares to serve the public. You might find Richard and Dale returning with several thousand pounds of food from the Food Bank, while Brian and Tim inspect donations from a local food drive. Marylou and Jessie re-stock and organize the shelves, Peter and Louise carry in bread collected from local bakeries, and Hannah prepares it for distribution. Ana and Jenny inspect and fold clothes, Toni and Nicky sort through donated bedding and house wares, and Betsy straightens the children's books and toy area. Later in the day, Jane, Sherry, and Bob serve clients at the pantry counter, while Anne counts donated coins in the office. David comes straight from the middle school to vacuum and clean up, while a committee of board and community members meets to discuss how best to serve clients who lack reliable transportation to and from the Center.

Year after year, the Northampton Survival Center and its Hilltown Pantry run on the bountiful generosity that permeates the atmosphere here, allowing us to serve our clients with a sincere optimism so important to those new clients who come through our doors – feeling shaky and downcast – looking not just for food, but for hope.

We invite you to join our work with a financial donation that will enable us to buy food, heat the building, and otherwise sustain this organization that so thoroughly welcomes and incorporates active community participation.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Heidi Nortonsmith
Executive Director



Please note: If a monthly system of giving would make contributing easier for you, please consider becoming a Direct Donor.