## Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Massachusetts Responds To Rising Food Insecurity

**Company supports local food relief organizations as part of $9.75M community support**

BOSTON, June 1, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- In response to the growing rate of food insecurity across the Commonwealth,Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts ("Blue Cross") is partnering with local food relief nonprofits to provide nutritious meals to families in need.




Pre-COVID-19, one in 11 Massachusetts households faced hunger, which amounted to 9% of residents. As of March, data showed that 38% of people in the state were food insecure and the rate continues to rise.

"Access to nutritious food is essential for maintaining a healthy life," saidJeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross. "To help address this growing health issue, Blue Cross has made significant local investments and developed new community partnerships to ensure families have access to healthy food during this difficult time."

To date, Blue Cross' financial, pro-bono and in-kind COVID-19 community support totals$9.75M. In addition to the company's $460,000 contribution to regional COVID-19 response funds including the*Boston Resiliency Fund*, *The Community Foundation of Western Mass*, the *Greater Worcester Community Foundation*, *The Community Foundation of Southeast Massachusetts* among others, Blue Cross has committed nearly $600,000 directly to nonprofits addressing the rising rate of food insecurity in communities across the state.

This support includes:

- A new partnership with **Lovin Spoonfuls** and FLIK, Blue Cross' food service vendor, engaging cafeteria employees from our Hingham and Quincy offices to prepare 1,000 meals per day to donate to local communities in need. Lovin' Spoonfuls, which focuses on bridging the gap between food abundance and need, picks up the prepared meals each morning and distributes the meals to more than a dozen organizations in Chelsea, East Boston, Greater Boston, Quincy and Waltham.
- Increasing support for **Project Bread** and their COVID-19 response efforts working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and many schools and community partners to provide families with access to school meals while schools are closed.
- Funding of **World Central Kitchen's** Frontline Foods South Shore and Off Their Plate initiatives, which provide hospital clinicians with food from local restaurants that have been impacted by the COVID crisis.
- Partnering with food pantries such as **Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry,** which serves Greater Chicopee, and the **One Chelsea Fund,** which is providing critical support for community members who have been hardest hit by the pandemic.
- Launching an **employee food assistance program** where Blue Cross associates can pick-up free meal kits once a week to feed a family of four.

See the full list of organizations Blue Cross is partnering with and the communities they serve below.

| City | Organization |
|---|---|
| State-wide | Ellie Fund |
| State-wide | Lovin' Spoonfuls |
| State-wide | Project Bread |
| Allston | West End House Boys & Girls Clubs |
| Amesbury & the North Shore | Our Neighbors Table |
| Amherst | Amherst Survival Center |
| Attleboro | Hebron Food Pantry |
| Boston | Pine Street Inn |
| Brockton & the South Shore | Father Bill's & Mainspring |
| Brockton | The Charity Guild |
| Cambridge | Cambridge Community Center |
| Cape Cod & the Islands | Family Pantry of Cape Cod |
| Chelsea | One Chelsea Fund |

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|---|---|
| Chelsea | Salvation Army Chelsea |
| Chicopee | Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry |
| Dorchester | Daily Table |
| East Boston | Crossroads Family Center |
| East Boston | Salesian Boys & Girls Club of East Boston |
| East Boston | YMCA of East Boston & Boston Center for Youth & Families, Paris St. |
| Eastern Massachusetts | Greater Boston Food Bank |
| Greater Boston | Community Servings |
| Greater Boston | Epiphany School Pantry |
| Greater Boston | Fresh Truck |
| Greater Boston | Lifeboat Food Pantry |
| Greater Boston | Metro Boston Alive |
| Greater Boston | Off Their Plates |
| Greater Boston | Saint Francis House |
| Greater Boston | Violence in Boston |
| Lowell | Open Pantry of Greater Lowell |
| Lynn | Lynn Community Care Fund |
| Malden | Bread of Life Food Pantry |
| Needham | Ellie Fund |
| New Bedford | Help United |
| Quincy & the South Shore | Interfaith Social Services |
| Quincy | Quincy Fund |
| Quincy | Southwest Community Food Center |
| Salem | Salem Pantry |
| South Shore | Frontline Foods South Shore |
| Springfield | Food Bank of Western Massachusetts |
| Waltham | Healthy Waltham |
| Waltham | Waltham Community Day Center |
| Western Massachusetts | Food Bank of Western Massachusetts |
| Weymouth | Weymouth Food Pantry |

**About Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts**
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (bluecrossma.com) is a community-focused, tax-paying, not-for-profit health plan headquartered in Boston. We are committed to the relentless pursuit of quality, affordable health care*with* an unparalleled consumer experience. Consistent with our promise to always put our members first, we are rated among the nation's best health plans for member satisfaction and quality. Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

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