



A Fresh Approach To A Hunger Free Community



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****Photo Opportunity and Interviews****

GRAND OPENING OF THE MYSTIC COMMUNITY MARKET

A Community Collaboration to Become Hunger-Free

Elected officials, residents, community leaders and human service organizations come together to celebrate first-of-its-kind food distribution center in Medford to meet the nutritional needs of 1 in 11 local residents experiencing food insecurity

(Feb 10, 2020) Medford, MA: A coalition of community providers including the Malden YMCA, The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), and the Walnut Street Center are celebrating the grand opening of the new “Mystic Community Market” in Medford, Massachusetts. This grand opening celebration is coming on the heels of last week’s joint resolution by the Mayor of Medford, Medford City Council and Medford School Committee pledging to make Medford Hunger Free by 2028. The market will also serve the surrounding communities of Malden and Somerville.

One in 11 Medford residents struggle with food insecurity. In order to address this pressing issue, the local YMCA, GBFB and Walnut Street Center have partnered to provide a best-in-class food distribution center that places an emphasis on nutrition and community health. The opening celebrates the community's ability to identify and successfully address an unmet need of its residents and neighbors in nearby towns. Mystic Community Market plans to distribute 200,000 meals to residents in need in just its first year of operation. Increasing capacity and accessibility to healthy nutritious foods, and continued collaboration among organizations and sectors are essential to achieve the GBFB vision of a Hunger Free Eastern Massachusetts by 2028.

The grand opening ceremony will include a speaking program and tours of the new facility. In attendance will be community members, prominent government officials and representatives from all three organizations involved in the partnership.

WHAT: Grand Opening of the "Mystic Community Market"

WHO: *Speaking program to include:*

Katherine Clark, Congresswoman Massachusetts 5th District

Breanna Lungo-Koehn, Mayor of Medford

Debbie Amaral, CEO of Malden YMCA

Catherine D'Amato, President and CEO of The Greater Boston Food Bank

Carolyn Guffey, CEO of Walnut Street Center

Sidney Wolk, Founder of Agero & Sponsor of Mystic Community Market

Other community leaders expected to attend:

Jane Ryder, Commissioner of MA Department of Developmental Services

Christine Barber, Representative (D - 34th Middlesex)

Stephanie Burke, former Mayor of Medford

Pamela Kelly, Director of Elder Affairs, City of Medford

Dave Ferrick, CEO of Agero

Susan Sandberg, CEO of Melrose Wakefield Healthcare

Sarah Cluggish, COO of Project Bread

DeAnne Dupont, President and Co-Founder of Food Link

WHEN: Friday, February 14, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The hours of operation for Mystic Community Market are as follows:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday and Wednesday 4:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Closed Thursday

WHERE: Mystic Community Market located within the Walnut Street Center
291 Mystic Ave, Medford, MA 02155

All media should enter through the front entrance to be escorted to the event space.

About The Greater Boston Food Bank

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England and among the largest food banks in the country. GBFB provides the equivalent of nearly 57 million healthy meals annually, distributed through its network of 530 member agencies across Eastern Massachusetts. GBFB operates four direct service programs at nearly 70 sites throughout the area. A member of Feeding America, the nation's food bank network, GBFB serves more than 140,000 people every month with a vision to create a Hunger Free Eastern Massachusetts by 2028. For more information, visit us at GBFB.org, follow us on [Facebook](#), follow us on Twitter ([@gr8bosfoodbank](#)) and [Instagram](#), or call us at 617.427.5200.

About the Walnut Street Center

[Walnut Street Center](#) is a non-profit human services agency that provides comprehensive supports to adults with intellectual disabilities. The center was founded in 1970 by a community of parents seeking services for their own children and has grown to include the services: comprehensive Residential Services and several Day Service options. The Walnut Street Center serves over 150 people annually. In 2016, the center became part of an expanded service area, which now covers Arlington, Boston, Cambridge, Everett, Malden, Lynnfield, Medford, Melrose, Reading, North Reading, Saugus, Somerville, Stoneham, and Wakefield. The agency is proud to partner with the Medford community and surrounding communities in Greater Boston to provide quality services.

About the Malden YMCA

For over 140 years, the Malden YMCA has supported the foundations of community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility from its main facility in downtown Malden, as well as community outreach sites in Malden, Everett and Medford. The Y is particularly proud of making sure that a family's financial resources are not a barrier to participation, so each year they provide over \$400,000 in free or reduced program or membership fees for youth and families in need. The Malden Y currently serves over 57,000 free meals and 47,000 healthy snacks to over 4,000 youth and teens at 20 summer sites and 7 year-round sites in Malden, Everett and Medford. Additionally, its Grocery Program is already reaching thousands of families in need through food pantries, a Weekend Grocery Program, and "Pop-Up Mobile Market" events. In 2019, the Malden YMCA distributed over 270,000 lbs. of fresh food to 16,640 individuals. To learn more visit www.ymcamalden.org and connect with them on Facebook: @YMCAMalden.

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