

## Ushering in 2025 at LCOC

2024 proved to be a year of challenges, growth, and celebration as LCOC marked its 40th anniversary year of incorporation.

The past two months have been some of the busiest of 2024. As we ring in the New Year, there are many heartwarming stories to share:

## Gifts of Hope Goal Extended through January 2025!

More than 1,200 LCOC donors have contributed nearly \$740,000 to our annual Gifts of Hope Campaign. Thank you to all who have contributed to date! Thank you to all who have contributed to date!

Due to the campaign's success, we are extending the giving period through January 31, 2025 and stretching the goal to \$800,000 to serve more neighbors in need this winter and throughout 2025.



The demand for our programs and services increased significantly over the recent holiday period. This is a sign that our nine emergency food pantries, financial assistance program, and Katy's Korner will be in continued high demand through this winter and beyond. Please consider a [Gifts of Hope contribution](#) this January.

[Give online here](#), or by mail to LCOC, PO Box 2013, Orleans, MA 02563

## Thanksgiving Meal Distribution: A Lot of Gobble!

Our annual Thanksgiving meal distribution saw a 16% increase in families and individuals served in 2024 in partnership with Friends' Marketplace, Fancy's Produce, and The Farm in Orleans.

Turkeys, fixings, and fresh vegetables were packed and delivered by our staff and volunteers to 752 food-insecure households. At an average value of \$100 per family, LCOC was able to put more than \$75,000 of food on Thanksgiving tables across the Lower and Outer Cape.



Volunteers from the staff of [Polhemus Savery DaSilva](#) pack fruits and vegetables at Fancy's Produce.



Members of Nauset Newcomers filled several shifts at our office to bag non-perishable Thanksgiving meal items.

## Santa Stop Is a Showstopper!



Santa and his elves were very busy in December spreading holiday cheer at our Orleans and Truro Santa Stops. Together, we served more than 750 children and teens (200 more than last year) with toys, books, clothing, and gift cards. There were even donated trees for families to take home!



Special thanks to Homeless for the Holidays programs hosted by the Orleans, Eastham, Chatham, and Truro Fire Departments and our friends at Toys for Tots for their abundant donations.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Harwich Food Pantry Volunteers Communicate in Warm and Helpful Ways

There's a strong common focus shared by the volunteers at the LCOC Harwich Food Pantry housed by St. Peter's Lutheran Church. They are all impassioned and moved to help individuals facing food insecurity in any way they can. The volunteer team excels at distinct roles. Mary, a former schoolteacher, greets people and signs them in and usually knows all their names. Anne helps with the food choices. Another volunteer, Sharon, helps to stock the shelves. And Ruth, the pantry manager, runs the show and data reports.



Pictured left to right: Anne Ekstrom, Ruth Brenneman (manager), and Mary McCarthy

"The volunteers go out of their way to make our clients feel at home at the pantry," shares Ruth Brenneman with warmth and pride.

"We also want to make it comfortable for non-native English-speaking clients trying to make their way here as they contribute to the local workforce and economy," adds Mary.

Before a client helped with making Spanish labels for food items in demand, Anne, a volunteer from Orleans, was known to go the extra mile in assisting every client to understand his or her options.

"Our clients are so thankful," says Mary. "Our elderly population, in particular, express their gratitude time and time again."

**In 2024, LCOC food pantries saw about a 30% increase in food provided to individuals and families seeking help with groceries.**

**To our 150+ volunteers and our loyal donors and supporters, LCOC sends our gratitude and best wishes for 2025!**



The LCOC Staff, left to right: Katie Wibby, CEO; Gerry Desautels, Dir. of Development; Karen Ross, Dir. of Operations; Andy O'Dell, Manager of Client Services; Rose Bokavich, Bookkeeper; Howard Thomas, Food Program Manager; Laura Hunt, Data & Marketing Manager; Stacey Raczek, Food Program Supervisor

**[GIVE NOW FOR LCOC PROGRAMS & SERVICES IN 2025](#)**



**Do you know a Cape Codder struggling financially who also may be food insecure? LCOC is here to help residents of the 8 Lower and Outer Cape towns.**

Learn more at:

<https://lcoutreach.org/client-services/>

or CALL 508-240-0694



### Mission Statement

The mission of Lower Cape Outreach Council is to provide comprehensive assistance to those in need of immediate support and to encourage long-term self-sufficiency.

