2025 Impact Report

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

We strive to end hunger by removing barriers to food caused by race, gender, sexual orientation, mental and physical health, income, and age.

The Reading Food Pantry aims to address the food and personal care needs of our neighbors through high-quality, respectful service in a welcoming environment, with a goal of enhancing well-being in our community.

We see our impact in the words of our neighbors:

"This pantry has been a blessing for me. Everybody appreciates all this 'sanctuary' does for people." —PE

This service helps me to provide nutritious meals for my family! Thank you so much for all you do!" —Anonymous

"Without the food pantry I would have difficulty getting enough to eat. I depend on it a lot." —Anonymous

In 2025:

13,982 Bags of food distributed
3475 Neighbor visits

Funding Summary:

Donations: **$391,000**
Gov't grants: **$0**
Misc revenue: **$14,000**
In-kind donations: **$375,000**

Some of our biggest collection events:

The Rocket Leaders in Action and Reading Police Department "Stuff a Cruiser" events in March and December collected nearly 300 bags of food.

In May, Reading postal carriers collected 239 bags of food from all around Reading, and volunteers of all ages helped us sort and store the food.

Federal food assistance delays in November led to an outpouring of support from the Reading community. Pictured above are donations from our Amazon registry that arrived on just one day.

Want to Help?

(781) 944-8486 • readingfoodpantry.org • readingfoodpantry@gmail.com

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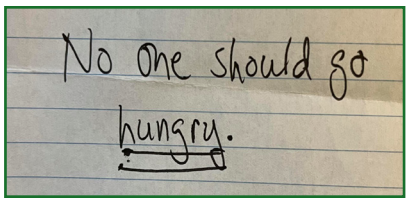
Overview

In 2025 we continued to see a high number of Reading residents needing to visit the Reading Food Pantry. Our neighbors are contending with high food prices; high gas, rent, and utility prices; and cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). With no change in sight in any of those factors, we expect to see continued high or rising pantry usage.

Our Approach

Instead of a "one box fits all" system, we offer our neighbors the ability to choose the items they need. At each visit they can select from a variety of dry goods, paper and personal care products, meat, eggs, and dairy products. While volunteers gather their order, neighbors can also shop from a wide selection of fresh fruits and vegetables, home-cooked prepared foods, and other items not on our order form. We also stock books for adults and children.



2025 Highlights

- We received a prestigious 3-year Cummings Foundation grant.
- A grant from the Greater Boston Food Bank allowed us to purchase a commercial stove, refrigerator, freezer, and other equipment to outfit a kitchen we are now using to cook healthy, nutritious prepared meals, baked goods, and snacks for neighbors to take home.

Cummings $30 MILLION GRANT PROGRAM

POWERED BY The Greater Boston FOOD BANK

Our Volunteers

We have nearly 100 active monthly volunteers, ranging in age from 10 to 80+, who:

- Set up/close the pantry for in-person service
- Serve neighbors during in-person visits
- Deliver to home-bound neighbors
- Pick up orders at the Greater Boston Food Bank warehouse
- Serve on our board
- Pick up donations at grocery stores
- Write thank you notes
- Sort donations
- Cook
- Answer emails and handle social media
- Shop for the pantry
- Compost expired food
- Handle finances

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