



Loaves & Fishes Rhode Island 2017 Annual Report

Key Accomplishments

In 2017, Loaves & Fishes RI (LFRI) marked its inaugural year of operation with four key accomplishments:

- Continuing our mission: ***“Providing food, promoting dignity”***;
- Executing the ***organizational transition*** from Mobile Loaves and Fishes RI to LFRI;
- Increasing our capacity for mission impact by ***engaging with volunteers, partners and grant sponsors***;
- Ensuring a sound ***financial posture*** for our newly-founded organization to move forward.

Our Mission: “Providing Food, Promoting Dignity”

Despite the ‘distraction’ of undertaking our transition ‘in stride’, we were able to continue our mission of providing food and promoting dignity to all of our clients in the Providence and Woonsocket areas, without suffering any gaps in service. Through our twelve member churches, we serve clients in Providence, on selected weeknights and Sunday noon, bringing food and clothing and essential toiletries to; and also. We continue to make at least 20 site visits a month, delivering food and more to roughly 100-120 people on each run --- ***over 240 runs and more than 25,000 meals last year***. About 70% of our runs are to four sites in Providence (Salvation Army, Emmanuel House, Crossroads, Greene Street) and 30% occur in the Woonsocket area with stops on Saturdays at noon, at Sayles Street Women’s Shelter, near the River United Methodist Church, and Morin Heights. While we do not track data on individual clients, we will recognize faces and occasionally first names, through repeated engagements and warm friendly greetings and conversation. We estimate that on an annual basis, we serve at least 400 individuals in the Providence area, and at least 200 in Woonsocket. Our clients always welcome our well-stocked food truck, with the many good items provided by our many supporters; we in turn receive their blessings, their thanks, and heartfelt good wishes.



Organizational Transition

After serving the homeless and marginally poor in Rhode Island since 2008 as Mobile Loaves and Fishes Rhode Island (MLF-RI), operating as a satellite affiliate of Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF) of Austin Texas, by the end of 2016 MLF-RI ceased conducting operations under that name. We are thankful for the generosity of our former MLF parent, not only in helping us launch our RI operations, but also in offering very amicable terms of separation, by allowing us to purchase the 2007 catering truck for \$10,000, by sharing donor records, and in allowing us to carry over our MLF-RI funds balance into the newly founded LFRI. In November 2016, LFRI received its IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter, and we filed our articles of incorporation, by-laws, and other legal documents with the state of Rhode Island, under the guidance of our Treasurer, Bill Sweeney, assisted by two legal advisors, attorneys Jim Kearney and Jim Mullen.

Following our election of officers, the board of directors proceeded to codify the *LFRI Member Church Agreement and Operations Guidelines*, with descriptions of our mission, by-laws, member church terms of agreement, criteria for new member training, and policies relating to food preparation and safety, volunteer safe practices, truck usage and operations, culminating in the execution of “founding member” letters of agreement in April. With the professional help of Rob Walsh, we developed and approved a new logo design and immediately featured it in new decals for our truck, along with our founding documents, correspondence with prior donors of MLF-RI, and social media (updating our Facebook page, and launching our new webpage, www.lfri.org).

Engaging with Volunteers, Partners and Grant Sponsors

We are grateful indeed to the hundreds of volunteers and donors, both individual and corporate, who contribute so much, day after day, with donations of time, funds, and in kind items, to keep our ministry operational and vibrant.

- Volunteers are the real engine that make LFRI run. To recognize and express gratitude for their compassion and faithful commitment to our mission, the LFRI board organized an event (the expense of which was fully covered by free will and in-kind donations), warmly and graciously hosted by St. Mary’s in Bristol, which we called “*Feeding the People Who Feed the People*”. Over 120 volunteers (who represent merely a fraction of those who participate in LFRI ministry via our member churches), gathered in love, fellowship, prayers, and thanksgiving celebration for God’s blessings among us, and upon those with whom and for whom we give ourselves in service.
- As opportunities arise, we occasionally meet for ad-hoc, collaborative discussions to address our mission operations, needs, provisions sourcing and support, and identify how we can work better together in serving our client population. Recent interactions have included We Share Hope, The RI Dream Center, Ocean State Job Lot, The Genesis Project of Woonsocket; and West Bay Community Action.
- Generous sponsors for grants received by LFRI in 2017 are noted in the financial narrative below. These organizations, many of whom have provided past grant awards to our predecessor organization, MLF-RI, continued support that has been especially helpful in boosting LFRI’s mission distribution outlays to member churches in late 2017, and positioning us well in going forward.



On behalf of all who we are privileged to serve, LFRI’s board of directors expresses a hearty “Thank You” to ALL for the enthusiastic outpouring of compassion and generous contributions of volunteer time, food, clothing, and more!

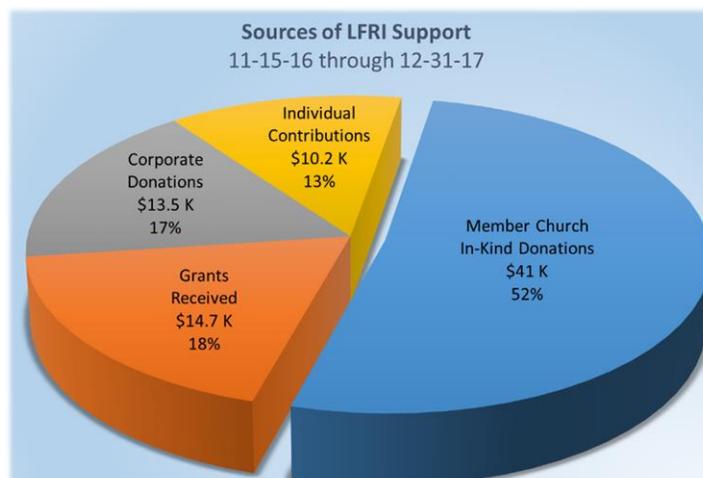
Financial Posture

We are very grateful to all who share concern for our neighbors in need, and whose generosity during the period* resulted in operating revenue of \$38.4K. Our member churches are the source of hundreds of volunteers, whose many in-kind contributions of food, clothing and basic essentials --collectively estimated to be at least \$41K† -- ensure the LFRI truck is fully stocked for each run. Additionally, LFRI especially wishes to acknowledge those whose contributions helped expand our capacity to deliver more to our clients:

* Report period 13.5 months 11/15/2016 (date of LFRI incorporation) through 12/31/2017.

† While our member church in-kind contributions are not part of the LFRI budget, they constitute the core component (52%) upon which LFRI operations depend (outside of the truck). Grants, corporate sponsor gifts, and individual contributions augment our member churches’ outreach by a nearly equal amount (48%).

- Our philanthropic sponsors who together provided \$14.7K in grant awards received by LFRI in the period: The Episcopal Charities Fund of RI, CVS Health Golf Classic, Rockwood Charitable Foundation, the Rhode Island Foundation, and Blount Seafood.
- Our corporate sponsors whose combined contributions totaled \$13.5K: Add It Up Fundraising, Amica Foundation, Barrington Congregational Church, Barrington Presbyterian Church, Calvary Commandery No 13 Knights Templar, Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, Central Congregational Church, Claflin Corporation, Church of the Good Shepherd of Pawtucket, First United Methodist Church of Warwick, Flatbread Pizza, Striper Marina, St Paul's Episcopal Church (Wickford). In addition, there are two corporations that provided in-kind donation support: Cape Cod Express (truck maintenance and repairs) and Insurance Marketing Agencies (truck Liability insurance).
- Our 42 individual donors, who together donated \$10.2K.



Most of LFRI's operating expense of \$21.K in the period is associated with mission support that directly benefits our clients with increased quantities of food and clothing items, consisting of \$14.1K in distributions to our member churches and access to economic food purchases of \$3.6K via our partnership with We Share Hope (Warren, RI). In addition, we expended \$3.3K on auto registration, title fees, liability insurance and office supplies. LFRI's financial operations reflect a beginning cash balance of \$22K upon incorporation (transferred from MLF-RI upon separation from MLF in late November 2016) and a balance of \$40.2K at the end of 2017.

Looking Ahead

While continuing our mission of serving Rhode Islanders in need, LFRI will pursue these initiatives in 2018:

- **Increase coordination with our fellow partners in ministry**, including shelter site management, community action agencies, and fellow providers in the Rhode Island area. LFRI welcomes opportunities to collaborate and engage by sharing awareness of the situational landscape of hunger and homelessness across RI, and to seek ways to expand or adjust our operations to more effectively and more efficiently address, without duplication, needs that align with our mission of 'providing food, promoting dignity'.
- **Expand our capacity through mentoring new Member Churches and volunteer teams**. First Unitarian and Central Congregational Churches, both located in Providence, are already actively engaged in seeking to join with LFRI and we look forward to achieving an expanded capacity for mission, by mentoring them toward becoming fully participating partners. LFRI extends a warm invitation to other churches who may be interested in learning about our ministry, and perhaps joining in our work. In addition we encourage new small-group teams of volunteers to sponsor a run, in association with any of our member churches.
- **Secure future sources of funding**. To support LFRI operations in the 2019-2020 timeframe, LFRI shall identify several new candidate grants to pursue as potential sources of revenues, and also plan on conducting a major (or several smaller) fundraising event(s).
- **Identify economic sources of provisions**. LFRI will continue to seek additional sources of food at greatly discounted cost (or even gratis), and seek economically priced clothing and toiletry items.
- **Conduct an internal financial audit**, in accordance with our by-laws.

LFRI Officers were initially elected in December 2016, and re-elected in September 2017:

Jeffrey Manickas, President
William Sweeney, Treasurer

Eleanor O'Neill, Secretary
William Aldrich, Assistant Treasurer