



Loaves & Fishes Rhode Island 2018 Annual Report

“Providing Food, Promoting Dignity”

In 2018, Loaves & Fishes RI (LFRI) continued our mission of ***“providing food, promoting dignity”*** serving our homeless neighbors in Rhode Island, primarily in Providence and Woonsocket. Last year marked our second year as LFRI, and our 10th year of a continuous interdenominational ministry that began in 2008 as Mobile Loaves and Fishes Rhode Island (MLF-RI), operating as an affiliate of MLF in Austin TX until late 2016. ***In 2018 we delivered over 20,000 meals and distributed over 6,000 articles of essential clothing to more than 600 individuals.***

About 70% of our runs, conducted Sundays at noon and weeknights, bring food and clothing to our ***Providence delivery sites: Emmanuel House, Crossroads, Greene Street, and Broad Street*** (Salvation Army and, beginning late fall 2018, at the Trinity United Methodist Church). In the summer lunch was delivered every Friday to the Joslin Recreation Center children's playground in the Olneyville section of Providence. The balance of our runs continued to occur on Saturdays at noon, at ***Sayles Street Women's Shelter, near the River United Methodist Church, and Morin Heights in Woonsocket.*** While we do not track any personal data on our clients, we do recognize faces and occasionally first names, through repeated engagements and warm friendly greetings and conversation. 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.



Our Volunteers, Partners, and Grant Sponsors

In order to strengthen our capacity and increase our mission impact, LFRI regularly seeks interactions with its volunteers, partners, and grant sponsors. Most especially, we are grateful for the ***hundreds of volunteers and donors***, both individual and corporate, who continue to contribute so much, day after day, with their gifts of time, funds, and in-kind items, and acting in creative ways to keep our ministry operational and vibrant. Some examples from 2018 follow below, showing many different faces from our community helping their neighbors in need:

- A ***North Kingstown Girl Scout Troop*** made scores of sandwiches for one of St. Paul's runs.
- ***Public school students***, with parental coordination, ***from the Rockwell Elementary School in Bristol***, provided 50 bagged sandwiches and 90 bags of two baked cookies each, for delivery on a St Mary's Church truck run to the homeless in Woonsocket.
- To celebrate her birthday, ***one woman and her family*** prepared and served an entire meal for 70 men one evening.
- The ***Episcopal Conference Center of Pascoag RI*** conducted a “Game Week” competition at its summer camp for teens, in which one of the teams selected LFRI as their charity and adopted the name “Food Truckers”, with their winnings of \$2,500 given to LFRI for serving the homeless. Such a wonderful combination of love, kindness, compassion, generosity, and fun!
- A Basic Human Needs grant received from the ***RI Foundation*** in late 2017 was augmented by matching LFRI funds, enabling the ***distribution of over 5,300 items of essential clothing for people in need.***
- ***Members of Thrivent Financial***, a 501c3 nonprofit financial company, are eligible to apply for two \$250 VISA cards each year for outreach projects.



In June, LFRI welcomed ***First Unitarian Church of Providence*** as a New Member Church. We encourage new small-group teams of volunteers to sponsor a run, in association with any of our member churches. LFRI extends a warm invitation to churches who may be interested in learning about our ministry, and perhaps participating in a mentoring relationship with one of our member churches.

As opportunities arise, LFRI's board seeks to address shared needs, interests, economic provisioning, sourcing and support, and exploring how we can work together in serving our clients. Among LFRI's interactions in 2018, were updates on operations and

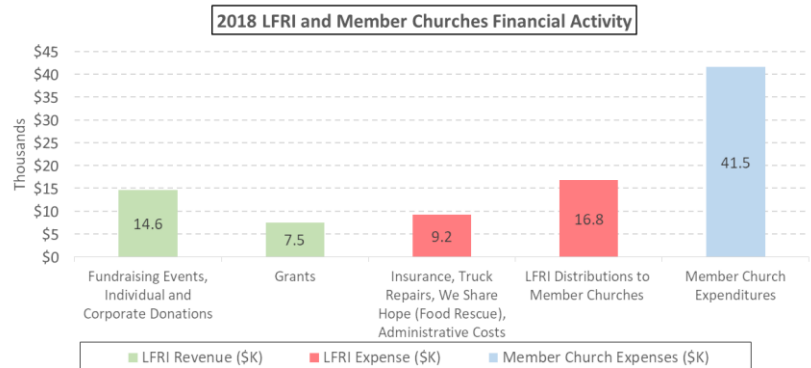
offerings available from *We Share Hope*; learning about *Hope's Harvest*, a non-profit that collects unharvested produce and delivers it to hunger relief agencies servicing food insecure populations; and exploring ideas for a *Barrington High School senior service project* investigating nutritious and gluten free recipe options that might be introduced.

Generous sponsors for grants received by LFRI in 2018 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 particularly helpful in boosting LFRI's mission support outlays to member churches.

Financial Posture

LFRI's work is made possible by many hands, caring hearts, and the miracle and blessing of working together. The generous support of grant sponsors and individual donors, combined with volunteer networks in our member churches, led to a healthy financial posture for LFRI in 2018. Our mission finances include three distinct components:

- (1) **\$16.8 K in LFRI distributions** to member churches, which augments their work;
- (2) **\$41.6 K in member church expenses** (net of the \$16.8 K above);
- (3) **\$67 K in 'in-kind' contributions** (estimated fair market value, not shown in chart) of food, clothing and basic essentials donated by member church congregations and their communities. LFRI especially wishes to acknowledge those contributions which expand our capacity to deliver more to our clients:



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- Our philanthropic sponsors who together provided \$7.5K in grant awards received by LFRI in the period: The Episcopal Charities Fund of RI, CVS Health Golf Classic, and the Rockwood Charitable Foundation, Rhode Island Foundation (funds received in late 2017).
- Our corporate sponsors whose combined contributions totaled \$10.5K: Barrington Congregational Church, Barrington Presbyterian Church, Barrington Women's Club, Calvary Commandery No 13 Knights Templar, Cape Cod Express Inc, Central Congregational Church, Claflin Corporation, Dave's Market, Dean Warehouse Service Inc, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, Flatbread Pizza, Mary's Helpers of St Mary's Church, St John's Episcopal Church Women, Soul Warming Fundraising LLC, United Way of RI, Waterson Terminal Services LLC, Your Cause LL. In addition, there was one corporation that provided in-kind donation support: Cape Cod Express (truck maintenance and repairs).
- Our 18 individual donors, who together donated \$4.1K.

Looking Ahead

While continuing our mission of serving Rhode Islanders in need, LFRI will pursue these initiatives in 2019:

- **Planning LFRI's first fundraiser**, to be held May 16, 2019 at the Rhode Island Country Club in Barrington RI.
- **Securing 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 to augment the contributions made through our member churches. We shall continue to recruit individual and corporate donors as well as volunteer teams in our communities.
- **Increasing 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'*.

LFRI Officers elected in September 2018 for one-year terms:

Jeffrey Manickas, President
William Sweeney, Treasurer

Eleanor O'Neill, Secretary
William Aldrich, Assistant Treasurer