



Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Food Pantry



The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, also known as the People of the First Light, has inhabited present day MA and Eastern Rhode Island for more than 12,000 years. After an arduous process lasting more than three decades, the Mashpee Wampanoag were acknowledged as a federally recognized tribe in 2007.

The Tribe currently has approximately 2,900 enrolled citizens.



Darlene Scott, MWT Food Pantry Coordinator



Darlene became the Food Pantry Coordinator/Manager in January 2018 after a 25 % layoff. This required a restructuring of the food pantry program. By taking advantage of excel program classes offered by the Tribe, Darlene was able to gain important knowledge to be able to manage an inventory system that tracks up to 3,000 lbs. of food a month. She worked very hard to improve the overall efficiency of the program by restructuring the food pick-up and delivery system.

Instead of picking up a large food order once a month, with a large rental truck, Darlene orders food twice a month using a tribally owned pick-up truck donated to the Pantry Program. By utilizing the donated truck and adhering to the new pick up schedule, the expense for a rental truck has been eliminated completely. Clearing this expense has allowed us to put more funds toward food orders and community nutrition activities. The new pick up schedule has also created a more accurate inventory reordering process, which reduces any out-of-date product to remain on the shelves. Changes to our staffing pattern have allowed us to cut costs as well by switching from 3 pantry workers to just the one Food Pantry Coordinator and per diem workers hired as needed on food pickup days where unloading the truck and stocking shelves is most labor intensive. These changes have allowed for the Tribe to maximize on the Food Pantry program's efficiencies and overall effectiveness.



Mission Statement

To improve the health and well-being of Tribal members in need by providing access to nutritious food and supporting healthy food choices that eliminate hunger in the MWT community

Vision Statement

A hunger-free Tribal community for future generations



History of the Program

- Prior to the Food Pantry, eligible tribal members were forced to seek out public agencies to find a means of supplementing food costs
- With limited resources, we provided families with turkeys and hams during the holiday season. Additional support given to low-income families thru supermarket gift cards
- In 2013, through a USDA Construction Loan, we were able to build a food pantry within our Community & Government Center
- In 2014, we were awarded our first CSBG program funding to stock the Food Pantry with nutritious food to address poverty and promote healthy lifestyles



MWT Community & Government Center



MWT Food Pantry



- provides nutritious food for income-eligible Tribal members four days a week
- stocked with fresh fruit, vegetables, other healthy food options
- educate clients on nutrition and food preparation by sharing healthy recipes
- ensure that our homebound elders and handicapped members have access to nutritious food by delivery service

Clients Served (FY2018)

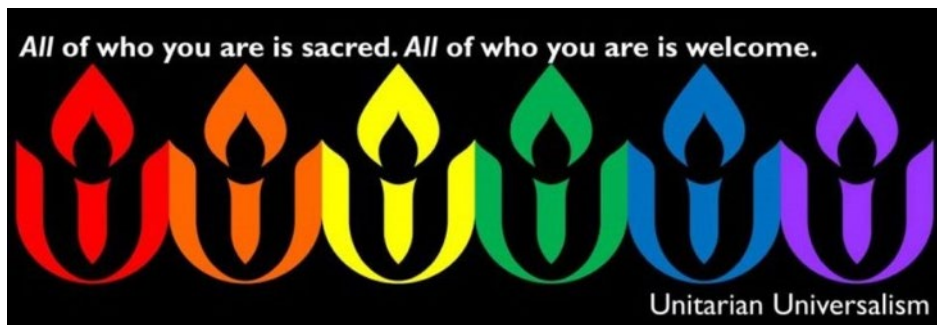
Demographic	Total
Seniors (55+)	542
Adults (18 to 54)	738
Children (0 to 17)	697
Total	1977





Partnering with Outside Agencies

- partnerships and collaborations with private businesses and entities; local supermarkets, churches, the One Earth, One People Racial Justice Committee, the Massachusetts Coast Guard and others, the Tribe receives additional donations
- private donations during the winter holiday season, the Pantry provides turkeys and hams for our low-income families
- partnerships with the Exec Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, we receive donations from fish seizures conducted in nearby fishing communities





Collaboration with Indian Health Services

Coordinate with a registered dietician from Indian Health Services to create an informative nutritious eating program that features healthy recipes we prepare and share in the Food Pantry during off hours. The IHS dietician will hold Q & A sessions at the Food Pantry regarding healthy eating habits, meal preparation and long term health benefits





Nutahsamômun Musunune8ak (Feeding the People) A Community Food Sovereignty Initiative

As a part of our Community Food Sovereignty Initiative, we are planning to expand the Food Pantry to include more refrigeration and misters to store freshly grown fruits and vegetables from our community high tunnels (green-houses). Our goal is to establish a farm to table system that provides the community with fresh and nutritious food we grow ourselves, eventually to be sold at a tribally-run farmers market.





The future of the MWT Food Pantry Program



- Grow the program to include all of the facets of the continuum of true Food Sovereignty
- Continue to educate all clients including our youth on nutrition to reduce and eliminate health disparities
- Exercise Farm to Table and support continued hunting and fishing rights
- Ensure that our homebound tribal members have access to hot lunches and nutritious food by delivery services



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