

## **2019-2020 Circles of Care Ministry (AKA: Outreach)**

For several years Sanctuary has had a bi-monthly commitment to Bread of Life in Malden to help prepare and serve their sit-down meals. This includes a donation of \$100 from our budget to help pay for each bi-monthly meal. After the start of the Pandemic and social distancing, BOL switched to giving hot take-out meals to their guests. Sanctuary has continued to donate \$100 for our assigned nights but to not participate in distributing the take-outs.

After inquiring if we could help in another way, Director Gabriella Snyder/Stellmack suggested we make food donations towards their Student Nutrition Backpack Program. Since June 2020, approximately 10 Sanctuary members and friends have purchased snacks and other single-serve sized foods, which we deliver to BOL twice a month.. The food goes into backpacks given to Everett students, some of which even gets shared with their family members. If you would like to be added to our list of "donors", or Sanctuary Snack Shoppers, please contact Julie Roberts or Charlene Carle.

According to the BOL Facebook page, the number of MA people experiencing food insecurity has more than doubled since this time last year and is predicted to only increase during this winter season. Sanctuary is happy to help BOL help so many in need.

*BOL Ministry Leader – Julie Roberts*

Sanctuary leads and is an active participant in the Medford Micropantry Mission (little pantries) in various neighborhoods in Medford. This past fall, with the help of the DPW – the fourteenth micropantry was installed. Through the work of Rev. Wendy \$6,000 was raised to support this program.

Sanctuary members and others from the community fill the pantries regularly with food. There has been a large increase in use of the pantries due to the pandemic and the Outreach Team wants to encourage more Sanctuary members and friends to fill the pantries as you go about your day in Medford. Boxes of packaged food are available for distribution (see Ray Santiago to obtain a box) and we encourage you to add needed items to your grocery list. Especially needed items are protein foods (tuna, chicken, peanut butter, etc.)

The Outreach Team distributed money to organizations who are serving people in need, per our bylaws. This year, gifts were given to the Medford Family Network and the Massachusetts Bail Fund.

When the Pleasant Street Church in Arlington closed, they gave \$10,000 to Sanctuary to be used for food justice in local missions. We use that money to fund the Bread of Life work (\$600 a year) as well as sandwich making for the Outdoor Church. This year, restaurants steps forward and provided sandwiches for the Outdoor Church so the need for our efforts was less. We chose to contribute \$1,000 to The Food Project, which is a youth development program. They distribute food to neighborhoods in need in the Boston area.

The Outreach Team is open to all members and friends who want to do the work of Jesus. In the coming year, we will continue to do the above work as well as consider how to use the funds left by a bequest of Tom Campbell.

*On behalf of the Outreach Team,  
Kathy Williams and Julie Roberts*