

## Lovin' Spoonfuls Launches Food Rescue Route in Worcester



*From left, Lovin' Spoonfuls Food Rescue Coordinator Kim Vanacare; Congressman Jim McGovern; Green Island Neighborhood Center Program Director Hilda Maldonado; Lovin' Spoonfuls Executive Director Ashley Stanley; Friendly House Executive Director Trish Appert; State Rep. Daniel Donahue; Food Rescue Coordinator Andrew Fehribach*

Photo credit: Tréa Lavery of Mass Live

As described in this [MassLive article](#), Lovin' Spoonfuls hosted a ribbon-cutting event at the Green Island Neighborhood Center on May 26 to celebrate the launch of its food rescue and distribution services in Worcester. Over the past 12 years, the Massachusetts-based nonprofit has grown from operating a single truck in Boston to working in nearly 50 cities and towns throughout the state. Dr. Amie Shei, President and CEO, attended the event representing the Foundation, which supported expansion of Lovin' Spoonfuls' operations to Worcester County through a 2021 Activation Fund grant of \$75,000 for a new refrigerated truck. The Foundation was first introduced to Lovin' Spoonfuls during a meeting Congressman Jim McGovern hosted for local funders to learn about Lovin' Spoonfuls' interest in launching a route in Central Massachusetts in 2018, and the Foundation is pleased that this project has come to fruition following several years of planning.

Founded in 2010, [Lovin' Spoonfuls](#)' innovative food rescue model simultaneously improves the health of the environment and individuals facing food insecurity by picking up perishable food that would otherwise go to waste from grocery stores, wholesalers, farms and other sources and distributing it to community-based organizations such as food pantries, shelters, senior centers, after-school programs and other agencies that serve people in need. The program transports nutritious perishable foods in temperature-controlled trucks for same-day distribution, focusing on items such as produce, dairy, lean protein and baked goods. Through established routes in Greater Boston, MetroWest and Hampden County, Lovin' Spoonfuls currently rescues and distributes 85,000 pounds of food weekly, benefitting more than 42,000 people each week.

In preparation for the launch of the Worcester route, Lovin' Spoonfuls developed partnerships with local grocers, farms, and wholesale distributors, including Community Harvest Project and the Worcester Regional Food Hub, estimating that it will rescue up to 500,000 pounds of food from these sources annually. Area nonprofit partners that will receive food distributions include Green Island Neighborhood Center, Friendly House, Yes We Care, Living in Freedom Together (LIFT), and AIDS Project Worcester, among others. It is anticipated that the new route will provide food for more than 2,000 Worcester County residents weekly.

Since 2000, the Foundation has invested more than \$5 million in initiatives aimed to address the issue of food insecurity and to improve access to local, healthy food in Central Massachusetts, including the Worcester Regional Food Hub.

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