

Thrive Celebrates Opening of Specialized Food Pantry in Worcester



Thrive President & CEO Sean Rose cuts a ribbon at the grand opening of the food pantry

Photo courtesy of Senator Michael O. Moore

As reported by the [Telegram & Gazette](#) and [Spectrum News](#), Thrive Support & Advocacy hosted a ribbon-cutting event on October 17 to celebrate the grand opening of its “Flourish at Thrive” Food Pantry located at 100 Grove Street in Worcester. Buildout and purchase of equipment for the pantry was made possible through grants from The Health Foundation, The Jack & Kathy Shields Family Foundation, and the Point32Health Foundation.

The new pantry is co-located with the [Thrive Family Support Center](#) in Worcester, which offers a range of services and activities for families of children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDDs) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Working in partnership with students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), the pantry was designed to meet the specialized dietary needs of people with IDD and ASD who are statistically more likely to have food sensitivities, and for students from WPI who are experiencing food insecurity. Flourish at Thrive will offer both allergy-sensitive options and traditional groceries, operating in accordance with a client-choice distribution model.



Photo: The Health Foundation

The Health Foundation's \$51,000 grant was made through the [2022 Activation Fund](#), which provides support for projects aimed to help an organization build its capacity or increase its effectiveness. In addition to supporting the food pantry, a portion of grant funds was designated for furnishings and equipment to enable expansion of afterschool, recreational and vocational training programs onsite.

More coverage of the event can be found at [Worcester Patch](#) and [MassLive](#).

Recognizing food insecurity as a key social determinant of health, the Foundation has invested more than \$5.1M in related initiatives addressing hunger, nutrition, and accessibility of local, culturally appropriate food since 2000.

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