United Way’s 22nd Annual Thanksgiving Project provided 74,000 people in our community with Thanksgiving groceries.

Food insecurity in Massachusetts doubled during COVID-19, with nearly 1 in 5 households struggling to put food on the table during the peak of the pandemic. While we’re on the road to recovery, we have a long way to go and too many families are still unable to make ends meet. With your support, we made sure more than 70,000 people throughout our community were able to enjoy a home-cooked holiday meal with loved ones.

This year, the Thanksgiving Project served 3,000 more families than in 2020. Thanks to your generosity, we flew past our goal of feeding 15,000 families for the week to reach 18,000!

32 Sites • 17,500 Gift Cards • 250,000 Pounds of Food

500 Turkeys • 465 Supporters • 950 Volunteers

2,764 Volunteer hours • $96,000 In volunteer hours donated*

48 Community Agencies • $1.09 million Dollars Raised

*Current estimated value of a volunteer hour in 2020 is $34.97 as determined by Independent Sector.
THE IMPACT:

> 250,000+ POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

> 17,500 GIFT CARDS DISTRIBUTED TO FAMILIES IN NEED

> 70,000+ PEOPLE EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY RECEIVED ENOUGH FOOD FOR A WEEK

> $957,000 RAISED TO SUPPORT UNITED WAY’S EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
“Thank you to all these organizations for all you do every day to address food insecurity.”
—State Representative Christine Barber

“It means a lot, not only for me, but the community, too. This community was hit hard by the pandemic.” —Steven Welcome, recipient

“It really is inspiring and it makes Thanksgiving a more meaningful celebration because, you know, being thankful means being willing to share, to realize that everything is a gift, that life is a gift, everything that we have is a gift. We depend on each other, and certainly this kind of gathering underscores that. I just wish there weren’t so many people who were experiencing shortage of food.” —Cardinal Sean O’Malley, volunteer

“I just want to say I’m really grateful for the food pantries doing this for us and stuff. It’s kind of tough with the COVID and food prices going up so this right here is a blessing for everybody.”
—Debra Coleman, recipient

“This is one of my favorite events of the year. It is a wonderful way to share with others. Especially post-pandemic, we’ve seen huge, increasing need and it was wonderful to be able to assist some families with something immediate, something everybody can have to be thankful for.”
—Michelle D’Amico, Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development

“I’m thankful we’re all still here to be able to participate in this and I’m thankful me and my children are healthier and will be able to have a happy Thanksgiving.”
—Marchell Dubost, recipient