# Enfield Loaves and Fishes, Inc.

23 North Main Street
P.O. Box 544
Enfield, CT 06083-0544
www.enfieldloavesandfishes.org

# ANNUAL REPORT of Caring 2022

# Message From Executive Director Maya Nicole Matthews



As we approach the 40th anniversary of Enfield Loaves and Fishes, I would like to reflect on how far the organization has come since it was started by Victor and Gloria Scussel in 1983. A little charity effort that supplied 20 after school lunches has blossomed into a well respected and vital service for our community. Enfield Loaves and Fishes has gone from providing 15,625 meals in 1992 to 70,125 meals in 2022. Our partnerships with community members are so strong that we were able to provide over 5,000 meals to children's programs in Enfield.

None of the good work this organization does would be possible without the generous volunteers and donors that are so giving of their hands and hearts to make our community a better place. We can never be grateful enough for our Board of Directors, past and present, that has been crucial to the operations of Enfield Loaves and Fishes over the past three years, during our longest and most severe pandemic. The dedication of all of you ensured the survival of the Kitchen when so many other organizations were forced to dismantle.

The first year of my tenure as Executive Director has been filled with many accomplishments. I am especially in awe every day at how wonderful our community has been. You are selfless and inclusive, constantly thinking of other people before yourselves. It has been an absolute joy to be in this position and witness the capacity of human care and compassion that is directed to Enfield Loaves and Fishes mission to support our vulnerable populations.

Our staff is heartened and ready to advance the organization even further in 2023, to make sure that we are providing equitable, comfortable, and welcoming services to our friends, families and neighbors struggling with food insecurity. Thank you for taking on this mission as a community.

Please sign up for our newsletter to stay informed on special events and all of the ways you can help your community in the coming months. Visit www.enfieldloavesandfishes.org to get involved and continue to make a difference. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!







#### Thank You To All Of Our Dedicated Volunteers











## **Mission Statement**

Loaves and Fishes is committed to providing meals and fellowship to the poor, hungry, and disenfranchised within our community.

"Hunger Has No Season"





#### **Enfield Loaves and Fishes Executive Board 2022**



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#### Message From Chairperson Kelly Hemmeler

It has been an honor to be the Chair of the Enfield Loaves & Fishes Board of Directors. I serve with a top-notch Board that is thoughtful and deeply cares for the mission of the organization.

In 2021 we hired Maya Matthews as Executive Director. In May of 2022, we opened the dining room to our guests to enjoy the much-needed social aspect of a hot meal provided daily. Community connections were made with several organizations and businesses in Enfield. Our talented staff managed the daily activities of the kitchen as well as finding new ways to fund raise in our ever-changing world.

Kitchen Manager Mary Lee Brody made delicious meals and coordinated a nutritious weekly menu while she supervising volunteers sorting donations and rotating stock. Her dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated.

Our volunteers are nothing short of amazing. We are very lucky to have so many people willing to share their talents to serve, make repairs, clean, pick-up store donations and assist with everything the soup kitchen needs in order to operate successfully. Our large base of active volunteers is dependable, pleasant, and dedicated to their service.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to recognize our contributors. One thing I have learned about Enfield and the surrounding towns is that when there is a need, they are rich in compassion. The generosity of organizations, businesses (large and small) and individuals does not go unnoticed. We are very grateful for their contribution, without which, Enfield Loaves and Fishes could not fulfill our mission to provide for those less fortunate.

We gained momentum in 2022 and we plan to keep that going in 2023. Thank you to all our staff, volunteers, and contributors. We would not exist without you!

# TESTIMONIAL FROM BUTCH FISHER

I've had the opportunity to work with Enfield Loaves and Fishes this past year on light duty assignment while recovering from work related injuries.

Not knowing what to expect upon arrival, I have been able to witness first-hand the impact that Enfield Loaves and Fishes has on the immediate community. The result is both touching and gratifying. The positive effect of providing a warm meal and a safe, inclusive environment to enjoy is a wonderful mission to take part in. Each day I get to witness the generosity the community through donations of food and of the many volunteers giving of their time in providing a meal.

This year, I was witness to success in the making and tragedies firsthand. It has been a truly moving experience. In writing this, I can't help but be in awe of how fortunate I am, even in my own trying personal circumstances. I am blessed with food, shelter, and a measure of security.

Along the way, seeing some of our guests improving their quality of lives with assistance from the community human services organizations that Enfield Loaves and Fishes partners with has been very rewarding. Just recently, Enfield Loaves and hosted a vaccination clinic that also partnered with a company that provided free cell phone service.

Beyond food and a comfortable environment, we all still strive to meet our monthly obligations of expenses. We can only do as much as we can, but when many pull together we can make a tangible difference. In my short time here, seeing what can be accomplished by a caring community coming together has truly been a blessing.

Thank you all.

#### **Enfield Loaves and Fishes, Inc.**

Address: 23 North Main Street Office Hours: 10 AM - 6 PM Monday - Friday

P.O. Box 544 Accepting Donations: 11 AM - 3 PM Monday - Friday Enfield, CT 06083 Meal Service: 4 PM - 5 PM Sunday - Friday

Enfield, CT 06083 Meal Service: 4 PM - 5 PM Sunday - Friday
Phone: (860) 741-0226 11 AM - 12:30 PM Saturday

# Special Thank You - 2022 Organizational Contributors

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Enfield Soccer Club

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While we have made every effort to include all of our donors, we apologize if there are any errors or omissions. Please contact us at info@enfieldloavesandfishes.org with any suggestions.

#### WE CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT YOUR HELP! THANK YOU! 🗢

























#### HIGHLIGHTS

Enfield Loaves and Fishes held a Grand Opening on May 1, 2022, to welcome guests into 23 North Main Street for the first time since buying the building in late 2019. Community leaders, area businesses and volunteers were in attendance for a day of celebration and community before opening up for dinner that evening.

Enfield Food Shelf joined with Enfield Loaves and Fishes to create "Lunch Link", a summer lunch program from children in Enfield that did not have any other free lunch options for 2 weeks before school started. This successful program will be repeated this summer.

Partnerships with Enfield High School Transitional Learning and Allied Rehabilitation Center were able to be rekindled this Fall after a long hiatus. Our friends join us to learn life and job skills in a nurturing and inclusive environment.

Amazon Distribution Center was instrumental in helping Enfield Loaves and Fishes staff many community events over this past summer. They were especially helpful with serving lunch made by our Kitchen Manager, Mary Lee Brody, in the Hospitality Tent during the Fourth of July Celebration on the Town Green.

Enfield Loaves and Fishes was proud to host talent from Opera House Players for 'The Spotlight' a Holiday Variety Show on December 3 here at the Kitchen. The event was a sold-out success!

Executive Assistant Ariana Maggio created a LinkTree Code that can be scanned to show social service resources in one spot on a mobile phone. The code has since been adopted by the Enfield Police Department and Connecticut Foodshare.

Executive Director Maya Nicole Matthews visited community groups, organizations, and was a featured guest on the Enfield Youth Services Radio Show at Asnuntuck Community College, the John Kissel Show and Joy for Midlife Women.

Enfield Loaves and Fishes hosted Harriott Home Health Vaccines to provide free vaccines to our neighbors. Over 50 Covid-19 first shots, boosters, flu shots and monkeypox vaccines were administered.

Volunteers have been and will annually be trained in food safety, civil rights compliance, suicide awareness and prevention and basic medical emergency assistance.

# **CALL TO ACTION**

Enfield Loaves and Fishes is a soup kitchen providing meals, aid, and companionship at no charge. We are in Enfield, Connecticut and serve anyone in need in the surrounding area. A non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, incorporated in 1983, our purpose is to feed and aid the disenfranchised.

Enfield Loaves and Fishes strives to make a difference in the lives of people who live with food insecurity. We serve every meal with dignity and respect in a nurturing environment. Our volunteers, Board of Directors and staff strive to make a positive difference in our community and in the world. The strength of the organization rests on their shoulders.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

There is no single face of food insecurity. It impacts every community in the United States. Food insecurity is a complex problem. Though closely related to poverty, not all people living below the poverty line experience food insecurity. Low-income families are negatively affected by multiple, overlapping issues such as lack of affordable housing, social isolation, chronic or acute health problems, high medical costs, and low wages. We are truly fortunate to have so many dedicated, caring people who come together every single day to help serve a hot meal to anyone that is hungry.

#### PLEASE DONATE TODAY

Enfield Loaves and Fishes is solely dependent upon donations and volunteer help from individuals, churches, organizations, corporations, and businesses in North Central Connecticut throughout the year.

The soup kitchen does not receive monetary support from state or federal governments. There is a constant need for donations since "**Hunger Has No Season.**" Monetary donations support food purchases, supplies, equipment purchases and maintenance.

Give back by becoming one of our beloved volunteers! Call (860) 741-0226 with your availability.

PayPal: @enfieldloavesfishes Venmo: @enfield-loaves-and-fishes www.enfieldloavesandfishes.org