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**23 Water Street/P.O. Box 6662
Holliston, MA 01746
508-429-5392
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"**

November 2013

Dear Pantry Shelf Supporter,

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Holliston Food Pantry. In 1993, the 4 founders of The Pantry, Sylvia Stickney, Robert Blair, Theresa Meadows and Nancy Norris, gathered at the Town Hall around an idea. That idea was simple: Provide a dignified way to help Holliston residents in need. Since that time, the fundamental mission has not changed. Any Holliston resident can go to the Town Clerk and request a card to use The Pantry. No proof of financial hardship, no embarrassing questions, no need to say anything other than, 'I need help.' After that point, the use of The Pantry is anonymous and confidential. It is an amazing system based on honor and respect. Those 4 original founders never imagined the important role The Pantry would play in the community over the next 20 years.

The only things that have changed are our location and the level of need. At the time of inception, 37 families stepped forward to accept help. Sadly, that number has increased year after year. To put today's use in perspective, approximately 1 in every 29 families is using The Pantry on a weekly basis to put food on the table. The people who use The Pantry are our neighbors, our friends, the people we see everyday and yet we do not realize their hardships. These are families who come to us with great humility and embarrassment. We give them help with dignity and discretion until they can get back on their feet. It is clear from our increased use that this past year has been particularly difficult for families.

The Pantry is 100% Holliston based. We are truly 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors'. We are able to help families because families help us. Throughout the year, we depend on the donations of food and money to keep fulfilling our mission. 2013 was a difficult year because we saw a decrease in our overall donations. This is both frightening and concerning. While we realize you yourselves are also feeling the effects of this economy, your contribution, no matter how small, makes an enormous difference to those people who need the help at the Pantry Shelf.

I hope you can find a way to help us spread the spirit of the holiday season by donating to this important non-profit community institution. On behalf of the more than 90 weekly volunteers at the Holliston Food Pantry, we wish you all the best for the holidays and a joyous New Year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Carl F. Damigella
President

Please detach and send in with your tax deductible check made payable to: **Holliston Pantry Shelf**

Name _____ Address _____

Email Address _____

_____ please check here to have an acknowledgement letter emailed to you