



My Brother's Table, Inc.

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2003-2004

History and Mission

In the heart of Lynn, Massachusetts, My Brother's Table is a model of philanthropy in action. Founded in 1982, 2500 volunteers a year assist a small staff in serving a hot, nutritious meal 365 days a year. An average of 200 hungry, homeless, or lonely people are our dinner guests each day. This number has remained fairly constant for the past few years although the people who come are needier because of other social programs which have reduced funding as well as a tough job market. The Table served 78,712 meals in FY 2003-2004.

My Brother's Table is privately funded and does not receive nor seek federal, state, or local aid. The Table is not a United Way affiliate. Instead funding comes from thousands of individual donations and a few fundraising events and private grants. The Table relies heavily on donated food from supermarkets, restaurants, food drives, and individuals for most of each meal served.

The Table was created to provide free, nutritious food to the homeless in Lynn, those living in boarding houses, and the large number of mentally ill individuals who were no longer in institutions. No other organizations were serving these groups of people. Rooted in the Judeo Christian ethics of love of God and neighbor, My Brother's Table stands ready to feed the hungry and to serve all who come in need regardless of race, color, creed, or sex. The philosophy from the beginning has been to welcome all who come with no questions asked. As a result, the Table has always served a wide range of guests—parents and children, individuals with medical or physical disabilities, elderly, people who are unemployed and under employed, in addition to the homeless. Some people come once or twice or for a few days, weeks, or months. Others have come for dinner regularly for many years and have found friends and community at the Table.

What We Do

The core of the Table's operations is the service of a daily, free, hot, nutritious meal to anyone who wants one, but the mission has been expanded to provide advocacy and services to help the guests in many areas of their lives. On Tuesday nights there is a popular art therapy program during dinner. Meals are provided for people in a homeless day program and for detainees in the city jail. Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous meetings are held daily in the dining room. Volunteers cater supper clubs for elderly people. The dining room is shared rent-free by Lynn City Mission to run the Helping Hand food pantry every Saturday morning. There is a free medical clinic on Tuesday nights to provide care for minor health problems and referrals, staffed by two nurses and a physician, all volunteers. A free, confidential HIV testing clinic is also offered. The Table provides a dinner shuttle outreach to assist guests with terminal or chronic illnesses who cannot come to the dining room for dinner. In order to be eligible for the dinner shuttle, individuals cannot be eligible for benefits from another agency.

Guests at the Table

For many people My Brother's Table is the only place or only way they can receive the daily nutrition that they need. Many who come to the evening meal rely on the Table for all their nutritional needs. For others, the Table represents a way to stretch limited budgets, and without the Table they would receive inadequate nutrition.

Some guests are currently homeless, and many more have been homeless or are at risk of being homeless. Many guests have no cooking facilities in the rooms they rent in Lynn's old hotels and boarding houses. Some live in the city-run emergency shelter that is downstairs from the Table's dining

room. There are families who have no money left after they have paid their rent. Elderly and lonely people come for company so they don't have to eat alone day after day. Most have some form of disability. Recently, there has been an increase in young adults, many of whom have probably "aged out" of foster care with few options for work, education, or permanent family.

Funding

Founded in difficult economic times to be self-sustaining despite the ups and downs of the economy and politics, My Brother's Table is entirely funded by donations. The Table does not receive nor seek any federal, state, or city government aid. The Table is not a United Way affiliate. Instead funding comes from thousands of individual private donors as well as ongoing fundraising efforts. There are a few annual special events, and the staff writes grants to foundations and corporations.

In addition to financial donations, My Brother's Table receives over \$300,000 of donated food items annually. These items constitute most of each meal, and make up 95% of our food budget. The Table could not operate as it does without the donation of food and supplies—these donations are essential. Food donations come from grocery stores, food banks, restaurants, canned food drives, individuals, and leftovers from catered events. At the holidays a call to the community for donated turkeys has resulted in over 500 donations within three days.

Volunteers

In order to serve guests in a caring environment, My Brother's Table utilizes a large volunteer corps—2,500 volunteers a year. Volunteer groups come every night to bring the meal, help prepare the meal, pay for the meal, or serve a meal prepared by the Table's cook. Churches, temples, civic organizations, corporations, clubs, schools, and family groups volunteer. Some groups serve monthly, one or more times a year. Individual volunteers perform a wide range of services including food preparation, meal service, cooking, office work, fundraising, driving to pick up donated food, medical services (there are two volunteer nurses and a volunteer physician), and many other special projects.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Year ended March 31, 2004

Represents selected financial data. Complete audited financial statements available on request.

Support & Revenues	\$
In-Kind donations	241,576
Contributions	401,617
Special Events	81,088
Grants	64,574
Net gain on investments	21,627
Investment income	6,749
Total Support and Revenues	817,231
Expenses	
Program Services	
Food	520,608
Volunteer	43,983
Advocacy	53,642
Total Program Services	618,233
Support Services	
Management and General	94,318
Fundraising	58,452
Total Support Services	152,770
Total Expenses	771,003
Excess/Deficit of Support & Revenue over Expenses	46,228

Board of Directors

FY 2003-2004

Cliff Ansara, President
Swampscott, MA

Tasha Baizerman-Roman
East Boston, MA

Claire Bravo
Beverly, MA

William Brauner
President-Elect for 2005-2006
Lynn, MA

Doris Bryant
Peabody, MA

Diane Conlon
Secretary
Lynn, MA

Michele Desmarais
Lynn, MA

Michael Finer
Salem, MA

The Rev. Jane Gould
Lynn, MA

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Marblehead, MA

Barton Hyte
Marblehead, MA

Pat Lawrence
Lynnfield, MA

Dan Mazzaferro, Treasurer
Swampscott, MA

Mark Messenger, M.D.
Swampscott, MA

Monique Nappi, Ed.D.
Lynn, MA

Tony Palmer
Marblehead, MA

Ruth Paster
Swampscott, MA

Melinda Thomas
Lynn, MA

Members of the Board of Directors serve for a three-year term with the option for reelection to three consecutive one-year terms after which they must remain off the Board for two years. The Board meets on the third Wednesday of every month except December and August. Meetings are held at 6 p.m. at the PACE Building, 62 Market Street, Lynn, MA 01901.

Administrative Staff

FY 2003-2004

Ilia Stacy
Executive Director

Regina Boyland
Manager of Volunteer Staffing and Food Donations

Graeme Jones
Operations Manager

Ian Jones
Cook & Kitchen Manager

Dianne Kuzia Hills
Associate Director and Advocate

Mary Magner
Director of Development



My Brothers Table, Inc.

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