



My Brother's Table, Inc.

98 Willow Street Lynn, MA 10901 781-595-3224
www.mybrotherstable.org

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2005-2006

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 over 200 hungry, homeless, or lonely people are our dinner guests each day. In addition, 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 87,868 meals in the Fiscal Year which ended March 31, 2006. *Note: Dinner numbers were slightly lower in FY 2006-2007. However, in February 2007 the Table added a weekday lunch program serving more than an additional 1,000 meals every month.*

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. 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, seniors, 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. Meals are provided for people in a homeless day program and for detainees in the city jail. Volunteers cater supper clubs for elderly people off site at Greater Lynn Senior Services and a senior complex owned by Lynn Housing Authority. A popular free medical clinic on Tuesday nights provides care for minor health problems and referrals, and is 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 and who do not qualify for other services such as Meals on Wheels.

A Place at the Table for Everyone

For many people My Brother's Table is the *only* place or only way they can receive the daily food they need. Many who come to the dinner 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 go hungry or receive inadequate nutrition. Without My Brother's Table, hunger would be a greater problem in Lynn.

Some guests are currently homeless, and many more have been homeless or are at risk of being homeless. Many have limited or no cooking facilities in the rooms they rent in Lynn's old hotels and boarding houses. Some are staying in the Lynn Emergency Shelter located 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, whether physical, mental or both. In the past few years, 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, the Table does not receive nor seek any Federal, state, or city government aid and is not a United Way affiliate. My Brother's Table raises 100% of its budget annually from thousands of individual private donors, a few annual special events, and grants from foundations and corporations. Generous people remember the Table with bequests, or family members designate the Table to receive memorials in the names of loved ones. My Brother's Table also actively seeks and receives over \$300,000 of donated food annually. In fact, donated food constitutes most of each meal and 95% of the 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, Merrimack Valley Food Bank, restaurants, canned food drives, individuals, and excess food from catered events.

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 day or evening to bring the meal, help prepare the meal, pay for the meal, or serve a meal prepared by the Table's cook. Groups of volunteers come from churches and temples, civic organizations, corporations, clubs, schools, and families. Some groups serve monthly, some 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.

Ongoing Challenge to the Table's Mission

The day before Thanksgiving 2005, the Mayor of Lynn notified the Table that the City of Lynn would not renew the Table's lease in the Multi-Service Center. The lease expires November 30, 2007 but provides for up to three additional years for relocation. The Table pays over \$30,000 annually in rent to the City plus utilities.

The Table is in its present location because of the City's insistence. In 1990, after a year or more of negotiations and planning, the City of Lynn's proposal was accepted to acquire and use the Multi-Service Center building to assist the homeless through the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. The City received a \$2.2 million public benefit allowance to renovate. The building itself was transferred to the City by the Federal Government for a period of 30 years at no cost.

With the gentrification of the downtown and new residents buying condominiums in the old factory buildings, the City's position has been "that was then and this is now." It is unclear whether or not the City any longer has an interest in the multi-service center concept where all services to the homeless and poor are in one building. It is also unclear what their plans are for the building which still is under Federal restrictions for its use.

What *is* clear is the need in the City of Lynn to feed the hungry. The Table is currently exploring options for relocation in addition to staying in its present location.

The Future

The staff and Board of Directors of My Brother's Table are committed to the organization's 25-year old mission to feed all who come with love, dignity, and without question. The one certainty for the future is that poverty and hunger will continue to be a serious problem in Lynn and that hungry people will continue to come to the Table. And, as long as we are needed, the Table will feed them without any cost to taxpayers as a free service to all the people of Lynn.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Year ended March 31, 2006

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

Support & Revenues	\$
In-Kind donations	313,658
Contributions	356,905
Special Events	70,786
Grants	44,606
Net gain on investments	11,236
Investment income	9,630
Total Support and Revenues	806,821
Expenses	
Program Services	
Food	609,590
Volunteer	59,887
Advocacy	36,146
Total Program Services	705,623
Support Services	
Management and General	74,448
Fundraising	83,093
Total Support Services	157,541
Total Expenses	863,164
Excess/Deficit of Support & Revenue over Expenses	(56,343)

Board of Directors

FY

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Middleton, MA

John Willis, Esq.
Swampscott, 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. Meetings are held at 6 p.m. at the PACE Building, 62 Market Street, Lynn, MA 01901.

Chief Administrative Staff

FY 2005-2006

Ilia Stacy
Executive Director

Oswaldo Cintron, Jr.
Cook

Graeme Jones
Operations Manager

Mary Magner
Associate Director