

## April 2022

### Food Bank Closings

Friday, April 15th– Good Friday  
 Monday, May 30th– Memorial Day

### Quotable



### Application Renewals

Every two years, all NHFB partner agencies are required to complete an Application Renewal. This allows us to acquire up-to-date signatures and Agreements for your program, and also allows the NHFB the opportunity to update existing contracts. An application is required from every program. If your agency has more than one program/account, you must submit separate applications for each program. (Example: Programs 999-1 & 999-2 will need to complete separate applications.) All applications and signed documents are due via mail or in person by May 15th. If you did not receive the required documents for the 2022 renewal process, please contact Jocelyn at [jcheney@nhfoodbank.org](mailto:jcheney@nhfoodbank.org).

### Mobile Food Pantries

April marks 2 years that the NH Food Bank has hosted statewide Mobile Food Pantry distributions, often 2-3 times a week. Starting this month, these distributions will be reduced to once a week. In doing so, we are encouraging attendees to reach out to their local pantries and other state services for help in meeting their needs. We will continue to monitor attendance numbers at these events and should there be need for an increase in the upcoming months, we will adjust accordingly. Please visit [nhfoodbank.org](http://nhfoodbank.org) for a full list of the upcoming events around the state.

### A Note From Agency Relations

If you participate in the Fresh Rescue program with a local retailer, all reporting must be done using the Meal Connect website and submitted by the 15th of the month for the prior month's data. Programs that are late in reporting their pounds each month will be placed on Hold and unable to access food ordering until the report is received by our team.

~Jocelyn, Kristie, Stacey, Alyssa, Christy & Natalie

### QSR Updates

You will notice that the 1st quarter 2022 QSR looks different this month. Starting this year we have reformatted the QSR and questions so that we can receive more accurate reporting for the information that we need. The information you submit each quarter is used for Feeding America statistics, but also for grants and for NH Food Bank data. We hope that simplifying the questions and removing others will allow you an easier reporting process.

You will find the new "QSR Instructions" form attached (via email) with this bulletin. Please read through that before completing the QSR this quarter. We understand that the new questions may cause your program to adjust your intake methods but we hope this will actually be easier for you in the long run. If you have any questions, our team is happy to help you.

### Agency Receipts

Over the past few weeks, our ordering system has been updated to allow for invoices to be emailed to you. This is a new and exciting update as invoices have previously only been available on paper when you received your order. Some of you may have noticed these new emails recently sent to you after your order has been picked and invoiced, as we test out the new email option. The emailed invoice can only be sent to one email address per account and is currently being sent to the primary contact that we have on file. Be aware, the email will come to you from an email address listed as "Ceres order". If you have placed an order in the last few weeks of March, but did not receive an emailed receipt, please check your spam or junk email folder first. Otherwise please let Cindi know. You can reach Cindi at [cbest@nhfoodbank.org](mailto:cbest@nhfoodbank.org) at or ext. 1110 so that she can verify that the email address is correct.

### Food Label Dates

A frequent question that our team receives is about dates printed on labels and packages. Here you can find a great explanation of those dates from UNH Cooperative extension.

- A "Sell-By" date tells the store how long to display the product for sale.
- A "Best if Used By" date is recommended for best flavor and quality. It is not a purchase or safety date. Items are still safe to eat past this date within reason. (See the attached document with this email.)
- An "Expiration" date is the last day to use the item. The stamped date has been determined by the manufacturer of the product.
- A "Closed" or "Coded" date is a packing number for use by the manufacturer.

We also recommend that you visit [www.eatbydate.com](http://www.eatbydate.com) for more information. There you can search by specific items or groups to find how long items are still safe to eat past the printed dates.

## Monthly Spotlight



Like many NHFB partner agencies, Gerry's Food Pantry in Rochester has reevaluated how they operate during the pandemic and have made several adjustments to make it easier for people in the area to get the food they need. They have simplified their intake form and reduced the number of documents a new client is asked to bring with them. This helps clients to not feel anxious or scared to ask for food, knowing they will not need to provide more information than they are comfortable sharing. In addition to regular pantry hours, Gerry's Food Pantry now holds pop-up food pantries at Rochester Housing Authority sites. These pop-up pantries bring food and a welcoming atmosphere to people with limited transportation outside of regular pantry hours. Inspired by Gerry Rainville's vision when he started a pantry almost 40 years ago, Gerry's Food Pantry finds creative ways to be "neighbors helping neighbors in need."

The NHFB Agency Relations team encourages you to always be evaluating the processes you use at your program and how you can adapt, adjust and also increase distribution to meet your clients needs. We love hearing about your updates and ways you are making a difference.



A Program of Catholic Charities NH

700 EAST INDUSTRIAL PARK DRIVE  
MANCHESTER, NH 03109

# What's Cookin'

April 2022

Current Resident or

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MANCHESTER, NH  
PERMIT NO. 37



## Safe Food Handling

All Agencies are required to have at least one representative attend a Safe Food Handling Class. If you or someone at your program would like to attend, contact [jcheney@nhfoodbank.org](mailto:jcheney@nhfoodbank.org)

## Upcoming Classes

Online "Zoom" session:

For Food Pantries:

Thursday, May 26th @4pm

For Soup Kitchens & Prepared Meals:

Monday, April 11th @6pm

Wednesday, April 25th @1:30pm

## WELCOME

## New Agencies

Huskey School Food Pantry  
Manchester

End 68 Hours of Hunger  
Southside Manchester

New Covenant Bible Church FP  
Greenville

NHFOODBANK.ORG | 603-669-9725

## New Shopper Orientation

If you or someone at your program would like to attend, please contact Jocelyn at [jcheney@nhfoodbank.org](mailto:jcheney@nhfoodbank.org).

## Upcoming Classes

Online "Zoom" session:

Tuesday, April 12th @10am

Wednesday, May 18th @10am