

December 2024

The New Hampshire Food Bank, as the only food bank in the state, works through a network of partner agencies, providing food and services to empower people to become more food self-reliant and secure.

### Upcoming Events and Fundraisers Benefiting the NH Food Bank

#### WMUR's Spirit of Giving Food Drive

December 13, 14, 15

Learn more and donate at:  
[nhfoodbank.org/spirit-of-giving](http://nhfoodbank.org/spirit-of-giving)

#### The Peach Project's Holiday Stroll

December 13 & 14

Brentwood Recreational Center,  
 Brentwood, NH

#### New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlet's New England Winter Wine Spectacular

Presented by M&T Bank and Wilmington Trust

January 23, 2025

For info & tickets, visit:  
[nhwineweek.com](http://nhwineweek.com)

#### NH Food Bank's 9th Annual Steel Chef Challenge

March 17, 2025

For tickets and info, visit:  
[nhfoodbank.org/steelchef](http://nhfoodbank.org/steelchef)

For the most up-to-date information, visit: [nhfoodbank.org](http://nhfoodbank.org)

# Food *for* thought

## Samuelsson Set to Return for New Hampshire Food Bank's Ninth Annual Steel Chef Challenge!

We're excited to share that celebrity chef, Marcus Samuelsson, is set to return as host for the NH Food Bank's 9th Annual Steel Chef Challenge, taking place on **March 17, 2025**, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown in Manchester, NH!

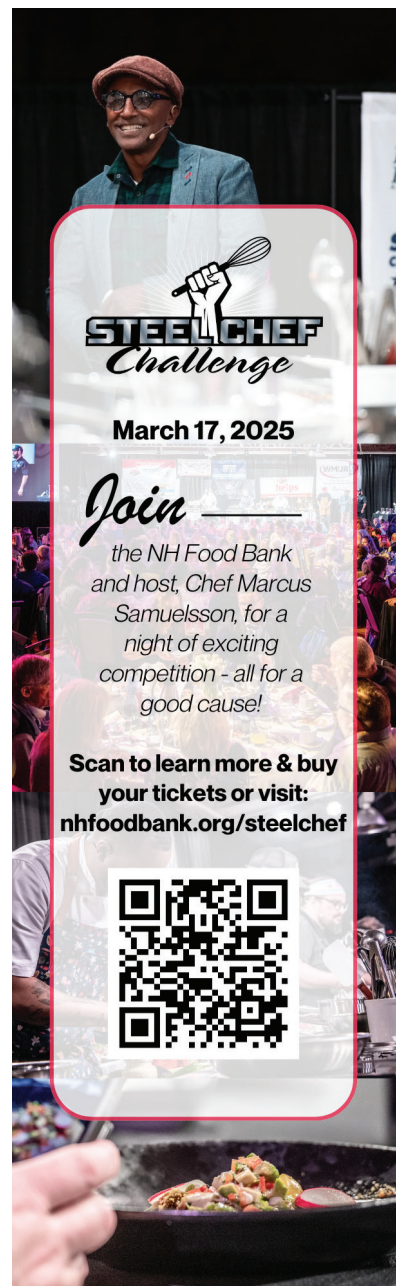
The Food Bank will transform the Armory Ballroom at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown into a grand dining room, seating approximately 680 guests. Attendees will watch live as the competition between four of NH's best chefs heats up, and enjoy a fabulous dinner curated by Chef Samuelsson. The evening also includes both live and silent auctions - *all to benefit the NH Food Bank and our neighbors experiencing hunger here in the Granite State.*

Haven't attended before? Take a look at highlights from last year's event by visiting [nhfoodbank.org/steelchef](http://nhfoodbank.org/steelchef) or saying "Steel Chef Challenge" into your Comcast remote.

**Tickets are on sale now - you won't want to miss it!**  
[nhfoodbank.org/steelchef](http://nhfoodbank.org/steelchef)

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more info, contact Nancy Mellitt at 603-669-9725 or [nmellitt@nhfoodbank.org](mailto:nmellitt@nhfoodbank.org).





# Holiday Roasted Butternut Squash

A Cooking Matters Recipe



## Ingredients

- 2 pounds butternut squash
- ¼ cup walnuts
- 2 Tablespoons canola oil
- 1 teaspoon dried sage
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 Tablespoon butter or canola oil
- ¼ cup dried cranberries
- 1 ½ Tablespoons maple syrup

## Instructions

- Preheat oven to 375°F.
- Rinse and peel squash. Cut off ends and discard. Cut squash at the neck, creating a narrow end and a round end. Cut round end in half and scoop out seeds with a spoon. Cut both ends into ¾-inch, even-sized cubes.
- Coarsely chop walnuts. Set aside.
- In a large bowl, add squash. Toss with oil, sage, salt and ground black pepper.
- Spread squash evenly on a baking sheet. Roast, stirring once, until tender, about 35 minutes.
- In a small skillet over medium heat, melt butter or heat oil. Add walnuts and cook until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in cranberries and maple syrup.
- Gently toss cooked squash with cranberry mixture.

## Chef's Notes

- To make flavors pop even more, stir in 1 Tablespoon cider vinegar along with the cranberry mixture.
- You can use fresh sage instead of dried. Leave out dried sage in step 4. Roll 4 fresh sage leaves into a log shape and thinly slice. Cook fresh sage in butter or oil along with the walnuts in step 6.
- Use pecans or hazelnuts in place of walnuts. Try using raisins or dried cherries for the cranberries.

# NH Food Bank Turns 40: Recognizes 40 Years of Nourishing NH

In October, NH Food Bank recognized its 40th anniversary of nourishing New Hampshire and welcomed supporters to our Manchester warehouse to celebrate this milestone. We're grateful to our event sponsor, Elliot Hospital, for making this event possible, as well as a number of in-kind sponsors.

Guests enjoyed creative, small bites that highlighted the talents of the NH Food Bank's Culinary Job Training team, live music from Justin Rigoli Music and The Joey Placenti Trio, and were able to mix, mingle and view our warehouse facility and culinary job training kitchen.

Manchester Mayor Jay Ruais as well as Maggie McSherry, representing Congressman Chris Pappas' office joined Catholic Charities NH's President and CEO, Tom Blonski and the NH Food Bank's Director of Development, Nancy Mellitt in some remarks recognizing this milestone. Thank you to Senator Shaheen's office and Governor Chris Sununu for their recognition of this event as well.

We can't help but look back with gratitude on the incredible growth of our organization over the last 40 years. None of it would be possible without your generous support and the hard work of our staff and volunteers. We are so grateful for the trust you have placed in the work of our organization to ensure that all Granite Staters have access to the food and resources they need to thrive with the ultimate goal of eradicating hunger in NH.

Once again, we're grateful to all those who were able to join us for the evening, Event Committee members: Monsignor John Quinn, Joe Raczka, Robert Gossett, Lisa Drake, Pauline Ikawa, as well as our sponsors, Elliot Hospital and in-kind sponsors: Brookford Farm, Calef's Country Store, Chalifour's Flowers, Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast, Hannaford Supermarkets Bakery on Hanover Street, Hood, Konky's Creative Kitchen, Little Bay Lobster, Meadow's Mirth Farm, New Hampshire Distributors, North Country Smokehouse, Republic National Distributing Company, Stonyfield and World Wide Chocolate.



# NH Food Bank's North Country Warehouse Begins Operations

The NH Food Bank marked the beginning of operations at its North Country warehouse space with a ceremonial ribbon cutting in September.

This temporary warehouse is the result of the Food Bank's extensive search for the right property to support and expand its work in the region. Thanks to a partnership with New Hampshire Distributors, the NH Food Bank was able to secure space that will allow for increased access to nourishing foods and better reach underserved areas.



During the event, Executive Councilor, Joe Kenney; Berlin's Mayor Robert Cone; representatives of Senator Shaheen & Congresswoman Kuster; and Catholic Charities NH's Vice President & COO, Dominique Rust spoke to the guests who joined us about the impact this facility will have on our neighbors experiencing hunger across the North Country.

The warehouse was officially available for agency shopping on October 1, and we look forward to seeing the impact of this facility and are grateful to be able to further strengthen our ability to distribute food where it is needed most.

To learn more about the North Country Warehouse visit: [nhfoodbank.org/nh-food-bank-to-open-temporary-warehouse-in-berlin](https://nhfoodbank.org/nh-food-bank-to-open-temporary-warehouse-in-berlin)

We have a very small budget and already the [NH Food Bank's North Country] warehouse has met so many of our needs. The variety of products has been wonderful. The individuals coming to our pantry have already been very appreciative of the different products. *Thank you so much for this amazing resource!*

Bread of Life Food Pantry – Berlin, NH  
NH Food Bank Partner Agency



## Give the Gift of Hope this Holiday Season



Approximately 1 in 10 NH residents are food insecure - including 1 in 7 NH children, meaning they do not have consistent access to nutritious foods.

Please consider making a donation in the name of a friend or family member for the perfect gift! For a minimum donation of \$25 per card, we will send a card to every person on your list — or, if you prefer, we will send the cards to you so that you may deliver them personally.

To order: Call Lisa at (603) 669-9725 ext. 1121 with your list, have a credit card ready, and leave the rest to us or visit [nhfoodbank.org/holiday](https://nhfoodbank.org/holiday)

Please place your order by December 18, 2024.

## New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlet's New England Winter Wine Spectacular

Tickets are on sale now for the New England Winter Wine Spectacular, presented by M&T Bank and Wilmington Trust.

The Spectacular is the premier event of New Hampshire Wine Week, and benefits the New Hampshire Food Bank featuring over 1,800 wines - paired with a variety of delicious food from some of the best restaurants from around New Hampshire.



Scan above to learn more & buy tickets or visit: [nhwineweek.com](https://nhwineweek.com)





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## Behind the Scenes

Be sure to keep up with the New Hampshire Food Bank on the following social media platforms:

-  Facebook
-  X (Twitter)
-  Instagram
-  LinkedIn
-  YouTube

## Your comments

Thank you for your continued support. We would love to hear from you! Please email us at [nmellitt@nhfoodbank.org](mailto:nmellitt@nhfoodbank.org) or write to:

Nancy Mellitt  
New Hampshire Food Bank  
700 East Industrial Park Drive  
Manchester, NH 03109



## Grants

*Thank you to the following organizations and individuals for their generous support through grants to the New Hampshire Food Bank:*

**State Farm:** Culinary Job Training program

**Claremont Savings Bank Foundation:** Food purchase for agencies in Claremont Savings Bank's service area

**The Frank E. Kaley Foundation:** Food Purchase for Milford, NH

**Speare Memorial Hospital:** Food purchase in Ashland, Bristol, Campton, Lincoln, Meredith, Moultonborough, Plymouth, Sandwich and Warren, NH

**BAE Systems:** Food purchase supporting agencies in Hudson, Merrimack and Nashua, NH

**New Hampshire Electric Co-op Foundation:** Mobile Food Pantries in NHEC's service area

**Feeding America – CVS:** General operating



**WMUR's 2024 Spirit of Giving Food Drive** is being held December 13,14,15. For more details, visit: [nhfoodbank.org/spirit-of-giving](http://nhfoodbank.org/spirit-of-giving)