



**Amherst Survival Center Launches Project HungerX:  
It's New 'Food Is Medicine' Program,  
Partners with Medical Groups in the Area**

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**Amherst, MA** – The Amherst Survival Center (ASC) has launched Project HungerX, a new collaboration with medical providers in the community where patients will be assessed for food insecurity, and referred to the ASC's food and nutrition programs as indicated. The project is supported in part by a grant by the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Alliance Charitable Foundation. The two medical practices who will initially participate in this effort are part of the Cooley Dickinson Medical Group: Sugarloaf Pediatrics and South Deerfield Family Medicine.

“Project HungerX takes the notion that ‘food is medicine’ and puts it in the medical setting. It supports medical providers to screen for food insecurity in their patients and ‘prescribe’ ASC’s food and nutrition programs,” said Mindy Domb, Executive Director of the Amherst Survival Center. “We are excited that both South Deerfield Family Medicine and Sugarloaf Pediatrics are the first practices to join this effort. Both have been enthusiastic partners, shaping the project to their individual offices, and both are located in South Deerfield, a town served by the Amherst Survival Center Food Pantry,” said Domb.

Through Project HungerX, the Amherst Survival Center offers medical providers and practices the information and tools they need to begin screening their patients for food insecurity in order to make referrals to food and nutrition programs, including the Center’s Food Pantry. Special materials include a pad designed to resemble a prescription pad, which includes the variety of programs available in the Center. Just recently, the American Academy of Pediatrics urged its members to start assessing children for food insecurity. Project HungerX works with both pediatricians and adult general internists.

“We are delighted to collaborate with the Amherst Survival Center on this exciting initiative, and ensure that our patients know about the food and nutrition resources available to them in the community, and have access to them,” said Susanne McCrea, Practice Manager for both Sugarloaf Pediatrics and South Deerfield Family Medicine. “We are excited to join this effort to assess food insecurity in our patients, help them access community resources, and forge a meaningful partnership for health improvement in our community with the Amherst Survival Center.”



The mission of the Amherst Survival Center is to connect residents of Hampshire and Franklin Counties to food, clothing, health care, wellness, and community, primarily through volunteers. The Center is located at 138 Sunderland Road in North Amherst, which is accessible via the #33 PVRTA bus. The Center's Food Pantry serves residents of 13 towns: Amherst, Belchertown, Deerfield, Granby, Hadley, Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury, South Deerfield, South Hadley, Sunderland, Ware, and Whately.

More information on the Center's Food Pantry can be found on its website at [www.amherstsurvival.org](http://www.amherstsurvival.org). Physicians and medical offices that are interested in participating in Project HungeRX should contact Mindy Domb at [domb@amherstsurvival.org](mailto:domb@amherstsurvival.org).