

Amherst Survival Center

The Amherst Survival Center (ASC), a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation based in western Massachusetts, was created in 1976 as a community of people who gathered to help each other. It has evolved from its humble beginnings into a grassroots organization whose mission is to provide residents of Hampshire and Franklin Counties with food, clothing, health care, wellness and community. It serves over 6,000 people each year through volunteer efforts. Thanks to a loyal, generous and dynamic community of supporters and volunteers, the ASC now operates from a building designed and constructed in 2012 to support its operations and provide a robust variety of basic needs services.

The ASC community includes families with children, low-income seniors, the "working poor," people experiencing homelessness, and many who struggle with disabilities. ASC programs are free of charge and include an Emergency Food Pantry, Community Kitchen, Community Store, food recovery and distribution program, Health Clinic, volunteer opportunities, job search assistance program, clothing repair workshops, healthy cooking classes, and an extensive referral system, all in a single location that serves as an easy one-stop operation for families and individuals in western Massachusetts. Through collaboration with other agencies we offer case management and access to programs such as food stamps (SNAP), fuel assistance, Salvation Army vouchers, health insurance, immunization clinics. With a small staff (3 full-time and 9* part-time employees), the ASC relies on 250-270 volunteers each week to provide these services. Its extensive food recovery program depends on the generosity of local farmers, supermarkets and businesses.

The Amherst Survival Center is successfully implementing a multi-year strategic plan with several specific focus areas. The ASC's Strategic Direction is to reduce the effects of food insecurity in our neighbors by engaging our entire community. We are committed to creating an environment where people can move beyond a condition of need, and where everyone can share resources, information, concerns, experiences and expertise. We foster and celebrate a community where we accept, support and rely upon one another.

The ASC is a community that recognizes and values the skills and gifts of all volunteers, staff members, donors, and participants. The Amherst Survival Center community respects the dignity of each person who comes to the Center. The ASC features a collaborative work environment and is rooted in a commitment of neighbors helping neighbors.

For more information, please visit <https://amherstsurvival.org/>.