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At Age 15, Bassie Baron Celebrates 10 Years of Giving Back to Rachel's Table – and a Call to Action on her behalf

Springfield, MA – July 31, 2025 – Most teens celebrate birthdays with gifts, but for the past decade, Bassie Baron has been giving back instead. As she turns 15 this August, Bassie marks a remarkable 10-year tradition: requesting donations of food to Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts in lieu of birthday presents.

Since the age of 6, Bassie has pledged her birthday to the fight against food insecurity. Each year, she asks friends and family to fill several boxes matching her age—this year, 15 boxes. Once collected, Bassie, alongside Rachel's Table volunteers, helps deliver the donations to one or more of the organization's 65+ partner agencies across Western Massachusetts.

"Bassie has made a meaningful dent in local food insecurity for more than two-thirds of her life," said Jodi Falk, Director of Rachel's Table. "Her generosity and leadership are an inspiration to others—especially young people—looking to make an impact."

In addition to her birthday initiative, Bassie organizes food drives at her school and serves as the Vice President of Programming on Rachel's Table's Teen Board. The Teen Board's mission is to alleviate childhood hunger, educate young people about food insecurity, and advocate for food justice through projects and community engagement.

Rachel's Table proudly congratulates Bassie on this 10-year milestone and encourages others to follow in her footsteps. Food drives are simple to coordinate and can be tailored to meet the specific needs of RTWM's partner agencies. To learn how you or your organization can get involved, or know a young person interested in the Teen Board, please contact Rachel's Table at info@feedwma.org or visit www.feedwma.org. ***Nonperishable items are also accepted at the Springfield Jewish Community Center from August 10-15 in honor of Bassie!***

About Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts

Founded in 1992, Rachel's Table rescues food that would otherwise be wasted and redistributes it to agencies feeding the hungry across Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties. Through a network of dedicated volunteers, youth programs, and community partnerships, Rachel's Table is working to end food insecurity and promote food justice in Western Massachusetts.