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Rachel's Table of Western MA – The Season of Thanks – Thanksgiving Drive is Here!!

Springfield, MA – October 17, 2025 – Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts (RTWM) announces its fund and food drive for its Bruce and Daydie Hochberg Thanksgiving Project. The Hochberg Thanksgiving project has been helping Western MA families celebrate the holiday with turkey and fixings since 2007.

Key financial donors for this initiative are local individuals, families, and businesses who believe that everyone should enjoy the holiday season with dignity. **Merrill Gagne of Gagne Wealth Management has donated all the turkeys for RTWM's partner agencies in Hampshire and Franklin Counties for the past two years and is set to support this drive again!** In addition, the Hochberg family and friends of the late Daydie Hochberg help support the purchase of turkeys in Hampden County. The Project originated with Daydie who always thought that people should be able to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday without worrying about food!

"Helping locally makes a difference," Merrill Gagne, President of Gagne Wealth Management in Greenfeld, says. "My whole team is proud to be able to support all our communities, especially around the holidays. Food insecurity continues to be a real problem and it's the least we can do to help provide for all the families in need."

This year, the need is so great that we are asking for your financial support to help increase the joy for local families. To donate funds where 100% will go towards the purchase of turkeys or some sides, please go to https://feedwma.org/give-funds/ and choose **Bruce and Daydie Hochberg Thanksgiving Project** in Preferences.

If you have nonperishable and unexpired food items to donate, please either put them in the Rachel's Table donation box at the Jewish Community Center in Springfield or consider donating to

your local food pantry or meal site. For a list of ones near you, please contact Rachel's Table at 413-733-0084, or visit https://feedwma.org/who-we-work-with/agencies/ !

With hunger affecting 50% of the households in Franklin and Hampshire Counties, and 54% of households in Hampden County (from the 2025 Greater Boston Food Bank report), Rachel's Table's four programs (rescue, purchase, glean and grow) deliver immediate relief and build long-term food security. Join Merrill Gagne, the Hochberg family and others so that we all may celebrate this Thanksgiving.

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About Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts

Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts (RTWM) is a grassroots, volunteer-driven hunger alleviation organization. RTWM was founded as the food rescue and recovery program of the Jewish Federation of Western Mass in 1992 and became an independent non-profit in July 2023. Through our four programs (rescue, purchase, glean, and grow), we provide holistic solutions to 65+ partner agencies and networks across Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties. Our programs provide food to people in need as well as directly support food insecure communities to plan, plant, and harvest their own food. Our operations are powered by 390 volunteers, including teen leaders who encourage their peers to educate themselves, serve others, and advocate for change. RTWM targets both immediate hunger crises and addresses longer term solutions, working to feed and nourish Western MA one delivery, one glean, one garden at a time.
For more information on how to volunteer or donate, visit www.feedwma.org