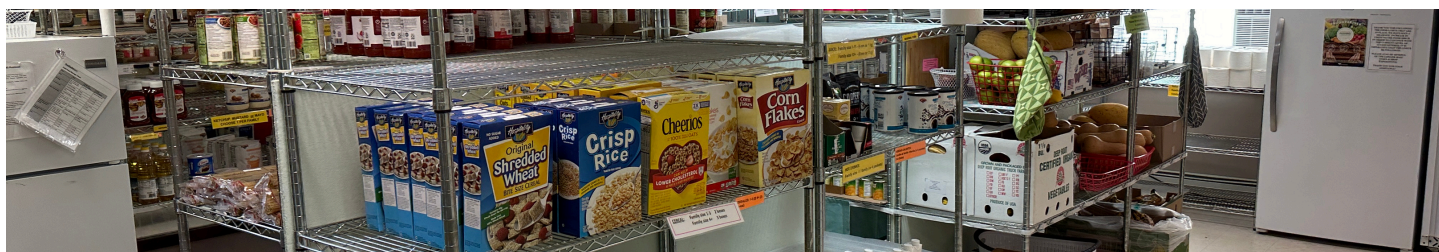


# The Full Plate

Spring 2026



*“We were barely making ends meet as my husband was furloughed, and it was an incredible gift to find Aunt Dot’s Place. Then our child had to have emergency heart surgery. Thankfully, our child is doing well today, but we were overwhelmed with medical bills, out-of-pocket costs, and ongoing treatments. We were so grateful not to have to worry about putting food on the table. I have never felt so grateful for food in my life. I didn’t think I would ever need assistance, and I am so thankful Aunt Dot’s Place is here for our community.”* — Anonymous Client Survey



## From our Director

We are excited to bring you the first edition of *The Full Plate*, our new Spring and Fall newsletter highlighting the incredible work you make possible.

Last year, visits to Aunt Dot’s Place increased by 25% over the prior year. We continue to see high demand, with a new monthly record of 317 visits in January 2026.

In a time of increased need and shrinking safety nets, we are deeply grateful for our community’s support. Volunteer registrations increased by 80% last November, and food drives and donations brought in record levels of food and personal care items. Generous financial gifts are helping us keep our shelves fully stocked, including expanding access to fresh meat and produce.

As the days are getting a little warmer, we are planting seeds for the future. Our L4 Collaborative Garden, led by volunteer Robert Kurth, already has seedlings sprouting to provide a wonderful harvest of fresh vegetables. We are also proud to continue partnerships with local farms—including The Farm Upstream, Jericho Settler’s Farm, Lawrence Family Farm, and Paul Mazza’s —with funding from a *Vermont Feeding Vermonters* grant from Vermont FoodBank.

Last but not least, we have begun implementing our strategic plan to build a more sustainable future for Aunt Dot’s Place. You can learn more at [auntdotsplace.com](http://auntdotsplace.com).

Thank you for being our valued partner in this work.

Kaki McGeary, Executive Director

## New Delivery Program

In January, Aunt Dot’s Place launched a new delivery program to better serve people with mobility challenges and people who lack transportation. Led by past Board Chair Sue Miyamoto, our new delivery program has expanded nutrition access for vulnerable populations, including several families referred by local school social workers, people recovering from major surgery, and clients with no transportation. Clients may receive up to three deliveries per month, supported by a dedicated team of volunteer shoppers and drivers. In the first quarter of 2026, we made 24 deliveries to 6 clients.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Impact Highlights

Total Visits Jan–March: 894

Clients Served (Unique Households): 247

Total Household Members Served: 742

New Clients Registered: 42

Pounds of Food Distributed: 61,961

Pounds of Food Donated: 38,366



*Matt Lumsden Real Estate's Martin Luther King Day Food Drive brought in 1,346 pounds of food and personal care items for our neighbors facing food insecurity. A list of all our amazing food drive organizers can be found on our website at [auntdotsplace.com](http://auntdotsplace.com).*

## Milk Matters 2026

In April, we kicked off our 3rd Annual Milk Matters Campaign with a goal of raising \$11,000 to support our milk program. Aunt Dot's Place provides every client with a voucher for a free gallon of milk at a local store. We also offer plant-based milk options to support individuals with allergies and dietary needs. Last year, we provided 1,993 gallons of milk at a total cost of \$9,945.

Milk is a cornerstone of a healthy diet—especially for growing children—providing essential calcium, protein, and key nutrients like vitamins D and A.

To make a gift to support this campaign, visit [Milk Matters 2026 Donate](#).

## National Volunteer Month

April is National Volunteer Month! We want to take a moment to recognize all the incredible volunteers who make our mission possible. Some people are just starting out and some have been volunteering with us for years. Because of their work, families are fed and individuals are supported in the crucial need of adequate nutrition.

In addition to working on the operations side, Aunt Dot's Place also relies on volunteers to serve on committees that help our Board carry out its work. As part of our strategic plan, we recently updated our committee structure and job descriptions. Currently, we have openings for volunteers on two key committees:

**Outreach** - participates in community events such as National Night Out and Big Beautiful Life & coordinates large food drives

**Development & Marketing** - coordinates fundraising efforts, donor relations, Community Appreciation Night, and print and digital materials such as our annual report, newsletter and brochures.

If you are interested in volunteering for a committee, or have any interest in future board work, please let us know at [info@auntdotsplace.com](mailto:info@auntdotsplace.com).

## Introducing our Board

**Amy Boudreaux**, President

**Jon Ophardt**, Vice President

**Alice Astarita**, Treasurer

**Aimee Cronin**, Secretary

**Kathie Cheney**

**Andrea Francalangia**

**Suzanne Lawrence**

**Sue Miyamoto**

**Max Seaton**

### Thank you for helping feed our community!

Because of you, families in our community have access to nourishing food, essential items, and compassionate support when they need it most.



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