



Jeremiah's Inn

Helping people through our social model recovery program and nutrition center.

28TH ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

For almost thirty years we have been collecting food, essential items, and monetary donations during the first week of June to raise awareness that hunger is a year-round issue and to highlight the increased demand for our services during the summer months when children lose access to school-provided breakfast and lunch. It also helps to stock the food pantry to help us keep up with increased demand. We are so grateful to Trecie and her team at Shaw's on 14 West Boylston St for allowing us to take over the store for the week. The support from shoppers was outstanding- we raised \$1,400 and collected around 1,200 lbs. of food which will be distributed back to the community. Together with our sponsors, our online campaign, and other food drives such as the Heard Street School Drive put on by miss Evelyn and her 5th-grade class, this years food drive brought in a total of 1,600 lbs. of food and essentials and over \$14,000 - and donations are still coming in!! We are so grateful to have the level of community support needed to ensure our neighbors have access to the essential items and food they need to stay healthy. Thank you, Worcester!!!



We truly cannot thank our sponsors enough for helping make this possible: Gold: Shaw's Supermarket, Country Bank, David Clark Company, First Baptist Church of Worcester, POBCO Inc., Wegman's Silver: L.E.I Corporation, Bronze: Saver's Bank, Advantage Truck Group, Sterling: Boulevard Diner, Goulet, Salvidio, & Associates, Leominster Credit Union, Millbury Federal Credit Union, Teamster's Local 190



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OVERDOSE CRISIS REVISITED

Over 107,000 Americans died from drug overdoses (OD) in 2021, 2,334 of these deaths were MA residents and 105 were residents of Worcester. After a slight decrease in 2018, OD deaths have been on the rise with an 8.8% increase in 2021 compared to 2020, although OD deaths in MA continue to trend lower in the nationwide figures according to a press release from 6/8/22 by the MA Department of Public Health. It seems all the progress that was made in reducing OD deaths before the pandemic has essentially been erased.

Two-thirds of OD deaths were related to synthetic opioids like Fentanyl. Fentanyl-related deaths now account for more deaths than both gun and auto-related deaths combined. The Worcester Police Department even issued a statement on 6/10/22 stating it has seen a recent increase in suspected opiate-related medical calls due to other drugs such as cocaine being laced with deadly Fentanyl.

"Fentanyl is killing Americans at an unprecedented rate," said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. "Already this year, numerous mass-overdose events have resulted in dozens of overdoses and deaths. Drug traffickers are driving addiction, and increasing their profits, by mixing fentanyl with other illicit drugs. Tragically, many overdose victims have no idea they are ingesting deadly Fentanyl until it's too late."



HARM REDUCTION

A comprehensive prevention strategy, harm reduction is part of the continuum of care. Harm reduction approaches have proven to prevent death, injury, disease, overdose, and substance misuse. Harm reduction is effective in addressing the public health epidemic involving substance use as well as infectious diseases and other harms associated with drug use. Harm reduction aims to meet people where they are at, and without judgment make sure they have access to services that reduce the risk of disease and death associated with substance use.

Harm reduction is a vital component of our comprehensive, integrated treatment approach at Jeremiah's Inn (JI), which includes access to Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) such as Buprenorphine/Naloxone or Methadone. All our residents are given infectious disease prevention training, and testing, and have access to treatment. Residents attend smoking cessation groups and have access to materials such as Nicotine patches and gum. Staff and residents are trained in overdose prevention and the administration of Naloxone. Residents have access to a myriad of community supports that focus on removing barriers to obtaining safe housing and employment such as transportation and legal issues.

CNPP & THE MASSACHUSETTS SUBSTANCE USE HELPLINE



The Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) have implemented two statewide harm reduction programs that JI is proud to be involved with. The goal of the Community Naloxone Purchasing Program (CNPP) is to increase the distribution of free Naloxone to community bystanders. JI has recently been made an affiliate program and is able to provide counseling on overdose prevention and training on overdose response to all persons who receive free CNPP-obtained Naloxone. For more information visit: www.jeremiahsinn.com/community-naloxone

The Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline (www.helplinema.org) is the only statewide, public resource for finding substance use treatment, recovery, and problem gambling services. Helpline services are free and confidential and caring Helpline Champions, like our very own case manager Sean Crosby, are an inspired group of individuals who reach out in their own communities to increase the use of harm reduction services, substance use disorder treatment, and recovery support services. They are people from communities across MA with a desire to take concrete action to support those living with a substance use disorder, whether actively using or in recovery. We know harm reduction saves lives and we here at JI are committed to preventing needless death and the spread of infectious disease in our community.



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL (REC) COMMUNITY GARDEN

Jeremiah's Inn residents volunteer as a part of their treatment plan, and along with Intake Coordinator Serina, they are tending to two raised beds at the Camp Street Neighborhood Garden this summer. They are growing a variety of herbs, peppers, cabbage, lettuce, and cucumbers. Once harvested they will learn a variety of ways to chef up some healthy and nutritious meals in their weekly nutrition group run by Case Manager, Sean Crosby.

REC's UGROW (Urban Gardens Resources of Worcester) program supports a network of gardens and gardeners across the city, enhancing both food access and urban greenspaces. UGROW began in 1995 and has grown to include over 60 community gardens throughout the city of Worcester involving more than 500 volunteer gardeners. Becoming a member of the UGROW network is free! Visit www.recworchester.org to find out more.

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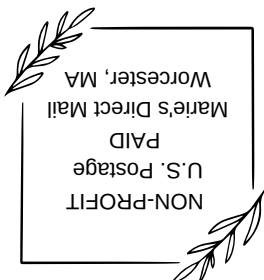


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