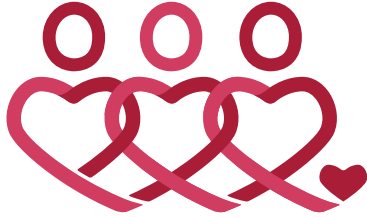


Building today  **Feeding tomorrow**



**The Family
Food Pantry**
-Damien's Place

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

WHEN YOU GIVE MONEY to the Damien's Food Pantry Building Project your generosity is an investment in the future of our community. For 30 years, Damien's has been an active participant in the fight against hunger and food insecurity for thousands of individuals and families. We have distributed back-packs for school children, warm clothing, personal care items for our most vulnerable guests, informational materials, and have offered the assistance of outside agencies to provide advice and counsel. All accomplished by setting up tables **outside** the building to distribute goods and information because we could not accommodate these inside the Pantry while distributing food. Currently, we are living in extraordinary times when people from all walks of life are experiencing financial challenges and are having to make hard decisions about how best to meet the needs of themselves and their families. The new building will allow us to make changes to our current systems and expand the scope of assistance and programs we offer to the community.

We have outgrown our current location.

Our outdated structure can no longer bear the weight of the community's needs in this economically challenging environment. It forces us to distribute food in the least effective way possible. We are unable to allow our guests to choose their own food. Each guest receives a carriage of food at each visit. This manner of food distribution does not allow for their preferences or dietary needs, nor does it address their ability to store or cook the food they are given. All manner of individual and family need is absent. This system may be efficient, but it is ineffective and minimizes the interaction between our volunteers and guests. It becomes a *transaction* which supplies food and nothing else. It also significantly hinders our ability to interact with the individual needs and issues that our guests may be experiencing. If we cannot engage with our guests, we have no way of guiding them to possible solutions within our community and its resources.

THE NEW BUILDING will enable us to improve our current level of service in numerous ways focusing on empowering our guests by providing healthy food in a choice environment that resembles a grocery store. Shelf space for specialty items and specific dietary needs such as low-fat or gluten-free products will be available along with increased variety and fresh produce. Each identified volunteer will be trained and aligned with our mission. S/he will be available for questions throughout the "store" as they shop. The volunteer's role changes from stocking shelves to **facilitator**. But we won't stop there!



Damien's Place is a charitable 501(c)(3) established in 1992 with the sole purpose of providing food to those in need. Our mission is to help address food insecurity in the greater Wareham/New Bedford area by giving food to the people in need, promoting education and hunger awareness in the community, and providing information to our guests regarding other community resources.

IN 2021...

THROUGHOUT OUR 30-YEAR HISTORY, Damien's Pantry has been life changing for many of our guests, but we have not changed enough lives. Our aspirational goal is to help people move from dependence to independence in a new facility that offers us a chance to expand our role in each guest's journey beyond providing quality food.

27,751

meals provided

3,861

unique guests

1,543

unique households

900,000

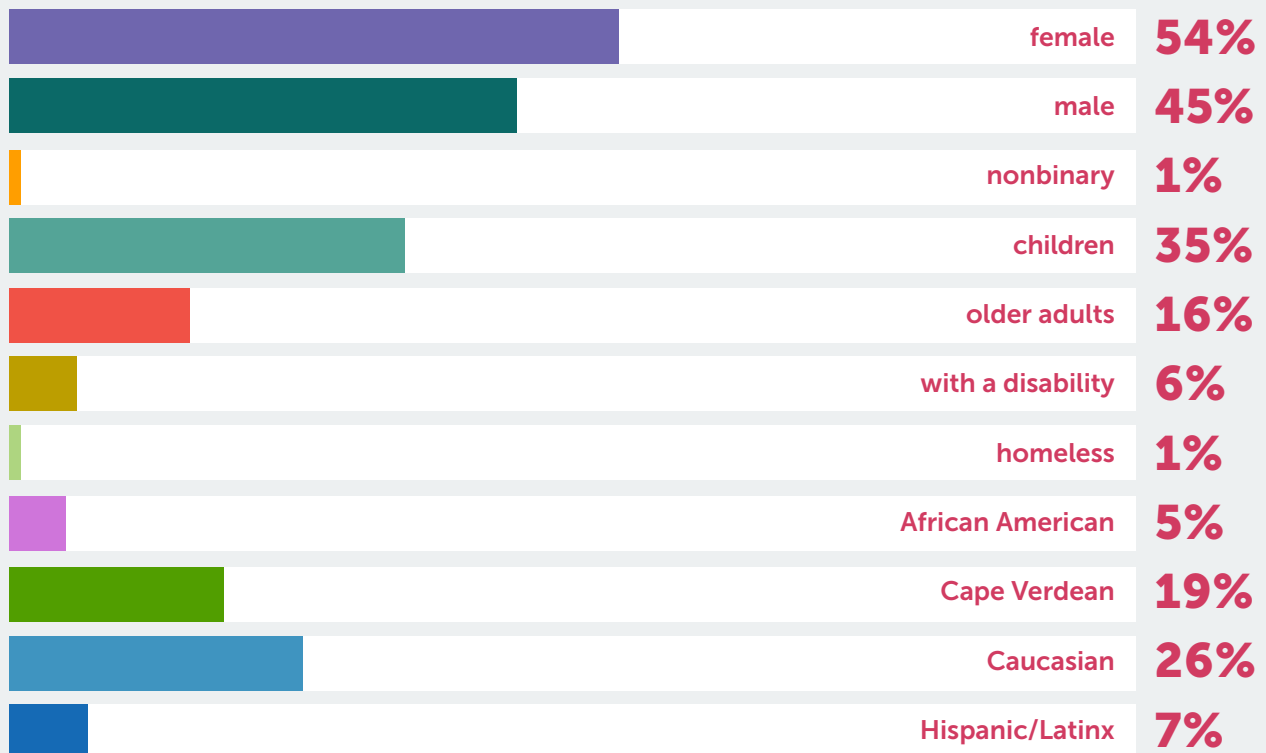
pounds of food distributed

\$109,700

gift cards to purchase food

39

communities



Food insecurity and the need for supplemental food sources are growing.

The face of hunger has changed. "As the economic downturn led to residents at every income level seeking food assistance, the impact of hunger has grown. Today on the SouthCoast it is estimated that more than 800,000 working poor adults, as well as children and senior adults in our community often do not know where they will get their next meal." – ATTRIBUTE QUOTE

CHALLENGES AT OUR EXISTING SPACE:

Parking and Intake
Distribution and Choice
Delivery and Storage
Programming and Private Space
Providing a Welcoming, Stigma Free Environment

To meet the need, we must grow...

We envision Damien's as a "community pantry."

An organization that continues to address food insecurity as well as tackling the root problems that cause our guests to seek us out. The new location will provide the infrastructure for us to become that "community pantry" by expanding our role and partnering with other charitable organizations in our community. The new space will allow for a Community Garden to supply fresh produce to the pantry and an opportunity for our guests to volunteer in the Garden. The building will be located directly on the GATRA line which will allow us to serve people who lack access to personal transportation. Guests will have shelter from the elements while they wait under a heated canopy or in a comfortable, interior waiting area. Because of increased warehouse space, we will be able to buy from local farmers, take advantage of bulk buying opportunities and seek out additional corporate partners to vary our offerings to provide increased options for our guests. There will be space for special events like local catering trucks and restaurants offering hot meals. Increased space will allow us to run 1-2 drives per year with items such as: coats, socks, toiletries, backpacks, pots and pans, used sporting goods and toys.



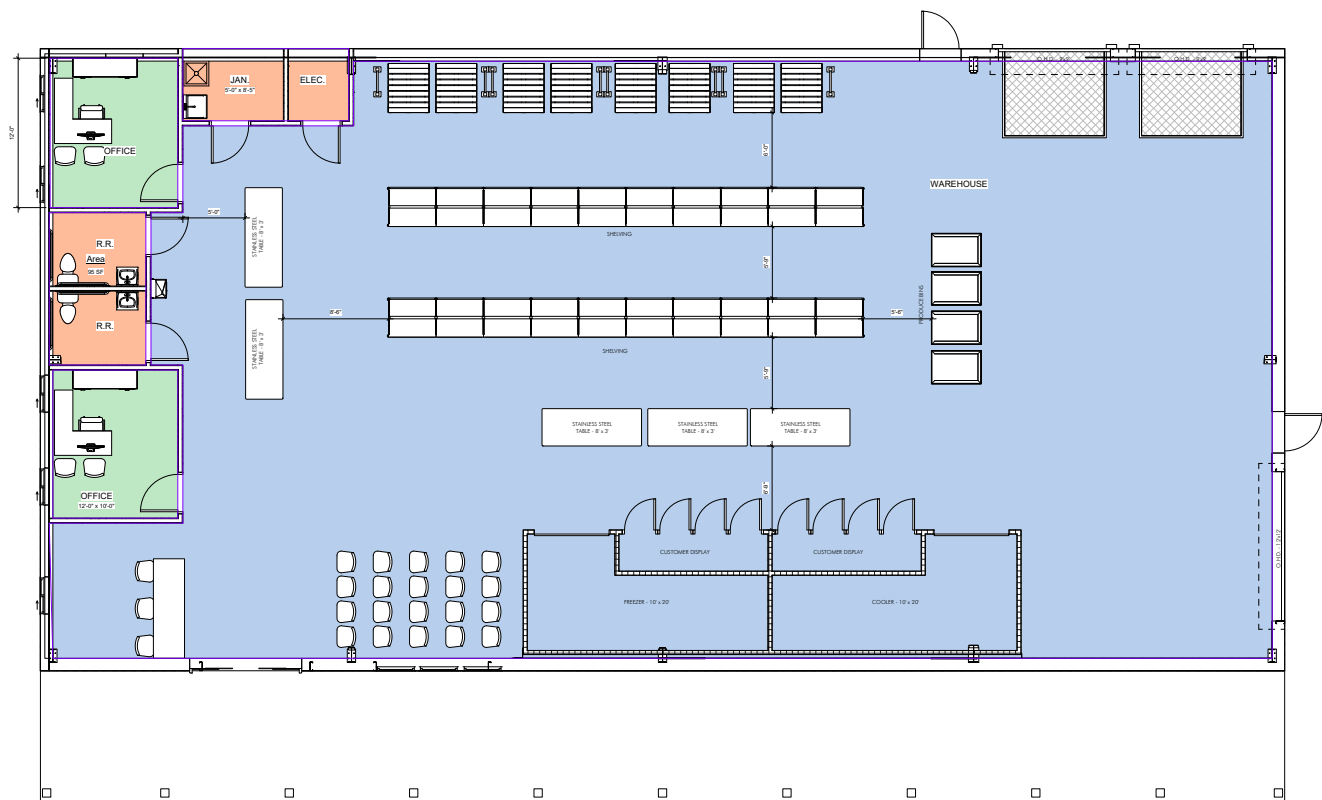


RENDERING FROM SWIFT BEACH ROAD Dennis Colwell Architects

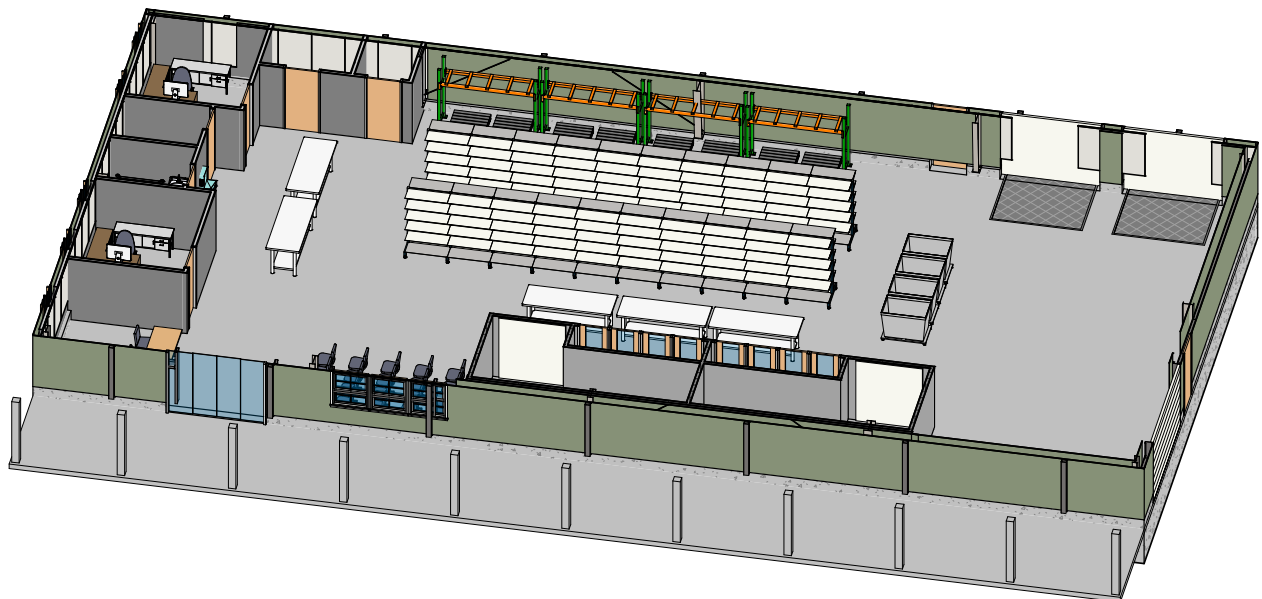
- Community gardens to grow fresh fruit and vegetables that can be donated back to the pantry
- Windows to allow in a lot of light
- Heated canopy for winter months
- Beautiful landscaping
- Ample parking
- 2 bay garage doors – allows the pantry to act as a true cross dock pantry for smaller food assistant programs. Cross docking is the practice of unloading goods from inbound delivery vehicles and loading them directly on to outbound vehicles.
- Slated roof allows Damien's to add solar in concert with other green initiatives
- Employee parking can also act as event space



THE PROPOSED BUILDING AT 242 MARION ROAD FROM THE CORNER OF MARION AND SWIFT BEACH ROADS



- 5000 square foot, open space/open floorplan
- Two private offices that can act as shared space for pantry work as well as areas for private intake and other assistance programs run by community partners
- Two-sided open shelving for corner market like shopping
- Bins for produce and specialty items
- Natural lighting and temperature controlled
- Large freezer/refrigerator storage to self select cold items
- Two unisex restrooms for staff, volunteers and guests and an open area to act as meeting space for events and community partner space.
- Inside intake and seating with areas to offer computer access and community bulletin board
- Ample warehouse space for smaller pantries to pick up food from the Greater Boston Food Bank



We envision a setting where our guests can meet with trained volunteers in a private setting to help them sign up for federal food assistance programs (SNAP) and to provide resources for fuel assistance and housing. The new space will be large enough to host speakers on topics such as: nutrition education, cooking demonstrations, personal finance, navigating public assistance programs, community resources and other wrap-around services. All these opportunities we desperately want and need to provide for our guests, but we cannot make this happen without your support. The capital campaign and new location are about expanding our role in the community.

ACCOMPLISHED WITH A NEW SPACE



Better Space and Choice

Shelf space and equipment to move to a full choice pantry.
Easy-to-find location with signage and parking



Increased Efficiency

Unlimited ability to receive and store adequate inventory.
Ability to expand service hours.



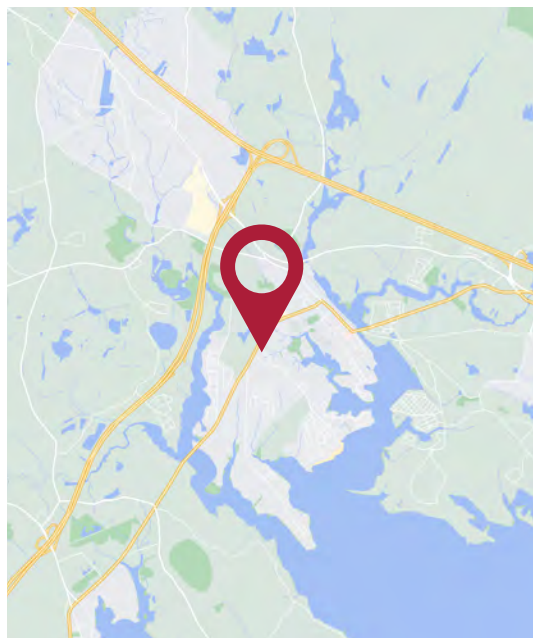
Improved Guest Experience

Allow us to serve our guests in a dignified and efficient manner. We will expand and provide proper shelving to offer our guests healthier/locally-sourced options.



Expanded Partnerships

Will allow us to expand partnerships with other community organizations or offer private space for counseling and/or referrals for our guests.



We have a group of highly dedicated people determined to help drive these changes. It is our hope that during the capital campaign we will encounter more people who will offer time and expertise to ensure that our organization grows to become a true "community pantry."

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

Donna Cobert	Sue Makepeace
Nick Decas	Anne Robertson
S. Warren Ferguson	Scott Robertson
Jane Gleason	Mike Russo
Scott Hanson	Todd Smith
Pauline Lally	



For more information about how to donate to support
Damien's Building Project, please contact **Rhonda Veugen** at
development@damiensfoodpantry.org or at 508.295.3486.

DamiensFoodPantry.org

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