

One Leader, Countless Meals, Endless Impact

Dear MUW Supporters,

It took a while this year, but spring has finally arrived in New Hampshire, and we hope you're enjoying its beauty and renewal (before the black flies make their inevitable debut). Today, we're pleased to share some news reflecting the strength, compassion, and resilience of our community.

Jaffrey Names Kathleen LaRou 2026 Citizen of the Year

We extend heartfelt congratulations to one of MUW's partners, Kathleen LaRou, on being named Citizen of the Year by the Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce. This honor recognizes her outstanding dedication, leadership, and lasting impact. Kathleen and the [Jaffrey Food Pantry](#) are members of the [Monadnock Food Pantries Collective](#) (MFPC), an MUW funded initiative which includes [The Community Kitchen](#), [St. Vincent de Paul Society](#) (Keene), [Joan's Pantry](#) (Chesterfield), [Helping Hand of Troy](#), the [Federated Church of Marlborough Food Pantry](#), [Kidz Cupboard](#) (Marlborough), and the [Rindge Food Pantry](#).

Feeding neighbors in need is Kathleen's passion. She leads the Jaffrey Food Pantry and supports Home Healthcare and Hospice programs, including [Meals on Wheels](#) and weekly [Friendly Meals](#). Though she prefers to work quietly behind the scenes, Kathleen appreciates the recognition—and the visibility it brings to the Pantry's mission.



Calling all local businesses!

Want to make a meaningful impact in the Monadnock Region while gaining great visibility for your brand? Join us as a [corporate sponsor](#) for Monadnock United Way! For more information about opportunities and recognition packages, email katie@muw.org.

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The Power of the Monadnock Food Pantries Collective

Kathleen and the Jaffrey Food Pantry have been members of the MFPC since its inception in 2020. She praises the program and is deeply appreciative of its support:

“The support from the Monadnock Food Pantries Collective is tremendous. If I have a problem, someone can always help me figure it out. The monthly funding allows us to purchase fresh food and eggs in the winter and CSA shares from Dog Days Farm in the summer, providing locally grown food to our patrons and support for local farmers. We simply couldn’t purchase as much fresh food without the Collective’s support.”
--Kathleen LaRou, Jaffrey Food Pantry

The Collective is a regional network of food pantries in our region working together to reduce food insecurity by sharing food, knowledge, and resources. In 2025, the collective served over 3,500 individuals and families in 30 towns across the Monadnock Region.

The Need Continues to Grow

In recent months, Kathleen has seen a rise in pantry visits, driven by factors like benefit reductions, economic uncertainty, and rising gas prices. We rely on dedicated leaders like Kathleen and the many staff and volunteers across the MFPC to ensure everyone is supported with dignity and care. We are deeply grateful for their commitment, and for you, our donors and partners, whose generosity makes this work possible.

Sincerely,



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