

TRANSCRIPT BULLETIN

Community Fridge opens at Dedham church for those in need

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The motto of the new Dedham Community Fridge is “Please take what you need and leave what you can.”

The Community Fridge, which officially opened earlier this month, is behind the [Calvary Baptist Church](#) at 42 Needham St. The fridge and pantry are in a shed located in the back of the church. Anyone is welcome to give or take from it.

The fridge organizers will accept donations, but has a few requirements: no fresh, raw meat; no items past their expiration date; no opened containers; and home-prepared foods must list all ingredients and be sealed.

Community fridges, which have been popping up in Boston over the past month, are located in public spaces - the fridges are a type of mutual aid project which enables food to be shared within a community. These outdoor fridges, often built under a roof or shed alongside some pantry shelves, are typically monitored and stocked by volunteers, and filled with everything from fresh produce to canned goods and even toiletries (such as diapers and toilet paper).

Since last summer, community fridges have been launched in many neighborhoods in and around Boston, including Jamaica Plain, Allston, Dorchester, Hyde Park, Lynn, Somerville, Worcester and Roslindale.

Pete Kane, the pastor at CBC, had help putting together the fridge from church-goers and local high school students. The idea for the Dedham Community Fridge started a few months ago when one church member who volunteered at the community fridges in Hyde Park and Roslindale noticed people from Dedham were visiting the fridges in Boston.

“We’re a church, we have space, we have a building, we had everything here to start our own fridge. We bought the refrigerator, we had an electrician come to bring power outside, we got the shed. Now we are learning, which is cool. So far, we are very excited, and the neighbors are very

excited as well. I spoke to them ahead of time, and they had big smiles on their faces,” Kane said.

Right now, Kane and other community members are helping spread the word about the fridge.

“We’re just getting started,” Kane said. “We have some items in the fridge. One of our church-goers, who helped us get started with the fridge, is now contacting people and letting people on the internet know so they will come to the fridge. We’re going to get a flyer together to give to restaurants and stores. The owner of a local 7/11 is already leaving food for us.”

The CBC has also created raised vegetable beds in front of the church to grow their own food to give away for free.

“We [volunteers and church-goers] are going to get a table, put it right in front of the church, and give it away,” said Kane.

Almost 15 months into the COVID-19 pandemic, around 1.6 million adults in Massachusetts are still struggling to get enough to eat, according to the [Greater Boston Food Bank](#). Many of the households experiencing hunger at the outset of the pandemic are still food-insecure, and many more are not accessing available programs that could help. People of color and families with children are disproportionately experiencing food insecurity, according to Greater Boston Food Bank.

Community members are helping spread the word about the fridge via social media. The Dedham Community Fridge is on Instagram [@DedhamFridge](#).