



**WESTWOOD SCHOOLS AND WESTWOOD FOOD PANTRY  
JOIN TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES**

March 14, 2020

Dear Westwood Community Members,

During this uncertain time for our community, the [Westwood Public Schools](#) and the [Westwood Food Pantry](#) are joining together to provide cash assistance to families whose children may require additional food during this unprecedented period of school closure.

Our joint goal is to support these families in the most flexible manner possible. Therefore, the Food Pantry will provide any family who has a child or children that receive Free or Reduced Lunch with a \$20.00 gift card per child per week of school closure that can be used at any Shaw's Supermarket.

This approach allows eligible families to purchase food items that might have been previously provided via the school lunch program, while maximizing an individual family's choice and allowing the family to match its purchasing to its children's dietary needs. It also has the added benefit of expanding a family's total food budget in the manner that may be most needed for each family.

**If your child receives Free or Reduced Lunch while at school, you are invited to come to the Westwood Food Pantry on Wednesday, March 18 anytime between 9 am and 11 am to pick up a gift card for the week of March 16 - 20.** If the Westwood Public Schools remain closed for the week of March 23-27, we will announce a second pick-up time that will occur during that week. The Food Pantry is located in the garage behind the Westwood Senior Center at 60 Nahatan St., Westwood.

We recognize that for families of our Boston resident students, the Westwood Food Pantry is not a local resource. [Here is a link to support options](#) that are available in the Boston metro area.

We will get a sense of how this approach works during the coming week and re-assess, if needed, into the future. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to contact:

Abby Hanscom, Director of Student Services  
781 326-750 x1345  
[ahanscom@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:ahanscom@westwood.k12.ma.us)

Finally, if any community member would like to make a financial donation to the Food Pantry to support all the good work this organization does for our community, you are welcome to donate to the Food Pantry by clicking [here](#) or by mailing a check payable to the "Westwood Food Pantry, Inc." to the Westwood Food Pantry, P.O. Box 854, Westwood, MA 02090. The Westwood Food Pantry is a tax-exempt organization and your donation will be tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

We thank you for your consideration and support as we navigate through these uncharted waters. Stay well!

**The Westwood Public Schools**

**The Westwood Food Pantry**