



# Jeremiah's Times



Spring 2025

## Spring Forward with Strength & Hope

### Navigating New Challenges Together

This season of growth brings a powerful sense of hope. An invitation to reflect, reset, and recommit to our mission of supporting those in need. But alongside this sense of promise, we must also face the reality of new challenges ahead. Federal funding cuts are poised to impact the very core of our work. Both of our programs, focused on reducing food insecurity and providing substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, will feel the weight of these changes. At a time when communities are still recovering from the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the reduction in resources could not come at a more critical moment.

### Food Insecurity: A Growing Concern

The latest data from the USDA shows that over 44 million people, including 13 million children, live in households that struggle with hunger. Experts warn that food insecurity rates are likely to rise in the wake of funding cuts to programs like SNAP. “We’re seeing an increasing number of people who are employed but still unable to put food on the table,” says Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America. “Cutting resources now will only deepen the hunger crisis.” Locally, we’ve seen a dramatic increase in demand year over year since the COVID-19 pandemic. Families, students, seniors, and individuals who never thought they’d need help are turning to us in growing numbers. We fear this is only the beginning.

### Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment: An Uncertain Future

Despite over 112,000 lives lost in the U.S. in 2023, according to the CDC, federal funds that support recovery programs, prevention, and harm reduction efforts are being scaled back or delayed. “We cannot afford to lose ground,” says Dr. Rahul Gupta, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. “Every dollar cut from treatment and prevention programs translates into more lives lost, more families shattered.” Without adequate support, essential services like residential treatment, counseling, and medication-assisted treatment (MAT) could become harder to access, especially for low-income or uninsured individuals.

### Moving Forward with Purpose

In the face of these trials, we remain committed to doing everything we can. Spring reminds us that even after the harshest winters, life finds a way to bloom again. We will continue to show up for our neighbors, providing nourishment, dignity, and hope, and we will continue to advocate for the resources our communities need and deserve.

But we can't do it alone. As we brace for what's to come, we invite you—our supporters, partners, and community members to stand with us. Together, we can weather this storm and ensure that the seeds of hope we plant today will flourish in the seasons ahead.

## Fighting Food Waste & Hunger with Spoonfuls



We met with Food Recovery Program Coordinator, Liam Gallagher from Spoonfuls recently to discuss our new partnership and our shared mission to support our community and reduce food waste! Their goal is to recover and distribute healthy, fresh food that would otherwise be discarded, ensuring it reaches organizations like ours where it can have the greatest impact.

Spoonfuls has distributed over 35 million pounds of food—equivalent to 29 million meals! Their work addresses not only food insecurity but also the health, environmental, and economic effects of wasted food.

We are proud to collaborate with Spoonfuls to expand food access for those in need and look forward to the positive impact we can make together!

## Future Grant Writers Engage with Our Mission

We recently had the pleasure of welcoming 15 students from Clark University's Community and Health: Nonprofit Grant Writing course to Jeremiah's Inn. Led by Professor Rosalie Torres, these students worked on health-related grant proposals, one of which was selected to receive \$5,000 in funding from Clark University's Government and Community Affairs Office. We're proud to announce that the proposal written by Alison, Emily, and Zak, to offer our residents nutrition education and counseling led by a licensed nutritionist, was selected for funding! We are thrilled to be able to offer this resource to our residents because nutrition plays such a critical role in early recovery. Research shows that nutrition education can reduce cravings, improve mood, and support long-term sobriety- helping individuals build a strong foundation for lasting recovery. We're grateful to Clark University and proud of all the students for their hard work and impact.



## New Staff Spotlight



We are pleased to introduce Jackie, the newest addition to the JI family. Jackie began her journey in the recovery field two years ago at Jana's Place. "I have always been passionate about helping others, but I finally felt I had found my purpose."

From day one, Jackie has brought a strong team spirit and willingness to help wherever needed. We are extremely grateful for her flexibility, dedication, and the compassionate care she provides to our residents.

Jackie works per diem at Washburn House, and she is set to graduate from the UMass Boston Addiction Counselor Education Program (ACEP) in May 2025. When she's not working, she enjoys spending time with her 16-year-old son A'Vion, her family and friends, and her cat Lucy.



## Upcoming Events



### Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - May 14th

The Annual Meeting serves as an occasion for us to reflect on the progress we've made together over the past year, thanks in no small part to your generosity and support. We'll be sharing the impact your contributions have had on our programs and the lives they've touched, as well as honoring a few key community members as "Golden Friends." Additionally, we'll provide insights into our future plans and initiatives, showcasing the exciting directions we're heading in and the opportunities that lie ahead.

### 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Food Drive - June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>

To empower families in our community to thrive this summer, we are organizing our Annual Food Drive from June 2 to 8, 2025, at both Shaw's Supermarket locations in Worcester. Our goal is to replenish our pantry for the busy summer months, ensuring local parents can provide nourishing meals and essential household items for their families, regardless of the challenges they face. Monetary donations are the most effective way to contribute. With these funds, we can procure food wholesale at more affordable rates than regular grocery stores. Alternatively, you can support us by browsing our Amazon Wish List, which features highly sought-after items that will be shipped directly to us. Your contribution will make a significant positive impact. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of Worcester families facing hunger. Visit [www.jeremiahsinn.com/food-drive/](http://www.jeremiahsinn.com/food-drive/) for more information or scan the QR code to donate!



**Donate Today to Help Local Families!**



## Alumni Update

### Alumni Return to Give Back

At our most recent Alumni Open House, we were honored to welcome back four former residents, each with multiple years of recovery under their belts. These men returned not just to share food and fellowship, but to share their stories, honest reflections on where they've been, how far they've come, and the role this community played in their journey.

They offered encouragement, wisdom, and hope to the current residents, reminding everyone that recovery is not only possible—it's powerful.

Moments like these are why we do what we do. Connection, growth, and community don't end at graduation, they continue, one day at a time.

# Thank You

## Nutrition Center

Country Bank  
Hoche-Scofield Foundation  
Nypro Foundation  
Savers Bank  
United Way of Central Massachusetts  
Webster Five Foundation  
Wegman's  
Worcester County Food Bank

## Recovery Programs

The Foundation for Alcohol Education

## Undesignated

Plourde Family Charitable Trust

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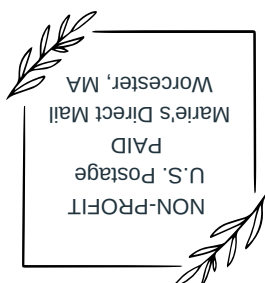
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