March at Haley House

Reflections On a Year in the Soup Kitchen During COVID

*By Live-In Community Member Thomas Reid*

It's amazing to think that in a few weeks, a year will have passed since we closed our soup kitchen doors and transitioned to take out service. Throughout this year, as we have pivoted to address safety protocols, we have found comfort in our trust in our community, and have been led by our concern for the health and safety of our guests, many of whom...
and volunteer that has made it possible for us to keep going. We could not do it without you all.

The soup kitchen has always been about more than food. The warmth, the “vibe,” and the feeling of welcome one receives at the door are what set the soup kitchen apart. The pandemic placed major strains on our ability to offer this kind of hospitality, and serving lovingly prepared food has become one of the few vehicles we have for expressing care for our guests. In lieu of handshakes and a shared meal, we try to create the most delicious, beautiful food possible for our community. As we serve the meals we do what we can to check in, but it is not the same, it is often not enough -- it's what we can do right now. We eagerly await the time when we can open our doors once more, invite people in with ease and laughter, and get back down to the real work of getting to know each other better.

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**This Weekend: March Poetry**

This weekend will be the fifth installment of the monthly poetry series [HOME](#), curated by Boston Poet Laureate [Porsha Olayiwola](#) and hosted by [Anthony Febo](#). The featured poet

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**Soup Kitchen Hours**

Coffee + Breakfast: Sun.-Fri. 6:15-9:30am  
Lunch: Sun. & Fri. 11am-12:30pm  
Food Pantry: Thurs. 10-11am  
Clothing Room: Tues. 9:30-11am

*All are welcome*

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**Community Calendar**

3/2: The Woman's Era Club: A Story of Black Women's Activism by Boston Public Library [info](#)

3/3: Alternatives to Policing:
On the first Friday of every month, HOME features a poetry reading and open mic, followed by a writing workshop with the featured reader the next morning. Click here for more information and to register, or check out the Facebook event.

Celebrating Our Staff Through New Dishes

When Haley House Bakery Cafe chef Alima Mbabazi made one of her personal favorite dishes for some of our staff, she didn’t anticipate it being featured on the cafe menu, but this month, we are excited to share two of her dishes with our entire community! The featured dishes are Chicken Pilau with Kachumbari and Groundnut Stew with Steamed Ndizi. Starting this weekend they will be available for takeout and delivery (to all of Boston!).


3/8: International Women’s Day Celebration (info and registration).


3/26: Indigenous Voices Showcase (info).


For regular updates of online happenings, visit The Boston Calendar.
Earlier this spring, chefs Alima and Brie did a cooking demo video in partnership with Oldways, Age Friendly Boston, and Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway. Check out the video [here](#) to learn more about Alima's dishes.

### Planning for Spring at the Dudley Greenhouse

The spring equinox is around the corner and we are starting to gear up for another bountiful farming season! This winter we carefully selected heirloom seeds from some of our favorite seed companies and those combined with our dozens of varieties of saved seeds have prepared us for our first plantings in the greenhouse. We are so grateful to our friends and fellow farmers at [The Food Project's Dudley Greenhouse](#) for welcoming us back for another year. The space made for us and other community farms in Boston truly makes all the difference in our production - we couldn't do it without them!

### Volunteer Update

Currently, our limited shifts are filled through March. If you would like to be on the list to volunteer later this spring and haven't yet filled out our interest form, please click [here](#).

### Donations

Visit [our website](#) for an updated list of useful donations.

**PRIORITY (COVID-related):**
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfecting wipes
- Masks
- Disposable gloves

*Items can be dropped in the entryway at 23 Dartmouth Street.*

### Community Job Board

Multiple Positions // [Daily Table](#)
We welcome your feedback and suggestions as we begin crop planning for 2021 (contact farm@haleyhouse.org).

The Souper Bowl Tradition Continues
We are beyond grateful that we were able to carry on the Souper Bowl tradition for the 13th year despite some changes! We couldn't have held this event without the support of the chefs, potters, and neighborhood sponsors: UMass Boston Office of Community and City Relations, and Northeastern Office of City and Community Volunteer Ambassador // National Parks of Boston

Buy a Beanie and Support Haley House!
All profits from the Sofi Beanie from Project Paulie support Haley House. Check it out!

Postcard Corner
Last December, we included postcards with our print newsletter and asked you to personalize them and send them
The Souper Bowl is a celebration of local food and art, and this year was no exception. Special thanks to our partners at MassArt’s Center for Art and Community Partnerships (Carolyn Jackson and Ceci Mendez, pictured above), the MassArt students in Clay for Change, and our chef partners from The Food Project, Future Chefs, Mei Mei Boston, Fulani’s Kitchen, Haley House Bakery Cafe, and Fresh Food Generation. We already can't wait for next year!

Photo Credits: Nicky Bandera, Libby Federici, Grace McEnery, Ceci Mendez, Porsha Olayiwola, Anna Pierce-Slive, Thomas Reid, Zach Smart, Eleni Sophocleus, Misha Thomas