

## **2022 Annual Report to the UCC Ashfield from the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry**

Another year is coming to a close and it's time to reflect on how we've done with our mission of feeding folks in our communities. The number of families that we have served this year has increased over the months. We currently have over 100 active families which equals between 400-500 individual people. We have been able to access many avenues for food, the largest by far is the Food Bank of Western Mass. We received almost 64,000 lbs. of food from them worth about \$122,000 and we were able to access most of this food free of charge.

There are also many local farms and companies which donate food to us on a regular basis. This has allowed us to provide fresh, healthy food to folks every two weeks. Thanks to the support of all we have never had to turn anyone away for lack of food. We are grateful for the many donations of money from generous folks that allows us to fill in the necessary foods that are not donated by others.

There are many folks who through no fault of theirs are having trouble providing for their families. Our mission is to help them to provide. We must not forget that many of us are a paycheck or illness away from need ourselves.

We have been able to run our Sharing Gifts Program. This program helps to provide gifts at this holiday season to those children who may not have the joy of anything under their tree Christmas morning. We hope there will be many smiles this year.

We thank all the hill town churches who support us so generously, especially the UCC Ashfield which has housed us for many years. Without your strong support we would not be able to do what we do. We look forward to another year of helping those in need.

Pat Thayer, President, HCFP