

October 11, 2019

Ms. Kristin Lovejoy
PO Box 345
Lowell, MA

Dear Kristin,

Can you imagine...Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and while your friends and neighbors are busy preparing for the holiday, *you're struggling to simply keep enough food in the house — never mind being able to afford a traditional Thanksgiving meal.*

That's how Lea found herself talking with me. My name is Khara. I'm the Director of Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline, the only statewide resource that anyone in Massachusetts can turn to when they don't have enough to eat. I remember Lea in particular, because her voice was filled with anxiety and as a mom myself, my heart went out to her.



Kristin, your donation is crucial at this moment to help mother's like Lea feed their families this holiday.

I know you care about families right here in Massachusetts who don't have enough to eat. I'll tell you, the best and most rewarding part of my work at Project Bread is bringing relief to families in crisis, so I know you'll want to hear Lea's story and **do something to help — like sending your urgently needed contribution right away.**

Lea told me that she's a certified nursing assistant and a widow. She cares for her elderly mother and her six-year-old daughter, Bella. A few weeks ago — just before the holidays no less — the nursing home where she works cut her hours. You know what's even worse? Lea had already been picking up extra shifts to make ends meet, and she was

panicked when we spoke, knowing her paycheck would be stretched to the limits.

Just like you or I would, Lea shared her problems with a trusted colleague who had been through a similar experience. She suggested Lea call Project Bread, and gave her the number — *the only number that anyone in Massachusetts can call for comprehensive resources to help put food on the table.*

I think you'll understand how distressed Lea sounded when she called Project Bread... "I've been trying to bargain shop at the grocery store, but it's always a struggle. I've worked hard to earn a living but there just isn't enough money to pay rent and all the bills now that I'm taking care of my mom. The stress right now, right before Thanksgiving, is so overwhelming. I just don't know how we're going to make it."

Kristin, your gift to Project Bread right now allows us to connect people like Lea — people who are working hard to make ends meet — with the resources they need to sit down and enjoy a holiday meal with their families and the security of knowing they can continue to keep food on the table even after the holidays are over.

I wish you could have heard the change in Lea's voice when she learned her household income qualified her for SNAP benefits which would give her reliable, monthly support to afford groceries and make her daughter eligible to receive free meals at school every day. I helped her start her application and while she was waiting for it to be approved, I connected her to a food pantry in her town to lean on until her benefits came through.

She let out a huge sigh of relief. A giant knot of worry was unwinding. Holding back tears, she simply said, "Thank you."

You're the kind of person who can understand why Lea was so determined to give her family the holiday meal she knows they deserve. You can just imagine how comforted she was to know there are resources that will continue to help feed her

family even beyond the holidays. I know she's forever grateful for the help Project Bread provided, thanks to you.

Do you know what Lea told us in a follow-up phone call? She said it felt empowering to know that Project Bread was there to give **help and hope** to families in crisis like hers, especially right now at Thanksgiving time, "when you've got to make something out of nothing."

That help and hope is you, Kristin! Your kindness right now is what allows Project Bread to help families like Lea's who are hungry today, and to work to break the cycle of hunger through sustainable solutions.

Kristin, your gift will be the difference that gives thousands of families like Lea's, who have been thrown into crisis by circumstances beyond their control, a happy, healthy Thanksgiving. Food is a basic need for all of us. Your kindness right now will help those most in need get healthy food for Thanksgiving and all year round.

On behalf of everyone at Project Bread, we wish you a happy and meaningful holiday!

Warmly,



Khara Burns
FoodSource Hotline Director, Project Bread

PS: I'll get right to the point because I know you understand—during the holidays and beyond, hungry families rely on us to connect them to resources that will help break the cycle of hunger. **Your gift is crucial at this moment. Thank you for caring, Kristin!**