



# LOVIN' SPOONFULS: A PASSION FOR ACTION

*The season of giving continues with need met by abundance.* By Lindsay Maher

Founded in 2010 by executive director Ashley Stanley, Lovin' Spoonfuls is a food rescue company that provides hunger relief to people in the Greater Boston area. Their operations has over 200 partners in an effort to reduce food waste by giving to families and communities who are food insecure. Instead of letting fresh bakery items, dairy products, fruits, vegetables and boxed ingredients go to waste, Lovin' Spoonfuls loads up their fleet of six refrigerated trucks to deliver food products to nonprofits across eastern Massachusetts.

The company was born out of a reaction, the idea far from being a nonprofit or a mapped-out business plan. At the time, discussions of food sourcing, how food is cooked and how those elements affect people was on the rise. Stanley, whose family has a strong core in philanthropy, found herself thinking more and more about the question of hunger and whether "not enough" was the honest answer. What she realized was that the problem lies in distribution, and that she could do something to help the situation "in a very real way."

Stanley carried those questions with her as she began by going to grocery stores to see what products were on the floor and what couldn't be sold. They remained with her while navigating the social landscapes she was hoping to help, wanting this endeavor to come from the community and be true to them. And seven years later, she continues to inquire about the understanding of hunger and how it hasn't changed much. But her curiosities have had a lasting impact.

The goal is to provide families in need with wholesome food, and they have met it beyond belief. Lovin' Spoonfuls picks up food from produce wholesalers, grocery stores, farms and farmers market that would otherwise be thrown away because of a constant influx of inventory. Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Eataly, Flour Bakery + Café, Allandale Farm and the Boston Public Market are just a few of their many partners. For the company, it isn't a question of how money can make an impact; instead, it's the grounded sense of directness in their mission.

Over 60,000 pounds of food are distributed weekly, with same-day delivery, to over 35,000 people. Lovin' Spoonfuls promises help for individuals and families of all ages who are vulnerable to hunger: homeless and crisis shelters, after-school programs for children and elderly centers. Their outreach reverberates through Greater Boston and MetroWest, making sure that those communities are taken care of and sustained.

By the end of the year, the company will celebrate its eight millionth pound of food rescued and delivered. Stanley said that they've reached a record two million pounds of food rescued in one year. "We're filling a need none of us wish existed," Stanley said, but she is proud of the work environment her team has created and the passion for helping others that is one reason for their solid internal foundations.

It's easy to get involved, between donations and volunteering. With the holidays right here, giving your time to this company would be valuable in every way. [lovinspoonfulsinc.org](http://lovinspoonfulsinc.org)

