

## Community Supper Has a New Home

*By Pat Flanagan, ABUW Volunteer*

After a hiatus of 10 months, community suppers are again being offered in the Acton Boxborough area. The newly-launched Mt. Calvary Community Supper at 472 Mass. Ave in Acton started up in April and offers meals free of charge from 5:00-6:00 pm every other Wednesday. The next suppers will be held June 20 and July 11. After July 11, they will be held every Wednesday.



ABUW's Rachel Sagan, Executive Director, and Jay Bhatia, Board of Directors, recently visited and volunteered at the new Community Supper.

The new Mt. Calvary Community Supper Board comprises an equal number of members from Mt. Calvary Church and the previous Community Supper Board. Chairman Michael Tobia stated that the Board visited programs in surrounding towns “to determine, in fact, if the need existed, and we confirmed that the void existed in the Acton Boxborough community.”

Fifty-five guests attended the first dinner in April. Since then the number has increased to an average of 65 with an additional 15-20 take home meals. As word gets out, it is expected that these numbers will grow.

Mt. Calvary Community Supper provides an opportunity for families and individuals of all ages to enjoy a healthy, nutritious meal served in a warm and friendly environment. Some guests come because of financial need; others come for companionship. For many it is a combination of both. The feedback from guests has been overwhelmingly positive and many have expressed their appreciation for the program's revival.

But, as Michael Tobia notes, this program would not be possible without “the dedicated and compassionate group of volunteers,” who prepare food, cook, set up, clean up, greet and serve guests, and in countless ways offer more than just a hot meal to those in need.

Critical to the program and one of the biggest challenges to its continued success is funding. Currently, Mt. Calvary Community Supper is funded through grants, start-up funding from Mt. Calvary Church, as well as donations from individuals and local churches.

There are hungry people everywhere, even in Acton and Boxborough. Some are hungry for food, some for social interaction. Fortunately for them Mt. Calvary Community Supper is there to help fill their needs.

New volunteers are always welcome. Anyone interested can contact Dawn Phelan at [dawnwhobikes@comcast.net](mailto:dawnwhobikes@comcast.net). For more information about the Community Supper call 978-263-5156.