

# Watertown Community Fridge FAQs

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

- **Donate:**
  - Food and personal care/hygiene items, see [donation guidelines](#).
  - Money for fridge maintenance and large grocery store shops by [Venmo](#), [PayPal](#), or [check](#).
- **Volunteer for shifts** to clean the Fridge and make sure donations follow guidelines.
  - You'll receive a confirmation email with the volunteer shift checklist and code for the supplies box.
- **Organize a donation drive** in your community or workplace.
  - For suggestions on organizing and donating, email us.
- **Outreach:**
  - Help us get out the word– post online, share flyers/postcards at businesses or in mailboxes, etc. To request postcards or the digital flyer, email us.
  - Reach out to businesses for support and recurring donations.
    - For a list of places already approached, please email us. Let us know if you'd like talking points or proceed however you are comfortable.
- **Daily/weekly volunteer opportunities:**
  - Join the [Signal Chat](#) for daily communication on the fridge needs.
  - Pick-up food weekly from a local business or organization.
- **Join the Steering Committee**, which consists of monthly meetings, decision-making for Fridge, coordinating volunteers, and community outreach.

## WHAT IS MUTUAL AID? IS THE FRIDGE A NON-PROFIT?

Watertown Community Fridge (WCF) is a form of mutual aid; a non-hierarchical, collaborative approach to community care—for the community and by the community. WCF is not a non-profit organization. Non-profits come with hierarchical systems of governance and additional fiscal responsibilities. This could be a barrier for easier and greater sense of community ownership of the WCF.

WCF is registered with the Massachusetts Secretary of State as a charitable organization, and has a bank account with Watertown Savings Bank.

## CONTACT US:

E: [WatertownCommunityFridge@gmail.com](mailto:WatertownCommunityFridge@gmail.com)

W: [WatertownCommunityFridge.org](http://WatertownCommunityFridge.org)

A: 80 Mount Auburn St. Watertown, MA 02472

  @WatertownCommunityFridge



## WHAT IF ONE PERSON IS TAKING TOO MUCH FOOD?

Mutual aid is all about solidarity and community trust. It isn't up to any one person to determine how much food someone needs or to know what they might need it for. Unlike government programs, the fridge doesn't require qualifications for receiving food nor do we control how much someone takes. Read Joe's [Letter to Editor, Watertown News](#) for more on this Mutual Aid perspective.

## WHAT IF THE FRIDGE IS EMPTY?

It can be hard to see the fridge empty knowing that visitors might not get what they are looking for. However, we see this as a success that people are getting the food they need as well as an indication to make further connections with businesses, community members, and organizations to find more ways to fill the fridge. Currently, volunteers pick-up food donations about 3 days/week from businesses and organizations, and the Fridge coordinators use donated funds to do large grocery shops weekly. Help us continue to reach out to businesses and organizations to make sure the fridge stays full!

## WHAT GOES IN THE FRIDGE VS. FREEZER VS. PANTRY?

Fridge	Freezer	Pantry
Fresh produce (to avoid animals getting into the shed)	Raw meat/seafood	Canned/boxed goods
Bread and other baked goods	Frozen/package produce	Shelf-stable items
	Bread and other baked goods if fridge is full	Personal/hygiene items
		Pet food ( <i>only on floor</i> so it's not mixed with human food)

Tip: if there is a package of individually wrapped food, such as a box of butter, take out the individually wrapped food so people can take just what they need and benefit more people.

## WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?

Please email questions and suggestions to [watertowncommunityfridge@gmail.com](mailto:watertowncommunityfridge@gmail.com).

**Thank you for your contributions and efforts keeping Watertown Community Fridge a healthy source of support for neighbors any time of day!**