

# CAFÉ SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CG Café Breakfast 7:00 am to 9:00 am. Coffee With a Message 9:00 am to 10:30 am	Thrift Store Closed CG Café: Noon— 2:00 pm (lunch) CG Café (coffee, snacks) 2:00 pm— 4:00 pm Emergency Food 1:30—3:30 pm ESL 6:30—8:30 pm (TBA)	Thrift Store 9:00 am—3:00 pm CG Café: (coffee, snacks) Noon—4:00 pm. Emergency Food 1:30—3:30 pm	Thrift Store 9:00 am—3:00 pm CG Café: (coffee, snacks) Noon—4:00 pm. Emergency Food 12:00—3:30 pm ESL 6:30—8:30 pm (TBA)	Thrift Store 9:00 am—3:00 pm CG Café: (coffee, snacks) Noon—4:00 pm. Emergency Food 1:30—3:30 pm	Thrift Store 9:00 am—3:00 pm CG Café: (coffee, snacks) Noon—4:00 pm. Emergency Food 1:30—3:30 pm	Thrift Store 9:00 am—3:00 pm CG Café: Breakfast 7:00 am to 9:00 Food Pantry 10:00 am—2:00 pm on the second Saturday of each month. (varies)



## Buy A Brick Donors

We would like to present businesses, organizations, and individuals the opportunity to: “Buy a Brick” for \$250 (Premium located bricks in the entry way are \$500 each). Your name, logo, and website will be placed on a brick on the outside of the building, sharing with everyone that you are part of the mission to support those in need in the Greater Haverhill area. A virtual brick will also be displayed on our website in recognition of your generosity.

Please visit [www.commongroundne.org](http://www.commongroundne.org) for more information on CGM’s Buy A Brick Partnership Campaign.



**Common Ground Café**  
**194 Winter Street**  
**Haverhill, MA 01830**

## To Contribute:

**ON LINE:** [www.commongroundne.org](http://www.commongroundne.org)

### MAIL TO:

Common Ground Ministries  
PO Box 324  
Haverhill, MA 01831

Please specify **"Common Ground Café"** with your gift.

## COMMON GROUND NEWS



CGM Newsletter  
July 2022



*Inside the Common Ground Cafe*

### In this issue:

- Highlights of 2021
- Emergency Generator Installed
- Shower and bathroom Facilities at CG
- David Newfield Steps Out
- Third Floor Occupancy in 2022
- CGM Celebrates Its Grand Opening
- Rear Patio / Security Cameras

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Common Ground had a great year in 2021 despite the continued challenges of the pandemic.

The first floor of the building became fully operational when the Thrift Store re-opened its new Winter Street location. Common Ground now has a commercial kitchen, café, food pantry, thrift store, clothing outreach, and restrooms with a covered porch & tables, benches and heaters as well as a porta-potty outside.

Many have helped. Common Ground café served 3,800 breakfasts on week-

ends and 8,000 lunches on weekdays, helping 7,500 individuals and serving close to 40 people a meal each day. In addition, there were 1,500 family visits to the Food Pantry, as 110,000 pounds of food were distributed, putting food on the table for close to 300 people each month..

Many volunteers made this possible: 25 volunteers with the café, 30 with the food pantry, 6 with English as a Second Language, 10 with the clothing outreach, 20 with the thrift store and 20 for work projects. Common Ground has no paid staff and relies entirely on volunteers. Added help came from other

organizations and businesses such as Open Hearts Ministries, New Life Christian Assembly and Romano’s Pizza, all of Haverhill which donated lunches each week.

We all help one another. Common Ground’s truck helped Somebody Cares, Ruth’s House, Sacred Hearts, Open Hearts Ministry and others by partnering with organizations with specific needs.

Additional help came from The Cummings Foundation, The George C. Wadleigh Foundation, The Greater Boston Food Bank, the City of Haverhill and other donors including the Buy a Brick Partnership Campaign. Added revenue from the thrift store helped cover mortgage and utility costs.

Storage also grew by 30% with heavy duty shelving in the food pantry.

## EMERGENCY GENERATOR INSTALLED

Common Ground’s new emergency generator has been delivered and installed at Common Ground’s Winter Street location.

It will now provide power to keep our food pantry freezers and refrigerators running in the event of a local power outage, thus saving thousand of dollars of spoiled food and preventing any disruption in our daily and monthly food distribution. We feed 50-60 people daily.



## Weekly Showers and Bathroom Facilities at Common Ground

Two showers and bathrooms for the homeless have become a reality at Common Ground. Julio Meran, founder and executive director at the Merrimack Valley Dream Center in Lawrence, Mass, **will bring** a trailer to the rear of Common Ground’s parking lot regularly starting in June to allow homeless to shower. Common Ground will provide the water and utilities and volunteer staffing. The trailer is available Monday thru Thursday on a sign-up basis. Bill Spirdione estimates that 20 to 30 people per week will benefit from these services.

### Trailer, Shower and Bathroom



## DAVID NEWFIELD STEPS OUT

When David Newfield came to Common Ground many years ago he was homeless and struggling with addictions. He is now is attending college in Connecticut.

Executive Director Bill Spirdione said he has been working with David for many years. But the big turning point was when David paid off some old fines, got his drivers license, and began to drive again. Eventually, he decided to go back to school to be a mechanic. He applied and was accepted into Lincoln Tech in Windsor, Connecticut. Thanks to grants and financial aid, and the help of Common Ground, David was able to start school in December, 2021. He has maintained a 91 GPA.



## Common Ground Closer to Third Floor Occupancy

The third floor of Common Ground will be one step closer to occupancy when air conditioning and heating systems are installed in 2022. A \$29,000 grant from the Wadleigh Foundation will pay to install the duct work for heating and cooling and also upgrade the existing heating and cooling on the 2nd floor, which is now used for meetings.

## COMMON GROUND CELEBRATES ITS GRAND OPENING!

On Tuesday, May 24th, Common Ground celebrated it Grand Opening at its new location at 194 Winter Street, Haverhill, after a two year delay due to COVID-19 restrictions. *(We remained open daily during COVID).* The public was invited to view the transformation of this old factory building into a Thrift Store, Common Ground Café, Food Pantry and other areas that have been in development since the building was acquired in June 2018.

A number of officials were on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Pictured are, left to right: Alexandria Eberhardt, President, Haverhill Chamber of Commerce; Josh Withe, CGM Board Member; Bill Spirdione, CGM Executive Director; Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini; Pastor Braxton, CGM VP; Ronald Mills, CEO Common Ground, and Barry Waugh, Café Leader.



## REAR PATIO OPEN FOR USE

The new rear patio behind the Café is now open for daily use, functions, gatherings and holiday events.



## SECURITY CAMERAS ACTIVE

Thirteen security cameras are active on the first floor at Common Ground. They have the ability to monitor and record activities at the Café and Thrift Store, and have been instrumental in maintaining order and security for our staff and guests. Seven additional cameras will be installed on the second floor to complete our security system.