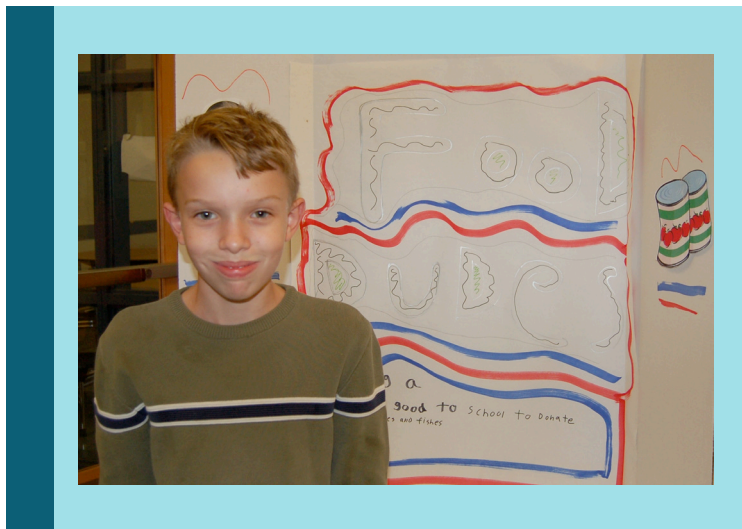


# Food Dudes

## Profile



### The Inspiration

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry provides food, emergency shelter and other temporary services, while promoting independence and self-reliance to families in need in six Massachusetts towns including Shirley. Donnie and his mother, residents of Shirley, fell into some difficult times in 2007 when Donnie's mother got sick and lost her job. His family greatly benefited from the generosity of Loaves and Fishes and was soon back on their feet.



### The Idea

Loaves and Fishes kindness had a significant impact on Donnie. The compassion shown to his family during hard times made all the difference in the world, so when they no longer needed their services Donnie wanted to return the favor.

### The Venture

Donnie launched Food Dudes in May 2008. Food Dudes organize food drives at Shirley Middle School and within the community. They then donate all food collected to Loaves and Fishes. In addition to food drives, the Team hosts movie nights where admission is a nonperishable food item. In 2009, they partnered with the Shirley Middle School Athletic Department to coordinate a school-wide 'Walk for Hunger.'

### The Impact

Since their launch, Food Dudes has donated over 1,500 cans of food to Loaves and Fishes. Food Dudes was launched as a result of a partnership among Youth Venture, United Way of North Central Massachusetts and Mount Wachusett Community College.



Center for  
Democracy and Humanity  
Mount Wachusett Community College



United Way of  
North Central Massachusetts