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**For IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MCHPP Partnering with Other Local Service Providers to Expand Meal Offerings**

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BRUNSWICK, MAINE---

Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP) announced a collaboration between its Soup Kitchen and three local organizations to provide free meals to members of the greater Brunswick community. "We are excited to expand our partnerships with other local nonprofits in a way that can benefit service users across all four agencies," said Heather Ardivson, MCHPP's Program Director.

Beginning March 4th, The Gathering Place will offer bagged lunches, made by MCHPP volunteers, to its visitors on Mondays and Thursdays while People Plus is offering their members a warm soup, prepared in MCHPP's kitchen, on Mondays. "These collaborations bring back a chance for folks to sit and enjoy a meal together at a community location they are comfortable in," notes Arvidson.

MCHPP's third partner in this effort, Independence Association, will offer bagged lunches to its service users as well as members of the community on Thursdays beginning on February 29th. "We are thrilled to work with MCHPP in helping provide options for healthy food to people in the Brunswick area. This is not only an opportunity to further build upon the diversity of MCHPP, but it is also a way to support people with disabilities in making a meaningful contribution to our community. We look forward to the relationships and connections we anticipate arising from this partnership," shared Brett Bulmer, the agency's Acting Executive Director

With partner organizations serving lunches that MCHPP staff and volunteers have prepared in advance, the agency shared that they will be able to save significant resources by closing their Food Access Center, located at 12 Tenney Way, to the public on Mondays and Thursdays beginning in March 2024. "Collaboration and careful stewardship of our financial resources are both key tenets of MCHPP's most recent strategic plan. Changes like this help us accomplish both of those goals while continuing to improve food access for members of our community. I'm grateful to have such strong community partners with whom we can collaborate so effectively." remarked Executive Director Hannah Chatalbash.

More information about these changes, including hours and locations of daily lunch options, can be found on MCHPP's website. Anyone with questions about meeting their food needs through this service change is encouraged to contact MCHPP Program Director Heather Arvidson at [harvidson@mchpp.org](mailto:harvidson@mchpp.org) or 207-725-2716 x305.

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Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program offers dignity and empowerment by providing all members of our community with access to healthy food. Services include prepared meals, grocery distribution on-site, at local schools, and to various satellite locations. The MCHPP food pantry—located at 12 Tenney Way, Brunswick—is open to the public on Tuesdays from 12-6pm, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12-3pm, and Saturdays 1-4pm; the Soup Kitchen makes freshly made-to-go meals available on-site or through partner distributions six days per week. More information on MCHPP's services can be found at [mchpp.org/findfood](http://mchpp.org/findfood).

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