



# ALLIANCE TO DEVELOP POWER

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## **Tenants, Workers, and Immigrants Join Together to Celebrate Thanksgiving**

*Alliance to Develop Power kicks off Annual Thanksgiving Celebration with  
Distribution of 1,000 Turkeys to member families*

**Western Massachusetts** – Community leaders with the Alliance to Develop Power (ADP) will again lead the annual ADP Thanksgiving Celebration by distributing 1,000 turkeys to ADP members throughout Western Massachusetts. The Annual ADP Turkey Distribution will take place on Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. ADP leaders will load the 1,000 turkeys, totaling over 12,000 pounds, into a UHaul truck on Monday morning at 8:00 am. They will then deliver them to ADP communities in Springfield, Holyoke, Westfield, Amherst, and Greenfield. ADP leaders in each community will distribute turkeys to each member family throughout the day. Schedule of delivery times on November 24<sup>th</sup> is attached.

The Annual Thanksgiving celebration will conclude by sharing a traditional meal on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at the ADP Worker Center / Casa Obrera. Tenants, workers, and immigrants will join together to reflect and share their immigration stories.

**Thanksgiving Celebration and Welcoming of New Immigrants**  
**Tuesday November 25**  
**5:00 – 7:00 pm**  
**ADP Worker Center / 130 Union Street, Springfield**

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“Like all of the immigrants before me, I came to this country seeking work and a better life for my children,” said Ricardo Cerna, ADP Worker Center / Casa Obrera member. “Finally I got my citizenship in this country and in November I voted for the first time. I want to celebrate all immigrants because we know that the American Dream isn’t possible for any of us until its possible for all of us.”

“The ADP is about fighting for justice and celebrating the dignity of the human family. What better time to celebrate the ADP family than at Thanksgiving?” said Lisa Colon, President of the Spring Meadow Association of Responsible Tenants.

“By organizing, we have made real improvements in our own lives and in our communities,” said Andrea Goldman, President of the Home Savers Council of Greenfield Gardens. “Our food coops are a big part of that. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year we’ve distributed turkeys to every member. It’s a way to recognize and say thanks to our ADP family.”

The ADP’s mission centers around developing the community’s power to control its own resources—including food. ADP operates a network of four volunteer run food cooperatives. In 2008, this volunteer network distributed 200,000 pounds of food to members, provided 60,000 breakfasts and lunch to neighborhood children, in addition to the 900 turkeys to member families. The ADP receives financial support from Project Bread and Fallon Community Health Plan Foundation for the annual turkey distribution.

The **ALLIANCE TO DEVELOP POWER / ADP** (formerly the Anti-Displacement Project) is a membership-based community organization that works on such issues as worker and immigrant rights, health care, and affordable housing. ADP is nationally known for its model of cooperative economic development, having transformed 1,450 units of deteriorated housing to tenant owned permanently affordable coops, created worker-controlled businesses and food cooperatives which distribute 200,000 pounds of food annually. Immigrant and low wage members of the ADP Worker Center / Casa Obrera have secured over \$500,000 in restitution from employers. ADP has developed hundreds of area leaders and created business and capital holdings collectively worth \$45 million. These community-owned assets contribute \$20 million a year in cash flow to the local economy.