We LOVE Our Partner Programs

Food Gatherers works with more than 150 partner programs to distribute groceries or meals in the community. This network includes programs managed by Food Gatherers in partnership with other entities, such as the Healthy School Pantry Program at local schools, as well as traditional partner programs managed by non-profit organizations.

This past fall we were happy to recognize the leader of one of our non-profit partners, Laura Seyfried, director of the Community Resource Center (CRC) in Manchester, with The Food Bank Council of Michigan Beacon of Light Award. Food Gatherers nominated Laura for this award which recognizes those who serve as a source of guidance or inspiration. Laura has been a compassionate leader and fierce advocate for her community. The Community Resource Center operates a choice pantry with daily hours, where clients can get groceries as well as baby supplies, personal care and household items. The CRC provides emergency financial assistance for utilities and rent, and also offers one-on-one application assistance for benefits like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps). The Manchester CRC is a wonderful resource for clients to get everything they need in one stop, and Food Gatherers is thrilled by all their great work in their community!

Your support of Food Gatherers helps provide food, training and resources for our network of partners, such as the Manchester Community Resource Center, to better serve their clients. Thank you!

Our very first gatherers chose to call the Food Gatherers newsletter Plenty because we know there really is plenty of food for everybody. The problem isn’t supply, but responsible use and distribution. In a nation of plenty, no one should go hungry.

Here at Food Gatherers, we rely on plenty of generosity and dedication to rescue food, deliver it to more than 150 partner programs, and serve the people who need it most. We can’t do it alone! Together, with your commitment, volunteer work, and willingness to give, we can mobilize all available resources to fight hunger where we live.
Job Training
FY15
4.6 million pounds distributed, 1.4 million was PRODUCE
Produce pounds are up 76%.
through creative food procurement strategies.

Strategy:
Increase the purchase and donation of healthy foods available for people in need.

GOAL:
Increase the quantity and quality of nutritious food too little food. Thanks to all of you who gather together to nourish our community. Gatherers is able to connect those who have enough food with those who have too little food. Thanks to all of you who gather together to nourish our community.

And it’s because of Harvey and partners like Ann Arbor Second Baptist that Food Gatherers is able to connect those who have enough food with those who have too little food. Thanks to all of you who gather together to nourish our community.

Gatherers is able to connect those who have enough food with those who have too little food. Thanks to all of you who gather together to nourish our community.

Food Gatherers Food Security Plan 2015

GOAL: Increase the quantity and quality of nutritious food available for people in need.

Strategy: Increase the purchase and donation of healthy foods through creative food procurement strategies.

Highlights:
- Produce pounds are up 76%.
- FY09 4.6 million pounds distributed, 1/4 million was PRODUCE
- FY15 6.1 million pounds distributed, 2.4 million was PRODUCE

Food Gatherers is committed to sound fiscal management, accountability and transparency. We're among the 1% of charities to be awarded a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's premier independent charity evaluator, for eleven consecutive years. Our full audited financial reports can always be viewed and downloaded directly from our website at www.foodgatherers.org.

In 2008, Food Gatherers conducted a local needs assessment and reviewed leading practices nationally to develop a Food Security Plan for Washtenaw County. The following goals and strategies were designed to respond to the urgent need for food assistance while investing in practices that maximize easy access to affordable and healthy foods for our low-income neighbors. Thanks to your support, here are highlights of our accomplishments through June 30, 2015:

- Decrease in Net Assets .............................................. $(7,286)
- Total Expenses .......................................................... $12,577,940
- Disposal of Assets ....................................................... $4,300
- Fiscal Year 2015 fundraisers will receive a 97% offering SNAP assistance.
- 30% offering SNAP assistance
- FY09 30% offering SNAP assistance
- FY15 97% offering SNAP assistance
- 2.4 million pounds of PRODUCE distributed
- 247,385 Total Revenue .................................................. $12,570,654

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Food Gatherers Food Security Plan 2015

**GOAL:** Increase the quantity and quality of nutritious food available for people in need.

**Strategy:** Increase the purchase and donation of healthy foods through creative food procurement strategies.

**Highlights:**
- Produce pounds are up 76%.
- FY99: 4.6 million pounds distributed; FY09: 6.1 million pounds distributed; FY15: 2.4 million pounds distributed.

**FY99**
- 1.4 million pounds of PRODUCE distributed.

**FY09**
- 6.1 million pounds distributed.

**FY15**
- 2.4 million pounds of PRODUCE distributed.

**GOAL:** Strengthen partner agency capacity.

**Strategy:** Focus on strengthening the capacity of partners to distribute produce and healthy foods, to increase their hours of service and to successfully refer clients for SNAP and other services.

**Highlights:**
- Percent of agency partners that provide FRESH PRODUCE: FY99 20% 20% FY14 60%
- Number of agency partners open for 8 hours or more per week: FY08 10 agencies; FY14 19 agencies.
- We also underwrote $1.2 million in food purchasing credits, and awarded $318,000 in capacity building grants for partner programs.

**FY99**
- 5 sites

**FY15**
- 21 sites

**GOAL:** Optimize all aspects of the system to ensure maximum impact.

**Strategy:** Improve the efficiency and effectiveness in the hunger relief distribution system by engaging and educating partners in understanding the system and related community services.

**Highlights:**
- In coordination with the Office of Community and Economic Development, Food Gatherers expanded our role in leading the Summer Food Service Program. This USDA-funded program provides meals to kids in the summer when school is out.
- FY10 5 sites
- FY15 21 sites

**GOAL:** Advocate to influence policies that affect people who are hungry.

**Strategy:** Educate and engage the local community about the reality of food insecurity and resources needed. Advocate regarding food stamp access, policy changes and resources needed at the national, state and local levels.

**Highlights:**
- Continued our partnership with Feeding America and Food Council of Michigan to educate and advocate to the public.
- Conducted training for partners on providing SNAP enrollment assistance.
- FY99
- FY15

30% offering SNAP assistance
97% offering SNAP assistance

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**Revenue and Expenses Fiscal Year 2015**

7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015

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Meet Fran Petonic,
Food Gatherers’ Board Chair and Vice President,
Office of Development,
Saint Joseph Mercy Health System

How did you first get involved with Food Gatherers?
I work at Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, a longtime partner with Food Gatherers and ally in improving the health of our community. While I have always worked in the non-profit sector, it was a particular honor when I was approached to join the board.

How do you help Food Gatherers fight hunger where we live?
As Chair of the Board of Directors at Food Gatherers, I have the privilege of working with 14 other dedicated members to govern and fiscally manage this organization. To me, providing board leadership means making a meaningful gift to the organization every year because its values are just right…serve Washtenaw County residents with dignity, be creative and make it happen. They have a great mix of taking a serious issue, hunger in our community, and adding a lot of carrot fun to it! They make it easy to do the right thing.

Why should people care about hunger in our community?
Hunger is a symptom of multiple safety nets failing our friends and neighbors. Without stable housing, healthcare or employment, any of us are at risk for not being able to provide for our families. Hunger looks just like you and me—14.7% of households in Washtenaw County are in the position of deep worry about how to make ends meet.

What’s your favorite Food Gatherers’ memory?
The last Grillin’ fundraiser; we survived heavy rains and flooding, all with a smile and big crowds—and at the end of it all, a giant double rainbow! Seemed fitting for the Food Gatherers’ never-give-up spirit!

March 2016 Dollar for Dollar Match Challenge
Looking for a way to increase the impact of your gift? Stay tuned for our March Match details, thanks to the generosity of Harold & Kay Peplau!

Grillin’ for Food Gatherers 2016
Sunday, June 12
Save the date for Grillin’, Food Gatherers’ annual summer fundraiser! Enjoy delicious food, drinks, and desserts from more than 50 local restaurants; live music; a raffle and silent auction—and your ticket purchase feeds 150 of our neighbors in need. Last year, you raised 680,000 meals!

Plant a Row for the Hungry
As the weather gets warmer, plan to nourish your garden and our neighbors in need! Plant a row for the hungry and donate your extra produce to Food Gatherers. More than 60% of the food we distribute is produce or protein items. Fresh and perishable foods can be dropped off at Food Gatherers Warehouse, 1 Carrot Way, Ann Arbor; Monday-Friday from 9AM-5PM.

Volunteer With Us!
Help sort food at our warehouse, cook meals at our Community Kitchen, or even ride along in our trucks to see firsthand how your support is connecting retail food donors and our partner programs that serve food. All of these volunteer opportunities and more are available at www.foodgatherers.org/volunteer.

www.foodgatherers.org
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