HEALTHY SCHOOL PANTRY PROGRAM

In partnership with local schools and agencies, Food Gatherers’ Healthy School Pantry Program distributes FREE fresh produce to families at eligible schools in Washtenaw County.

“I like that I am trying new items without the fear of wasting money.” - Program participant

School Produce Distributions
*Only available to families with children attending these schools

- Ann Arbor Preschool
- Beatty Early Learning Center
- Bishop Elementary
- Brick Elementary
- Dicken Elementary
- Estabrook Elementary
- Ford Early Learning
- Global Tech Academy
- Holmes Elementary
- Mitchell Elementary (Open to Scarlett Middle)
- Perry Early Learning Center
- Whitmore Lake Elementary
- Ypsilanti International Elementary School (Formerly, Adams STEM Academy)

“It’s easy to get the veggies and fruits. My children are a lot more open to trying different things, where before I couldn't pay them to try anything new; so thank you for that.”
- Program participant

Have questions? Need more information or flyers?
Online: www.foodgatherers.org/hspp
Call or Text: (734) 585-6706
Email: erin@foodgatherers.org

This program is made possible by Feeding America, special thanks to Kellogg Company, the Junior League of Ann Arbor, the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor, and Opus Foundation.
This September is Hunger Action Month (HAM)! Feeding America asks everyone to fight hunger in their community all month long! This could be advocating, raising awareness of hunger in Washtenaw County, volunteering, donating, or feeding our neighbors in need!

Food Gatherers is no stranger to wearing orange, but September 8th is Hunger Action Day so be sure to wear orange and let people know why you are fighting hunger in Washtenaw County!

Have you ever been to our warehouse? If not, come on by! Food Gatherers will have some open tour dates during Hunger Action Month! Stop by during any of the times below to learn more about how we fight hunger in our community and see the warehouse!

⇒ Tuesday, September 20th from 12-1 pm and 5-6pm
⇒ Tuesday, September 27th from 12-1 pm and 5-6pm

BE AN ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCATE

Become an anti-hunger advocate!

Calling, writing or even tweeting your elected officials encourages them to take action on legislation to preserve crucial funding for hunger relief programs that affect millions of hungry Americans, including many in our local community.

To receive timely information on important issues facing our hungry neighbors and to sign up for our Advocacy and Action Alerts, please visit:

www.foodgatherers.org/advocate

“The outrage of hunger amidst plenty will not be solved by ‘experts’ somewhere. It will only be solved when people like you and me decide to act.” – Frances Moore Lappe
WILL YOUR CLIENT’S LOSE THEIR SNAP BENEFITS? [TRAINING OPPORTUNITY]

About 10 agencies partner with Food Gatherers to directly help their clients apply for SNAP (food stamps). Last quarter (April 1st– June 30th), the total number of applications submitted was 180 applications (renewals included)! However, many of your clients will be experiencing an end to their benefits due to a policy that will be reinstated in Washtenaw County. Food Gatherers will be hosting a training for everyone who offers SNAP application assistance so you can learn more and how you can help your clients!

Please read below for more information!

Who gets SNAP and do they work?
Most SNAP participants who can work, do work. SNAP rules require all recipients meet work requirements unless they are exempt because of age or disability or another specific reason. Among households that include someone who is able to work, more than 75% had a job in the year before or after receiving SNAP. 43% of SNAP participants live in a household with earnings.

Some of these working individuals are ABAWDs or able-bodied adults without dependents. ABAWDs must meet special work requirements, in addition to the general work requirements, to maintain their eligibility (to maintain their SNAP benefits).

Who is considered an ABAWD?
An ABAWD is a person between the ages of 18 and 49 who has no dependents and is not disabled. ABAWD stands for Able Bodied Adult Without Dependents.

What is the ABAWD time limit?
ABAWDs can only get SNAP for a total of 3 months in a 3 year period if they do not meet certain special work requirements. This is called the time limit. However, some ABAWDs may be eligible for SNAP benefits beyond the time limit.

Why did the ABAWD time limits go away? Why are the limits coming back?
The time limit on ABAWDs is part of the law that governs the operation of SNAP. It has been part of the law since 1996. Under the law, States can request to temporarily waive the ABAWD time limit when unemployment is high or when there are not enough jobs available. Due to the economic downturn, many States qualified for and chose to waive time limits in all or part of the State. (Even when ABAWD time limits are waived, general work requirements still apply.) Some parts of the country still have waivers in place. But, as the economy continues to improve, many places no longer qualify for the time limit waivers. Many ABAWDs participating in SNAP could soon lose their benefits unless they take steps to meet the special ABAWD work requirements or are exempt from this time limit.

The information above is from http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/able-bodied-adults-without-dependents-abawds

In 2017, this time limit policy change will be reinstated. Parts of Michigan have been exempt from the policy since 2009, so this is a big change for all of us to navigate together. We want you to be informed and prepared to help your clients through these changes.

Food Gatherers and The Food Bank Council of Michigan are hosting a FREE training to community partners that provide SNAP application and outreach assistance or serve low-income individuals. This is NOT the SNAP application assistance training we have offered in the past. At this training, partners from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (cbpp.org) will provide information on the policy change effecting Michigan’s SNAP program in 2017. The training will also cover how to work with individuals who are exempt from this time limit, as well as, how to help individuals who are not exempt navigate the upcoming changes to their eligibility status.

When: Friday, Sept 23rd 10:00am - 3:00 pm (lunch included)
Where: Location in Washtenaw County TBD

Sign up for the training here: https://docs.google.com/a/foodgatherers.org/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLsP1GlwDQW7IPZzIA9JzGdG9eEtwR9TRobrCFYMmFNaBDTjA/viewform
Made with love by the Community Food Programs Department

Markell Miller, Director of Community Food Programs Department, markell@foodgatherers.org
Please contact Markell for any issues regarding your new program inquiries, billing, advocacy opportunities, and any concerns or program challenges.

LeRonica Roberts, Community Food Programs Coordinator, leronica@foodgatherers.org
Please contact LeRonica with questions regarding your food bank orders, the Summer Food Service Program, delivery profile, billing, site visits, delivery and shopping time changes, and any concerns or program challenges.

Erin Freeman, Community Food Programs Coordinator, erin@foodgatherers.org
Please contact Erin with questions regarding the Healthy School Pantry Program, website edits, recall emails, SNAP outreach, demographic data collection, fruit and vegetable surveys and ServSafe Training.

Shaira Daya, Nutrition Projects Coordinator, shaira@foodgatherers.org
Please contact Shaira with questions regarding nutrition education, cooking demonstrations, healthy recipes or produce promotion tips.