Greater Faith Mission

Back in 1981, two women decided to start a food pantry. Dorothy Ford, one of the original founders, is still as engaged and passionate about this work as the day she started the pantry out of her father’s warehouse. Despite the challenges of three location changes, they continue to provide community members access to food from their pantry.

As demonstrated by the past 35 years, Greater Faith is known to be consistent and reliable, with those involved fiercely loyal and devoted to their work. To this day, their work continues to expand as more people are welcomed into their church, always with the sound of gospel music reverberating through the walls.

In addition to their partnership with Food Gatherers for their food pantry, Greater Faith continues to go above and beyond with the wide variety of services they offer. Greater Faith provides a clothing ministry where clients can “shop” for free for clothing, shoes and other items. In addition, each week, Greater Faith offers bible study both on Tuesday mornings and evenings to accommodate different work schedules. On Sundays, Greater Faith has both a continental breakfast and traditional church service. This holiday season, they are hosted a Thanksgiving meal and helping children in need with Toys for Tots. Greater Faith also works to meet people where they are at by providing or connecting people to services like insurance, haircuts, Dress for Success, hospitality cards, minister training, a children’s ministry, summer programs, neighborhood picnics and more.

After sitting down with Dorothy, she consistently states her love for Food Gatherers and the ability to provide food to those who are food insecure. Dorothy notes, that at every community event, Food Gatherers is there. Even more, their food pantry continues to expand, as it now services over 200 families a month. Recently, Greater Faith received two new freezers and improved its pantry to encourage healthier options with Food Gatherers’ Healthy Pantry Conversion Project. Without a fearless leader like Dorothy, this work would fall flat – with her determination, this food distribution is reliable, never stopping for anything.
**Q & A with Dorothy, Mother Scott and Jackie**

Dorothy is one of the founders of Greater Faith Mission. Mother Scott has worked in the pantry for 10 years and Jackie runs the clothing ministry.

**What is your favorite thing about working with people at Greater Faith?**

**DOROTHY** - I enjoy seeing people, and seeing their needs met. I am a people person and I love helping people meet their needs. I know I have a mandate to do this work, as I could be on the other side at any time.

**MOTHER SCOTT** - My favorite thing...that’s a good question. I’ve never thought of it that way. Just being able to share. It’s not so much giving people things, but some people bring you things that you didn’t even know you need. We’re in a position where people are free, and with that freedom, we can learn from each other. There’s always something to give...it’s just sharing.

**JACKIE** - For me, I can listen and tune in on where people are coming from, what their needs are, and just how to be able to help them. I have this compassion that drives me.

**What do you wish others knew about your program or mission?**

**DOROTHY** - Everyone already knows us. Some people have followed us for 25 years in 3 different locations. People are always coming. They come in the rain, people are walking, catching the bus, people have backpacks, they are on their bikes. It touches my heart when people make that effort just to come get food. But they know we are always here.

Recently, your pantry has undergone some changes with the Food Gatherers’ Healthy Pantry Conversion Project. How have you seen the pantry change? What challenges did you have with making some changes in your pantry and how did you overcome them?

**DOROTHY** - When thinking about switching to the open [choice] pantry, I just was uncomfortable and kind of leery about losing people that were so used to the pantry. People just come and they can just do it blindly. I thought, ‘how is [Food Gatherers] going to do this?’

After the first day with the new pantry, it was me, Mother Scott, and another person, and we were left with all of this clean up from the new pantry. We had to wipe down all the baskets and shelves, and we weren’t that happy...I asked Mother, ‘what do you think about this? And what she said definitely wasn’t nice.

But then last time, it went smooth! People feel like they are in a store. We still have trouble getting everyone through the line with their carts orderly, but I think we pretty much got it under control now. And people really feel like that they can shop.

**What is your favorite food?**

**JACKIE** - Fruit, cantaloupe, watermelon, I just love all fruits - bananas, grapes, you name it.

**MOTHER SCOTT** - All food. I don’t think I could have a favorite.

**DOROTHY** - I like sweets, I love soups, I love fruit. Everything except for pomegranates - I don’t like a food that takes all day to eat.

**What does the future hold for Greater Faith?**

**DOROTHY** - We look for greater things coming up in 2019. We don’t know what God is going to do, but it’s always increasing, always [getting better]. If anyone asks, ‘would you guys be interested?’ We always say, ‘sure, bring it on!’ We’ve accepted this obligation, we change as we need to, and people know they can count on us.
Rockin’ for the Hungry November 28 - December 2, 2018 Ann Arbor's 107one radio personalities broadcast live at our largest annual outdoor food and fund drive. Gifts made during Rockin' are matched by lead community members. www.foodgatherers.org/rockin

Let's Raise 1 Million Meals for the Hungry!
Food is essential to the holidays. It helps us come together, celebrate, and share memories. Can you imagine having to choose between buying food and paying for your heat, or electricity, or transportation? For one in seven of your neighbors in Washtenaw County, this choice is a reality year round.

You can help your neighbors keep food on the table, during the holidays and every other day of the year. Join Food Gatherers and Ann Arbor's 107one for the annual Rockin' for the Hungry fund and food drive, where we'll be “freezin’ for a reason” while collecting donations and broadcasting live outside of the Maple Road Kroger store. When you make a gift of funds and/or non-perishable food, you help us reach our goal of raising 1 million meals for Washtenaw County residents who face food insecurity.

Double Your Impact During Rockin'
Your gift to Rockin' will be matched up to $100,000 through the generous support of Harold & Kay Peplau and other community donors.

We're ‘Freezin' for a Reason’ and Broadcasting Live
Ann Arbor's 107one will be broadcasting live with Food Gatherers staff and volunteers outside the Maple Road Kroger. Stop in to say hi and make your gift, or tune in to 107.1 FM to hear updates, interviews with community leaders, and donor sponsored power hours. Food Gatherers and 107one will have special giveaway items for Rockin' donors who come in person, so make time to visit us!

Ways to Give to Rockin'
♦ In person at Kroger: Make a donation with cash, check or credit card to Food Gatherers staff and volunteers outside the Kroger store on Maple Road. We’ll also be at the Plymouth Road Kroger on 11/27.
♦ At the cash register: Contribute $1, $5, $10, or round up your total at the registers of any Kroger store in Washtenaw County.
♦ Online: Click the DONATE NOW button at www.foodgatherers.org/rockin
♦ By phone: Call Food Gatherers at 734-761-2796 between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

Create Your Own Fundraising Page
Mobilize your friends, family and coworkers toward our 1 million meal goal by creating your own fundraising page! Just follow these steps at www.foodgatherers.org/rockin

Volunteer at Rockin'
Help us reach our 1 million meal goal by volunteering! Have a Rockin' good time with Food Gatherers and 107one outside of Kroger while you accept donations of funds and food and spread the word about our work to fight hunger where we live. Learn more about volunteering here.

Share your story!
Want Food Gatherers to highlight your program in the next Gatherings newsletter? Help us share all your exemplary activities that you do every day to provide food security to all those in Washtenaw County.

Email cfp@foodgatherers.org to let us know if you would like to be in an upcoming newsletter!
Made with love by the Community Food Programs Department

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