Food Gatherers’ incredible journey began just before Thanksgiving in 1988 with a borrowed van from Moveable Feast, pilot funding from Zingerman’s Deli, and the brash idea that no food should be wasted. Little did we know that we were helping launch a national movement! Concepts like “food rescue” and “food insecurity” were not yet commonplace. Likewise, no road map or set of procedures existed on how to safely transport fresh food to pantries and meal sites.

Determined to battle hunger in our community, we created our own map through hard work, creativity, collaboration, and innovation. Over the years, with tremendous support from the community, we have made a lot of progress on our original goal while greatly expanding our mission to address the root causes of food insecurity. Today, Food Gatherers continues to embody the spirit of Thanksgiving every day of the year by sharing good food and good will and ensuring that there is a place at the table for all our neighbors.

Food Gatherers has developed a vast array of partnerships to fight hunger where we live! These partnerships include other non-profits, community centers, churches, healthcare facilities, schools, rehab and treatment programs, etc… Brown Chapel AME Church was one of Food Gatherers’ first partners and Pastor Jerry Hatter and Shirley Brown are pictured in the photo below. Brown Chapel AME Church serves a lunch and distributes groceries to the community every Friday! Brown Chapel AME is located at 1043 West Michigan Ave in Ypsilanti.

As we reflect on three decades of service, we invite you to share your gathering memories with us!

**How to Submit:**
Send your photos or stories via mail (1 Carrot Way Ann Arbor, MI 48105) or email them to: anniversary@foodgatherers.org

**Please Note:**
We want to share your stories and photos with the public. If you submit something, we will assume you give us permission to publish it on our web site, social media channels, or incorporate it into anniversary publications or presentations. Make sure to send us copies of one-of-a-kind things to protect your original keepsake.

**from the archives ...**
Former Food Gatherers’ staff person, Amy Small (right), delivering food to historic Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Ypsilanti in the fall of 1991. Next to her are Pastor Jerry Hatter (left) and longtime food coordinator, Shirley Brown (center). Brown Chapel was one of our first partners. They still host a weekly hot meal and food distribution on Fridays.
Last year, Food Gatherers collaborated with all of you (170 partner programs) to distribute 6.5 million pounds of food—an amount equivalent to 5.4 million meals! Partners included food pantries, food distributions, residential programs, soup kitchens, schools, housing sites, and many others.

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

Our annual report from fiscal year 2016-2017 is shown below. Last year, Food Gatherers provided $10,625,055 in support to all our partner programs. Our support included food delivery, training and cash grants. The cost to our partners for these services is less than 2% of the total value of the support we provide to them.

### Alleviating Hunger

Last year, Food Gatherers collaborated with 170 partner programs to distribute 6.5 million pounds of food—an amount equivalent to 5.4 million meals. Partners included food pantries, food distributions, residential programs, soup kitchens, schools, housing sites, and many others.

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### Food Gatherers’ Direct Services

- **Healthy School Pantry Program** distributed 180,000 pounds of fresh produce to 450 families, including 1000 children, across 13 schools.
- **Food Gatherers Community Kitchen** served 74,613 plates of food at the homeless shelter.
- **Summer Food Service Program** served 33,118 meals to children at 37 sites.

### Referrals & Outreach

- Reached nearly 14,000 visitors through our Need Food web page.
- Distributed more than 2,600 Need Food flyers in 5 different languages.

### Connecting the Dots Between Food & Health

#### Healthy Pantry Conversion Project
We helped 6 partners update their pantries or distributions to promote healthy foods during this project’s second year.

#### CookStars: Nutrition Ambassador Training Program
We provided training on nutrition and culinary arts to prepare 11 agencies to give taste tests and demonstrate recipes to guests on site.

#### Fresh Produce Conversion Program
Volunteers peeled, chopped and bagged hardy vegetables and distributed the ready-to-cook produce through our network to make it easier for individuals to prepare and eat vegetables at home.
Doing More, Saving More, Eating Better

Doubling Efforts with Volunteers
More than 6,700 volunteers packaged food, distributed food, and served meals. They provided nearly 68,000 hours of service valued at approximately $1.6 million dollars.*
Our volunteers contributed the equivalent of 33 additional full-time staff in the year—effectively doubling our staff workforce.

Eating More Veggies
Seventy percent of families participating in our Healthy School Pantry Program report that receiving the monthly box of fresh produce helps them eat more fresh fruits and vegetables.

* Source: www.independentsector.org/resource/the-value-of-volunteer-time/

Rescuing Good Food
We distributed a total of 6,499,487 pounds of food last year. Nearly half of that—2,821,996 pounds, or 43.4%—was food we received from our Food Rescue Program.

Truckin’ Year-Round
Our truck drivers completed 10-11 food runs per day to rescue and distribute food to our partner agencies. That comes to 57 runs per week, 52 weeks per year.

REVENUE

Donated Goods & Services 69.6%

Contributions 16.2%

Grants 8.3%

Special Events 4%

Food Bank Sales 1.6%

Other <1%

TOTAL REVENUE = $13,721,640

EXPENSES

Food Rescue, Food Purchases & Distribution 91.9%

Other <1%

General & Administrative 2.7%

Community Kitchen & Job Training Program 3.2%

Program Services
Food Rescue, Food Purchases & Distribution $12,597,483
Community Kitchen $409,647
Job Training Program $40,963

Supporting Services
General & Administrative $374,409
Fundraising $281,206
Other $1,447

TOTAL EXPENSES = $13,705,155

Upcoming Events

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive
What? A national food drive organized by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Americans participate by leaving a sturdy bag of non-perishable foods next to their mailboxes.
The nation’s 210,000 letter carriers collect donations and deliver them to local hunger-relief organizations, including Food Gatherers!
When? Second Saturday in May (May 12th, 2018)

see test & treat
What? St. Joseph Mercy Health System Women’s Health Center (5320 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48197)
FREE services provided: Cervical cancer screening, (Pap test), ages 21 – 64, HPV test, Breast exam, Mammogram, ages 40 – 64
For more information, call 734-712-7881 or visit stjoeshealth.org/see-test-treat
When? Saturday, April 14 | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Made with love by the Community Food Programs Department

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CFP Interns

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