BY THE NUMBERS
Fighting hunger during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic created a “perfect storm” of increased demand for food, declines in donated food, and significant disruptions to volunteer programs, distribution methods, and other core aspects of the Food Gatherers operating model. Together with our community partners, we changed our distribution model to follow public health guidelines, distributed record amounts of food in Washtenaw County, and provided extra resources to areas of our community that have been disproportionately impacted by the health and economic consequences of the pandemic. Here is what we have accomplished together.

Up to 300% more visits
Since March, our partner pantries have reported a 30-300% increase in people seeking assistance.

Targeted support
Food Gatherers distributed cash grants to 15 partner agencies to support their food distributions amid the pandemic. Agencies were based in the Ypsilanti area, which has been hardest hit by the pandemic.

Record high distributions
From April-June, Food Gatherers had three consecutive record-breaking distributions, a 27% increase over an average month.

2.8 Million
Food Gatherers distributed more than 2.8 million pounds of food to our network from March-June.

58%
Of food distributed was fresh produce or protein.

10,454 plates
Food Gatherers’ Community Kitchen served 10,454 takeaway meals to shelter residents and anyone in need in March, April and May of 2020.

Michigan Medicine Food Drive
Since March, Michigan Medicine has collected more than 22,600 pounds of nonperishable food and toiletries for Food Gatherers.

40%
Of visitors had never used a food pantry before.