Pinelake Village Cooperative

Pinelake Village Cooperative was built in 1974 and the property is managed by Huntington Management alongside a board of directors. Housing in Ann Arbor can be very costly, but the rent at Pinelake is based on one’s income so it is affordable living for all! The apartments are in the Ann Arbor school district and they offer after school programming for children living there as well as other community programs.

About three years ago, Pinelake Village Cooperative began partnering with Food Gatherers to provide lunches to children during the summer months when the kids are not receiving a meal at school. The program is called the Summer Food Service Program and it provides free meals to kids along with fun and engaging activities for the kids to participate in!

Then a year later, Pinelake started up a grocery program for their residents to help supplement their residents’ SNAP benefits and grocery bills each month. Their grocery distribution is on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 4-6pm and is available to all 129 units at Pinelake Village. Currently, about 120 individuals are participating in the grocery distribution each month.

In addition to the food resources provided to families, Pinelake organizes annual events for their residents to participate in such as Family Fun Day. At these events, there is good food, school supplies and backpacks for kids, and other community resources available such as healthcare services. Pinelake Village is proud to provide affordable housing and supportive services to all their residents.
Tell me how you first got involved with working at Pinelake?
I've been in the property management industry for over 30 years, but in the past I have worked for market rate communities. About four years ago, I switched to working in affordable housing communities and I will be celebrating my four year anniversary on July 1st.

What is the best part about running a food distribution for the residents of Pinelake?
Just how happy it makes our residents to have this resource for groceries. I enjoy seeing the kids smiling faces and the joy our single mothers feel to have this support. I have seen mothers just cry with joy that they can get such a variety of groceries right where they live. It makes me so happy to know that we can support our community when they run low on SNAP at the end of each month.

Have you worked with a resident that you have noticed has more economic stability now that they have access to the Pinelake food distribution?
Some of the single mothers here run out of their SNAP food assistance before the end of the month and they didn’t know how they would be able to feed their kids. However, now they can budget their SNAP benefits around the security of the food distribution and free summer meals to make ends meet throughout the entire month and all year round. They know the food distribution will always be there for them and their kids are no longer hungry. In addition to the positive change this food has made in an individual's life, I have also seen a positive impact on our community as a whole. Our community is helping each other and assisting our elderly and disabled residents by bringing their groceries back to their apartment for them.

What would your advice be for another residential complex who would like to start a partnership with Food Gatherers?
Make sure your residents are interested in this and line up some good volunteer help ahead of time. People may not realize how much work it is to hold a food distribution. A lot is involved from receiving the Food Gatherers delivery, to sorting the food and getting organized and ultimately distributing food while managing the sign in sheet.

Do you have a role model in life? Who is it and why do you look up to them?
My mom; she did it all on her own and raised 5 kids who all went to college. My mom will be 80 years old in September and she is still going strong! I learned at a young age that being a woman doesn't hold you back in life. When I was ten years old my mother was a single parent and worked her way up in the property management field in order to make a life for herself and her family.

What might we find you doing outside of work?
Reading, listening to music, fishing and watching football. I’m a huge Buckeyes fan!

Why do you do all the extra work you do to support your residential community?
Because we love this community and we want to see everyone exceed and be healthy and happy. These kids are our future.
What’s New This Summer?

Food Gatherers' Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) addresses the significant rise in child hunger that occurs when low-income children do not receive free or reduced-price meals at school because of summer vacation. Food Gatherers has sponsored SFSP in our community since 2009.

The 2019 SFSP will host 37 strategically located meal sites (primarily Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Whitmore Lake) serving two meals daily, Monday – Friday, along with other activities and programming. Sites are chosen for their accessibility — either proximity to low-income children or an established children’s summer program in a community program or church. At each site, the meals are served by the host site staff or volunteers.

New in this year, Food Gatherers will pilot a mobile summer food program to reach high-need areas where we have been unable to secure site partners and the existing SFSP sites are too far away for the children to access. In this program, the summer food will be delivered twice daily (lunch and an afternoon snack) at scheduled times by a paid intern and a volunteer who will serve the food, clean up, and leave for the next scheduled stop. We will have three mobile summer food sites in 2019.

More Information About the Summer Food Service Program

Please call Food Gatherers at (734) 761-2796, or email LeRonica Roberts, Community Food Programs Coordinator, at summerfood@foodgatherers.org.

Finding a free summer meals site is easy. Here’s how:

List of participating sites on website: www.foodgatherers.org/summerfood
Use your phone: Text FOOD to 877-877 to find a site near you
Map it online: Go to http://www.mcri.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition/ to find a site online
Call for details: Call 1-866-3HUNGRY to find a site and learn more

Harvest Hints

Patriotic Summer Foods

This summer we’re challenging you to increase your colorful food intake! Make your summer party fun and festive by offering nutritious and delicious red, white, and blue fruits and vegetables.

Colorful produce has a variety of healthy vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that will help you feel great all summer long. Use a combination of the fruits and veggies listed below to increase your nutrient intake and make your parties more festive. Try adding some of these colorful produce items to fruit platters, pies, grilled veggies, or as pizza toppings. We hope you have a happy and healthy summer, now let the patriotic feasting begin!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RED</th>
<th>WHITE</th>
<th>BLUE/PURPLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRUITS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherries</td>
<td>Bananas</td>
<td>Blackberries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raspberries</td>
<td>Apples</td>
<td>Blueberries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strawberries</td>
<td>Pears</td>
<td>Black grapes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watermelon</td>
<td>White peaches</td>
<td>Plums</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pomegranate</td>
<td>White nectarines</td>
<td>Figs</td>
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<tr>
<td>VEGGIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beets</td>
<td>Cauliflower</td>
<td>Eggplant</td>
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<td>Radishes</td>
<td>Jicama</td>
<td>Purple cabbage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red bell peppers</td>
<td>Mushrooms</td>
<td>Purple carrots</td>
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<td>Red onions</td>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>Purple potatoes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>White corn</td>
<td>Purple cauliflow</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Parsnips</td>
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Join us for our 30th annual Grillin' event - a "picnic with a purpose" supporting the fight against hunger where we live!

**WHEN:** Sunday, June 9, 2019, 3 - 8 pm

**WHERE:** Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**WHAT:** Live music from George Bedard & the Kingpins, Hullabaloo, Amy Petty, and Abigail Stauffer; amazing food from dozens of local restaurants; cash bar featuring MI microbrews and wines; raffle and silent auction; kids' activities hosted by the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum; complimentary massages by by Body Wisdom Massage, and much more!

**PRICE:** $75 in advance for adults age 14+ ($85 at the door), $10 for children ages 3-13, children 2 and under free.

Ticket sales, volunteer sign-up, and additional information are available on our webpage:  
[www.foodgatherers.org/grillin](http://www.foodgatherers.org/grillin)

If you'd like to pay by cash or check, please bring it in or mail it to Food Gatherers. Checks can be made out to "Food Gatherers."

- To pay with a check, make it out to Food Gatherers (write "Grillin' tickets" in the memo field), and mail to PO Box 7971, Ann Arbor MI 48107-7971

- To pay with a credit card over the phone, call 734-761-2796
I Carrot Way  
Ann Arbor, MI, 48105  
www.foodgatherers.org  
734-761-2796  
info@foodgatherers.org

Made with love by the Community Food Programs Department

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