

PLENTY

Winter 2018

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

food gatherers[®]

fighting hunger where we live



Celebrating our 30th Anniversary of fighting hunger where we live!

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 that were often operating out of ill-equipped basements with only volunteer staff.

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.

We include our most recent annual report in this newsletter, highlighting how we have grown and the important role we play in Washtenaw County. Since our inception in 1988, Food Gatherers has evolved to become the largest private, anti-hunger organization in our community. In addition to our ongoing food rescue efforts, we ensure that our community has access to food from critical federal programs like commodities from USDA and the Summer Food Service Program. Further, we are continually working to address emerging needs in our community. Examples of this include creating and managing

In celebration of our 30th anniversary, Harold and Kay Peplaw will be matching all donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 during the month of March!

Find more information on the back page.

programs like the Community Kitchen inside the Ann Arbor homeless shelter and coordinating produce distribution programs in elementary schools with the highest rates of food insecurity.

We support our partner non-profits in many ways. We have significantly invested in their capacity through grants of cash and equipment. This support has allowed them to host client-choice pantries that offer an abundance of fresh produce and protein. Every dollar an agency saves on food enables them to devote more resources to addressing the root causes of hunger like homelessness or unemployment.

As we reflect on three decades of service, we invite you to share your gathering memories with us. Please see the back page for more information.

We look forward to hearing from you and gathering more goodness in the months and years ahead!



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.

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2016-2017

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.

Last year, we provided
\$10,625,055
in support to 170 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.



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.

“Wow! This past year, Food Gatherers has provided food, cash grants, and trainings valued in excess of \$1,000,000. All at no cost to our agency! It is incredible how much the impact has grown. Even the seemingly little things like deliveries showing up on time and with all the ordered items has been nearly perfect for the near 10 years that I have been affiliated with doing food program work. I can count on one hand the number of times that there was an issue in the past 10 years and all of those issues were immediately addressed. That high-quality service is nearly impossible to find anywhere else. The number of times that Staples botched my orders in the past month alone easily surpasses it. Suffice to say, thank you for being an amazing partner.”

— Derrick Miller, Executive Director, Community Action Network, one of Food Gatherers' many partners.



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.

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



TOTAL REVENUE = \$13,721,640

Contributions.....	\$2,223,858
Grants.....	\$1,141,863
Special Events.....	\$561,841
Donated Goods & Services	
<i>Primarily perishable food</i>	\$9,550,397
Food Bank Sales	
<i>Our partner programs receive purchased food for a fraction of the retail price</i>	\$228,928
Other Revenue.....	\$9,991
Interest Income	\$4,762

EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENSES = \$13,705,155

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



The Peplav's 30th Anniversary Match

Now through March 31st, your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar thanks to a generous gift made by Harold and Kay Peplav.

During the Anniversary Match, your gift will have twice the impact on alleviating hunger in Washtenaw County by helping our neighbors struggling with food insecurity.

Be a part of this special opportunity! Your generous support has made all our years of work possible. Let's keep it going together. Make a gift now as we gear up for a year of celebration.

Thank you for reflecting on what 30 years of Food Gatherers means to the community and our neighbors facing hunger.

Share Your Food Gatherers Memories

How to Submit

Send your photos or stories in the envelope provided or email them to:

anniversary@foodgatherers.org

Send copies of one-of-a-kind things to protect your original keepsake.

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.

Food Gatherers Board of Directors

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Business Manager (retired), UPS

Listing includes voting board members current through 6/30/2018.

Upcoming Events



Rotary Fights Summer Hunger Monday, March 5–Friday, March 16

Contribute to the community-wide food and fund drive hosted by the Rotary Clubs of Ann Arbor, Dexter, Saline, and Ypsilanti. Your donations will provide meals to school children who need food assistance throughout the summer. More than 80 local businesses and organizations will have collection sites. For more information, go to: www.foodgatherers.org/rotary

Stamp Out Hunger®

Saturday, May 12

Stamp Out Hunger® is the nation's largest single-day food drive sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers. For details, ask your letter carrier, visit twitter.com/StampOutHunger or go to stampouthungerfooddrive.us/

Grillin' for Food Gatherers

Sunday, June 10

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

Join us for our annual Grillin' fundraiser! Enjoy a meal hot off the grill, side dishes, drinks, and desserts from more than fifty local restaurants. Live music, a silent auction, a raffle, and kids activities round out the festivities. Your ticket purchase will provide the equivalent of 150 meals to neighbors who need food.



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