

PLENTY

— fall 2014

food gatherers
fighting hunger where we live



Community Kitchen volunteers who prepared and served our one millionth meal in February, celebrated with Food Gatherers Community Kitchen Coordinator, Paula Dana and Chief Operating Officer, Missy Orge.

The community kitchen

Until the truck rolls in to Food Gatherers Community Kitchen, the staff never knows exactly what's on the menu for the week. Fortunately, they are savvy chefs when it comes to creating tasty, nutritious meals from rescued food.

The Community Kitchen is Food Gatherers' front line in the battle against hunger. Since we dished up our first plate of food in 2003, we've served more than one million meals to the people who need it most.

Located within the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County's Delonis Center, in downtown Ann Arbor, the kitchen is operated by two full-time Food Gatherers' staff members, Paula Dana and Scott Roubeck and nearly 1,500 wonderful volunteers. We serve free meals to anyone who needs one, seven days a week. Like all the food we distribute, we maximize nutrition, with healthy portions of produce and protein. One meal guest recently commented, "They feed you very well here, and they make you feel like you're someone. The volunteers, staff, everyone." Volunteers with restaurant experience also often remark that we run the cleanest and safest kitchen they've ever seen.

But don't take our word for it, you should see the operation yourself! If you'd like to volunteer to help at the Community Kitchen go to www.foodgatherers.org/volunteer.

why "plenty?"

Our very first gatherers chose to call the Food Gatherers newsletter

Plenty because, in this country, food is plentiful. The coordinated rescue and distribution of that "plenty" is what drives Food Gatherers' mission, to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes.

Fortunately, Food Gatherers succeeds because there is also **plenty** of good will, enthusiasm and determination to help those who struggle in our community. We know that you are committed to making a difference in the fight against hunger. Together, we will make "plenty" a reality for everyone.

from the president

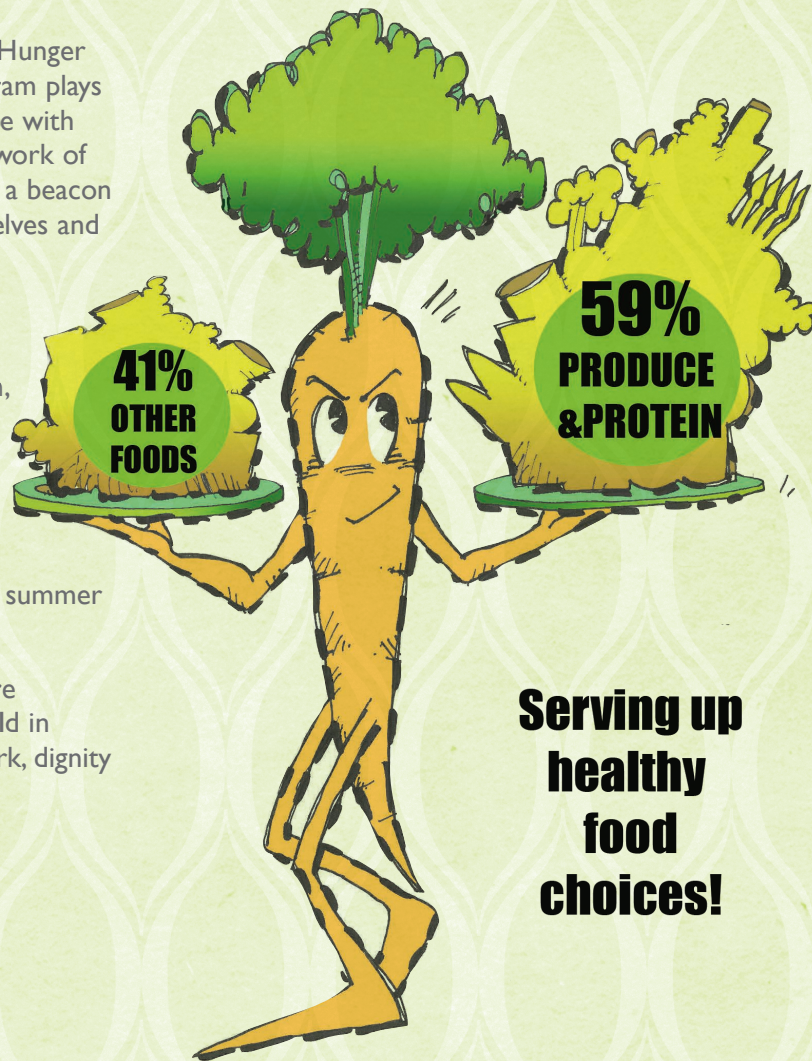
The August release of the Feeding America study, Hunger in America 2014, shows the critical role our program plays on a daily basis for the 44,500 people who struggle with hunger in Washtenaw County. Each week our network of food pantries and meal service programs serve as a beacon of hope to 5,100 people who look to feed themselves and their families.

This news comes on the heels of a remarkable year. Food Gatherers turned twenty-five, served our one millionth meal at the Community Kitchen, and received our tenth consecutive four-star rating by Charity Navigator! With your support, we exceeded all the tough food and nutrition distribution goals that we'd set for ourselves, and we significantly expanded our programs serving children through our school pantry, backpack, and summer meal programs.

With strategic planning set to begin this fall, we are envisioning the next 25 years gathering and a world in which all people have food, shelter, meaningful work, dignity and freedom.

Gathering with you,


Eileen Spring
President/CEO



**Serving up
healthy
food
choices!**



Our space just got a lot cooler!

Last winter, we finished our 12,775 square feet warehouse expansion, and we are already seeing the impact on our operations. The increased cold storage allows us to more effectively receive and store fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy. It's a big part of the reason that we'll be able to sustain the great ratios of produce and protein that you see above. Our deepest thanks to all the folks who supported this campaign!



FISCAL YEAR 2014

highlights

Your gift helped:

- Serve 35,000 meals and snacks to children as part of our Summer Food Service Program, which grew from 6 to 21 sites this summer. Nutrition was of particular importance to this program with most sites adding fresh fruit to their meals, and some distributed free, fresh produce boxes to families.
- Provide breakfast to an additional 150 people seeking shelter at the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County's emergency warming center for three months during an especially cold and long winter.
- Engage 5,037 different people in volunteer projects, accounting for 68,578 hours of time valued at \$1,517,631.
- Thirteen at-risk youth graduate from Food Gatherers' Job Training Program at the Community Kitchen. Food Gatherers has provided more than 50 six to eight week paid internships to graduates of this program since 2007.
- Give more than \$342,018 in the form of food purchasing credits to our partner non-profit programs. While 83% of our total food distribution is at no cost to partner programs, credits help our partners purchase items such as meat, dairy, baby food or Ensure.



Food Gatherers' sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency earned us another 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator! **This is the tenth consecutive year that Food Gatherers has earned this top rating, placing it among the elite 1% of charities to receive this distinction.**

messages from the front line

Our Roots Run Deep

"Probably about 50 families or individuals per month come here to shop in our open-choice pantry... Other than a once a month distribution here in Manchester we're really only the only place that offers food for families and individuals," said Laura Seyfried, Director of Manchester Community Resource Center (CRC). The Manchester CRC is just one of 150 partner programs that Food Gatherers works with to distribute food to rural communities struggling with hunger.

"I was reminded about Food Gatherers' carrot symbol, which I love... and I really felt like the carrots have their roots here in this Manchester area, and the Community Resource Center is really the tip of the root. So I feel like we're connected. It may be far out, but we're still connected."



"Without Food Gatherers, we wouldn't have as much fresh produce throughout the year, and definitely we

wouldn't have the frozen items, like meats, we wouldn't have the selection of breads, really, a lot of the basic things."

See the whole video at www.foodgatherers.org!

The Potato of Love

From: M.B.

Date: Wed, Jun 25, 2014 at 8:14 PM

Subject: Small miracles

To: Eileen Spring, eileen@foodgatherers.org

Hello Eileen,



I live at Chidester Place in Ypsilanti. Once a month, last Tuesday of the month, the big white Food Gatherers truck backs into our loading dock. Yesterday, among other things, I got a 10 lb. bag of potatoes. Ordinarily, I don't take pictures of potatoes, but it's not every day that I see one that is heart-shaped!!

Please consider this my small way of thanking you and all the staff and volunteers at Food Gatherers for the good you do. You have put food on my table more times than I can count.

Thanks again!!!

Peace out,
M. B.

This excerpt was taken from an email sent to Eileen Spring, President/CEO, from a food recipient.

upcoming events



Put on your cape and manifest yourself at Zingerman's Cornman Farms, dance like a demon and sink your fangs into a gala of good food prepared by Zingerman's Roadhouse! All funds from the event benefit Food Gatherers' Community Kitchen & Job Training Program, which provides low-income & at-risk youth with instruction in culinary skills, food safety, work ethics and life skills! Call (734) 761-2796 for details.



Busch's Season of Sharing, November 17-26:

Give a cash or food donation of any amount while in Busch's Fresh Food Market stores. In addition, pre-assembled bags of non-perishable food and vouchers representing perishable items like meat and produce can be purchased for \$5-\$10. All donations made in Washtenaw County go to Food Gatherers.



December 3-7:

Our largest outdoor food & fund drive, at Kroger Stores in Washtenaw County and broadcast live on Ann Arbor's 107one FM. Thanks to a generous match by Irene Fast, financial donations will be matched up to \$50,000 during the drive!



www.facebook.com/foodgatherers



www.twitter.com/CarlSuperCarrot



www.instagram.com/foodgatherers

Now it's your turn!

Send your questions and comments to:
info@foodgatherers.org.