New Year, New Healthy You?

Eating a healthier diet is among the most common resolutions as the calendar turns to January. At Food Gatherers, fighting hunger means more than filling our neighbors’ plates. Year-round, we are committed to making sure they are not just fed, but nourished with fresh, healthy food.

Manager at Food Gatherers. “We adopted a Nutrition Policy in 2019 and the new HER ranking system enables us to track our inventory in real-time to ensure we are living up to our high standards”.

Access to health-affirming, nutritious food is critical to reducing the risk of chronic diseases including obesity, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.

At Avalon Housing — a member of Food Gatherers’ hunger-relief network providing permanently affordable, supportive housing — residents feel the impact of nutritious food deliveries.

An older resident with diabetes and other medical needs began using our food pantry as soon as he moved in with us. Since then, he regularly comes to staff to discuss the ‘beautiful and delicious meals’ he is preparing with the food he was able to obtain through Food Gatherers.

He has identified a decrease in medical events since moving in and frequently talks about how he is eating better every day.

Scott Maurmann
Adult Services Team Lead
Avalon Housing

“When someone picks up food from their local pantry, they are getting more than a full cupboard. It’s good health,” says Shaira. “By prioritizing healthful food, we can help build long-lasting, sustainable change for a healthier future for our neighbors in Washtenaw County.”

Learn more about Food Gatherers’ commitment to distributing good food on our “How It Works” webpage.

We prioritize distributing vegetables, fruits, lean meats, low-fat dairy products, and whole grains through our network of 170 hunger-relief partners. In September 2021, Food Gatherers received a grant award from Partnership for a Healthier America to implement a comprehensive nutrition ranking system over a two-year period using the Healthy Eating Research (HER) Nutrition Guidelines.

Last year, we applied the nutrition values to 94% of the total pounds of food that came through our warehouse. More than 50% of our total pounds received a rank of “green” or “choose often”, indicating that the food is supportive of good health.

“We recognize the relationship between food insecurity and poor health,” says Shaira Daya, Nutrition Projects Manager at Food Gatherers.

Shaira Daya is the Nutrition Projects Manager at Food Gatherers helping implement the new HER nutrition system.

Inside this report:

- Distribution facts
- Revenue and expenses
- Direct services
- And more...

Donate now to help families access reliable, nutritious food in 2023 and beyond: FoodGatherers.org/WNL23
We are excited to share the impact of our community’s incredible commitment to alleviating hunger and eliminating its causes. In fiscal year 2022, with the support of generous friends like you, Food Gatherers and our network of 170 hunger-relief partners provided 6 million meals to our neighbors facing food insecurity.

More than half of the food we distributed was donated (51%) through individual donors, food drives, farms and gardens, restaurants, and our retail food rescue program. We also received food through federal resources (33%) and leveraged our financial power to purchase food in bulk (16%).

Food Gatherers Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2022: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

More than 29,000 visits to our Find Food webpage. 11,260 Find Food flyers distributed in six languages. Staff answered 350 Find Food calls, connecting neighbors with the best services for them.

More than 2,582 volunteers donated 44,002.5 hours of service to inspect, sort, prepare, and distribute groceries and meals.

Counting every person in every household, each time they received services, we served 830,000 people – enough to fill U-M Stadium more than seven times!

Food Gatherers Community Kitchen served 61,836 plates of food.

The Healthy School Pantry Program distributed 108,400 pounds of fresh produce and groceries to 300 families per month at 12 schools.

The Summer Food Service Program (2021) served 55,520 meals and snacks to 931 children at 22 sites.

The equivalent of 17,000 meals per day

Kids enjoy free meals during the summer.

*The equivalent of 17,000 meals per day

27%
FRESH PRODUCE
33%
PROTEIN
40%
OTHER

Total distributed: 7.3 million pounds of food

Donated foods and services 63.61%
Contributions 23.97%
Grants 8.85%
Food bank sales 1.15%
Special events 2.36%

Other 0.06%

Community Kitchen 3.2%
General and administrative 2.5%
Fundraising 3.2%
Summer Food Service Program 2%

Food rescue and distribution 99.1%

Program Impact

Referred and Outreach

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Working Together

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Board of Directors

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Carla O’Connor, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan School of Education; Director, University of Michigan Wolverine Pathways
David Rhoades, Vice President, Digital Operations, Dawn Foods

Revenue

Total revenue: $17,670,705

Donated foods and services $11,603,410
Contributions $4,373,109
Grants $1,613,735
Special events $431,343

Other revenue

Food bank sales $209,377
Investment income ($570,802)
Other $10,533

Expenses

Total expenses: $17,562,913

Program services

Food rescue and distribution $15,653,708
Community Kitchen $565,086
Summer Food Service Program $352,368

Core mission support

Fundraising $561,466
General and administrative $430,285

Program services

Food rescue and distribution
Community Kitchen
Food rescue and distribution
The Healthy School Pantry Program
The Summer Food Service Program

Contributions

Donated foods and services
Grants
Food bank sales
Special events

Other revenue

Food bank sales
Investment income
Other
In January, Food Gatherers nominated Howard and Jeanette Pettygrue for the Beacon of Light Award. Howard and Jeanette have run the Word of Deliverance pantry faithfully for years. They have gone above and beyond by delivering groceries to neighbors who can’t come to them and have even purchased other items the family may need. Howard and Jeanette have helped people displaced by fire, domestic violence survivors, people discharged from the hospital with no plan in place for food, and many others in crisis.

When Food Gatherers calls on behalf of someone in need, they always say “just tell us when and where, and we’ll be there”. We are in awe of their responsiveness and compassionate care for our community!

In November, we recently secured an $85,000 TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grant on behalf of our partner agencies Aid in Milan and the Manchester Community Resource Center. Both serve areas in the county where residents do not have access to public transportation.

By helping our partners extend homebound delivery and pop-up distributions, we will increase food access for rural communities. Aid in Milan used the funding to purchase a delivery van to expand services in the Milan and Manchester area.

“We believe that access to fresh and healthy food is for everyone, whether they can drive to us or not and the grant will allow us to expand our food pantry programs further into the community.” - Aid in Milan

Food Gatherers is committed to sound fiscal management, accountability, and transparency. For the 18th year in a row, Food Gatherers received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, putting us in the top 1% of charities nationwide. We also earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar. You can view all our annual reports, 990 forms, and audited financial statements on our website.

Upcoming Events

**Rotary Fights Child Hunger**
March 6-17, 2023
Annual food and fund drive hosted by local Rotary clubs.
To learn more visit FoodGatherers.org/Rotary.

**Stamp Out Hunger**
Saturday, May 13, 2023
The nation’s largest one-day food drive is sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Look for details in your mailbox!