



The Daily Gatherer



More than 26 million pounds of food rescued since 1988!

Volume 4 Issue 2

Autumn 2006

Food Gatherers

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Todd Phillips, Food Runner

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Community Partner Spotlight: Pfizer Global Research & Development



Our friends at Pfizer Global Research & Development Ann Arbor Laboratories are committed to the fight against hunger in our community! Pfizer's community partnership with Food Gatherers goes well beyond their generous donation of volunteer hours and corporate support of programs. From the Purchasing Department braving the cold at Rockin' for the Hungry, Cardiovascular Pharmacology's annual food drive, The United Way Day of Caring in September, the Pfizer Asian Network's help at the warehouse to shifts at the Community Kitchen, our neighbors at Pfizer can be seen lending a hand in just about every corner of Food Gatherers.

Pfizer annually recognizes *National Hunger Awareness Day* (the 1st Tuesday in June) at its Plymouth Road facility. Planned and coordinated by Pfizer employee Tina Waibel and the Procurement Department, two weeks of fundraising and informational events call attention to the problem of hunger in America and local food rescue efforts.



For the third year in a row, Food Gatherers has received a *Pfizer Community Grant* in support of *Project Protein: Improving the Health and Wellness of Washtenaw County's Most Vulnerable People* - specifically low-income seniors and children, individuals with health issues including HIV/AIDS and the homeless. The \$25,000 grant enables Food Gatherers to purchase and distribute thousands of servings of high protein food such as: milk, tuna, peanut butter, meat and nutritional supplements. Grant funds are also being used to improve the nutritional content of free meals served at the Community Kitchen.

Thank you, Pfizer, for helping fight hunger where we live!



The First Annual Historian Vampire Dinner

"A Bloody Good Fundraiser for Food Gatherers"

Join us for this fearful feast and don't forget your black capes!

Zingerman's Roadhouse will host author Elizabeth Kostova for a benefit dinner and reading to celebrate the paperback release of her bestselling novel about vampires, *The Historian*. Charting the vampire's journey in the novel, Chef Alex Young will leave behind the restaurant's all-American menu and embark on a five-course culinary tour of Eastern Europe.

Date: Wednesday, November 1st

Time: 6:30 p.m. - Cocktails and Mingling, 7:00 p.m. - Dinner and Reading

Location: Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor

Tickets: \$95 minimum donation (\$60 tax-deductible) Call us at 761-2796, or Zingerman's Roadhouse, 663-FOOD, to purchase tickets. *Costume optional.*

Hurry and purchase your tickets— seating is limited to 140 people. Best of all, proceeds from the event will benefit Food Gatherers. Don't worry – we'll supply plenty of garlic, mirrors, stakes and other repellents in case any real vampires show up!

** A little known fact: carrot seeds are said to keep vampires away!

Stamp Out Hunger !

On May 13th, 2006, the National Association of Letter Carriers went the extra mile in gathering non-perishable food for the 14th annual "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive. This year more than 35,400 pounds of food was collected for Food Gatherers-- enough food for 23,600 meals! Nationwide, more than 70.4 million pounds of food was collected in post offices and along postal routes.

Highlights of Fiscal Year 2005/2006



Dear Fellow Gatherer,

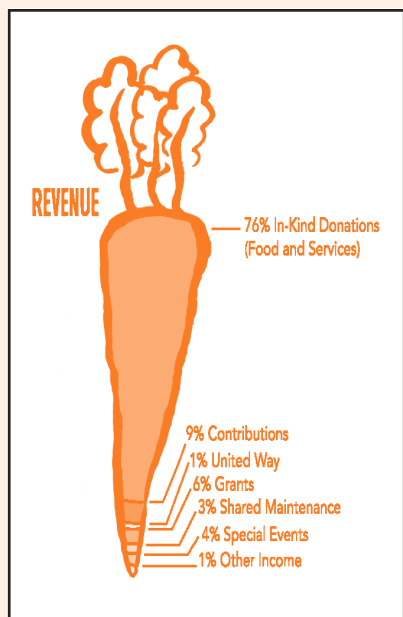
As I write from Food Gatherers' warehouse, I can see a bunch of kids eagerly waiting for the bus to pick them up and take them to their first day of school. This is the first fall season that Avalon's Carrot Way apartments are fully occupied. It gives me great pleasure to know that these kids will come home to a warm place and a good meal in their new home. Food Gatherers is proud to partner with organizations like Avalon Housing to make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. Each week, more than 5,500 individuals seek food assistance in Washtenaw County. Thanks to your support during the last fiscal year, Food Gatherers staff and volunteers distributed more than 3 million pounds of food to 150 non-profit programs.

I am pleased to share with you some additional highlights:

- ☞ During the last two years, Food Gatherers has dramatically increased its distribution of nutritious food. Fresh produce has increased by 46%; meat and seafood has increased by 100%!
- ☞ Food Gatherers' Community Kitchen, housed in the Robert J. Delonis Center, provided 94,008 meals to our neighbors in need. We added an additional job training class at the Community Kitchen. This summer, we graduated 11 students.
- ☞ In April 2006, we celebrated the completion of our capital campaign for the new warehouse and retired our mortgage!
- ☞ During the last fiscal year, Food Gatherers provided in-kind services valued at more than \$5,000,000!

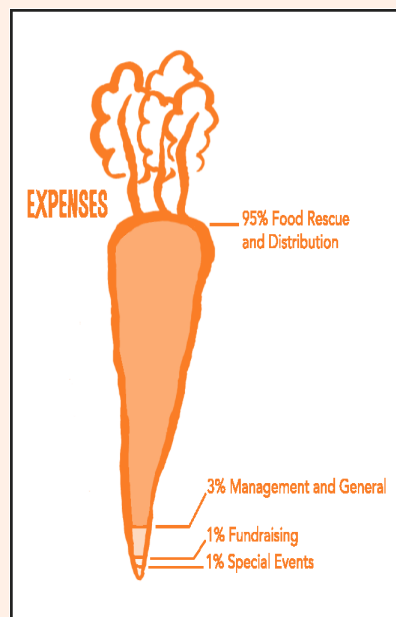
Thanks for gathering with us,

Eileen Spring
Executive Director



Revenue

In-kind donations (Food and Services)	\$4,513,430
Contributions	\$551,353
United Way	\$74,488
Grants	\$379,878
Special Events	\$223,542
Other Income	\$29,319
Total Revenue	\$5,772,003



Expenses

Food Rescue & Distribution	\$5,373,123
Management & General	\$153,824
Fundraising	\$84,298
Special Events	\$38,704
Total Expenses	\$5,649,949

For a copy of our most recent audit or information on our strategic plan, please call our office or email us at info@foodgatherers.org.

Volunteer Appreciation Party!

November 14th 5:30-7:30pm

Join us at the warehouse on Carrot Way for an informal get-together celebrating the people who really make Food Gatherers successful —our volunteers! Food and beverages provided—all you need to do is RSVP (call or email missy@foodgatherers.org).

Make a Match for Food Gatherers



You can double the value of your gift to Food Gatherers by checking with your employer to see if your business has a Matching Gifts Program. If so, your company may match your gift to us dollar-for-dollar. Simply obtain a matching gift form from your Personnel or Human Resources office, fill it out and send it in with your gift. We'll take care of the rest. Your dollars will go twice as far and that means more food for a neighbor in need!

Volunteers Needed:

Food Runners

Weekday mornings
or afternoons

Community Kitchen Helpers

Weekdays between
11:15am and 1:45pm

Weekdays from
3—5pm

Wish List

- € Money
- € Food Drives
- € Gas Cards
- € Frozen Turkeys
- € Gift Certificates for Food Businesses and Grocery Stores

New Graduates of the Culinary Arts Program!

On August 16th, Food Gatherers celebrated the successful completion of our 2nd and 3rd culinary arts training sessions. Graduation was held at the Ark, where the accomplishments of the 11 graduates were highlighted—including learning culinary and knife skills, job skills and mastering food safety and sanitation. We were joined by many well wishers, including some students from our first graduating class (Aug. 2005).

The graduates participated in a six-week job training program held in the Spring and Summer of 2006. On the first day of classes, Chef Ellen Moloney helped them make homemade pizza and pies, and just a few weeks later they were creating more complicated (and even more delicious!) dishes and showing off their practical skills in the creation of hearty recipes served at the Community Kitchen to our meal guests. The students also welcomed many guest instructors from area food businesses and embarked on field trips to locations such as Zingerman's Deli and the People's Food Co-Op. These activities introduced them to new opportunities, as well as new culinary experiences—on a field trip to the Farmer's Market, one student tasted blueberries for the first time ever! Some of the graduates have already begun classes at WCC, and others are finding rewarding work in the food service industry.



The graduates and instructors strike a pose.

We wish the graduates the best of luck, and will welcome new students to our next sessions planned for Spring and Summer 2007.

A Whole Lot of Grillin' Goin' On

Sunday, June 11th, at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds was a day filled with plenty of sunshine, rockin' good music, family fun and games and, of course, an array of fantastic food—all to support the fight against local hunger. Grillin' 2006 was the best ever raising more than \$163,000 to help end hunger and address its causes in Washtenaw County. Thank you to all our corporate sponsors, feast, ambiance and auction donors, our hardy and dedicated volunteers and especially our 1,200 guests who chose to share the afternoon with us.



Mark your calendars now for **Grillin' 2007** on Sunday, June 10th!

Special thanks to the Office of Community Development for their support of Food Gatherers' food rescue/food bank and community kitchen programs.



Plant A Row for the Hungry

It was another successful year for the Plant A Row (PAR) program in Washtenaw County! PAR was started in 1994 in Anchorage, AK and is nationally sponsored by the Garden Writers Association. Food Gatherers has partnered with *Growing Hope* on the PAR campaign for the last three years to provide healthy, nutritious food to our recipient agencies here in Washtenaw County. Thanks to dozens of generous gardeners, we have already received 10,142 pounds of fresh, local produce. We are well on our way to exceeding the 12,141 pounds donated in 2005. If you have a garden, please think of us when you start planting next Spring. We would love to share some of your harvest with local residents in need!



Join us at our annual outdoor food drive—



Rockin' For the Hungry 2006

December 6th-10th *Weds-Sat 7am-7pm, Sunday 10am-3pm*



Once again, Ann Arbor's 107one and Busch's will team up to hold the largest annual food drive benefiting Food Gatherers. Held in December each year, Rockin' helps us stock our shelves with food to be distributed throughout the winter to more than 150 non-profit programs in Washtenaw County.

Rockin' for the Hungry began more than a decade ago—growing each year to meet the increasing demand for food to feed our neighbors in need. Ann Arbor's 107one provides the music and broadcasts live from Busch's. More than 150 dedicated volunteers help with this outdoor event, providing information to shoppers and transporting food to the big truck parked nearby. Our goal: 107 tons of food!

Bring your nonperishable donations to Busch's on Main Street (at Ann Arbor-Saline Rd) or take advantage of in-store specials and pick up some extra items to donate. Meet and mingle with our friends from 107one!

Financial gifts (cash/check/credit card) to purchase food are also welcome. Just \$25 feeds 120 people!



WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

☛ If you'd like to hold a food drive at your school or business, please contact us for more info. Start planning now!

☛ If you'd like information on volunteering for this event, please call 734-761-2796 or contact missy@foodgatherers.org.

Food Gatherers

Located at: 1 Carrot Way
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Mail to: P.O. Box 131037
Ann Arbor, MI 48113

Donations: P.O. Box 7971
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Phone: 734-761-2796 Fax: 734-930-0550

Website: www.foodgatherers.org

E-mail: info@foodgatherers.org



Fighting Hunger Where We Live

Food Gatherers exists to eliminate hunger and its causes in Washtenaw County by: reducing food waste through the rescue and distribution of perishable and non perishable food; coordinating with other hunger relief providers; educating the public about hunger; and developing new food resources.

The [Daily Gatherer](#) is printed twice yearly.