

PLENTY

winter 2016

food gatherers®
fighting hunger where we live

MEMBER OF
FEEDING™
AMERICA

We LOVE Our Partner Programs

Food Gatherers works with more than 150 partner programs to distribute groceries or meals in the community. This network includes programs managed by Food Gatherers in partnership with other entities, such as the Healthy School Pantry Program at local schools, as well as traditional partner programs managed by non-profit organizations.

This past fall we were happy to recognize the leader of one of our non-profit partners, Laura Seyfried, director of the Community Resource Center (CRC) in Manchester, with The Food Bank Council of Michigan Beacon of Light Award. Food

Gatherers nominated Laura for this award which recognizes those who serve as a source of guidance or inspiration. Laura has been a compassionate leader and fierce advocate for her community. The Community Resource Center operates a choice pantry with daily hours, where clients can get groceries as well as baby supplies, personal care and household items. The CRC provides emergency financial assistance for utilities and rent, and also offers one-on-one application assistance for benefits like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps). The Manchester CRC is a wonderful resource for clients to get everything they need in one stop, and Food Gatherers is thrilled by all their great work in their community!

Your support of Food Gatherers helps provide food, training and resources for our network of partners, such as the Manchester Community Resource Center, to better serve their clients. Thank you!



From left to right: Markell Miller, Food Gatherers; CRC Director, Laura Seyfried; CRC board president, Anita Herman; and longtime CRC pantry volunteer, Louise Harrington.

Why
"Plenty?"

Our very first gatherers chose to call the Food Gatherers newsletter **Plenty** because we know there really is **plenty** of food for everybody. The problem isn't supply, but responsible use and distribution. **In a nation of plenty, no one should go hungry.**

Here at Food Gatherers, we rely on **plenty** of generosity and dedication to rescue food, deliver it to more than 150 partner programs, and serve the people who need it most. We can't do it alone! Together, with your commitment, volunteer work, and willingness to give, we can mobilize all available resources to fight hunger where we live.



From the President/CEO ~

The best part of working at Food Gatherers is actually not the food but the gathering together of amazing people who make Food Gatherers' work possible: our food donors, volunteers, agency partners, annual givers, our staff, and board. In this edition of *Plenty*, we spotlight a few of the people we are fortunate to gather with on a daily basis.

Harvey Glaze, Director of the Human Services Ministry at Ann Arbor Second Baptist Church, was one of the very first people I met when I started at Food Gatherers 21 years ago. He remains a source of ongoing inspiration for me and many others.

As a child, Harvey experienced hunger, and later, while serving in the military in post-war Germany, he was deeply moved by the people he witnessed pulling food from dumpsters to provide for themselves and their families. A graduate of Morehouse College, Harvey was inspired to lead a life of service by his idol and then college president, Dr. Benjamin E. Mays. After building his career in the food industry as a chef and co-owner of Haab's Restaurant in Ypsilanti, Harvey found his true calling in serving his hungry neighbors at Ann Arbor Second Baptist Church. He was handpicked for the role not only for his professional knowledge of food but for his warmth and genuine affinity for the people he serves.

Twenty-five years ago, about 12 people attended his food distribution; these days, Harvey will see 75-100 people at a distribution. As with most of our partner programs, nearly 95% of the food distributed at Ann Arbor Second Baptist comes from Food Gatherers; a healthy mix of fruits, vegetables, non-perishables, and protein are offered.

And it's because of Harvey and partners like Ann Arbor Second Baptist that Food Gatherers is able to connect those who have enough food with those who have too little food. Thanks to all of you who gather together to nourish our community.



Pictured center: Harvey Glaze, with volunteers from the Ann Arbor Second Baptist Church food program.



Gathering with you,

Eileen Spring
Eileen Spring
President/CEO

"It's because of Food Gatherers that we are able to take care of people," says Harvey.

Food Gatherers Food Security Plan 2015

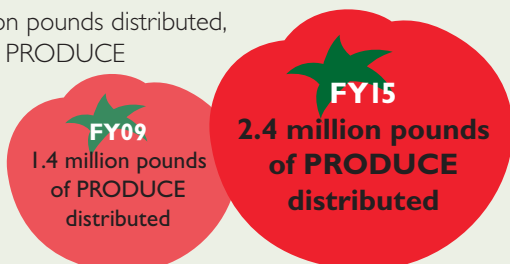
GOAL: Increase the quantity and quality of nutritious food available for people in need.

Strategy: Increase the purchase and donation of healthy foods through creative food procurement strategies.

Highlights: Produce pounds are up 76%.

FY09 4.6 million pounds distributed, 1.4 million was PRODUCE

FY15 6.1 million pounds distributed, 2.4 million was PRODUCE



GOAL: Strengthen partner agency capacity.

Strategy: Focus on strengthening the capacity of pantries to distribute produce and healthy foods, to increase their hours of service and to successfully refer clients for SNAP and other services.

Highlights: Percent of agency partners that provide FRESH PRODUCE: **FY08** 20% **FY14** 60%

Number of agency partners open for 8 hours or more per week:

FY08 10 agencies **FY14** 19 agencies

We also underwrote \$1.2 million in food purchasing credits, and awarded \$381,000 in capacity building grants for partner programs.

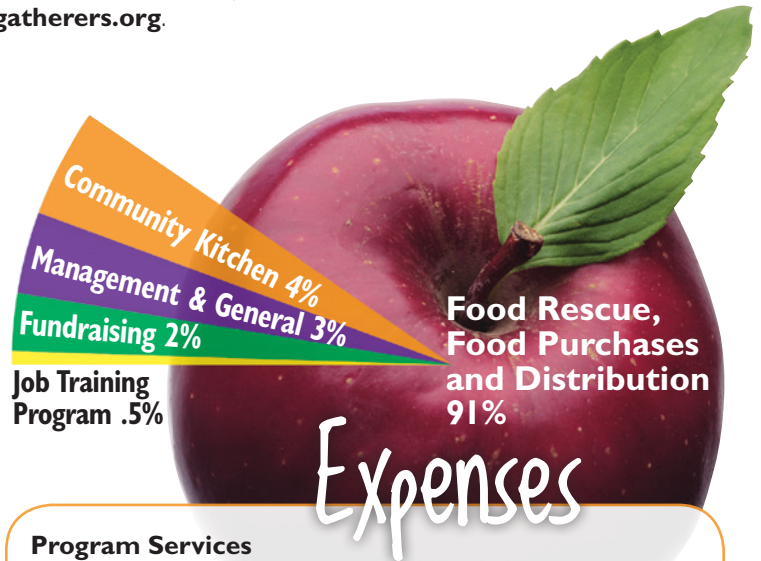
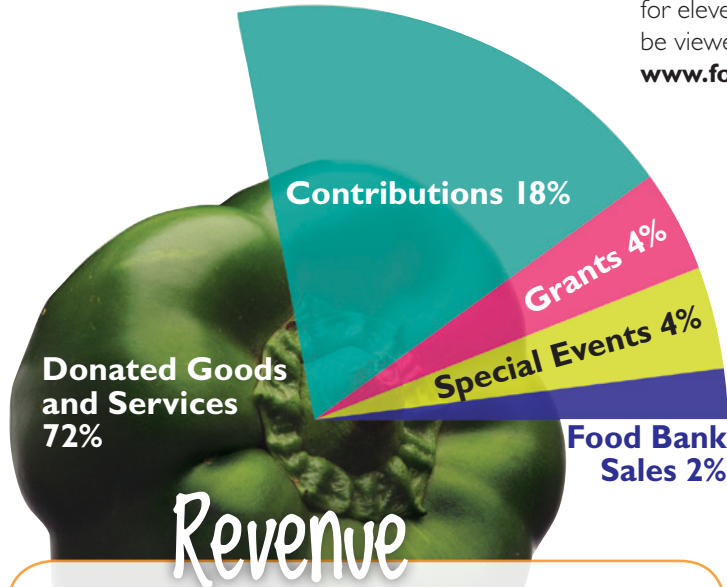


ANNUAL REPORT

Revenue and Expenses Fiscal Year 2015

7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015

Food Gatherers is committed to sound fiscal management, accountability and transparency. We're among the 1% of charities to be awarded a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's premier independent charity evaluator, for eleven consecutive years. Our full audited financial reports can always be viewed and downloaded directly from our website at www.foodgatherers.org.



Contributions	\$2,312,655
Grants.....	\$537,713
Special Events.....	\$451,395
Donated Goods and Services, primarily perishable food	\$9,011,608
Food Bank Sales (our partner programs receive purchased food for a fraction of the retail price)	\$247,385
Interest Income	\$5,912
Other Income.....	\$3,986
Total Revenue.....	\$12,570,654

Program Services	
Food Rescue, Food Purchases and Distribution	\$11,387,669
Community Kitchen	\$453,093
Job Training Program	\$45,926
Supporting Services	
Management & General.....	\$408,199
Fundraising.....	\$278,853
Disposal of Assets.....	\$4,200
Total Expenses.....	\$12,577,940
Decrease in Net Assets.....	\$(7,286)

In 2008, Food Gatherers conducted a local needs assessment and reviewed leading practices nationally to develop a Food Security Plan for Washtenaw County. The following goals and strategies were designed to respond to the urgent need for food assistance while investing in practices that maximize easy access to affordable and healthy foods for our low-income neighbors. Thanks to your support, here are highlights of our accomplishments through June 30, 2015:

GOAL: Optimize all aspects of the system to ensure maximum impact.

Strategy: Improve the efficiency and effectiveness in the hunger relief distribution system by engaging and educating partners in understanding the system and related community services.

Highlights: In coordination with the Office of Community and Economic Development, Food Gatherers expanded our role in leading the Summer Food Service Program. This USDA-funded program provides meals to kids in the summer when school is out.

FY10 5 sites



FY15 21 sites



GOAL: Advocate to influence policies that affect people who are hungry.

Strategy: Educate and engage the local community about the reality of food insecurity and resources needed. Advocate regarding food stamp access, policy changes and resources needed at the national, state and local levels.

Highlights: Continued our partnership with Feeding America and Food Council of Michigan to educate and advocate to the public.

Conducted training for partners on providing SNAP enrollment assistance.

FY09

30% offering SNAP assistance

SNAP

FY15

97% offering SNAP assistance

SNAP



Meet Fran Petonic, Food Gatherers' Board Chair and Vice President, Office of Development, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System

How did you first get involved with Food Gatherers?

I work at Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, a longtime partner with Food Gatherers and ally in improving the health of our community. While I have always worked in the non-profit sector, it was a particular honor when I was approached to join the board.

How do you help Food Gatherers fight hunger where we live?

As Chair of the Board of Directors at Food Gatherers, I have the privilege of working with 14 other dedicated members to govern and fiscally manage this organization. To me, providing board leadership means making a meaningful gift to the organization every year because its values are just right...serve Washtenaw County residents with dignity, be creative and make it happen. They have a great mix of taking a serious issue, hunger in our community, and adding a lot of carrot fun to it! They make it easy to do the right thing.

Why should people care about hunger in our community?

Hunger is a symptom of multiple safety nets failing our friends and neighbors. Without stable housing, healthcare or employment, any of us are at risk for not being able to provide for our families. Hunger looks just like you and me—14.7% of households in Washtenaw County are in the position of deep worry about how to make ends meet.



What's your favorite Food Gatherers' memory?

The last Grillin' fundraiser, we survived heavy rains and flooding, all with a smile and big crowds—and at the end of it all, a giant double rainbow! Seemed fitting for the Food Gatherers' never-give-up spirit!

March 2016 Dollar for Dollar Match Challenge

Looking for a way to increase the impact of your gift? Stay tuned for our March Match details, thanks to the generosity of Harold & Kay Peplau!

Grillin' for Food Gatherers 2016

Sunday, June 12

Save the date for Grillin', Food Gatherers' annual summer fundraiser! Enjoy delicious food, drinks, and desserts from more than 50 local restaurants; live music; a raffle and silent auction—and your ticket purchase feeds 150 of our neighbors in need. Last year, you raised 680,000 meals!

Plant a Row for the Hungry

As the weather gets warmer, plan to nourish your garden and our neighbors in need! Plant a row for the hungry and donate your extra produce to Food Gatherers. More than 60% of the food we distribute is produce or protein items. Fresh and perishable foods can be dropped off at Food Gatherers Warehouse, 1 Carrot Way, Ann Arbor; Monday-Friday from 9AM-5PM.



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