

PLENTY

Winter 2020

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

food gatherers
fighting hunger where we live



More Sun = More Food

Visitors to 1 Carrot Way may have noticed something different about Food Gatherers' warehouse: a gleaming grid of 400 solar panels crowning the aluminum roof and generating up to 120 kWh of electricity. The panels, installed by Homeland Solar, are the first in a set of "green" upgrades recommended in a Southface Institute energy and environmental assessment of our warehouse. **Now we can harness the sun to power our daily food recovery efforts!** Going solar is the most recent example of how Food Gatherers seeks to incorporate green practices into the fight against hunger where we live.

Food Gatherers started as a food rescue organization and continues to be motivated by the fact that 40% of all food in the U.S. is not eaten. Through our food rescue initiatives, we keep valuable food out of the waste stream and share safe and nutritious food with our neighbors facing food insecurity. Whenever possible, we compost and recycle materials, further reducing the environmental impact of food waste.

Renewable energy and food rescue are not the only ways Food Gatherers is making Washtenaw County greener. Our daily food distributions literally bring more green food into the lives of our neighbors by consistently delivering fresh produce and vegetables through our 170 community

partners. Our nutrition policy stipulates that 60% of all distributed food must be fresh produce or protein. To fulfill this commitment, we partner with farmers to source fresh-from-the-earth fruits and vegetables as much as possible.

“ Our foremost mission is to alleviate hunger, but by making a few changes, we can adapt our operations to both improve the health of our community through hunger relief and improve the health of our planet through environmental stewardship,” says Eileen Spring, President/CEO.

Food Gatherers is excited by all the new green changes happening at Carrot Way. Our green makeover was possible through a grant from Feeding America, funding the Southface assessment and covering 20% of the cost to install the solar panels. It is estimated that the panels will supply half of our monthly electricity, letting us dedicate more of our energy toward fighting hunger and building a healthier community. **Whether it's growing green, eating green, or using a green energy source, Food Gatherers will continue to innovate in the fight against hunger and strive to be good stewards of our community and environment. Go Green! Go Carrot!**



Food Gatherers campus shows how food, housing, and environmental stewardship come together. Clockwise from bottom left: Avalon Housing, a partner agency, provides supportive housing to low-income families; solar panels generate green energy for the Food Gatherers warehouse; and the Project Grow community garden enables local residents to grow fresh produce.

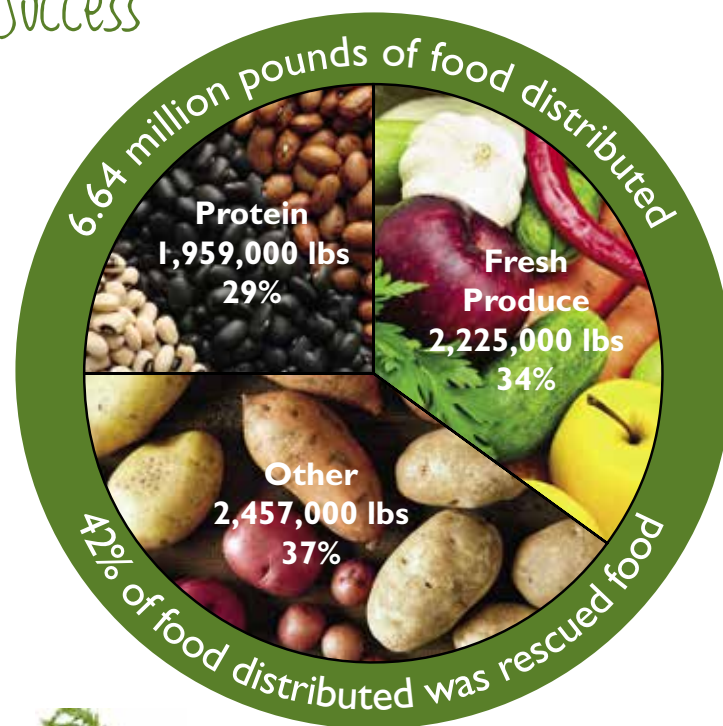
**You can help
Food Gatherers go green!**

Donate now to support "green" initiatives at Food Gatherers and your gift will be matched by generous community donors - Harold and Kay Peplau and the Miller Family Foundation. Learn more and make an online donation at foodgatherers.org/green.

Gathering Success

Last year, we provided our partner programs with services valued at **\$10,597,887**

This support included food, food delivery, required training, and cash grants. The cost to our partners for these services was less than 3% of the total value of support we provided to them.



Food Gatherers' Direct Services

The Healthy School Pantry Program distributed 165,000 pounds of fresh produce and healthy groceries to 600 families (including 1,075 kids), each month, at 16 local schools.

Food Gatherers Community Kitchen served 75,748 plates of food at the Delonis Center in Ann Arbor.

The Summer Food Service Program (2018) served 30,235 meals to children at 28 sites in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Whitmore Lake.

Referrals and Outreach

Reached more than 20,000 visitors through our Need Food web page, connecting beneficiaries with food resources in their community.

Distributed more than 3,300 Need Food flyers in five different languages (English, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese).

- 65% of partner programs receive at least 90% of their food from Food Gatherers
- Each month, our network providing groceries has 15,000-17,000 visits, reaching nearly 7,000 households
- Our partners providing meals reach nearly 2,000 people each month

Working Together

More than 6,900 volunteers inspected, sorted, packaged and distributed food, and prepared and served meals. They provided 72,376 of hours of service, the equivalent of 31 full-time employees, effectively doubling our staff workforce.

Connecting the Dots Between Hunger and Health

The Healthy Pantry Conversion Project helped 10 partners make changes to how they store and display food in their pantry to support clients in selecting healthier choices.

The Hunger and Health Training program educated medical residents about how hunger impacts health and how they can help patients who are struggling with hunger.

Food Gatherers' nutrition policy was adopted by the board of directors to detail our commitment to distributing protein, produce, dairy, and other healthy food items.

Advocacy: How We Fought Hunger Together

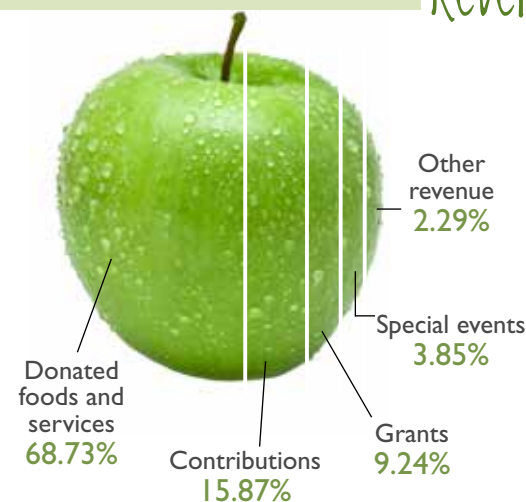
Food Gatherers partners stood with us to protect SNAP ("food stamps") benefits and increase funding for emergency food in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Food Gatherers hosted the *State of Our Plate: Gathering Momentum in the Fight Against Hunger*, a facilitated community discussion of the intersections between hunger, health, and policy.



State of Our Plate panelists (L-R): Michigan Medicine Community Health Services Director Alfreda Rooks, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell.

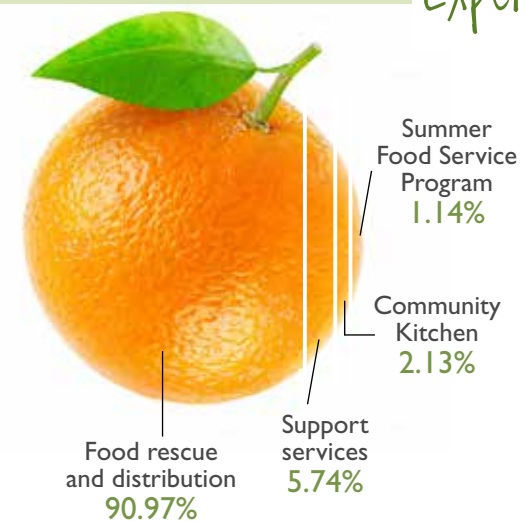
Revenue



Total Revenue = \$14,668,675

Donated foods and services (primarily perishable food)	\$10,082,572
Contributions	\$2,329,135
Grants	\$1,355,910
Special events	\$565,754
Other Revenue	
Food bank sales (our partner programs receive purchased food for a fraction of the retail price)	\$297,794
Interest income	\$29,800
Other	\$7,710

Expenses



Total Expenses = \$13,603,677

Program Services	
Food rescue and distribution	\$12,376,471
Community Kitchen	\$289,980
Summer Food Service Program	\$155,247
Support Services	
Fundraising	\$423,452
General and administrative	\$358,527

Board of Directors

Jim Lewis, Chair
Founder, J Lewis Consulting Group, LLC

Frank Carollo, Secretary
Managing Partner, Zingerman's Bakehouse

Simon Whitelocke, Treasurer
President, ITC Michigan, Vice President, ITC Holdings Corp.

Eileen Spring
President & CEO, Food Gatherers

Susan Aaronson
Director/DPD Director, U-M School of Public Health

Felicia Brabec
Washtenaw County Commissioner; Psychologist/Social Worker

Gary Bruder
Attorney, Bruder PLC

Kevin DiCola
Regional Director of Communications, St. Joseph Mercy Health System

Nell Dority
Senior Director of Corporate Relations, U-M Business Engagement Center

Jim Lee
Altarum Fellow, Altarum Institute

Kharena Keith
Program Manager of Outreach and Pre-Collegiate Programs, U-M School of Engineering

Mary Kerr
President & CEO, Destination Ann Arbor

David Rhoades
Vice President Marketing, North America, Dawn Foods



Food Gatherers is committed to sound fiscal management, accountability, and transparency. We are among the 1% of charities to be awarded a four-star rating from Charity Navigator for 15 consecutive years, and have earned a Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar. Our full audited financial reports can be viewed and downloaded directly from our website at foodgatherers.org



Upcoming Events

Rotary Fights Hunger

March 9 - March 20

Contribute to the community-wide food and fund drive hosted by local Rotary Clubs. Multiple local businesses will host collection sites. Gifts of \$25 or higher will be matched 1:1. Learn more at: www.foodgatherers.org/rotary

Stamp Out Hunger

Saturday, May 9

The nation's largest single food drive sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers. For details, ask your letter carrier or visit www.stampouthungerfooddrive.us/

Grillin' for Food Gatherers

Sunday, June 14

Save the date and join us for the 31st annual Grillin' fundraiser! Enjoy a meal hot off the grill, side dishes, drinks, and desserts from your favorite local restaurants. There will be live music, a raffle, and activities for kids. Learn more at www.foodgatherers.org/grillin

Food Gatherers Main Office

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Phone: 734-761-2796

Website: www.foodgatherers.org

Email: info@foodgatherers.org

    @foodgatherers

Junior Rescue Ranger

Everyone has a role in the fight against hunger! Dunya, age 5, recently completed the Food Gatherers Junior Rescue Ranger program, which guides young kids through learning about hunger and what they can do to help. Dunya participated in activities that raised the equivalent of 150 meals! Just another reminder that we all— no matter our age — can make an impact in the lives of our hungry neighbors. To learn more: foodgatherers.org/kids



Prescription for Food Insecurity

Food Gatherers is proud to partner with Michigan Medicine, IHA, and the Michigan Health Endowment Fund on the pilot Health Care and Food Bank Partnership Initiative. One part of the Initiative, the Hunger and Health Training program, exposes medical residents to the role of food security as a key social determinant of health. As part of the curriculum, residents are invited to participate in the SNAP Challenge, purchasing all of their food for one week within the average SNAP (“food stamps”) benefit (\$4.50/day).

Here's what one resident had to say about the challenge, “Working with Food Gatherers and thinking about the challenges of SNAP recipients was incredibly eye-opening for me... I feel that what I've learned from this rotation will help to change and improve my conversations with patients... I can now start to ask about food security and I know more about where to direct them to find healthy, nutritious foods.”

We will be honoring Michigan Medicine and IHA in April! To learn more call or email Helen Starman, helen.starman@foodgatherers.org or 734-761-2796.



In January, Food Gatherers staff participated in the United Way of Washtenaw County's 21 Day Equity Challenge. The challenge was a self-guided examination of the history and impacts of racism and how it shapes people's experience living in our community. Staff worked independently, and met weekly, to explore the provided materials and tools on how to undo racism and build racial equity and justice.



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