

PLENTY

Winter 2021

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

food gatherers
fighting hunger where we live

Thank you for standing with Food Gatherers through the most challenging year we've ever faced. Just one year ago, food insecurity in Washtenaw County was declining, dropping to levels not seen since 2007. But in 2020, the fight against hunger faced a new challenge, the COVID-19 pandemic, and today more of your neighbors than ever before are turning to us for help, some for the first time.

In 2021, Food Gatherers and our anti-hunger network are preparing for another challenging year as food insecurity has risen by 36% in our community. **At the same time, the expiration of the CARES ACT funding, the USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, and the Trade Mitigation commodity program will create ongoing food sourcing challenges.**

A healthy community starts with a full plate and our shared commitment to fighting hunger and keeping our neighbors safe is more important than ever. Together, Food Gatherers and our partners will do everything possible to ensure our neighbors have access to healthy and nutritious food. **Together we'll continue to fight hunger where we live.**

Join our digital mailing list now to receive real time updates and learn how you can help:
www.foodgatherers.org/signup



Inside this report:

-  Distribution facts
-  Food insecurity trends
-  Direct services
-  New partners

And more...

Donate now to help families facing hunger in our community: www.foodgatherers.org/WNL21

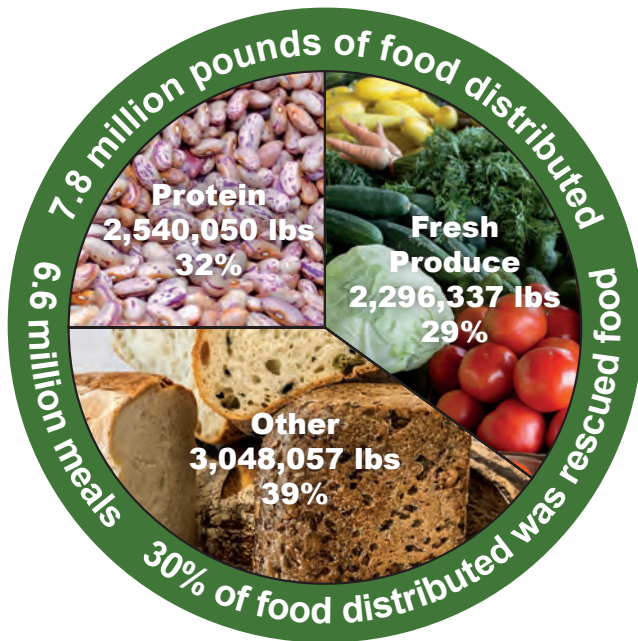
Food Gatherers Annual Report

FY2020: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Here is a snapshot of how we worked to fight hunger in our community last year. To see the full annual report, visit our website: www.foodgatherers.org/annualreport20



Gathering Success



Our Programs

- Food Gatherers Community Kitchen served 69,324 plates of food and/or carry-out meals at the Delonis Center in Ann Arbor.
- The Healthy School Pantry Program distributed 161,310 pounds of fresh produce and healthy groceries to 942 families (including 1,336 kids) each month, at 18 local schools.
- The Summer Food Service Program (2019) served 54,162 meals to children at 34 sites in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Whitmore Lake



Volunteer Ian Benson serves a meal at the Community Kitchen

Referrals and Outreach

- Reached more than 37,000 visitors through our Need Food web page, connecting individuals with food resources in their community.
- Distributed more than 6,000 Need Food flyers in five different languages (English, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese).

In March and April 2020:

450% increase in "need food" phone requests

388% increase in visits to the Need Food webpage

Board of Directors

Simon Whitelocke, Chair, Vice President, ITC Holdings Corporation

Frank Carollo, Secretary, Retired, Zingerman's Bakehouse

Christopher Tressler, Treasurer, Senior Director of Finance and Asset Accounting, Wacker Chemical Corporation

Jim Lee, Executive Committee Member at Large, Altarum Fellow, Altarum

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

Eileen Spring, President & CEO, Food Gatherers

Susan Aaronson, Didactic Program Director, University of Michigan Public Health

Felicia Brabec, Michigan House of Representatives, 55th District; Psychologist/Social Worker

Gary Bruder, Attorney, Bruder PLC

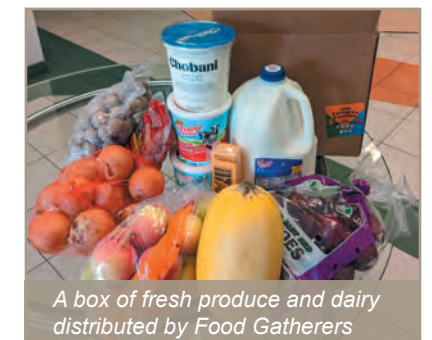
Kharena Coleman, Program Manager of Outreach and Pre-Collegiate Programs, University of Michigan

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

Nell Dority, Senior Director of Corporate Relations, University of Michigan Business Engagement Center

Mary Kerr, President & CEO, Destination Ann Arbor

David Rhoades, Vice President, Marketing, North America, Dawn Foods



A box of fresh produce and dairy distributed by Food Gatherers

Welcome to our new partners!

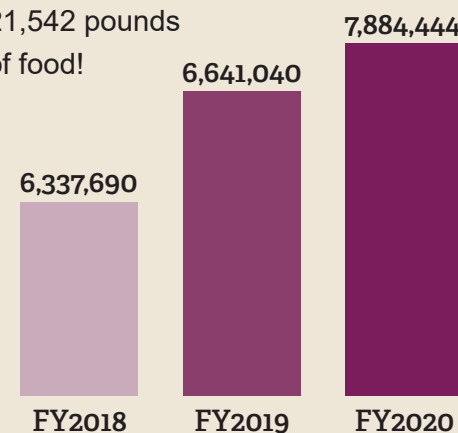
- Rawsonville Woods
- Ypsilanti Evangelical Friends Church
- Masjid At-Taqwa
- U-M Maize and Blue North Campus

“Even with a 30% surge in requests and 1300 new visitors, SOS always had food for everyone because of Food Gatherers. We never closed or cut back services thanks to you!”
Barbara Cecil, Development Director, SOS Community Services

In mid-March, Food Gatherers and our network of partner pantries jumped into action to address the sudden rise in food insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March, **almost 100% of the food we distributed was at no cost to our partners**, allowing their resources to be directed toward their emergency response.

Food Distribution Totals By Year

Our total this year is an 18.7% increase from last year and the average distribution per day was 21,542 pounds of food!



Working Together

- More than 5,565 volunteers donated 63,183 hours of service inspecting, sorting, packaging, and distributing food, as well as preparing and serving meals.
- Ten members of the Michigan National Guard served more than 4,000 hours at the Food Gatherers' warehouse; between April - June 2020 they constructed more than 15,000 emergency food boxes.



Members of the Michigan National Guard at Food Gatherers' warehouse



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 16 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



The State of Our Plate: COVID-19 edition



In January, Food Gatherers hosted The State of Our Plate: COVID-19 edition, a virtual event that brought together elected officials, community partners, and food security leaders to discuss food security challenges and opportunities amid the pandemic. The event included presentations and remarks from Food Gatherers President/CEO Eileen Spring, Food Bank Council of Michigan Executive Director Dr. Phil Knight, Food Gatherers Director of Community Food Programs Markell Miller, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture Deputy Staff Director Jacquelyn Schneider, and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. **View the recording online at www.foodgatherers.org/video.**

Expanding our Reach

Social distancing requirements have significantly reduced the seating capacity at our Community Kitchen in the Delonis Center. And, with individuals sheltered throughout the community at warming and overnight shelters, it is more difficult for them to come to the Kitchen for their meals.

This winter, our Community Kitchen staff and volunteers are preparing, packaging, and delivering between 1,200-1,400 meals every week to these locations, to ensure that individuals continue to have access to the high quality nutritious food they would receive at the Community Kitchen.



To-go meal ready to be delivered by Food Gatherers to a local overnight shelter

Upcoming Events

Rotary Fights Child Hunger March, 2021

Annual food and fund drive hosted by local Rotary clubs. To learn more visit www.foodgatherers.org/rotary

New Website Coming Soon

Food Gatherers is launching a new website SOON! Funded by the UPS Foundation, the new website (still located at www.foodgatherers.org) will improve our connection with volunteers, supporters, and food-insecure individuals throughout our community.

Thank You Bread Winners!

Bread Winners are Food Gatherers' premier corporate supporters and their generosity and volunteerism are a critical source of support in the fight against hunger where we live. We are grateful for the continued support of Busch's, Domino's, Kroger, Om of Medicine, Toyota, and Zingerman's Community of Businesses, and we are proud to welcome Brentwood Electric*, KLA Foundation*, Paragon Sight & Sound*, and Thomson Reuters* as our newest Bread Winners!



Washtenaw Coordinated Funders



United Way of Washtenaw County

coordinatedfunders.org



Food Gatherers Main Office

1 Carrot Way, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Phone: 734-761-2796

Website: www.foodgatherers.org

Email: info@foodgatherers.org

[f](https://www.facebook.com/foodgatherers) [i](https://www.instagram.com/foodgatherers) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/foodgatherers) @foodgatherers