

# PLENTY

fall 2016

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING™  
AMERICA**

**food gatherers**  
fighting hunger where we live



## Food Gatherers Community Kitchen Job Training Program:

## Golden Spatulas, Golden Futures

This August, we celebrated the 20th graduating class of Food Gatherers Community Kitchen Job Training Program. This program is part of our organization's overall effort to not merely alleviate hunger but also address its root causes. Every summer, we partner with Ozone House to provide seven weeks of instruction in the culinary arts, food preparation, work ethics and life skills to young adults at risk of homelessness. Ozone House is a not-for-profit agency that provides support and assistance to runaway, homeless, and high-risk youth and their families.

To date, 167 students have graduated from Food Gatherers' Job Training Program. Within six months of graduation, ninety percent of program graduates are working or have returned to school, and local restaurants routinely look to program graduates to fill job openings.

Our students were hard at work this summer! They transformed rescued food into meals for guests at our Community Kitchen, took field trips to local restaurants to experience global cuisines, including Zingerman's Deli, The Blue Nile and bd's Mongolian Grill, and heard from speakers in the fields of personal finance, small business management, food safety, nutrition and artistry. New this year, students learned a variety of cooking specialties from an excellent lineup of guest chefs, like Alex Young of Zingerman's Roadhouse, Nancy Biehn of Sweet Gem Confections and Phillis Englebort of The Lunch Room.



Job Training program graduating class 2016. Left to right: (back row): Dyani, Chris, Indya, DJayy, Stephen; (front row): Noah, job training coordinator Scott, Red, Alijah.

**"I am going to carry everything I learned with me for the rest of my life."** – Community Kitchen Job Training Program graduate

At their graduation ceremony, students were presented with chef's jackets, diplomas and golden spatulas on behalf of Food Gatherers' network of supporters, in celebration and in gratitude. Thank you for helping students to realize their potential and pursue brighter futures.

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 ~

Dear Gatherer,

Food Gatherers' programs work to alleviate hunger in our community, but we don't stop there. We aim to strategically eliminate its root causes by offering a network of assistance, education, and opportunity to help lift people out of the cycle of poverty and into self-sufficiency. In this issue of Plenty, we highlight the role that our Community Kitchen – located in the Delonis Center, the homeless shelter managed by the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC) – plays in our community.

Community Kitchen staff Paula Dana and Scott Roubeck oversee the volunteer efforts of 1,800 individuals to deliver daily meals to homeless folks and others in need. Food Gatherers assumes all costs for this program, providing services valued at more than \$400,000 annually. By taking care of all the costs and logistics involved in serving more than 94,000 meals a year, the SAWC can devote more of its limited resources to helping homeless individuals secure stable housing.

Your support of Food Gatherers nourishes our neighbors in more ways than one. As you will read, our guests and our Job Training students leave the Community Kitchen with more than a meal. They leave with hope for a brighter tomorrow.



Forever Gathering,

*Eileen Spring*  
Eileen Spring  
President/CEO

**Your support of Food Gatherers nourishes our neighbors... with more than a meal. They leave with hope for a brighter tomorrow.**



Community Kitchen Coordinator Paula Dana (left) with volunteer Jake.

## Forever Gathering Society

### Nourishing a Legacy

**What kind of legacy do you want to leave in our community? Consider nourishing a legacy by including Food Gatherers in your will or estate plan.**

Your planned gift to Food Gatherers entitles you to membership in the **Forever Gathering Society**. Members enjoy special benefits, including reports on Food Gatherers' latest initiatives, recognition at our warehouse and acknowledgment in our Annual Report. Pledge your planned gift to Food Gatherers by June 2017 and you will be recognized as a **Pioneer of Plenty**, a founder of our giving society.

If Food Gatherers is included in your will or estate plan, or if you would like to receive more information or a pledge form, please visit [www.foodgatherers.org/give](http://www.foodgatherers.org/give), or check the box on the enclosed remittance slip.

# Food Gatherers Community Kitchen: Kathy's Story

Kathy Gandley, age 63, has a long history with food. Her love of preparing and sharing meals developed at a young age in her large family. That passion then fueled a business degree, a catering business and a culinary arts degree from Washtenaw Community College.

Kathy became homeless for the first time more than three years ago after her divorce and sought refuge at the Delonis Center. It was there that she received her first meal from Food Gatherers Community Kitchen. "It was very humbling," she recalled. She appreciated the staff at the Community Kitchen, who were very "food-conscious." The nutritious meals helped her through a tough situation. "They could have given us slop, but they didn't. There was something to eat at every meal to fill you up, and it wasn't all starch," said Kathy.

**"Food Gatherers has played a big part in my life and my recovery from homelessness."**

Kathy is now living in stable housing in Ypsilanti. A breast cancer survivor, she has much medical debt and relies on food stamps and local food distributions supported by Food Gatherers to keep her on her feet. She gives back in any way that she can. She volunteers as a foster grandparent at a local school, tutors fifth and sixth-graders and – always the caterer – helps prepare meals for her elderly neighbors who also receive food and struggle to cook for themselves. She credits Food Gatherers for helping her get herself back on her feet.



*Your support provides food and assistance through our Community Kitchen and 150 partner programs to help people like Kathy through tough situations.*



Extraordinary volunteers Jack and Carolyn Wallace showed up at the Community Kitchen on the first day we opened in 2003 and have been weekly volunteers ever since. We can't even begin to count the number of meals they served or the number of lives they have touched. This August, they retired their aprons. The Wednesday lunch shift will never be the same.

*Thank you,  
Jack and Carolyn,  
for your amazing service!*

Gather with us this season!

## Rockin' for the Hungry

Wednesday, November 30 -  
Sunday, December 4

Food Gatherers volunteers and radio personalities from ann arbor's 107one will be "freezin' for a reason" at our largest annual outdoor food and fund drive, broadcast live from Kroger on South Maple Road. Gifts during Rockin' will be matched dollar-for-dollar by community donors Harold and Kay Peplau and Irene Fast. Participate by dropping off food or cash donations, purchasing food to donate or making a donation at the register.



Radio personalities from ann arbor's 107one

## Community High School Food and Fund Drive

Community High School will kick off Rockin' for the Hungry once again! Last year, Community students and staff raised more than \$33,000 for our neighbors in need. Inspired by their passion and generosity, we increased our Rockin' meal goal from 750,000 to 1 million meals, and we met our goal. We were so thrilled to award Community High with the Community Gatherers Award at our Gathering Awards reception this Spring. We can't wait to see what these young people accomplish this year!



Community High School students and staff are presented with the Food Gatherers Community Gatherers Award.

## Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, November 29

Celebrate #GivingTuesday with a gift to Food Gatherers. We are thankful for the efforts of our food donors, volunteers, partner programs and staff in working together to nourish our community. This national day of giving is a great opportunity to join us!

# #GIVING TUESDAY

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