

PLENTY

winter 2015



Senior Hunger

"I've had cereal for dinner more times than I can count."

Meet Madeline, 62, a retired employee of the public school system. A few years back, Madeline found herself homeless at the Delonis Center after a difficult divorce. Today, she has stable housing at a low-income housing complex in Ypsilanti where Food Gatherers has a **Neighborhood Grocery Initiative**. With only \$16 a month in SNAP assistance (food stamps), she says "I would go hungry without the food from Food Gatherers." As much as she is reliant on this vital service, Madeline is fiercely determined to give back through volunteerism at Food Gatherers and the Veterans Hospital. "To remain useful and productive, that is important to me."

Food insecurity among the seniors of our community is of particular concern to Food Gatherers. In Washtenaw County, 2,892 seniors depend on our network for nourishment, in addition to those served through our partnership with Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels.



REPORT CARD			
Partner Type:	Deliveries (@ \$50 ea.)	Pounds Delivered	Value
1. Baker Commons	12	11,200 lbs.	\$19,786.10
2. Carpenter Place Apts.	44	9025 lbs.	\$17,723.00
3. Chidester Place Apts.	15	25,789 lbs.	\$43,976.72
4. Clark East Tower	12	20,443 lbs.	\$34,737.12
5. Cranbrook Tower	12	26,247 lbs.	\$45,566.24
6. Parkway Meadows Apts.	22	62,276 lbs.	\$107,710.32
7. Sequoia Place	23	38,820 lbs.	\$67,716.82
8. Towne Centre Place	13	21,934 lbs.	\$38,271.77
<i>Total: Donated with No Fee</i>	153	215,729 lbs.	\$337,216.32
COST to N.G.I. Partners	0	0	\$0.00
Student: <u>Food Gatherers</u> Grade: <u>A+</u> Year: <u>2014</u>			

Neighborhood Grocery Initiatives

Food Gatherers **Neighborhood Grocery Initiatives** (NGIs) are monthly, perishable food distributions at low-income housing sites in urban areas of the county. These NGIs are operated and funded by Food Gatherers and provide produce along with other staples within easy reach for seniors, low-income families and individuals. These supplemental distributions complement our existing network of partner agencies so people can get fresh food close to home.

from the president

Baby, it's cold outside! When temperatures start to plummet, the issues affecting households with food insecurity can begin to rise. Cold temperatures mean higher costs for utilities, seasonal illnesses can result in mounting medical bills, and snow days cause lost wages. What may be simple inconveniences for many become the tipping point for families in need.

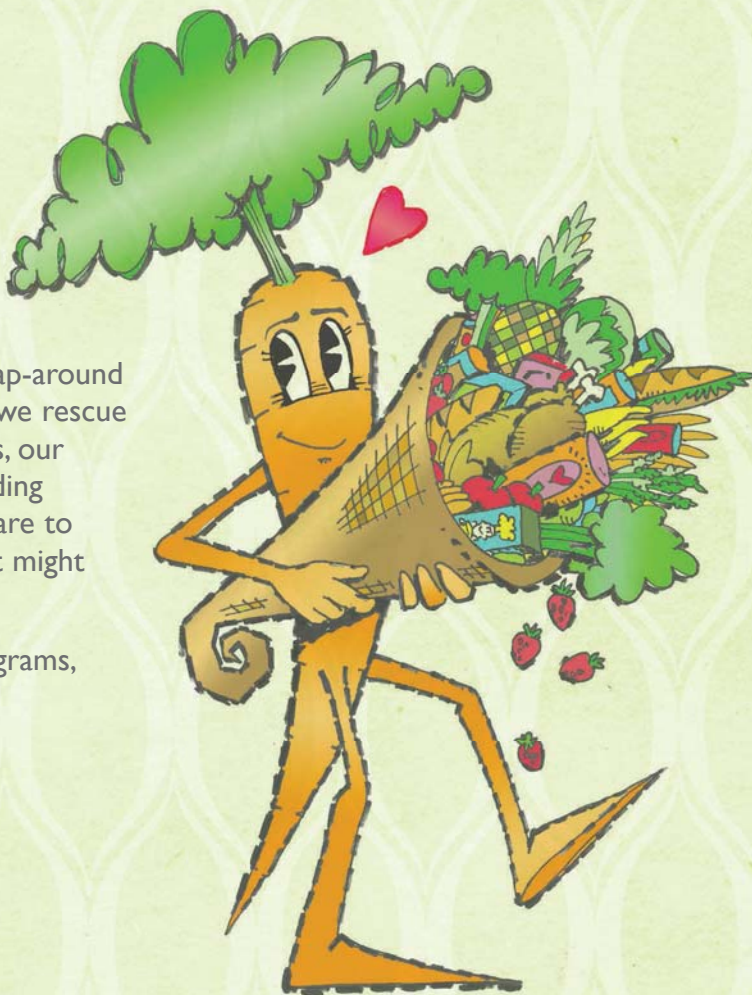
Food Gatherers depends on our network of 150 partner programs to deliver food and provide wrap-around services for those facing food insecurity. Because we rescue and distribute mostly free food to these programs, our partners can devote more of their funds to providing health care, housing, utilities assistance, and childcare to their clients. Together, we are reaching people that might otherwise be left out in the cold.

To learn more about our network of partner programs, please visit www.foodgatherers.org.

Gathering with you,



Eileen Spring
President/CEO



Cooking Up Bright Futures The Community Kitchen Job Training Program

Food Gatherers' Community Kitchen Job Training Program is a key part of Food Gatherers' overall mission to eliminate the root causes of hunger by empowering and educating young people. Students are at-risk youth (ages 16-20) who receive 7 weeks of instruction in basic food prep, reading recipes, gaining exposure to new foods and cooking techniques, and lessons on cooking healthy on a budget.

Each year, a selection of CKJTP graduates are asked

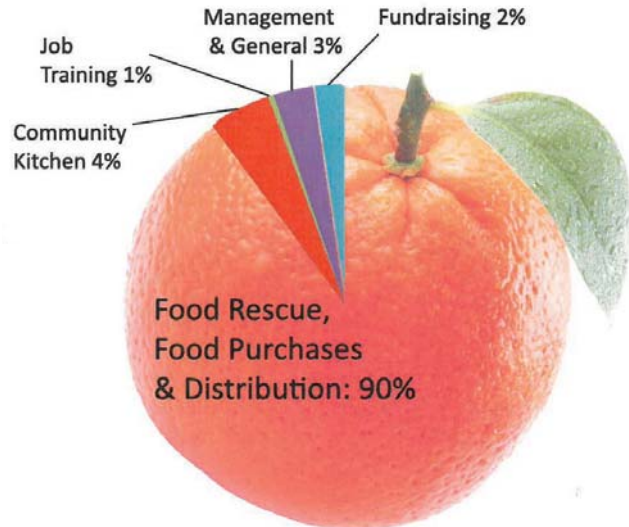
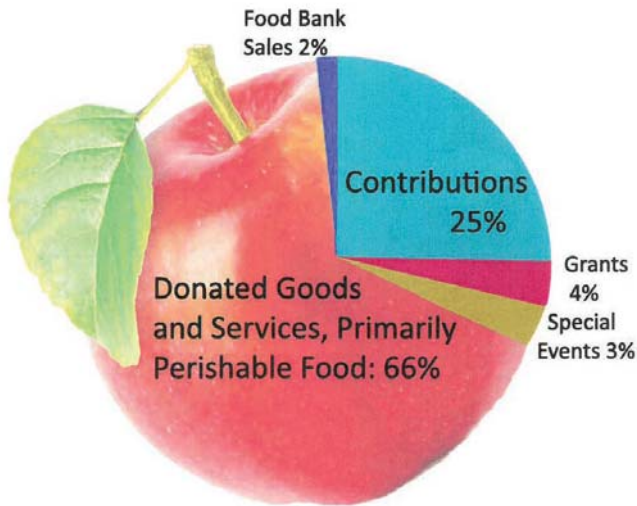
to stay on at Food Gatherers in the kitchen, at our gathering farm, warehouse or at partner meal sites for six-week paid internships. For many of them, this is their first real job experience. Throughout the program, students meet with community members, food entrepreneurs, business leaders and others who have forged their own paths in the food world, many of whom have overcome the same obstacles our students face. Food Gatherers has provided more than 50 paid internships to graduates of this program since 2007.

ANNUAL REPORT

Revenue and Expenses Fiscal Year 2014

7/1/2013-6/30/2014

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



Revenue

Contributions	\$2,840,343
Grants	\$394,347
Special Events	\$373,652
Donated goods and services, primarily perishable foods	\$7,411,839
Food Bank Sales	\$187,480
Interest Income	\$6,919
Other Income	\$5,372
Total Revenue	\$11,219,952

Expenses

Program Services	
Food Rescue, Food Purchases and Distribution	\$9,669,886
Community Kitchen	\$470,354
Job Training	\$43,258
Supporting Services	
Management and General	\$305,333
Fundraising	\$237,672
Total Expenses	\$10,726,503
Increase in Net Assets	\$493,449

why "plenty?"

Our very first gatherers chose to call the Food Gatherers newsletter **Plenty** because we know there really is plenty for everybody. The problem isn't supply, it's responsible use and distribution. That's where Food Gatherers takes the lead, rescuing good food that would otherwise be wasted and getting it where it's needed most.

It's your commitment with Food Gatherers, through your generous donations, and through your volunteer work (70% of all the work we do!) that makes this an achievable reality. Together, we're succeeding in our mission to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes in our community.

Food Gatherers Summer Food Program: *Ain't No Summertime Blues*

Here it is, the middle of winter, and what are we doing? Thinking about summer, naturally. Specifically, we're planning for our expanded **Summer Food Service Program**, which fills the summertime gap when low-income children don't have the school meals they depend on. We have around 21 sites planned for summer of 2015 to serve a target of 35,000 meals, with accompanying nutrition education classes taught by Food Gatherers interns from the U of M School of Public Health. The children don't just get full tummies, they also learn to make healthy choices for a promising future.



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upcoming events

Rotate your Food March 16-27

A community-wide food drive hosted by the Rotary Clubs of Ann Arbor, Dexter, Saline and Ypsilanti with collection locations at more than 80 local businesses and organizations.



Grillin' 2015 Sunday, June 14, 3-8 PM

Food Gatherers' biggest fundraising event, with 2,000+ guests, held at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. Live music! Delicious food from more than 50 local restaurants, beer and wine, a silent auction and kids' games – it's the best party of the year!



A Fond Farewell to the Salad Queen!

Food Gatherers wishes Margie Hagene all the best as she leaves us for her new home in Wisconsin. Over the last twenty years, Margie has served in nearly every possible volunteer role here, from "Salad Queen" at Grillin' to Chair of our Board of Directors. Her expertise and resources as an organizational and effectiveness professional have continually improved our operations, governance and financial stability. For her numerous contributions to our mission, Margie received the Michigan Harvest Gathering Beacon of Light Award in fall 2014 from the Food Bank Council of Michigan. We will miss her dearly!



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Now it's your turn!

Send your questions and comments to:
info@foodgatherers.org.