

Empathy in Action:



Rolanda Logan

Community Food Programs Coordinator

In November, our Community Food Programs team led a series of trauma-informed care training sessions for some of our partner programs. These trainings covered empathy, self-care, conflict resolution, and response. Here's how Rolanda Logan, Food Gatherers' CFP Coordinator, describes the training:

"Our goal is to provide interactive and thorough training to our partner programs who are leading food distributions and engaging with neighbors daily. After completing this training participants should be able to express empathy, incorporate self-care into their daily lives, resolve various conflicts that might arise, and gain techniques to effectively respond to scenarios that might occur"

Aid in Milan, Faith in Action, Community Family Life Center, UM Maize & Blue Cupboard, Ypsilanti Church of Christ, and CAN Community Action Network attended the first 2.5 hour training session in November.

Thanks so much to our partners for taking time out of their schedules to learn and grow in order to better serve our neighbors with empathy. We look forward to the next sessions later this year!

PLENTY

Winter 2025



PARTNER
FOOD BANK OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

Dear Gatherers,

As I often joke, February is the longest-shortest month of the year. I feel like we all need more warmth and inspiration right now so I am pleased to share our annual report with you. As you read through it, please know that everything we accomplish is due to the love and enthusiasm of so many gatherers! Two of my favorite recent examples of **extraordinary acts of gathering originate with students.**

Food Gatherers' giant carrot statues at the entrance to Carrot Way are more than twenty-years old and were in need of some serious TLC. As we struggled to come up with a plan to restore the deteriorating carrots, we received an email from Calista Dillon, who'd found our carrots on Roadside America, a Facebook page for people who love "quirky tourist attractions".

Calista is an Ohio-based student skilled in cement sculpting and award-winning for her fruit and vegetable ceramics. She'd been seeking a capstone project when she came across our beloved carrot statues. She immediately reached out and asked if she could restore them for us. It was so incredibly out of the blue I thought maybe someone was pranking us. In a single weekend, Calista patched the carrots with new concrete, color-matched the orange base color and accents to their original, brilliant hues, and even added a message of her own; **"Love the carrots? Love the cause."**



Community High School has been loving the carrots and the cause since their next-door neighbor, Zingerman's Deli, created Food Gatherers. Students and faculty from Community High were among our first volunteers and donors. During the last 15 years, they have become amazingly successful fundraisers! They raise funds each fall from Halloween to Thanksgiving to support Rockin' for the Hungry, our largest annual fund drive.

The students engage in some friendly competition to see which forum (or homeroom) can be the most creative and raise the most funds. Hosting carnivals and selling handcrafted bracelets, the students' campaign offers a unique model for crowdfunding. **In 2024 they set a new record raising more than \$95,000!**

We're inspired by these young people and their commitment to fighting hunger. Thanks to them and you we distributed 9.9 million pounds of food last year to more than 140 partners, a new record. It's a sobering achievement, and we're on track to break that record again this coming year so long as we continue to **gather together with love and enthusiasm.**

Eileen Spring
President & CEO



Your support matters. Give now to help end hunger: www.foodgatherers.org/WNL25

Upcoming Events

Rotary Fights Child Hunger

March 3rd - March 14th

Annual spring food and fund drive to provide meals for children and families who are facing hunger. *Details can be found FoodGatherers.org/Rotary*

Stamp Out Hunger

Saturday, May 10th

Stamp Out Hunger food drive is the largest one-day food drive in the country and is hosted by the National Association of Letter Carriers. *Look for more information in your mailbox*

Food Gatherers is committed to sound fiscal management, accountability, and transparency. For the 20th year in a row (starting in 2005) we've received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. Food Gatherers is also a platinum-level Candid (formerly GuideStar) participant, demonstrating our commitment to transparency. You can view all of our annual reports, 990 forms, and audited financial statements on our website.



Stay in Touch

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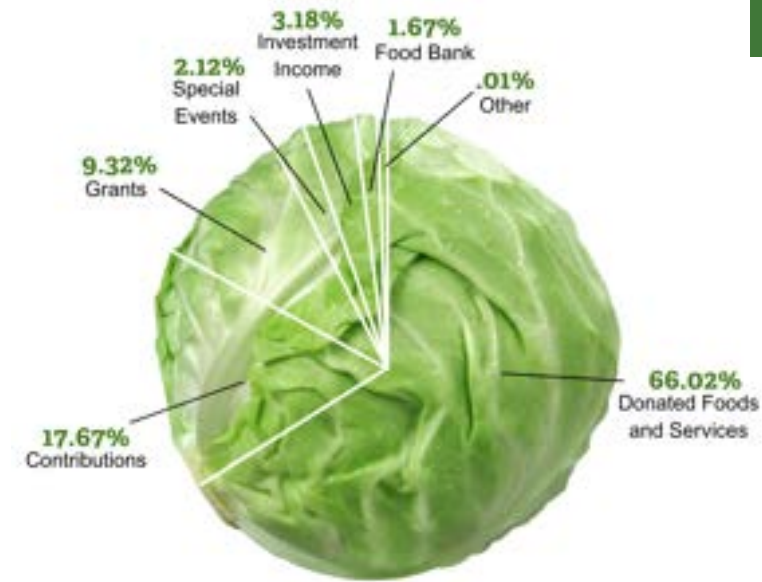
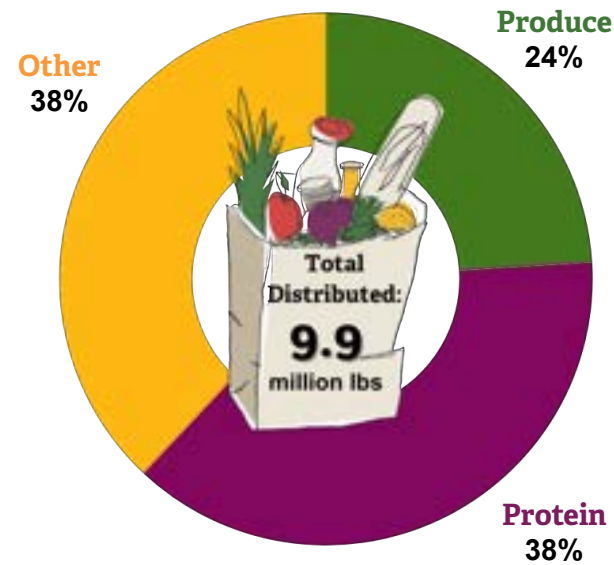


Food Gatherers Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2024: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Stepping Up to the Plate

In fiscal year 2024, we saw a significant rise in need for food within Washtenaw County. Food Gatherers stepped up to the plate by distributing a **record-breaking 9.9 million lbs of food** to our neighbors facing food insecurity. Through our network of **140 hunger-relief agencies** and programs, we provided the equivalent of **22,000 meals per day** - a 22% increase from the year prior.

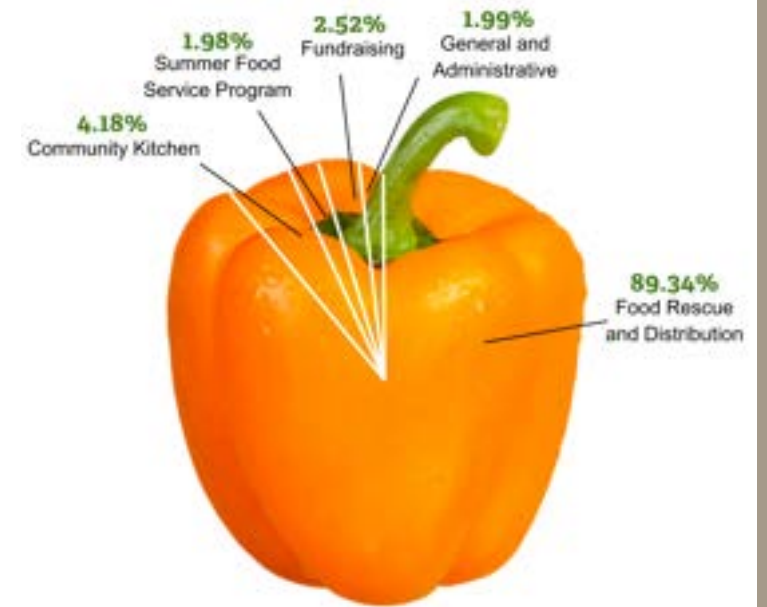


Revenue Total \$23,107,401

Donated foods and services	\$15,256,542
Contributions	\$4,082,819
Grants	\$2,153,194
Special events	\$488,982
Other revenue	
Food bank revenue	\$386,954
Investment income	\$735,759
Other	\$3,151

Expenses Total \$22,663,036

Program services	
Food rescue and distribution	\$20,247,044
Community Kitchen	\$947,202
Summer Food Service Program	\$448,475
Core mission support	
Fundraising	\$570,421
General and administrative	\$449,894



“ Having no cost food on site [from Food Gatherers] has allowed several clients who lack transportation, have accessibility challenges, or lack childcare to provide nutritious food to their households on a regular basis.”

-Program Staff, Avalon Housing

Working Together

Volunteers are at the very heart of our mission. Over **4,100 volunteers** generously dedicated **53,000 hours** of their time in FY24, sorting and packing rescued food, delivering food to partner agencies on food runs, cooking and serving meals.



Our Programs

Food Gatherers' **Community Kitchen** served 60,405 lunches and dinners to neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

The **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** served 71,672 meals across 9 sites during the summer months when many kids lose access to free school meals.

The **Healthy School Pantry Program (HSPP)** partnered with 21 schools to serve food to 2500 families per month, including 5500 children.

Neighborhood Grocery Initiatives (NGIs) provided 679,648 lbs of food to residents at low-income housing sites.

Project DASH - Food Gatherers' partnership with DoorDash - made 10,550 deliveries to homebound neighbors.

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