

**2017** REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Illustration by Barb Hranilovich

GREATER LANSING  
**foodbank**



MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING**  
**AMERICA**

# Letter to the Community

**The Best Gift Ever.** Can't think of a better theme for our 2016-2017 holiday campaign.

So why do we say this? It is really due to the feedback and responses of the people and businesses of our community. You provide our support, and it is only with this support — your dollars and food and volunteer time *and* your good wishes — that we are able to put food on the tables of thousands of our friends and neighbors when they are in need.

Universally, the feedback we have received is that, in fact, there is no better or more important gift than the gift of food. Many of you have told us that this tradition goes back for centuries, maybe to the beginning of civilization, when it was over food that we welcomed guests or weary travelers, shared stories and came up with amazing ideas. This concept is part of every major religion and culture. At the Greater Lansing Food Bank, we don't just say this; we believe it and live it every day: There is no better or more basic gift one can give than the gift of food.

As a caring society, we can all agree that everyone is entitled to food; that no one should go hungry. You backed this up during the 2016-17 holiday season with your financial, food drive and volunteer support. The results? Only the most successful holiday campaign ever, to make certain there would be the resources necessary to put food on tables all across our region, and in backpacks so that children would have nutritious food on weekends.

This 2017 *Report to the Community* presents a summary of our activities over the past year. But even more than that, it tells you about some of the lives we touched, and the people who touched our lives. This is a story about you, the people of our community, and the impact you had through your support of the GLFB's mission. We also provide data as one way to measure how we did; to help both our team and you to gauge our results compared to your

expectations. But our story is not about numbers. It is about people, and that is what this report card is all about.

So, who are you? You are people of every race and religion and ethnicity. You are young and old; from every economic background and profession. But in all of your diversity, you are all alike, because every one of you cares.

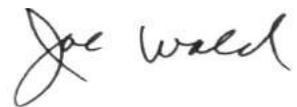
We have learned that just as no one chooses to be hungry, hunger does not discriminate. The people we serve are just as diverse as our supporters. And, unfortunately, many of those now in need had been our volunteers and financial supporters not too long ago.

We wish we could personally *thank every single person, business, service group and foundation* that stepped forth to provide support over this past year. Unfortunately (or fortunately!), there are far too many to name. So, in this report, we attempt to identify a number of you who represent the caring that each of you have demonstrated. Thank you to everyone for whatever you were able to do over this past year — whether donating a dollar, holding a change drive in an elementary school class, giving a can or box of food or providing a huge barrel of food or many dollars of support. Every one of you helped to make a difference. We cannot thank you enough for making it possible for us to help feed those in need.

Sincerely,



Joe Chahine,  
Board Chair



Joe Wald,  
Executive Director

GREATER LANSING  
**foodbank**





LEFT: Kim Friedrich of the Isabella Soup Kitchen receives the Beacon of Light Award from Attorney General Bill Schuette and Food Bank Council Executive Director Dr. Phillip Knight.

## Greater Lansing Food Bank Mission Statement:

Partner to alleviate hunger one meal at a time, to create a future where everyone has access to nourishing food.

## Partners in our mission

Our partner agencies play a crucial role in the mission of GLFB. With more than 125 agency partners throughout mid-Michigan, agencies are a major component of GLFB's distribution network. These religious centers, community kitchens and food pantries hold regular hours where clients can visit and pick up food. Many also offer "wrap-around" services such as health resources, children's learning programs and more.

In 2016, GLFB increased its use of mobile food pantries. During a mobile food pantry distribution, GLFB drives one (or more!) trucks to a central location in a neighborhood and passes out food. Since many of GLFB's clients have unpredictable or second-shift work schedules, mobile food pantries allow GLFB to reach clients who might not be able to make it to a regular agency distribution—and to reach areas where an agency location might not be easily accessible. Mobile food pantries also enable GLFB to get out more fresh produce. Since fresh produce has a much shorter shelf life, mobile food pantries allow GLFB to distribute it while it is still good to eat.

Our 2016 "Beacon of Light" nominee was **Kim Friedrich** from **Isabella Soup Kitchen**, one of our great partners. The Isabella Community Soup Kitchen began in 1990, thanks to **Gary Taylor**, who began it as a class project while he was a student at Central Michigan University. Gary had witnessed a fellow student from China eating a ketchup sandwich, the only food available to him at that time. The student explained to Gary that the country sponsoring his stay in the United States only furnished funds for books, material, room and board but not much else for food.

Today Isabella Community Soup Kitchen serves continental breakfasts and hot lunches daily, Monday through Saturday.

Greater Lansing Food Bank is thankful for the partnership with Isabella Community Soup Kitchen (ISK) to feed the residents of Isabella County. ISK is a wonderful representative of GLFB in the local community and works with us to pick up donations at local retailers such as **Panera Bread, Kroger, Walmart** and **Ric's Grocery**. In 2016, through rescuing food and donations from the community, they received a total of 315,745 pounds of food and were able to serve 31,405 people. With local donations and support from the community they were able to provide 36,333 meals.

## Greater Lansing Food Bank Board Members

**Joe Chahine**  
*Chair*

**Joe Wald**  
*Executive Director*

**John Pirich**  
*Vice-Chair*

**Nikali Luke**  
*Treasurer*

**Roselyn Tantraphol**  
*Secretary*

Christopher Abood, MD

Sarah Anthony

Jeff Blohm

Leslie Brogan

J. Michael Busch

Lavon Dennis

Lauren Forcia

Glenn Freeman III

Linda Headley

Nancy Hollis

Lupe Izzo

Larry Lee

Dave Mulder

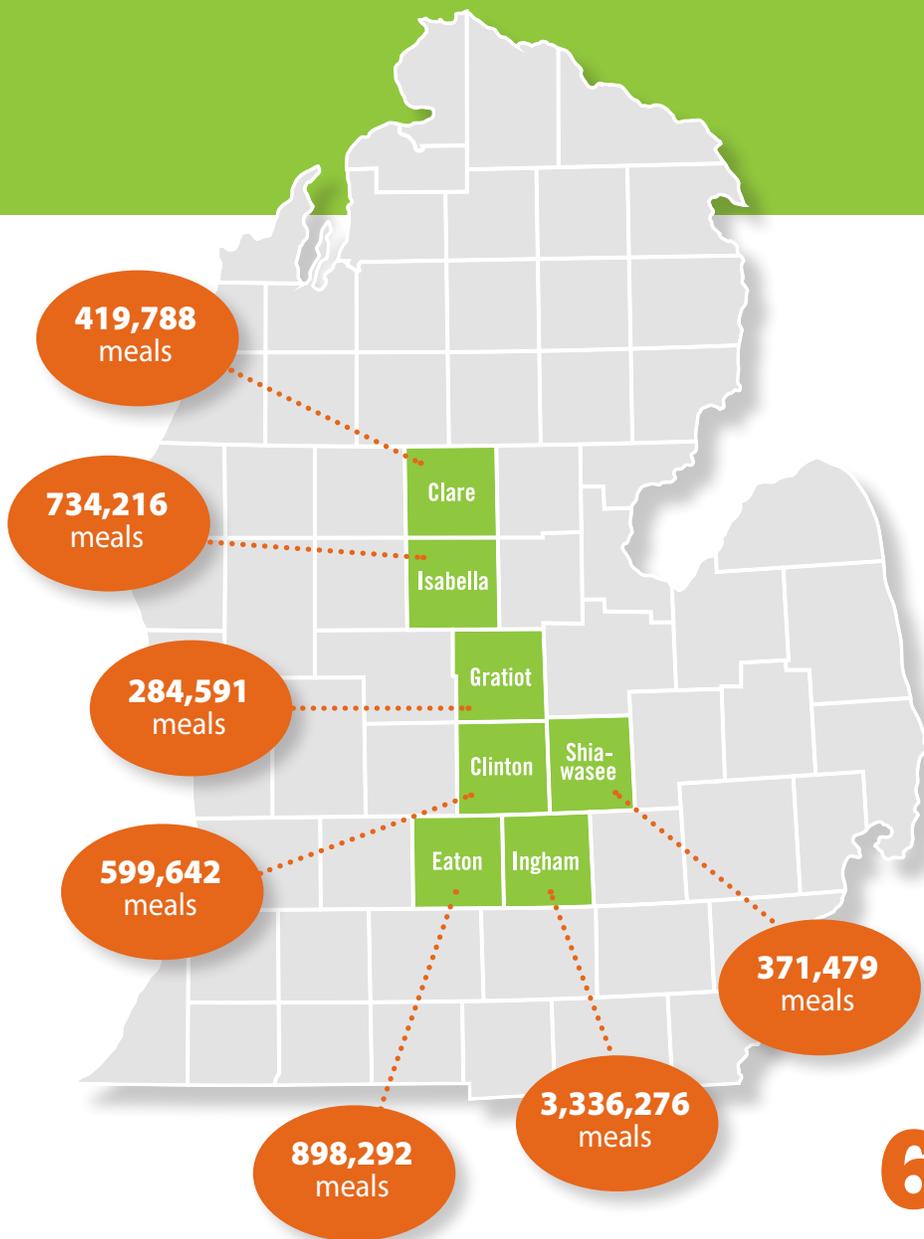
Jim Savage

Pat Spyke

Carrie Waggoner

# Fighting hunger

in the counties we serve:  
Ingham, Eaton, Clinton, Shiawassee, Clare, Isabella and Gratiot



GLFB delivers food every day across seven counties in central lower Michigan. Thanks to the support of the community, we delivered a record amount of food in 2016. From food pantries to community gardens, here is a breakdown of all of the work we did last year.

**TOTAL MEALS PROVIDED IN 2016:**

**6,644,284**

Number of GLFB gardens:

- Ingham – 108**
- Eaton – 9**
- Clinton – 9**
- Clare – 1**

Square miles in GLFB service area:

**3,980**

Poverty population in seven counties we serve:

**114,130**



# 2016 Highlights

ABOVE: The GLFB team recognizes NBC's Red Nose Day to highlight awareness of children's poverty and hunger.

As the GLFB management team looked back on the activities of 2016, the impact we had and the challenges we encountered, there were a few moments that stuck out in our minds. For many, it was the look in the eyes of a child who clutched the food that he or she and their families had just received at one of our numerous food distributions across the seven counties we serve. No one had to explain how precious food is when one is at risk for not having it. Another memory was the satisfaction that a family expressed in using giving as a teaching moment for their children. Yet another was the team at the GLFB rolling up their sleeves to ensure nutritious food would get delivered in what often was not the best of weather conditions for an upcoming pantry or mobile distribution. And then there were the lines of people, often coming out hours ahead of a scheduled distribution of food in their community, fearing that there might not be enough to go around.

These and many other moments remind us of what we do and why we do it, every day of the year. Our mission is, very simply, to feed people. In our minds, there is nothing more basic...nor more important. It is with these images in mind that we present to the people and businesses of our community the activities of the team at the Greater Lansing Food Bank for the past year. Our story of 2016 is once again not a story about us, but rather a story about the people we serve and about you, a caring community that stepped up again and again to make certain that no one in our community would go hungry.

It is what caring communities do.

2016 began with all eyes focused on our very important Envelope/Holiday campaign. So what was the outcome? Nothing short of AMAZING! With the support of the **Lansing State Journal** and other important friends, our community once again demonstrated what a caring community we have. Our community once again demonstrated what a caring community we are. When the final donations were tallied at the end of January, a new record for this campaign was realized as more than \$1,126,000 was donated to help feed those in need in mid-Michigan.

As the holiday euphoria gave way to "old man winter," a long-time friend of the food bank tallied their gifts and held an important check presentation. Each year, the employees of **Farm Bureau Insurance** are offered the choice of receiving a holiday ham or donating the value of their gift to an area charity. Many of Farm Bureau team decided to forgo the ham and chose the GLFB as their charity. The check presentation from Farm Bureau President **Jim Robinson** to GLFB Executive Director **Joe Wald**, flanked by members of the Farm Bureau team, brought more than \$11,000 to the food bank to help feed those in need through the winter months. What a wonderful way to kick off the new year.

The GLFB was once again chosen by University Club members to be one of the area charities to compete for a paid event at the **U Club** via the annual **Big BangQuet** (friendly) competition.

Although the GLFB did not win the prize, valuable donations were received along with many, many good wishes from the community. Thanks to our friend **Karen Grannemann**, executive director at the University Club, for all she does for the GLFB and for our community.

Knowing that the important spring **Empty Plate Strolling Dinner** event was just around the corner, the annual Sponsor Breakfast was held at the warehouse to give sponsors and prospective donors an opportunity to see our operation firsthand. We were honored to have MSU basketball legends and highly regarded community leaders **Lauren Aitch** and **Andre Hutson** as our speakers at this event. Sharing why they each support the mission of the GLFB, their messages truly resonated with the audience.

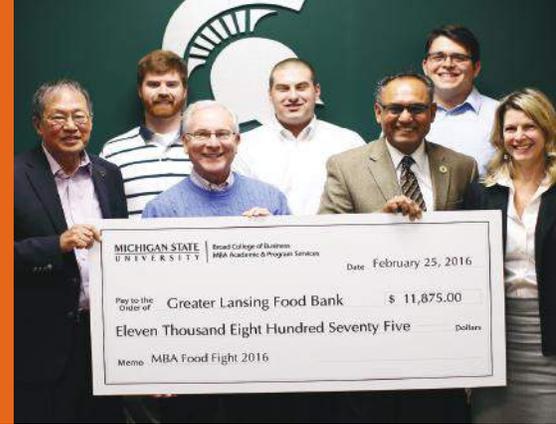
Executive Director Joe Wald was once again invited to speak at the area Interfaith Conference, held this year at the **Greek Orthodox Church** in Lansing. Joe was more than pleased to bring back to the food bank more than 200 boxes of cereal donated by the attendees. A special thanks to **Cathy Gorwitz** for her leadership and drive on behalf of the food bank and the people we serve.

As the snow fell and the temperatures kept our heaters going full blast, the team at the **Garden Project**, an important program of the GLFB which supports individuals and neighborhoods in growing their own fresh produce, geared up for what they knew would be warm weather just around the corner and a spring and summer of



LEFT: Andre Hudson welcomes guests at the Empty Plate Sponsor Breakfast.

RIGHT: Executive Director Joe Wald receives a contribution from the Broad Business School MBA program with Dean Sanjay Gupta and his team.



of bountiful harvests. Between their Garden Leaders Training programs in February and March and the assembling of more than 2,000 Garden to Go Bags that would be delivered to our friends in our northern counties, we knew that spring could not be far off.

Another important check presentation took place at the warehouse as Mason High School student **Janelle McCoy**, recipient of a LAFCU scholarship, chose the GLFB as the charity to receive a **LAFCU \$500 Community Grant**. Thank you to Janelle and our friends at LAFCU!

Executive Director Joe Wald's presence was requested at the **MSU Broad Business School** to accept the proceeds from the "MBA Food Fight." This resulted in a check for nearly \$12,000 to the food bank. Joe's comments at the Broad School check presentation summed up his feelings: "This gift from the Broad School MBA students is very special for a number of reasons. First, it is beyond comprehension that full-time students would take on a cause like this on their own time and achieve such impressive results. Second, it is a testament to the quality of people who are attracted to MSU and specifically the Broad School MBA program. Third, the magnitude of this gift will make a positive difference in many lives in our community." Joe continued, "I am in awe and humbled by what these students have achieved. All I can say is thank you on behalf of those in need whose lives you will touch." A special thanks to Dean **Sanjay Gupta** and his team at the Broad School, which includes Associate Dean **Glenn Omura**, Assistant Dean **Cheri DeClercq**, Director of Academics and Program Services **Wayne Hutchison**, and to **Nick Hammer**, MBAA President.

With the warm sunshine of spring beginning to take hold, thoughts at the food bank quickly

turned to the annual **Letter Carriers Food Drive**, an important time to restock the shelves of the food bank. The NALC food drive is a nationwide event, and at the GLFB, there is no more important location than right here in mid-Michigan. Postal worker **Adrienne Burns** joined GLFB Executive Director Joe Wald for a taping of Fox-47's *The Morning Blend*, hosted by **Bob Hoffman**, a friend to numerous area charities. The program allowed Adrienne and Joe to get the message out to the community. Adrienne is also stepping into the position of food drive coordinator for **Jo Ellen Moore**, who for more than 15 years has worked side by side with the food bank staff to coordinate this annual event. Members of the GLFB management team presented Jo Ellen with a framed letter of recognition and appreciation for her dedication to helping our community feed those in need at a ceremony at the DeWitt post office.

May also brought the most important single fund raising event for the GLFB in the form of the 10th annual **Empty Plate Dinner** at the Kellogg Center on the MSU campus. The vision of **Mimi and Joel Heberlein** has turned into an event now viewed as one of the premier events in the community and a significant fund raiser. With Joel's leadership, this anniversary proved to be even more significant when more than \$500,000 was raised to support the mission of the GLFB. At this milestone event, special recognition was given to our founders, **David Hollister, Patrick Babcock, Bill Long** and **Camille Abood**. What an amazing legacy these visionaries created. To help keep that legacy alive, the first annual **GLFB Founders' Award** was presented. The award was announced in this way in the 10th Empty Plate program: "We will dedicate this award to our Founders and recognize the impact that they have had on our community. We will then make the inaugural Founders Award presentation to

recognize an individual(s) or organization that has stepped forth to make a positive impact on our community, through their work with the GLFB, in the tradition of our Founders. Each year thereafter, the GLFB Founders Award will be presented at the Empty Plate Dinner." Who better to receive the first annual Founders' Award than our dear friend, **Joel Heberlein**. Special recognition must also go to our sponsors who helped to make this such a successful event. Everyone is important, but we could not have achieved these remarkable financial outcomes without these supporters: Title Sponsors – **Jackson National Life** and **McLaren Greater Lansing**; Presenting Sponsor – **Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center**; Dinner Plate Sponsors – **AF Group, Cinnaire, Kris and Jennifer Elliot family, Lansing Neurosurgery, Richard and Suzanne Lasch, Nancy Passanante, Mary Ellen Sheets and Tom Amiss** and **Brig and Francine Sorber**.

But the Empty Plate festivities did not end at the conclusion of the event. In June, major sponsors were invited to a special reception hosted by GLFB board member and her basketball Hall of Fame husband, **Lupe and Tom Izzo**, at their home. The next evening, successful bidders were treated to a dinner for the ages, catered by **Troppo**, at board member **Dr. Chris Abood's** home, with special guests MSU head football coach **Mark Dantonio and his wife, Becky**. Guests agreed that these were two very special nights. We can't thank the Izzos and Dantonios enough for their support and for all they do for our community. Soon after, the GLFB welcomed representatives from **Prairie Farms** who presented us with a check and coupons for 500 gallons of milk for us to distribute through our pantry partners.

After a busy summer of food drives and activities, fall set in with GLFB team members



FAR LEFT: Michael McConnell Jr., former MSU football player, addresses guests at the first annual Paul Bunyan Pancake Breakfast to benefit GLFB.

LEFT: TV-6's Mariah Harrison reports at WLNS Day of Giving.

attending the YMCA ribbon cutting for their new community food bus. The GLFB will be providing much of the fresh produce for this bus, which is slated to visit key neighborhoods around our community as a partnership between our two organizations. Executive Director Joe Wald also attended an important listening session at **Gleaners Food Bank** in Detroit with Feeding America President **Diana Aviv**. It was an opportunity to meet face to face to discuss local and national issues with the leader of our national organization.

As Michigan's Attorney General **Bill Schuette** once again kicked off the statewide **Michigan Harvest Gathering** campaign in the fall to gather donations of food and funds to support the food banks across our state, GLFB Executive Director Joe Wald was asked to speak on the Capitol steps with Mr. Schuette and others. Our attorney general and his wife, **Cynthia**, have been longtime supporters of our cause. At the conclusion of the campaign, the GLFB was pleased that one of our northern partners, **Isabella Soup Kitchen**, was honored with the **Beacon of Light Award** from Mr. Schuette and Executive Director of the Food Bank Council of Michigan, **Dr. Phil Knight**.

The **26th annual Empty Bowls** event was held once again at Troppo in downtown Lansing with support from sponsor **ATT**. Hosting more than 600 well wishers, bowls prepared by our friends and long-time partners, **Potters Guild** and **Clayworks**, were the hits of the day. Thanks also to Troppo and its wonderful staff for donating not only the space for the event, but also the soup and bread and the time of their attentive wait staff.

If one lives in the mid-Michigan area, fall brings not only the beautiful fall foliage colors and apple cider, but also Big 10 football, with no game more important than the in-state

Michigan–Michigan State rivalry. Borrowing a tradition started years ago in Detroit by radio legend J. P. McCarthy, entrepreneurs and GLFB friends **John and Joni Szykiel** held the first annual **Paul Bunyan Pancake Breakfast**, celebrating the unparalleled rivalry between MSU and UM, as a fund raiser to support the GLFB. Special thanks go to presenting sponsor **EG Workforce Solutions**, along with **Created to C** and the **Urban Beat** event center.

As the season once again began to change from fall to winter, the GLFB team geared up for what everyone knew would be a busy time. Historically, the majority of the food that comes into the warehouse is donated product from our local retail partners. Just prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, one walking through the facility would have wondered why the shelves looked so bare. Donations were down and need remained high. As if in a holiday movie, though, area food drives began, and none had more impact than the food drive held at **Delta Dental**. With more than 16,000 pounds of food donated, this set the tone for what turned out to be another amazing food drive season. Once again, our community came through, with food drives big and small to fill up the bins at the GLFB in quantities which will meet the need into the spring food drive push. At the same time, these last few months of the year are the time we once again kick off the **Holiday Envelope Campaign**. Now in its 34th year of supporting the GLFB by inserting envelopes in the holiday season papers to jump start this vital campaign, the **Lansing State Journal** has helped us raise more than \$20 million over the years of this partnership. In addition, the support of **Adams Outdoor Advertising**, **Community News** and the **Lansing City Pulse** helped this campaign get off to another record-setting pace. As a very special addition to the 2016-2017 campaign, highly acclaimed local

artist **Barb Hranilovich** created our campaign image. We believe this is so well done and so important that it is also the cover of this report. Barb is a longtime friend of the food bank, and we can't thank her enough for all of her support. As the campaign began to pick up momentum, special gifts were received from our friends in the local Indian community as well as **Farm Bureau**, **Enterprise Holdings**, **Eagle Eye/Hawk Hollow**, **WLNS TV-6 Day of Giving**, **Delta Dental** and many more.

A report of the support of our community would not be complete without mention of the wonderful volunteer support we get from around our community. Group support over this past year came from hundreds of businesses and groups. There is not enough space to list everyone, but they included: **AF Group**, **Jackson National Life**, **McLaren Greater Lansing**, **Farm Bureau Insurance**, **Auto Owners**, **Christman Company**, **Neogen**, **Emergent Biosolutions**, **Consumers Energy**, **BCBSM**, **Bank of America**, **Liquid Web**, **Elite Fitness**, **Housekeeping Associates**, **Lyman Sheets**, **Menards**, **Morgan Stanley**, **Trippers Comedy Club**, **Michigan State DTMB**, **Alerus**, **St. Vincent Home for Children**, **Salvation Army**, **HP**, **MSU Office of University Advancement**, **MSU Greenline**, **MSU COM**, **MSU Nursing Student Association**, **LCC Student Leadership Assoc.**, **AARP**, **Waverly National Honors Society**, **Ryder**, **Alma College**, **Michigan Restaurant Assoc.** and many, many more. Thanks go out to every person and group that volunteered your time to help us feed people.

Another great year, thanks to our

# Volunteers



2016 was another busy and productive year for Greater Lansing Food Bank volunteers, kicking off in January with the **Martin Luther King Day of Service**. **Students from Cooley Law School** spent the afternoon at the warehouse helping sort and box up donated food from the holiday season.

In February and March, many of our weekly warehouse volunteers took part in a half-day ServSafe food safety training to learn the proper way to evaluate, repack and handle food. Food safety is the #1 priority in our warehouse, and we appreciate those volunteers who took the time to go the extra mile and ensure that every item that goes out to our clients is safe to consume.

April 11-15 was **National Volunteer Appreciation Week**. While we can never say “Thank you” enough to all the individuals and groups we get support from each year, we honored our weekly volunteer family with GLFB t-shirts and mugs as a small token of our gratitude for the hours of service they give to us each and every week, month after month. They really are at the heart of our organization and we couldn’t do what we do without them!

Springtime weather was welcome after a long hard winter! The gardens swung into full gear as volunteers cleared debris, spread mulch, painted and beautified plots to get ready for the growing season. May brought us the **Letter Carriers’ Food Drive**, which helped restock our warehouse for the summer and kept our volunteers busy sorting and packing food donated directly from our community.

In June, we were lucky enough to be a part of **Deloitte’s Day of Service**. More than 40 Deloitte employees painted in and around the warehouse and sorted and boxed up crackers and snack food. Thank you for making our space a little bit brighter!

Every year in July, **Impact Lansing** youth volunteer for a full week, both at the warehouse and with our gardens. Half mission, half summer camp, this week of youth service does indeed make a real impact—and the students come to know the importance of service early on.

On August 31, the GLFB honored our volunteer family with the annual appreciation dinner at **Cooley Law School Stadium’s** new event venue, **The View**. It was a beautiful night for a Lugnuts victory, and about 90 of our core volunteers watched the game with friends while enjoying a full Italian meal.

July and August also kicked off our gleaning season! Dedicated volunteers harvested snap beans and peaches in hot and humid conditions, while September and October gave us our largest apple picking season ever! Twice a week from 9 a.m. to noon, week in and week out, our dedicated group of about 30 volunteers methodically picked every apple they could reach in the orchards. All told, more than 186,200 pounds were picked and brought back to our warehouse for distribution to our agency network. Special thanks to all who made this happen—in addition to our core group of gleaners, **Dart, AT&T** and **Michigan State Police** all contributed to make this a record-setting year. Thank you!

Before we knew it, the holidays were here, with a fantastic food drive season that is still keeping our warehouse volunteers busy!

All told, groups and individuals committed 27,262 hours of service in 2016 to make sure no one goes hungry in our community. All year long, in all kinds of weather, volunteers stepped up again and again to get the job done and move food through our warehouse, help out at mobile pantries, maintain growing spaces, staff major fundraising events, help with office tasks, sort and package seeds and harvest produce. In addition to the businesses listed above and our core group of dedicated volunteers, we’d like to recognize the following partners for volunteering throughout the year, helping us distribute more pounds of food than ever: **Jackson®, Emergent Biosolutions, Neogen, Bank of America, Auto-Owners, Accident Fund, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Lansing Have a Heart, Junior League of Lansing, Consumers Energy, Farm Bureau** and numerous groups from **Michigan State University** and **Lansing Community College**. Thank you for making 2016 one of the best ever for giving back!



*ABOVE LEFT: Volunteers are recognized for their contributions at a Lansing Lugnuts game.*

*ABOVE RIGHT: Edith Best gleans fresh cherries at a local orchard.*

*CENTER LEFT: Volunteers serve guests at the Empty Bowls event*

*BOTTOM LEFT: The cast of A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder from the Wharton Center sorts cans in GLFB's warehouse .*



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# Stories of caring and need

## Kids pitch in to help other kids

Siblings Dylan, Ella and Anna know how important food is. Every March they plant seeds in order to grow produce to sell at their grandfather's farm cart. The trio's spring and summer is spent weeding and tending to plants so that they have enough to sell.

Around the holiday season, after the harvest has sold, Dylan, Ella and Anna donate a portion of their proceeds to Greater Lansing Food Bank. While they know adults also struggle with hunger, they worry about other children who might not have enough to eat. "Give [this] to other kids," said Dylan as they dropped off a check off at GLFB's warehouse.

While at GLFB, the three made sure to inspect the warehouse. During the tour, Dylan pointed out some of his favorite foods on GLFB's shelves, and said he couldn't imagine not having access to the foods he loves. Thanks to support from community members like Dylan, Ella and Anna, GLFB is able to deliver food to families, making sure everyone has enough to eat.



## A veteran's story

Greater Lansing Food Bank has helped veteran Anthony P. through some tough times. When he first relocated to Michigan two years ago, he was living out of his truck. He didn't know where to go or who he could ask for help.

"It was a nightmare," he says. Having spent time as a truck driver, Anthony was used to spending plenty of time in his rig, but this time was different. Most of his time as a driver had been spent as an independent contractor, so unfortunately he was unable to contribute to a work sponsored-retirement plan.

Despite serving in both the Navy and the Marines, Anthony has trouble navigating the system. And though he is a permanent citizen, the fact that he immigrated to the United States as a boy keeps some of his paperwork in limbo. Fortunately, he was approved for Social Security, and groceries from Greater Lansing Food Bank help him make ends meet. Anthony is now in regular housing and is doing much better.

"The people here are wonderful," he says. In response to a question about his cheerful demeanor, Anthony says, "My smile comes from right here [at the food bank]."

*"The people here are wonderful. My smile comes from right here [at the food bank]."*

— Anthony P.

# from our donors & clients...

## The food bank is always there

Janice\* never thought she would have to get food from Greater Lansing Food Bank. Her 60th birthday is just around the corner, and at least 40 of those years were spent working. Unfortunately, hard times have left her in need.

Since she doesn't have access to personal transportation, Janice walks to one of GLFB's food pantries with an empty cart once a month.

"My cart is always full with food when I leave, and I never have to push it home," she says of the generosity of the Greater Lansing community. Not only does she get staples to fill her kitchen, a volunteer or fellow client always offers to help her push the cart home.

"It's a community here," she says.

*\*Name and some details changed.*



## Physician also serves through the food bank

"My involvement goes back quite a ways," Dr. Farhan Bhatti says.

Dr. Bhatti got involved with the food bank a decade ago, during Lansing's first Mayor's Ramadan Unity Dinner. Not only does he feel that giving back is the right thing to do, he explains that the month of Ramadan is a time for reflection on and charity to those who are less fortunate.

"My primary motivation is to act in a way that is a service to humanity," Dr. Bhatti says. "Awareness of the issue of hunger has kept me engaged."

As a doctor, he sees the impact of Greater Lansing Food Bank on a daily basis. Many of Dr. Bhatti's patients at the Care Free Medical Clinic are at risk for going hungry. He estimates that many of his nearly 4,000 patients are also clients of Greater Lansing Food Bank, and he adds that GLFB helps worried moms and dads make sure his pediatric patients have enough to eat. Without enough food, people are more at risk for sickness, and they cannot perform as well at work or school.

*"My primary motivation is to act in a way that is a service to humanity. Awareness of the issue of hunger has kept me engaged." — Dr. Farhan Bhatti*

## 2016 garden gossip...

*"Our garden was so prolific this year! Beyond the 10-12 adults who regularly participated, some kids from the neighborhood started joining us and we had enough to send them home with big bags of harvested goodies each time. We were also able to give away produce to a family experiencing food insecurity. Very grateful for the seeds and starts the Garden Project provided—we couldn't have had this garden without your help!!!"*  
**(Firehouse Garden)**

*"This was the first time my family and I had a garden. My three boys were fascinated with the process of planting, watering and seeing the fruits of their hard work. We sometimes didn't bring anything home, because they ate it all in the garden :) I will definitely be gardening again next year."*  
**(Armory Garden)**

*"This is my 20th year at North School and I have the Garden Project staff to thank for all these years for my success and enjoyment of gardening. Thank you!"*  
**(North Garden)**

*"This was the first year for us. To have a garden in downtown Lansing "on the Capitol mall" in an area State employees take their breaks was great. We got lots of good feedback from other tenants in our building and they were glad the space was being put to good use."*  
**(Office of Retirement Services)**

*"I absolutely loved the experience. The garden kept my parents who were visiting busy and happy and helped us bond. I love seeing plants and flowers growing and going through their cycle."* **(Lilac Garden)**

*"The volunteers that helped at distribution were always incredibly kind and willing to go out of their way. I am completely blown away by this program and extremely grateful to have been introduced to the community this year."* **(Letts Garden)**



## 2016 Garden Project HIGHLIGHTS

**2016 was another fantastic growing season for GLFB's Garden Project. Thank you to everyone who helps make our gardens great!**

- ▶ Hill Greenhouse and Garden — First time growing our own plant starts —20000+! — and a new, amazing community garden that we featured at our harvest potluck
- ▶ The Garden Project has welcomed several Burmese families who are new to the area
- ▶ First-time vegetable plant start distribution at a mobile distribution in Harrison; also a record number of garden-to-go bags for pantries
- ▶ FIVE fence projects completed!



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**GARDEN PROJECT**



## Healthy Food, Healthy Community

Greater Lansing Food Bank's Lansing Roots program is another way the organization helps get food out to the community. Lansing Roots was designed to help limited-resource and historically under-served beginning farmers begin successful farming enterprises through an incubator farm setting. The 10-acre farm is designed to host farm businesses for 2-5 years while they grow and develop, with the goal of more local farmers producing food for everyone in the greater Lansing community. Lansing Roots reduces barriers to farmers by providing land and infrastructure, farm resources, mentoring and technical assistance, and a marketing collective that includes business planning and development and sales opportunities. Farmers with the Lansing Roots program provide local families weekly vegetable subscription options, or "Community Supported Agriculture" (CSA) boxes, sell at local markets, and grow for donation to the GLFB network of agencies. In 2016, Lansing Roots helped over 20 farmers grow an estimated 30,000 pounds of food that provided more than \$40,000 in income for their families, while also increasing the availability of fresh produce within their own communities.



GREATER LANSING  
**foodbank**  
LANSING ROOTS

*TOP: Lansing Roots' farmers sell their produce at a local market:*

*BOTTOM: Ms. Ying Zheng gives a tour of her North School community garden.*



## Community Support for GLFB

CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:

The Blue Cross team and the community come together to support the Letter Carriers' Food Drive; Janelle McCoy (center) chooses GLFB to receive a LAFCU grant as part of her scholarship award; Farm Bureau Insurance employees collect funds for GLFB; GLFB supporters are welcomed by Mark Dantonio during a special dinner at the home of GLFB Board Member Dr. Chris Abood; Prairie Farms supports GLFB; Coach Izzo thanks McLaren CEO Tom Mee for their support for the Empty Plate Dinner.



# Empty Plate reaches fundraising milestone!

This year also marked a milestone for one of the Lansing area's premier fundraising events – the 10th Annual Empty Plate Strolling Dinner and Silent Auction. Started in 2007, the event has raised nearly \$3 million! This outstanding show of support from the community has helped to provide more than 22.5 million meals to our friends and neighbors, and supporters of the 10th Annual Empty Plate event contributed a record breaking \$525,000!

In honor of the 10th anniversary, GLFB presented the first GLFB Founders' Award to Joel Heberlein who, with his wife Mimi, began the Empty Plate Strolling Dinner and Silent Auction. Joel's contributions to end hunger embody the spirit of the GLFB founders who started the food bank back in 1981. In addition to our Founders' Award recipients, we would also like to thank the following Title, Presenting and Dinner Plate sponsors for their outstanding commitment to fight hunger as part of the 10th Annual Empty Plate Strolling Dinner and Silent Auction:

**Jackson National Life**  
**McLaren Greater Lansing**  
**Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center**  
**AF Group**  
**Cinnaire**  
**Kris & Jennifer Elliot Family**  
**Lansing Neurosurgery**  
**Richard & Suzanne Lasch**  
**Nancy Passanante**  
**Mary Ellen Sheets & Tom Amiss**  
**Brig & Francine Sorber**



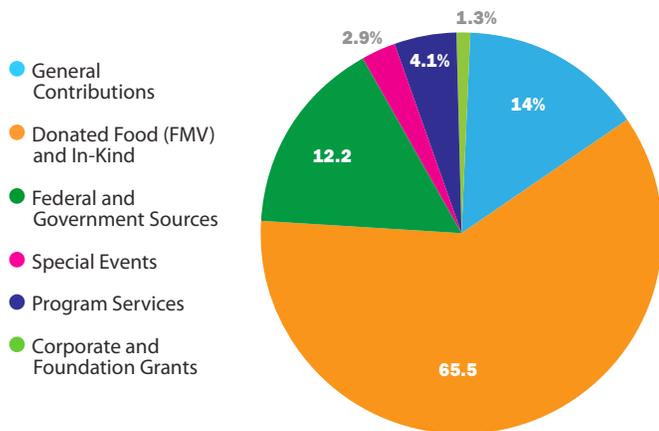
ABOVE: GLFB founders David Hollister, Patrick Babcock, and William Long receive the first Founders Award.

TOP RIGHT: Guests enjoy the 10th Annual Empty Plate Dinner.

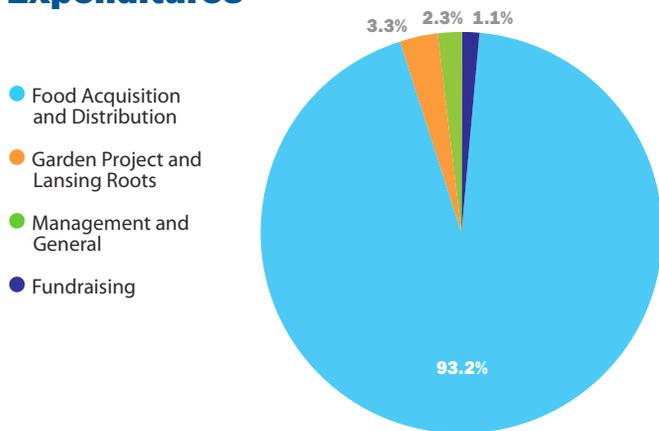
CENTER RIGHT: The team from Jackson National Life enjoys the Empty Plate event.

BOTTOM RIGHT: An ice sculpture serves as the centerpiece during the Empty Plate Dinner.

## Public Support & Revenue



## Expenditures



SOURCE: Audit, fiscal year 2015/2016, ending June 30, 2016.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016

**Total Income ..... \$17,113,851**

### Expenses:

**Program Services ..... \$15,723,618**

Food Bank.....\$15,185,078

Garden Project..... \$359,704

Lansing Roots ..... \$178,836

**Supporting Services ..... \$561,962**

Management & general ..... \$382,431

Fundraising.....\$179,531

**Total Expenses ..... \$16,285,580**

**Ending Net Assets: ..... \$5,815,203**

**Office:** 919 Filley St.  
Lansing, MI 48906

**P.O. Box** 16224  
Lansing, MI 48901

**Phone:** 517-853-7800

**Email address:**  
glfb@greaterlansingfoodbank.org

**Website address:**  
www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org



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