



**2016 Report to the Community**

# Letter to the Community

Feeding people! That is what we do, but we could not do this without community partners like you. Together in 2015, we fed more people in the communities we serve than ever before. In fact, in 2015 we delivered nearly 7.5 million pounds of food – a six percent increase over 2014, which had likewise increased by more than 10% from 2013. Thank you for making this possible.

This data certainly suggests that the need has not diminished. For some in the community, this is hard to believe. We all know that unemployment has dropped significantly since the depths of the recession. Yet the data is definitive. The food we distributed through our agency partners equates to more than six million meals for people at risk for going hungry: young and old, of every ethnic background and educational level.

This past year was unique in many ways, yet one thing remained the same: Our core mission is to feed people; to make certain that no one will go hungry in any of the communities we serve. Nothing is more important to a food bank than that. And it was our single most important focus of 2015, just as it has been since the GLFB was founded in 1981. The numbers indicate that we touched the lives of many people. At the same time, through an initiative driven by the board, the team at the GLFB spent considerable time developing a strategic plan for the future – a plan focused on developing a direction and structure for the organization that will better meet the needs of the people of our region for years to come.

We are pleased to once again present our report to the community. As in the past, we want to share some of the more poignant stories of some of the people we met and touched over this past year. We also want to thank but a few of our thousands

of community supporters. It is unfortunate that we don't have the time or space to print the name of every donor, for it is only because of your support that we can do what we do.

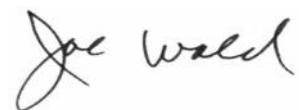
Finally, we use this report to our community to share some of the important data of this past year. As an area not-for-profit organization, governed by a community board of directors, we want to be certain that you are always knowledgeable about our operation; comfortable that we are and will remain good stewards of the resources you entrust to us; see that we are staying focused on our mission, and that we are transparent and open to your questions and comments.

On behalf of the board of directors of the Greater Lansing Food Bank and our team, thank you for your support over the past year. We have worked diligently to be efficient and compassionate in our focus of providing nutritious food to those in need in the seven counties we serve. We hope you enjoy our report to our community.

Sincerely,



Joe Chahine,  
Board Chair



Joe Wald,  
Executive Director

G R E A T E R   L A N S I N G  
**foodbank**



**Our core mission is to feed people; to make certain that no one will go hungry in any of the communities we serve. Nothing is more important to a food bank than that. And it was our single most important focus of 2015, just as it has been since the GLFB was founded in 1981.**

# Why do we do what we do?

This is a question that comes up occasionally. When it does, all we need to do is visit one of our agencies or mobile pantry sites as they hand out food to a family in need. The looks on the faces of the recipients, and the caring smiles on the faces of the volunteers who coordinate the pantries and kitchens, tell us all we need to know. Reading the hundreds of notes that accompany donations is yet another way that we are reminded why we do what we do. A donor added this note to her check for \$10.00: *"I am enclosing this check for \$10.00. I wish it could be more, but I am experiencing hard times myself right now, but at least I am better off than some... My \$10.00 isn't much, but when you put my little \$10.00 with all the other \$10.00, I'm sure you can work wonders. I pray others will be more generous than I am able at this moment... If I can give more later, I will. Best of luck in your endeavors and God bless you for all you do."*

Why do we do what we do? Because there are people in need in our community, and because great communities come together to help those in need, \$10.00 at a time. We are here to feed people young and old, of every background, religion, nationality, race and ethnicity. You see, hunger does not discriminate. And for 35 years, the people of our community and the team at the Greater Lansing Food Bank have come together to make certain that no one will go hungry in our community. The answer to the question is really very simple and it is reinforced every minute of every day. As long as there is one family or one person who is at risk for being hungry, we will be there together to provide nutritious food. It is what caring communities do.

# Report to the Community

**At the end of each year, our team takes a moment to look back and ask a few simple but important questions: How did we do? How did we impact people's lives? Did we meet our own expectations? Did we meet the expectations of our community partners? Were we good stewards of the resources entrusted to us by the communities we serve? What did we accomplish? Could we do things better in the future? Did we make a difference?**

This 2016 Report to the Community is our answer to these questions and more. It is the annual summary of our activities as well as our assessment of how we did and what we accomplished. It is also, in a small way, our way of saying thank you to a few of the many, many supporters of the mission of the Greater Lansing Food Bank from around the region and the communities we serve.

Our team believes this retrospective review is important for a number of reasons. It allows us to look back with a critical eye – to assess what we accomplished and where we might have done more. Even more important, it helps us as we set our goals for the coming year. We believe that the team at the GLFB accomplished a lot in 2015 – but we will let you, the community that provides our support, be the ultimate judge. As always, we appreciate and encourage your comments, suggestions and input. *It is only because of your support that we are able to make certain that no one in our community will go hungry.*

2015 began with a much gentler entrance than the previous year, when a crippling ice storm taxed our facilities and resources. As we concluded another successful Envelope Campaign at the end of January, we were moved and grateful that the individuals, families and businesses of our community had once again donated more than \$1 million to support the work of the GLFB. This comprises a major portion of our operating budget for the year and it set the tone for the year to come. We have learned how important these holiday gifts are, because although the pace of fund raising slows after December 31,



If she can help, so can you

Hannah Henrys, eight years old.  
Photo courtesy of Trumple Photography.

Hannah doesn't want kids in our community to go hungry. So she set up a lemonade stand and gave the profits to the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

GREATERT LANSING foodbank



the work at the Food Bank never really does. Hence, donations we receive over the holidays help us to feed people through the slow winter months. Thank you to all who gave!

As the New Year began, a significant initiative – driven by a series of board discussions and retreats – also took root at the GLFB. The team at the GLFB would spend 2015 developing a strategic plan for the future of the organization, and the role it can and should play in the future direction of the communities we serve. Throughout the year, meetings and discussions took place. We learned this is not an easy process, but at the same time we all realized how important it was. As the year concluded, the basics of the plan were presented to and approved by the board. Early in 2016, the management team, with the support of the board, continued to fine-tune the plan. What we do know is that for the next five years, our team will focus on these pillars of the plan:

1. We will first and foremost continue to focus our efforts on providing nutritious and safe food for those in need in the communities we serve in a compassionate, respectful and efficient way. Simultaneously, we will gather and analyze data so we can make future decisions based on fact. We will focus our attentions on identifying those in need we may not know about today, so we can make certain that their needs for food are met.

**More than  
\$1,000,000  
in year-end donations**

Distributed  
more than  
**444,600  
pounds**  
of healthy produce

Cooking  
demonstrations  
to more than  
**12,600  
people**



Held a change drive...  
**If they can help,  
so can you**

Mrs. Rios's first grade class, Gier Park Elementary School, Lansing.

GREATER LANSING  
**foodbank** MEMBER OF FEEDING AMERICA

Photo courtesy of Trumple Photography.

[greaterlansingfoodbank.org](http://greaterlansingfoodbank.org)

2. We will make certain that we have the right programs in place, or aligned through strategic partnerships, to meet the needs of those we serve.
3. We will ensure that our employees and volunteers do their work in a safe and nurturing environment. Additionally, we will analyze our operations, resource utilization, distribution and logistics to make certain that we have safe, efficient, logical operations.
4. Finally, we will look closely at some fundamental assumptions about our current processes and future needs as they relate to resource optimization. We will evaluate our cost structure, what we pay for food, where it comes from and more. We will critically assess what resources we will need in the future to maximize our ability to provide nutritious food to those in need in the most economical yet compassionate way, and develop plans based on this assessment.

So why is this important? We believe we must have a vision and a target, so we can always focus on what we and our community have identified as the most important goals we need to accomplish and outcomes we need to measure. This strategic planning process will enable us to set these targets, take them to the community for validation, develop and implement plans to help us meet these targets, and finally measure our success at meeting them.

Anyone who has been part of a planning process understands that it can be very time consuming, but at the GLFB, *we also realized that we can never lose our focus on feeding people every day of the year. That is really the story of this past year.*

### A commitment to feed those in need...and a thank you to those who make it possible

In January, the board issued Proclamations of Tribute – hand delivered with special words of appreciation – to two very special partners in our efforts to feed people. The **Potters Guild** and **Clayworks**, our partners for the annual Empty Bowls event each fall, have created bowls for this event with tender loving care for 25 years. People begin calling the GLFB in the early fall to make certain they will be able to both add to their bowl collection and help feed the hungry. These are truly special partnerships.

The GLFB, along with our seven regional partner food banks around the state, introduced an important initiative to get nutritious produce to people across our region. We were extremely pleased to bring on a longtime friend and one of the most knowledgeable individuals in the state, **Kathy Rhodes**, former consultant for USDA Household Food Programs, to head up the new MiFBAN Fresh Produce initiative, funded statewide through a grant from Blue Cross and the Food Bank Council of Michigan. With this grant, the GLFB's goal is to distribute more than 751,000 additional pounds of fresh produce across our seven counties over the next two years. Although we got a late start to implementing the MiFBAN program, under Kathy's leadership, the GLFB distributed more than 444,600 pounds of healthy produce. We also distributed recipes and provided cooking demonstrations to more than 12,600 people across our region. This was an important statewide and local initiative to deliver the healthiest food possible and help people to understand how to prepare it for themselves and their families.



BCBSM trophy presentation to the business that brought in the most food donations for the annual Downtown Food Fight to benefit the GLFB.



McLaren Greater Lansing Senior Human Resources Consultant Ryan Stecovich, and OPEIU Local 459 Senior Service Representative Lance Rhines presented GLFB Executive Director Joe Wald with a check to help purchase food for those in need.



The Tuesday night Youth Group at Dewitt Redeemer Church food pantry enjoyed taking a spoon selfie for Hunger Action Month.

**Becky Butcher** was introduced as the new general manager at **Adams Outdoor**, an important longtime partner of the GLFB. Bringing a wealth of experience, Becky quickly pledged her support to continue promoting the message of the GLFB to the community. Under Becky's leadership, Adams never missed a beat in reminding people and businesses across our community of the importance of feeding those in need.

Joe Wald, GLFB executive director, was invited to represent the food bank at the annual **Interfaith Day Conference**, held this year at the Trinity AME Church in Lansing. Addressing the gathering of representatives from faith organizations across our community, Joe spoke about coming together so that no one in any of our communities would go hungry. Although Joe came to the conference with just a message of need and his thanks for the community's ongoing support, he left with more than 200 boxes of cereal donated by the attendees to provide breakfasts to children in our community.

Another winter surprise was a wonderful check from the **MBA class at the Broad School at Michigan State University**, once again providing its financial support to the GLFB.

Sarah Szjewda, volunteer coordinator at the GLFB, was very busy during the winter months attending volunteer fairs across the region to let people know of the need for support and the opportunities to volunteer at the GLFB. This was in addition to Sarah's "day job," coordinating the schedules with our wonderful volunteers from across the community. The BCBSM fair was one of the many Sarah attended.

As the winter began to move into spring, the board said thank you to a very important friend and supporter. Long-time board member **Jeff Blohm** and his team at **Blohm Creative Partners** (BCP) were recognized for the countless hours of support they give to the GLFB year after year. This type of professional and creative support is one of the ways the team at the GLFB can maximize the resources entrusted by the community so that 97 cents of every dollar donated goes to feed people.

An important food drive each May is the **National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)** event. With the donated food supply from the holidays often dwindling or gone, this event always provides an important jump start to the spring and summer food drive season. More than 141,000 pounds of food was picked up from across the region and delivered to the GLFB warehouse or our pantry partners. Within days, every can and box of food began to move back into the community to feed those who might otherwise go hungry. To our letter carrier partners and the people who gave, thank you on behalf of those we were able to feed.

Just as the team was taking a breath from the NALC food drive, it was time for the 9th annual **Empty Plate Dinner** at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. With the amazing support of longtime friend and supporter **Joel Heberlein**, the results of this year's event surprised even the optimistic host committee, chaired by GLFB administrative director Sarah Jaworski. The sponsorships, ticket sales, auctions and donations brought in \$405,755, a new record for the event. It took many people to reach this new level, but special thanks go out to our 2015 Title Sponsors, **McLaren Greater Lansing, Jackson National Life and Earthcom, Inc.**, and of course the **Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center**, our presenting sponsor.

Our appreciation also goes out to our restaurant supporters who each provided a wonderful addition to our strolling dinner. They were: **The State Room at Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, Bordeaux at Crowne Plaza Lansing West, Morton's Fine Catering, Spartan Signature Catering, Troppo/Tavern and Tap/Peppino's Sport Grille, University Club of MSU**.

And let us not forget the person behind this event, Mimi Heberlein, who nine years ago had an idea and a vision, and never let up until the Empty Plate Dinner began providing support to help the GLFB feed more people.

Before the dust had settled, the local **Subway Feed a Friend** program brought in more than 1,700 pounds of food plus financial contributions to the GLFB. The **Big Bang-quet** program at the **University Club** netted more community financial support from local donations as one more way to keep our mission in front of the public.

Throughout the summer, the team at the GLFB worked with partners including the **City of Lansing** to deliver many truckloads of nutritious food across the region via our mobile pantry program.

Speaking of the **GLFB Mobile Pantry program**, truckloads of food were distributed in all seven of our counties during the year, providing nearly **1.8 million pounds of food** to people across the region we serve. Working with our local partners, we distributed food to people of every age, background, education, nationality, race and neighborhood.

As the summer progressed, our partners at **Volunteers of America (VOA)** asked GLFB Executive Director Joe Wald to join area restaurateurs to serve as a "celebrity" judge for a series of cook-offs featuring area chefs.



GLFB Executive Director Joe Wald served as a Celebrity Judge at the VOA Cook Off Event.



Dr. Decade (Brian Pentland) requests and matches donations for the GLFB at MSU home football games providing great music at the Board Business School Tailgates.

VOA and kitchen manager Tim Popoff are important partners with the GLFB in our work to get nutritious food to those in need. **Capital Area Restaurant Week** once again brought positive attention to the issue of hunger as well as financial support from restaurants across the community. As the summer began to wind down, area county fairs once again brought a bonanza of donated meat to the GLFB. Thanks to the many, many partners who purchased animals and donated the meat to the GLFB to be processed and distributed throughout the community.

In the fall, the annual **Ramadan Dinner** once again brought a full house to the Lansing Center to hear guests and celebrities speak about our heroes and how great communities come together. Once again, GLFB Executive Director Joe Wald was honored to share the stage with these notable guests as he thanked those in attendance for their unwavering support. Special thanks goes to **Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, East Lansing Mayor Nathan Triplett**, area physician **Dr. Abdalmajid Katranji**, and, of course, the person who pulls this all together, **Renee Freeman** in Mayor Bernero's office. Together they make this happen.

**Dave Dowdy** and his colleagues from **St. Elizabeth Church** in Williamston organized a golf outing to benefit the GLFB at the Timber Ridge Golf Course. Participants could not think of a better way to spend a Sunday afternoon. At the end of a glorious golf day, the proceeds helped us to provide food for more people.

While Joe and members of the community were celebrating the spirit of collaboration over a wonderful Ramadan meal, **Kim Harkness** and her team at the GLFB

warehouse were preparing for their toughest challenge yet, to achieve the **Association of International Bakers (AIB)** food handling standards, the most stringent in our industry and a new requirement from Feeding America. Kim – one of our many overachievers – and her team passed with flying colors on the first try. According to Kim, "There is nothing more important than making certain that the people we serve get both safe and nutritious food." Kim is the prime example of "actions speak louder than words!" Special thanks to the leadership of the Food Safety Committee and the warehouse staff for their herculean efforts to achieve this new standard. Participating in an audit such as this demonstrates our commitment to food safety.

As the community began preparing for the holiday season and we all knew that fall would turn into winter once again, **Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette** once again welcomed support from around the state for the seven food banks in Michigan. This culminated in November with the **Michigan Harvest Gathering** luncheon, at which time Mr. Schuette recognized many of those who provide amazing help to the food banks, but often go unnoticed. Our own "super volunteer," **Zel Seidenberg**, received the **2015 Beacon of Light Award**.

The holiday season is always busy around the GLFB as the team brings in and ships out thousands of pounds of nutritious (and some a little more on the sweet side) food to people across the communities we serve. As we geared up for this busy time, an interesting and important new partnership was created. The GLFB and the **McLaren Health Plan** teamed up to make certain that those in the area who were traditionally

## 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.

## Greater Lansing Food Bank Board Members

**Joe Chahine**  
*Chair*

**Joe Wald**  
*Executive Director*

**Nancy Popa**  
*Vice Chair*

**Nikali Luke**  
*Treasurer*

**Roselyn Tanraphol**  
*Secretary*

Christopher Abood, MD

Sarah Anthony

Jeff Blohm

Leslie Brogan

J. Michael Busch

Lavon Dennis

Glenn Freeman III

Linda Headley

Nancy Hollis

Lupe Izzo

Larry Lee

Dave Mulder

John Pirich

Peter Pratt

Jim Savage

Cheryl S. Wald



Michigan School Business Officials' holiday donation to support the GLFB. Pictured are Nancy Jungkans, MSBO conference registrar and administrative assistant, Board President Cheryl Wald and MSBO Executive Director David Martell.

underserved by health care were incentivized to receive important health screenings. This is also a time when many community groups hold food and fund drives and volunteer many hours to help us sort the donated food so it can move on to feed our neighbors. A few of the many people and organizations that provided critical holiday support include the team at **WLNS-TV 6**, who once again dedicated their time, talents and facilities to promote the work of the GLFB at their annual **Day of Giving**. **Auto-Owners President and CEO Jeff Harrold** presented Joe Wald with a check from the A-O team for \$5,000 to set the spirit for the season. The **WLNS** team, working with the **Lansing State Journal (LSJ)**, **Community News**, **Lansing City Pulse**, **Comcast** and **Adams Outdoor Advertising** kept the name of the GLFB in front of the community throughout the holiday season for the annual holiday envelope campaign. Special thanks goes out to **Brian Priester** and **Stephanie Angel** at the LSJ, **Berl Schwartz** at the **Lansing City Pulse**, **Becky Butcher** and **Terri Lentz** at **Adams Outdoor**.

The team at **Accident Fund** once again provided support in the form of food drives, volunteer hours and significant dollars. Thanks also goes to the wonderful women of **Junior League of Lansing (JLL)**. Over this past year, they reached out to the GLFB and the cause we serve. This has included inviting us to speak at one of their monthly meetings, asking us to serve on their Community Advisory Committee, and providing grants and food and many volunteer hours. As the GLFB and the Junior League move forward in exploring how



Holiday spirits were in the air at Option 1 Credit Union as Steve Bush, CEO, Deborah Ginsburg, board member, and Pat Andrews, board member, presented a check to GLFB Executive Director Joe Wald.



GLFB Executive Director Joe Wald had a chance to chat with Santa (Mark Alley) at the Emergent BioSolutions holiday sweater celebration to support the GLFB.

a strategic alliance will support the basic needs of people in our community, the leadership of both organizations knows that this is one more important piece of the puzzle coming together to make our community a better place. As in years past, **Jackson National Life (JNL)** was yet another of the GLFB's strategic partners in 2015. From volunteering to sort food to sponsoring events, donating funds and more, the team at JNL has provided critical support to the mission of the GLFB. Another important partner is **Farm Bureau Insurance**. At the holidays each year, Farm Bureau offers its employees the choice of a holiday meal for their family or donation of the value of that meal to a charity of their choice. The GLFB was the charity of choice which led to a wonderful post-holiday donation.

Support also came during the holiday season from **Option-1 Credit Union** and the **Michigan Supreme Court/Court of Appeals Hall of Justice** 2015 holiday party and silent auction. In Mt. Pleasant, the **Central Michigan University Women's Basketball Team** held the annual **Hoops for Hunger** event, a holiday season food drive competition through local schools, which brought needed food from around the community to local pantries. In 2015, the award went to West Intermediate Schools in Mt. Pleasant, but the real winners were the people of our northern counties in need. Of course, the holiday season is the season of food drives. In 2015, more than 90 area food drives brought in more than 92,000 pounds of food. These holiday season food drives were driven by agencies, local businesses, schools and individuals.

A gift to the GLFB came from the **W.W. Grainger Foundation**, but the real story is how this gift came to be. GLFB volunteer Craig Ryals, a Grainger employee, saw how low food supplies were as we headed into the holidays. He shared this with Grainger market manager Mandy Hayes, who took it to the Grainger Foundation. This led to a gift to GLFB. That is how things seem to work in Lansing: When there is a need, good people come together to meet that need.

Of the many wonderful groups of people that work their wonders year after year, we must highlight our friends at the **India Cultural Society**. Led by **Bidhan Redey** and **ICS President Mr. Rajesh Kannan**, this amazing group of caring people come together during the holidays to help those in need. This year they cooked another amazing lunch which they served to a welcoming group at the Cristo Rey Community Center. They followed this up with a gift from their members of nearly \$25,000. Lansing business **Emergent Biosolutions** came up with their own fund raising twist to support the GLFB with their "holiday sweater" day. Those wearing holiday sweaters (which was just about everyone) were invited to make donations to the GLFB, then also attend a late-morning holiday season celebration featuring none other than Santa himself (who looked a lot like **Mark Alley**). GLFB Executive Director Joe Wald got to sit on Santa's lap, to the laughter of the Emergent team. The Emergent team members' donations were matched by Emergent EVP & President of the Biodefense Division, **Adam Havey**.

# THANK YOU!

At the Greater Lansing Food Bank, we are truly humbled by the support that we receive from every corner of our community. Individuals and families, children and retirees, businesses and foundations have all stepped up to provide the support needed to feed the tens of thousands of our friends and neighbors who need our help. If we could, our team would personally thank each and every one of you. So please know that we recognize every single gift, volunteer minute and act of kindness that allows us to provide nutritious food across our region.

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**Top to bottom:**

GLFB Volunteer Appreciation Day was celebrated at Cooley Law School Stadium for a Lugnuts game, featuring a special visit by none other than Big Lug.

GLFB board member Lupe Izzo and Auto-Owners Chairman and CEO Jeff Harrold took time to participate in a PSA as part of the WLNS-TV-6 Day of Giving supporting the GLFB.

Junior League of Lansing volunteers and their family members spent a Saturday morning at the GLFB warehouse sorting food and added a special surprise with a check presentation.

State of Michigan Office of Retirement volunteers at the GLFB warehouse.

Three of the GLFB's younger supporters, Dylan, Ella & Anna Bahle, making an important point about the need to fight hunger in our community, donating the proceeds that were generated from selling fruit, vegetables and eggs with their grandfather.

Consumers Energy volunteers at the GLFB Warehouse on Red Nose Day.

# Report to the Community: Volunteers

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Residents from Rainbow Homes have been volunteering once a week at the Greater Lansing Food Bank warehouse for nearly 12 years, way back when it was still part of the Red Cross! They knew they wanted to give back to the community, and after searching for opportunities on the internet, they chose the food bank.

Since then, every Wednesday morning, they can be found helping out with various projects, from pre-sorting donated food from our retail partners, to labeling "shiners" (cans with no identifying information) to bagging potatoes or apples for distribution. They say they like the environment and the staff they work with at the food bank – and we feel the same! Always with positive attitudes and lots of smiles, they have been with us through lots of changes, and we are so grateful to be able to rely on their help on a regular basis for so many years! Many, many thank yous go out to Rainbow Homes staff Kara and Arica, supportive super star volunteer Cheri, and residents Kevin, Cathy, Yvette, Don, Tim, Gary, Jordan, Angela, Allison, and all the other folks who have helped out over the years. You rock!

The biggest MSU sports fan you will ever meet, Roger Fowler, has been volunteering for the Greater Lansing Food Bank since April 2015. In just over a year he has become an integral part of the team, going above and beyond in almost every way. He started off with our Food Movers program, riding along with our driver and other volunteers to pick up donated prepared foods from area businesses and restaurants to deliver directly to our member agencies, like Volunteers of America or Salvation Army. However, this soon morphed into ALSO helping out at the warehouse – first with sorting and boxing up food, then with just about everything else! Three to five days a week, you can find Roger either in our Food Movers vehicle, on the warehouse floor making bags for other volunteers to sort produce, lining banana boxes for Food Movers, and just about anything else!

Roger stepped up in a big way when Food Movers needed it. Recently our coordinator was out with a family emergency. Roger was able to go out with a new driver and show him the ropes and all the routes for the week so we could keep our pickups and make sure no food was wasted, and so our agencies could continue to count on the food they get from this program! Roger knows our operations almost inside-out, and is also a wonderful spokesperson for the GLFB.

In under a year, Roger already has over 575 hours of service dedicated to the Greater Lansing Food Bank – incredible! We are so thankful to be able to count on him, and consider ourselves lucky that he chooses to volunteer with us. Go Green, Go White, Go Roger!

John Ames is another warehouse volunteer we want to recognize this year. John has been with the Greater Lansing Food Bank since 1998, when he started his service through GM's Job Bankers program. Even after the program ended, he continued to volunteer once or twice a week through his retirement, and is truly a "jack of all trades" at the warehouse. John pulls orders for our member agencies, fixes what needs to be fixed, fills holes in the concrete, builds computer stands out of materials in his own workshop – the list literally goes on and on! This year, he was instrumental in helping the GLFB pass our first-ever AIB Inspection, putting up new baseboards and helping with the many tasks we needed to do in anticipation of the inspection.

In addition to volunteering at the GLFB, John is a previous volunteer firefighter for Grand Ledge (for over 20 years!). He and his wife, Dianne, have been married 50 years and have two daughters and seven grandchildren. We also consider him part of the GLFB family. Thank you, John!



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*Top:* Roger Fowler and John Ames

*Center:* Jackson National Life volunteers at the warehouse sorting food

*Bottom:* Rainbow Homes volunteers labeling cans at the GLFB warehouse





**As a community garden leader, I'm thankful for Julie Lehman and the other leaders of the garden project. Your support of our garden is so much appreciated. In just two years, our community garden has already changed the lives of many of the families in our area. We have a lot of children involved and they are so full of wonder about watching all those lovely vegetables, fruits and flowers grow!**

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Samantha Kramer



Alice Florida

## Volunteer report: Garden Project & Roots

The Garden Project and Roots Farm owe a huge debt of gratitude to Samantha Kramer for her strong work ethic, dependability, enthusiasm, and problem solving skills. Sam began volunteering for GLFB in 2014 after learning about the opportunities on volunteermatch.org. Originally from Holt, she graduated from GVSU with a bachelor's degree in biology and is now a lab technician at Emergent BioSolutions in Lansing. When asked what helps her commit so many volunteer hours to GLFB programs with such gusto, she explains it's the exposure "to awesome people and is a great way to get to know more about the local communities, and spend time with other wonderful people who care about helping as much as I do." She also loves volunteering because it allows her to do something productive and be outside, and she loves learning new things about gardening.

The Garden Project has a demonstration garden that provides a meeting place for local residents, contributes to community beautification, features a butterfly/herb/vegetable garden and a small orchard, along with signage to engage community members. The demonstration garden would not function without the tremendous help of skilled gardener Alice Florida. The garden is a neighborhood spectacle when the irises and daylilies start blooming and Alice works tirelessly to maintain these beds. She's also happy to teach volunteers horticultural tips. When asked why she volunteers, she responds that she gets "so much pleasure out of it that I should be paying a fee for the opportunity to volunteer." She loves weeding, laying paths, pruning, discovering hidden ornamentals which were planted years ago, planting new items – and wonders where else could one have this much fun.



Garden Project Coordinator Julie Lehman receives a special check from 100 Women Who Care to support the work of the Garden Project.



August farm stand at GreenStone Farm Credit Services with produce provided by the GLFB Roots program.



One of the many CSA boxes of fresh produce distributed across the community through the Roots program.

# Community Report: Garden Project and Lansing Roots

**2015 was an action-packed year for the Garden Project and Lansing Roots teams. For the Garden Project, in its 33rd season of helping thousands of families grow their own food, all 130 community gardens were measured and documented – a total of more than 1 million square feet of growing space! And helping to support every foot are community partners, donors, and volunteers.**

The Garden Project was more than lucky to be chosen as a recipient of a donation from **100 Women Who Care**. Julie Lehman, Garden Project program coordinator, is one of the three staff members who support more than 130 gardens across our community. In her spare time, she joined the 100 Women Who Care organization – a local philanthropy club of women that quarterly chooses a new charity to support with donations from its members. When asked to tell the group about the GP program, Julie did such a good job that the GP was chosen to receive a significant donation to support our work. The targeted funding was used to support area youth and school gardens, a new garden space at the Lansing Roots farm, and a collaborative project rehabbing an aged greenhouse.

## Hill Center Revitalization

With generous financial support from the **Capital Region Community Foundation**, **Power of We**, and **100 Women Who Care**, the Garden Project has partnered with **South Lansing CDA**, **Lansing School District** and **Sodexo-Magic** to breathe new life into food production at the Hill Vocational Center on Lansing's south side. Repairs to an existing 30' x 60' greenhouse will allow Garden Project to grow more plant starts for distribution and for Lansing Roots farmers; a rehabbed hoop house will be used to grow food for donation to a nearby community kitchen; and a nearly acre-sized garden will be started in a secured and fenced area serving neighbors living nearby in subsidized apartments. The power of partnerships is readily apparent in this collaborative effort.

## New Garden at Lansing Roots

After a series of conversations within the Burundi community, the Garden Project co-created a new community garden on site at the Lansing Roots farm. The garden served 35 refugee families who grew many of their staple crops for the year, including dry beans, field corn, cabbage, peppers and eggplant. The 2½ acre garden allowed for much larger plots than are typical and the gardeners took full advantage with great success. As word spread, popularity of the garden increased, with gardeners requesting twice the space for next year for larger plots and more families.

## CSA Growth

Lansing Roots continues to see increased growth and partnerships as the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program creates new marketing opportunities for beginning farmers in the area. Lansing Roots, which includes many lower-income and refugee farmers, aims to help reduce the barriers to entry into farming as a career. The GLFB needs to make sure it can feed our community today AND tomorrow, and our community seems to feel the same way. Sixty-five families received fresh produce boxes weekly as part of the Lansing Roots' CSA program. With options for subsidized shares, pickup at a farmers' market or workplace delivery, the community is buying more fresh food from farmers who need a hand up, not just a handout. Corporate partners included **Dart Container Corp.**, **GreenStone Farm Credit Services**, **Accident Fund**, **BWL**, and **Great Lakes Capital Fund**. And new for the 2016 season is a partnership with the **Allen Neighborhood Center** to continue to expand and grow support for the most vulnerable members of the community.

## **FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015

**Total Income (for nine months ended June 30, 2015).....\$15,650,060**

### **Expenses:**

**Program Services .....** \$14,905,715

Food Bank.....\$14,399,398

Garden Project.....\$299,786

Lansing Roots .....\$206,531

**Supporting Services .....** \$479,684

Management & general .....\$291,913

Fundraising.....\$187,771

**Total Expenses .....** **\$15,385,399**

**Ending Net Assets: .....** **\$4,986,932**

## **We couldn't do it without you!**

It is our hope that this report card and the financial summary above will give you the information you need to better appreciate and understand the role and reach of the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Our purpose is simple. It is to provide food for those in need in the communities we serve efficiently and compassionately. Our team strives every day of the year to be good stewards of the resources you entrust to us. Without your support, we could not do what we do. Above is a summary of our financials for the past fiscal year at the GLFB.

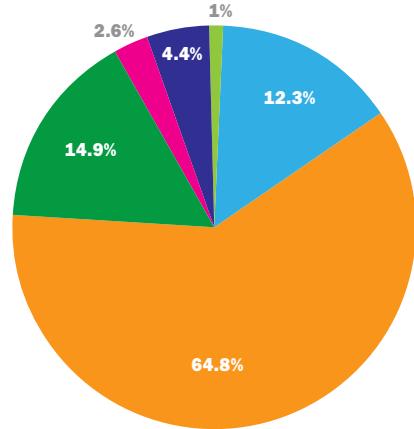
Copies of our audit report are available to the community upon request.

## **Financial Accountability**

The team at the GLFB is pleased to share that once again, the GLFB received a clean audit from our auditors, Maner Costerisan. After a comprehensive audit of our procedures, books and records of the past 12 months ended June 30, 2015, the auditors found no issues with adherence to policies and procedures, accounting principles, conflicts or management practices. The GLFB is adhering to the financial guidelines as set by the yearly budget approved by the board of directors. Once again the management team demonstrated its commitment to being both socially responsible and efficient as evidenced by the fact that administrative and fundraising costs remain at just 3% of total expenses for the organization. This is a conscious commitment of the organization to maximize our resources on providing food to those in need.

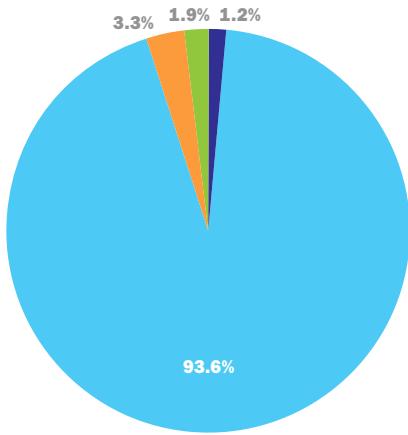
## Public Support & Revenue

- General Contributions
- Donated Food (FMV) and In-Kind
- Federal and Government Sources
- Special Events
- Program Services
- Corporate and Foundation Grants



## Expenditures

- Food Acquisition and Distribution
- Garden Project and Lansing Roots
- Management and General
- Fundraising



SOURCE: Audit, fiscal year 2014/2015, ending June 30, 2015.



## Remembering Brad Graham

From providing critical assistance to the Garden Project to running the Gleaning Program to helping in the warehouse during the winter months, Brad Graham was an integral member of the GLFB family. His passion for gardening and his pride in helping the community were boundless. We are deeply saddened by his passing in December 2015, but his kindness and wit will be remembered for years to come.

## We hope you have found this GLFB 2016 Report Card to the Community to be informative.

In many ways, this report is really about you, the people of our community. We recognize that our ability to meet the needs in the communities we serve is dependent on the support of our community. With this in mind, this report is our way of telling our story, but also of saying thank you to the thousands who believe in our mission and step forward in countless ways to provide this immeasurable support. We hope you will not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for all you do!

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