

G R E A T E R L A N S I N G F O O D B A N K



G R E A T E R
L A N S I N G
F O O D
B A N K



**2010-2011 REPORT
TO THE COMMUNITY**

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J. Michael Busch

Interim Executive Director

Joe Wald

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Greater Lansing Food Bank Mission Statement

- To raise money, food and in-kind contributions for meeting the emergency food needs of the greater Lansing area;
- To coordinate and support the work of the food pantries in the area;
- To promote, encourage and emphasize self-help programs toward the goal of self-sufficiency; and
- To educate the community on hunger issues

30 Years

If, 30 years ago, someone would have told Camille Abood, Dave Hollister, Bill Long and Pat Babcock that the newly created Greater Lansing Food Bank would still be needed 30 years later, they collectively would have asked if you were crazy. Yet here we are, 30 years after these visionary leaders created the Greater Lansing Food Bank to meet a growing need in 1981, still working to serve those in our community who need support to feed themselves and their families

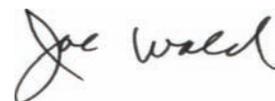
In 2011, the Greater Lansing Food Bank “celebrates” 30 years of helping those in need in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. Our “celebration,” though, is not what we often think about as a “festive” occasion. Rather, we celebrate the unwavering support of our community, which for 30 years has come together to meet this need that will not go away. With that in mind, we dedicate this, our 2nd annual Report Card to the Community, to the thousands of individuals, families and businesses who collectively help us meet this need. Together, you create a beautiful mosaic which is committed to the proposition that no one should go hungry in our community. Thank you for caring, and placing your trust in the leadership of the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Through the stories we will share in this Report Card, placing a face once again on both hunger and caring in our community, we offer our heartfelt appreciation to our supporters for your financial support, volunteer support and spiritual support. We thank the organizations that contribute food through our Food Movers organization, and the businesses, farmers and families who support those in need through our Garden Project.

Because of each of you, we are collectively caring for those in need today, just like we did 30 years ago. We hope you enjoy reading about another year of caring in this Report Card to our Community.

Sincerely,

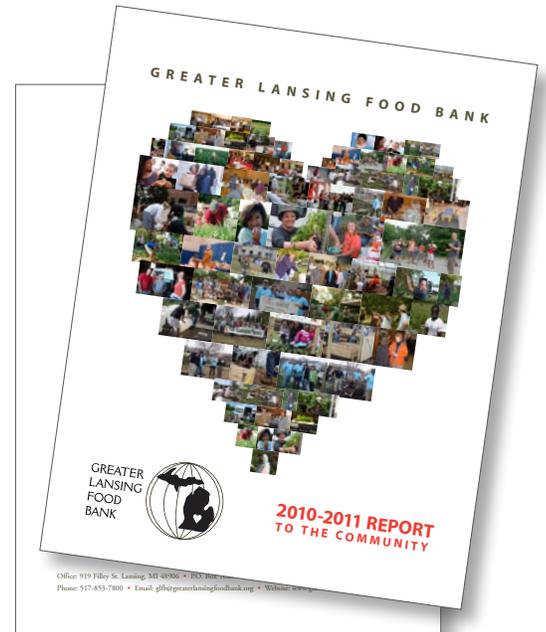


*J. Michael Busch
Board Chair*



*Joe Wald
Interim Executive Director*

Looking back at the past year, we arrived at the conclusion that the image of a mosaic best described this year. We chose a mosaic because of the picture created when many pieces, often diverse elements, are added together. This is how we viewed this past year, and each of the 30 years that the Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) has been in existence to help feed those in need in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. The success of the Greater Lansing Food Bank is simply the combination of many actions from around our community to meet a common need – overcoming hunger for our friends and neighbors. And so, as we once again share with you the stories of the people and businesses of our community coming together over the past year to meet this common need, and try to paint a picture of both hunger in our community and also caring in our community, we are pleased to present our 2011 Report Card to the Community.



Who Are We?

The Greater Lansing Food Bank is YOU! We are the fifth and sixth grade children at the Kinawa Montessori Program who raised \$200 for the GLFB through the sale of recycled goods, and the students at Oakview Elementary School, Pleasant View Magnet School, St. Michael's Elementary School, Kenneth T. Beagle Middle School, and Donley Elementary School who painted plates for our 2011 Empty Plate Fund Raising Dinner, reminding our friends and supporters how important it is that plates around our community not be empty at meal times. We are the farmers and everyday gardeners who make certain each year that a part of their harvest, whether measured in bushels or bags, is always earmarked for the Greater Lansing Food Bank so that those less fortunate in our community will have access to healthy fruits and vegetables. We are the thousands of families from all aspects of our community who place a check in the envelopes distributed by our friends at the *Lansing State Journal*, *Community News*, *The City Pulse*, and others during the holiday season in our biggest fund-raiser of the year. We are the businesses, supermarkets, kitchens and restaurants around our community who make certain that prepared or perishable food is redistributed through our Food Movers, rather than being discarded. We are the

hundreds of organizations that conduct food drives to help us meet the needs of those less fortunate in our community. We are the businesses that do fund-raisers to help us pay for food and redistribute it at no cost to needy recipients. We are the thousands of volunteers at the Greater Lansing Food Bank, the Garden Project, Food Movers, at the pantries and kitchens that distribute food and serve meals. We are the local charities that provide grants for food and gardening needs and specially equipped trucks to safely transport food. We are YOU! And when all of us come together, that beautiful, caring mosaic becomes an organization that truly cares. That picture becomes the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

What more should you know about who we are? We are an organization with administrative costs of less than 10%. What does that mean? It simply means that unlike some organizations with high overhead expenses and financial obligations, more than 90 cents of every \$1.00 we receive goes for food, just like you want and expect. And every dollar that you donate stays right here in mid-Michigan to feed those in need. That is who we are, because that is what you expect.

Garden Project
Berries and Bubbly
event attracted
friends of all ages.



2010-2011 Another year of heartbreaking stories and heart-warming responses

As in previous years, the Greater Lansing community once again came together to show its support for the mission of the Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) by volunteering its time and talents, and contributing significant dollars to feed those in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties who might otherwise have gone hungry. While many other local charities were bemoaning their inability to meet their financial needs as traditional funding sources dried up, the GLFB continued its tradition of meeting the needs of those who had nowhere else to turn. Support for the GLFB came in many forms.

In September, the annual Berries and Bubbly Event held at the Swallowtail Farm in Mason brought nearly 100 people together to celebrate the upcoming harvest and raise dollars for the Garden Project. Check presentations from the India Cultural Society, The Greater Lansing Labor Council, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church from their wonderful “Taste of Greece” dinner, and many more helped to create awareness of the ongoing scourge of hunger in our community and raise important dollars to address this need.

In November we once again held our annual Envelope Drive fund-raising kickoff event at Lansing Catholic High School, a program which by the end of January had raised just under \$1 million to support our mission. And in April, Joel Heberlein and his team at the Kellogg Center hosted our most successful Empty Plate fund raising dinner ever. Led by title sponsor Ingham Regional Medical Center (IRMC) and supported by countless sponsors and additional supporters, more than \$260,000 was raised. There just aren’t enough words to adequately thank Joel and his team, IRMC and all those who give because there is a community need which must be met.

One of a number of critical partners, Gordon Food Service (GFS), located in Okemos and west Lansing, participates with Food Movers to rescue food from its stores. The staffs at both locations are actively watching their inventory so that good, nutritional product does not go to waste or expire, but gets “rescued.” In the past, if food came close to a sell-by date, it was removed from the shelves and then unfortunately sent to the dumpster and then to the landfill. Now, with programs like Food



During the Summer Bike Tour of community gardens, a stop at the Village Summit in the Fabulous Acres Neighborhood.

Movers, businesses like Gordon Food Service can rescue that food for our communities. The food is sound, nutritious and greatly needed, and services like the GLFB's Food Movers Program makes certain that this food gets to tables in our community. In 2010 Gordon Food Service's Okemos location rescued 6,898 lbs. of food and the west Lansing location rescued 1,666 lbs. of food.

Not-for-profit organizations cannot operate without the selfless support of community volunteers. We would like to highlight a few of the many people who help us to make certain that no one in our community will go hungry. We wish that we had the space to recognize all of the wonderful people who volunteer their time and talents to the GLFB.

Zel Seidenberg – Zel has eagerly tackled numerous volunteer tasks for The Garden Project and the Greater Lansing Food Bank main office. From packaging seeds to organizing mailings, Zel has become a key supporter and office staple. She plans to branch out into assisting with our Gleaning efforts too!

Karen Schavey – Karen has helped with tons of seed packaging; but her hands-on and people skills are just as important, as shown when she pitches in at The Garden Project Resource Center.

Jane Puro – Nobody puts more hours in our small warehouse area than Jane. Her late afternoon efforts and ability to work on her own make her an invaluable volunteer.

Greg Garrison – Greg volunteers with Food Movers and with the Gleaning efforts. After being connected to the Greater Lansing Food Bank through RSVP, a retired peoples volunteer program, Greg quickly became a regular volunteer and is a mainstay in the driver rotation for Food Movers.

Remya Ajeesh – Remya has been a key volunteer when it comes to data entry. She comes for a four hour shift once a week and happily plugs away at any task no matter how big or small.

Emiko Fisk – Emiko is a standout volunteer. Often she shows up for a Resource Center shift bearing donations of plants just dug up from her garden—sometimes she'll even bring a snack prepared from the plant, so novice gardeners will be able to taste what they're planting. Emiko's granddaughter helps, too!

Area gardeners enjoy sharing fresh food at the pot luck at Riddle School.



John Bolan – John is the very active leader of Letts Community Garden, organizing workdays and celebrations for his fellow gardeners.

Sarah Surline – Sarah’s devotion of personal time to serving the Jolly Grove Community Garden demonstrates her commitment to her community, and has paid off for all gardeners through physical and organizational improvements.

Dechun Wang – Dechun has spent countless hours spearheading improvements at Lilac Community Garden, while maintaining careful communication with community gardeners and The Garden Project.

Marcus Brown – Well-known in Lansing’s Fabulous Acres neighborhood for tireless community dedication, Marcus is the driving force behind Village Summit, a neighborhood center offering educational, nutritional, and other resources. Working with the Ingham County Land Bank and private landowners, Marcus is nurturing several community gardens operated by and serving neighbors.

Sarina White – Sarina and her team of volunteers at Mt. Zion All Nations Bible Church operate a garden which grows food to be sold after church services. Then, proceeds from the food are donated to the community at large, for instance in the form of utility-bill gift certificates. Sarina exemplifies the power community members have at their disposal when they organize around a common goal; her efforts to cultivate connections are a great model for community organizers and leaders to emulate.

The list goes on and on and on. Thank you to the hundreds of people, of all ages, nationalities and religions, who come together with the common goal of helping people and helping to make our community just a little bit better every day.



Village Summit garden on the Bike Tour.

And let us not forget the hundreds of organizations, unions, schools, churches and synagogues in the area who hold food drives to help those in need through the GLFB. This includes East Lansing High School, Post Oak Elementary School, MSU School of Hospitality, Kroger Okemos, Subway Eastwood Towne Center, Capital Area District Library, AFL-CIO Greater Lansing Labor Council, IBEW #665, Faith Church, Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Bimbo Bakeries, WalMart Charlotte and WalMart Market Place and so very many others. Others supported the mission of the GLFB in other ways. Coca-Cola employees helped build rain barrels for area gardens while Comcast employees and neighborhood residents provided support to the Garden Project as part of the national Comcast Cares day. Thanks also go out to the Michigan Department of Community Health's Building Healthy Communities who provided funding to support valuable interns for the GLFB for our summer needs. And a special thanks is offered to the Capital Region Community Foundation and the Michigan Department of Corrections Building Trades Program who provided 10 important new garden sheds for area gardens in need of tool storage. The list goes on, because so many in our community care...and they do something about it, as you can see.

Community helps replace vandalized vehicle

So often these days, when we watch the news or read the newspaper, we find ourselves shaking our heads in disbelief. That was the case around our community in June of 2011 when we learned that someone had broken into one of the Food Movers vehicles during the night, stolen it and burned it so that it could no longer 'save' food for those in need. John Schneider at the *Lansing State Journal* told the story to the people of our community, and the response once again reminded us how fortunate we are to live in Greater Lansing. Letters of support and contributions to help us replace this vehicle began arriving within days. One caring woman wrote, "The enclosed check is being submitted to try to help in a small way to replace the truck which was stolen. I only wish there was a way I could send more at this time." As often happens, our community comes together in times of adversity to show our very best.

Berries and Bubbly
brought many smiles.



The Face of Hunger in our Community

Below are a few stories about and from the people that we serve:

A 55-year-old woman had her unemployment run out last September. She said she hates the idea of losing everything again, as she did three years ago when she was divorced. She thought she had done everything “right” as she was pulling her life back together. She said the support provided by the Greater Lansing Food Bank was “life changing” for her, to have this resource. It gave her a boost of much-needed hope, knowing that people in the community truly cared about her. She is now applying for jobs and is heading toward her future with more confidence.

Heather is a single mom with two small children. She had steady work and day care covered. Her life was moving in the right direction. Then things changed. Her work hours started to drop until she could no longer depend on the hours she thought were safe. She found herself having to depend more and more on her family. Then she had to

drain her small savings. When she heard about a local pantry supported by the Greater Lansing Food Bank operating out of her church, she “thought she was dreaming.” It was too good to be true, but it was true, and she is beginning to get her life back together. Heather can smile once again, knowing that because she lives in a community that cares, her children will not go without meals.

A 9-year-old girl, who comes to the Boys and Girls Club every day they are open, says, “Sometimes people don’t have money to buy food with, so it’s good to come here and have a snack. We’d be hungry if all the nice people didn’t give us food.”

There is an elderly disabled vet who has raised his grandchildren in Lansing and says he “doesn’t know what they would have done without the help of the food bank.” He takes one day at a time and counts his blessings every day that people really care.



Karen Twyman at the First Christian Church Donation Garden.

“I have donated to United Way through my work for 10 years. I have probably given between seven and eight thousand dollars. Now I’m unemployed. When in need, it is great to know the food pantry is here. Now I’m going home and I won’t be hungry.”

A single mom of three says, “This is my last time coming (to the pantry) for food because I just got a job. Oh my gosh, if it wasn’t for my parents and places like this...Thank God, we MADE it! Thank You to everyone who ‘watched over me’ when times were so tough.”

“I haven’t been to a grocery store for 3 months,” said a retired man. “The only food we have is the food we get from the food pantry, what Capital Area Community Services gives out and what my nephew can give us. It’s humiliating. I don’t understand it. I worked all my life and now I don’t have enough money to even put food I bought on the table.” He and his wife receive Social Security and a small pension. They had been able to manage until their two adult children moved home after their respective job losses. “It’s tough, and I don’t see an end to it. I can’t kick my kids out, I can only hope they can get jobs, but in this economy, I don’t have a lot of hope.”

“My wife and I are in our 40s and decided to adopt four children several years ago. One was a single child and then there was a set of three brothers and sisters. All of the kids had gone through so much before they came to us; they had changed foster homes a lot and the sibling group had all been separated. We were thrilled to have them all under our roof. My wife had worked but decided that she would become a stay-at-home mother. We knew it would be hard, but we didn’t expect my work hours to be cut. I lost my health insurance. After several health emergencies, our medical bills now count in the thousands. We got food help for the first time last month (at a pantry in a church) and I can’t tell you what that made me feel like. For us to make the decision to take the kids and then not to be able to feed them...well, it was rough. I know we have to have the help right now, but I pray for a better day. My wife has a better attitude, she believes these struggles are temporary and will make the children even stronger than they are. I hope she’s right. I won’t forget how people helped me. I plan to give back as soon as I am able.”



Garden leaders help build a garden at Edgewood Village.

The Faces of Caring at the Greater Lansing Food Bank

With all of the support of our community, the Greater Lansing Food Bank doesn't just happen. It takes a team of caring, dedicated people who are committed to making certain that every day, those who might otherwise go hungry have food on their tables. They do this quietly, day after day, with a passion that is hard to describe. These individuals never seek recognition. Rather, they know how important their work is. We want you to know who some of these caring members of the Greater Lansing Food Bank team are.



Joe Wald receiving a check from Chief Anthony Isaacs and Colonel James Stokes from the 7th Annual United States Property and Fiscal Office Golf Outing at the National Guard Bureau offices.

There is Phyllis Handley, who provides leadership for the Food Movers program, methodically working with her great team on a daily basis to “rescue” food and distribute it to those in need. And Anne Rauscher, who, along with Gabriel Biber and a committed team, provide tireless leadership and support for area gardeners through our Garden Project, now totaling more than 80 community gardens in the tri-county region, plus hundreds of additional low-income backyard gardeners. Alex Bryan, our “Jack of all trades,” provides much-needed internal and external support to the organization in the areas of IT, volunteer and outreach support as well as rolling up his sleeves to support gleaning in the fields.

Sarah Brown “runs” our office and makes sure that any “hiccups” are small. Like so many on our team, she works tirelessly to make certain that events flow and the office runs “efficiently.” We were most fortunate this past year when Kim Harkness, formerly with the Food Bank Council of Michigan, board member for Sportsmen Against Hunger, and a local farmer joined our team to help us build relationships, bring in more food, and support the overall mission to reduce hunger in our community.

One more group of caring people, who work in the background on a volunteer basis to make sure that we stay focused on our mission of feeding those in need in our community, are our Board members. At the Greater Lansing Food Bank, we have been blessed to have so very many dedicated members of our community who tirelessly volunteer their time, talents and energies to provide the governance for our organization. One of those “legends” who announced his retirement this year is MSU Senior Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Frank Fear. Frank has been a tireless advocate for those in need in our community, helping us to stay focused. His calming way of reasoning will be missed. We all wish Frank and his family a happy and healthy retirement and thank him for all he has done to set the example of caring, commitment and dedication to our community.

MSU James
Madison students
volunteering at the
Foster Garden.



Our Mosaic of Caring

We hope that this 2010-2011 Report Card to our Community has helped you to learn a little more about who we are and what we do to address hunger in our community. This is not a story about The Greater Lansing Food Bank, or our people. Rather, this is a story about you. It is the picture of caring that is created by each individual person and organization, and your donations, large and small, and volunteer hours that paint the picture of who we are.

30 years ago, our community leaders came together to address a need. That need still exists and as a community, we have not lost a beat in staying focused. There is no alternative. Thank you for all you do to make certain that no one will go hungry in our community. It is what caring people do. This really is a picture of caring.

As a Board and an organization, we commit ourselves to staying focused on our important mission. We see some significant opportunities looming in the near future which will help us to be even more efficient, moving in directions consistent with what our community leaders have been telling us. Thank you for your support and for caring about those in our community who need our help. It was the vision of our founders 30 years ago, and it is our commitment today.



Members from Kiwanis Club volunteer their time to support the Food Movers Program by sorting food inventory which will feed those in need in our community.



Services Provided By the Food Bank

- Emergency food orders, which include enough non-perishable food to last a needy family for six days.
- Packs for the homeless, which include food and items such as paper plates and can openers needed by individuals without a residence.
- Support to home and community gardeners, which includes providing seeds, plant starts and tools.
- Open food distribution at the Neighborhood Partnership Program sites.
- Vouchers for the purchase of dairy and fresh produce and financial support to human service agencies for the purchase of food

Financial Summary of Operations Fiscal Year Ended 9/30/2010

Revenues and Public Support	\$3,382,028
Less: Management and General Operating Expenses	\$287,143
Revenues Available for Food Support and Program Services	\$3,094,885

GLFB Distribution - Food Banks, Kitchens and Related Agencies

In addition to the food pantries in the Ingham County Food Bank Network, GLFB began providing funding to purchase food to the food pantries, kitchens and shelters listed below in December 1991. The support of GLFB enables these entities to use their dollars from other sources for non-food items, i.e., shelter and utilities.

Ingham County Food Bank Pantries:

- All Nations Christian Church*
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- Bethlehem Temple Church (Breadhouse Outreach Ministries)
- Central United Methodist Church
- Cristo Rey Community Center
- Faith United Methodist Church (South Lansing Ministries)
- First Presbyterian Church (Lansing)
- Haslett Community Church
- Haven House
- Holmes Rd. Church of Christ*
- Immanuel Community Reformed Church*
- Lansing Church of God in Christ
- Letts Community Center
- Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church
- Okemos Community Church*
- Our Savior Lutheran Church
- Seventh Day Adventist Community Center
- St. Paul Lutheran Church*
- St. Stephens Lutheran Church (Northwest Lutheran Pantry)
- St. Vincent De Paul – Resurrection
- St. Vincent De Paul – St. Therese
- The Salvation Army
- Trinity Church

**These churches are self-funded*

Related Agencies:

- Boys & Girls Club of Lansing (lunch and snacks)
- Ingham County EFNEP: MSU Extension (nutrition education)
- National Council on Alcoholism/Lansing Regional Area, Inc.
- Lansing School District (summer lunch program for parents to attend)
- Lansing Teen Challenge (live-in program for troubled boys, teens, and adults)
- Tri-County Office on Aging (Meals on Wheels)

Other Food Pantries:

- Bellevue Good Samaritan
- Capital Area Community Services (Mason)
- Capital Area Community Services (St. Johns)
- Dansville Community Food Bank
- Grand Ledge Seventh Day Adventist
- Heart & Hands, Inc. (Eaton Rapids)
- Helping Hands of Eaton County (Charlotte)
- Holt Community Food Bank
- Kalamo Food Pantry
- Leslie Outreach, Inc.
- Olivet Good Neighbor
- Pottersville United Methodist Food Bank
- Redeemer United Methodist (DeWitt)
- Sparrow Clinton Hospital Foundation
- St. Vincent De Paul (Charlotte)
- St. Vincent De Paul (Eaton Rapids)

Shelters:

- Advent House Ministries, Inc. (weekend shelter/kitchen)
- Eve, Inc. (End Violent Encounters)
- Gateway Community Services (homeless youth)
- Haven House (women and children)
- Loaves & Fishes Ministries (homeless)
- Open Door Ministry of Downtown Lansing
- Safe Center (domestic assault/formerly RAVE)
- SIREN/Eaton Shelter, Inc.
- Sisters' Maternity Center
- Volunteers of America

Kitchens:

- Southside Community Kitchen
- The Salvation Army Kitchen



Report Card designed and produced by Blohm Creative Partners.

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