

GREATER LANSING FOOD BANK REPORT CARD TO THE COMMUNITY



GREATER
LANSING
FOOD
BANK



Summer 2010

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Executive Director

Terry Link

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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

Hunger does not discriminate. It affects children as well as adults, individuals as well as families, young and old alike. Hunger does not differentiate because of religion or ethnic background, skin color or education. Hunger is real and hunger hurts.

For nearly 30 years, the Greater Lansing Food Bank has worked diligently in partnership with thousands in our community—individuals and families, businesses and foundations, old and young, people of all races and nationalities and religions, from every neighborhood in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties—to fight hunger, to feed those who need our help. This Report Card to the Community from the leadership of the Greater Lansing Food Bank is our way of saying thank you to all who care, to all who have given. We want you to know that your caring contributions and donations have made a difference. Through this Report Card, we also want to report how your dollars and food contributions have fed those who are hungry in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. We want to put a face on hunger for all those who care.

It is because of you that we are able to say we are making progress. We are feeding so many who might otherwise go hungry. We are truly a part of an amazing community.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



J. Michael Busch



Terry Link

What is the Greater Lansing Food Bank and what makes us different?

There has recently been confusion in our region. We think the best thing that we can do is answer these questions for all who want to know.

The **Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB)** is a not for profit organization that provides emergency food to individuals and families in need in Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties. Food is distributed through an extensive network of food pantries and community kitchens located throughout the greater Lansing area. The Food Bank annually serves tens of thousands of people, many of them seniors and children. Our recipients also include the “working poor,” those individuals who are employed but don’t earn enough to meet housing, health, transportation and food needs.

All donations to the GLFB **stay local** and are reinvested in this mission. Food and grants provided for food by the Greater Lansing Food Bank are provided at **no charge** to the participating pantries, agencies or individuals who receive the food. None of your donations go to pay dues or overhead to a national organization. **Your contributions feed people in our community. Period!**

Since every organization has operating and some administrative costs associated with its operations, we also believe it is important that you know that the Greater Lansing Food Bank is efficient and focused on maximizing the reach of your dollars. With benchmark not for profit organizations striving to maintain overhead costs in the 20%-30% range (and many not for profits actually incurring in excess of 30% overhead and administrative costs), **the overhead and administrative costs at the Greater Lansing Food Bank are below 10%**. That means that your donations are going to feed people...exactly what you want. As you consider where to donate your dollars in the future, ask about the operating and overhead costs. You may be surprised at what you will learn.

For nearly 30 years, a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors and a growing group of volunteer workers have maintained an unwavering commitment and focus on serving those in need of food. But that is not all. There is more to the Greater Lansing Food Bank that we want you to know about.

The Food Movers Program

The **Food Movers** program, an important part of the GLFB, rescues perishable food from restaurants, commercial kitchens, bakeries, and grocery stores and delivers this food to our network of pantries, agencies and subsidized housing complexes. The Food Movers manage the many food drives for the GLFB that local businesses and organizations coordinate to help feed our community. Food Movers also runs Neighborhood Partnerships that distribute food in five Lansing neighborhoods once or twice a month.



Dedication of new Food Movers Vehicle with sponsors, Capital Region Community Foundation and Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation.

The Garden Project

The Garden Project that began in 1983, another key part of the GLFB network, helped establish and support 45 community gardens in 2009 and assisted low-income residents with their backyard gardens. The number of community gardens doubled in 2010. The Garden Project also manages the GLFB Gleaning program, where we rescue edible produce from MSU and area farms to distribute (at no charge) through our network of agencies.

Photo: Gardener, Clyde Hamilton in his backyard garden.



A Community Solution

These two organizations make certain that thousands of pounds of perishable cooked foods, produce and vegetables are safely transported to those in need. But none of this would be possible without our volunteers, staff and wonderful community partners.

That is what this report card is all about...telling you who we are, **why we really are different**, putting a face to hunger in our community and a face to the answer to this need. We want you to know of our many successes over this past year, but most of all, we want you to know where your heartfelt donations went and how they fed those in need.

At the Greater Lansing Food Bank, our volunteer Board of Directors understands that **no one in our community should go hungry**. Together, we believe it is our obligation to educate our community about this basic need that for some would otherwise go unmet, and present this first report card of the Greater Lansing Food Bank to our community to report to you how your contributions of food and dollars are being invested to feed those in need. We want you to better understand the amazing network that we are privileged to be a part of, that takes your contributions and feeds our friends and neighbors.

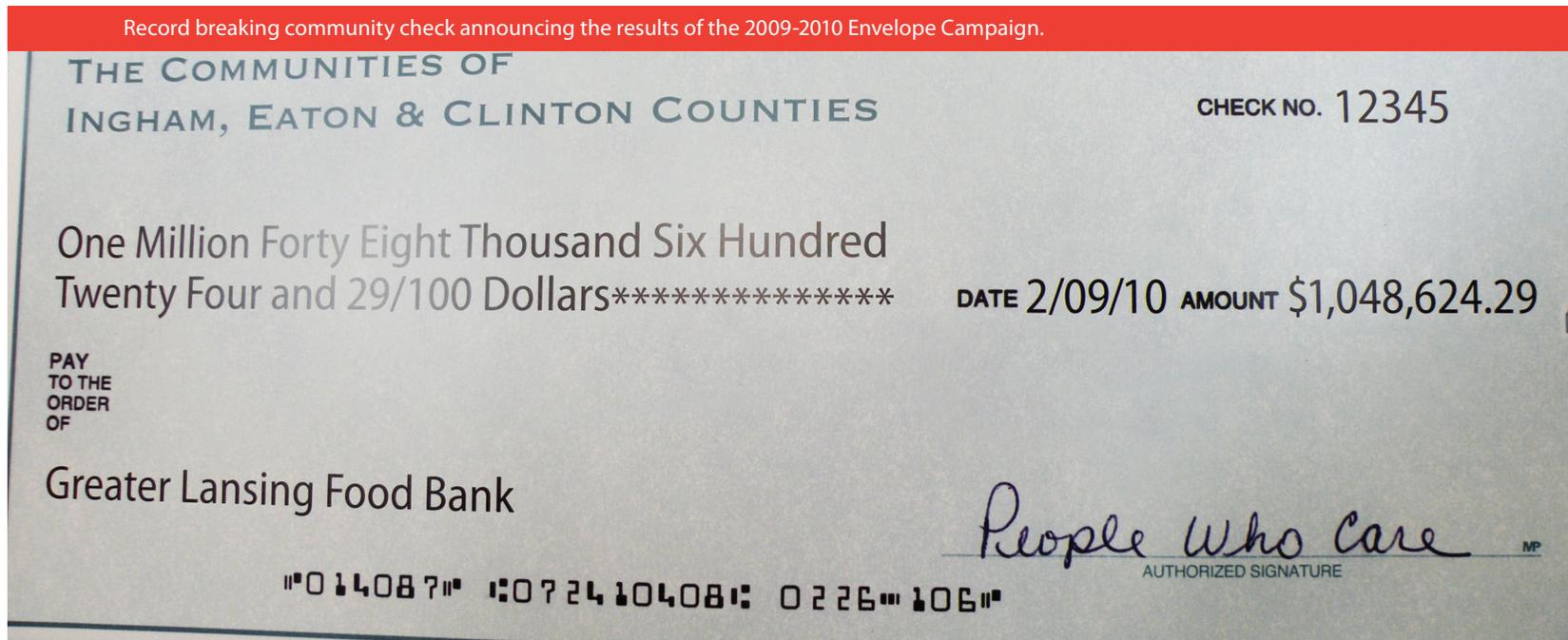


Check presentation from the Garden Club of Greater Lansing.

We also want to put a face to hunger in our community, because we know that hunger is more than numbers. It is people and it is real. We believe it is also important to put a face to what it means to be a caring community.

2009-2010: A Most Interesting, Challenging and Successful Year in Review

Record breaking community check announcing the results of the 2009-2010 Envelope Campaign.



Yet even with all of this uncertainty, the staff, volunteers and community stepped forth to make certain that no one in our community would go hungry.

2009 began with everyone's attention focused on the near meltdown of the U.S. and world financial markets and near panic as stock and retirement portfolios were still in free-fall. Maintaining its focus on feeding those who might otherwise go hungry in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties, the Board of the Greater Lansing Food Bank was in the midst of a wide-ranging search to identify a new Executive Director to lead the organization in these difficult times. The time and effort invested proved to be most worthwhile, as Mr. Terry Link from MSU was identified to fill this role. With a unique understanding of the issues, Terry was founding director of the MSU office of Campus Sustainability, a former Clinton County Commissioner, and a research librarian recognized nationally for his efforts in environmental and public policy information. He brings a belief in

partnerships and community collaboration, and a commitment to "do what is right." Terry took the lead at probably the most difficult and uncertain time in the history of the organization. Yet even with all of this uncertainty, the staff, volunteers and community stepped forth to make certain that no one in our community would go hungry.

After a record-setting 2008-2009 fund raising Envelope Campaign left leadership of the GLFB speechless—with more than \$1 million in donations raised for the first time in the history of the organization in the worst economic times we have ever experienced—there was much uncertainty as to whether the community could repeat this type of support as the organization kicked off its 2009-2010 Envelope Campaign. This campaign is a partnership with the Lansing State Journal with added



In addition to serving as the \$20,000 title sponsor for the 2010 Empty Plate Dinner, Ingham Regional Medical Center made a donation to the GLFB in honor of Doctor's Day, 2010.

support from the City Pulse. In February 2010, the results were announced at a press conference at the new Lansing City Market, and those results were that the people and businesses of our community had once again set a record by donating nearly \$1,050,000 to help feed those in need. These funds are critical to meeting the increasing demand for food support in our community.

In addition to this support, Terry and his team were humbled by the awarding of a series of grants from the Capital Region Community Foundation, the Lansing Rotary Foundation and the James A. Currie Foundation. These grants would help to fund a badly needed new truck for Food Movers to replace a 15 year old, very tired vehicle; support a new voucher program to distribute healthy fresh produce, vegetables, milk and dairy products to those in need; and go directly into the purchase of food for distribution in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties.

In April 2009, the annual Empty Plate Dinner fund raiser at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on MSU's campus proved to be a huge success. With the steadfast support of Joel Heberlein, director of the Spartan Hospitality Group and his team, more than 500 community members donated in excess of \$180,000 to

further fund the emergency food needs of the community. In May 2010, more than 600 attendees raised more than \$210,000 for the 4th annual Empty Plate Dinner.

It is because of our dedicated volunteers, partners, staff and friends that people in our community are not forced to choose between food and other necessities like medications, heat and rent. At the Greater Lansing Food Bank, we are committed to feeding the hungry in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. For nearly 30 years, we have been able to meet this growing need because of the caring people who have supported this cause in record numbers. It is because of volunteers like Cathy Gorwitz, who commits her time to help with mailings and lead monthly food drives in community churches and synagogues; Food Movers director Phyllis Handley and her team who pick up food from around the community and deliver it directly for meals and distribution, and Garden Project director Anne Rauscher, who with her team, helps to train gardeners like Clyde Hamilton to grow and harvest fresh fruit and vegetables. And there are partners like Martha Levandowski at L&L Food Stores who has repeatedly stepped forth to offer the services of her L&L team to



Check presentation from Capitol National Bank.

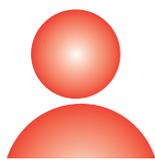
give the community more and more opportunities to support this important cause. And we have been blessed with leadership at area food pantries, like Pam Huffman, Chris Bobier, Betsy McLernon, Pete Shannon and Sharon Miller, who coordinated the distribution of nearly 3 million pounds of food in 2009, provided at no cost to more than 2,500 of our friends and neighbors with food assistance each month. Our community's support to the Greater Lansing Food Bank enabled us to provide more than 1.7 million meals which were served through area shelters, kitchens and pantries.

The GLFB has been trying to increase not only the quantity of food available to those in need, but, as importantly, the quality. Often, the less expensive foods and foods donated to us are highly processed or not rich in nutrition. With this in mind, we have launched programs to address this concern. We began with a milk coupon effort a few years ago and last summer expanded the value from a single gallon of milk to \$5 worth of milk, cheese, yogurt or eggs. We now have vendors participating around the area: L&L Food Centers, Aldi, Lansing City Market, Mor for Less, Allen Street Market, Goodrich's

Shoprite, Charlotte IGA, East Lansing Food Co-Op, and Town and Country Market (Bellevue). In addition to the dairy vouchers, we launched a new \$5 fresh produce voucher also redeemable with these same vendors. This gives recipients freedom to choose among more fresh, healthy fruit and vegetable options.

We are also partnering with local growers in another new effort to get more fresh produce into the diets of our clients. In the summer of 2010, we launched a new program with area farmers to grow popular vegetables for our clients. We are hoping that the green beans, onions, potatoes, tomatoes, cabbage, peppers, squash and melons will be bountiful and more accessible to those who are struggling to make food budgets. This fresh produce will be distributed free of charge through our network of pantries and agencies that help feed our neighbors. And we're pleased to be supporting our local region to develop markets for growing more local produce.

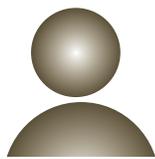
The Face of Hunger in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties



"My name is Allan, and just a short time ago, I had a full-time job with a small manufacturer. I had a house, a small but growing bank account and food on my table.

Then my world turned upside down.

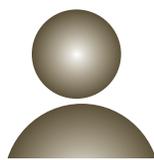
I lost my job and my house. I was homeless, destitute, and I didn't know where my next meal would come from. It was only because of angels like Pam Huffman and the people of Helping Hands, and food provided by the Greater Lansing Food Bank, that I was able to pull myself up from the lowest point in my life. Times are still tough, but I now have hope. I volunteer my time to help others, who like me, never expected to experience hunger in this great country. I have hope once again because of the great people I've met, taking care of each other."



"Dear Garden Project: Thank you for the fresh apples you brought to Mrs. Zheng's class [at North Elementary School in Lansing].

If we didn't have these apples, we would not have snacks at school. They were great. If you can bring more, I will take some home to my family."

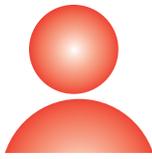
Hunger is often reported as merely statistics and numbers. But we know that hunger in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties is much more than just numbers. Hunger is people, many of whom we know as our family members, friends, neighbors and sometimes even our coworkers. As the economy of Michigan has continued to deteriorate, more and more people and families, adults and children, have found themselves without a source of income to support themselves. At the Greater Lansing Food Bank, we want to take food out of the equation of 'what will we have to do without.' Because we live in such a caring community, we believe we are having a positive impact. The comments and stories we will share seem to confirm that.



Anne is single, in her 50s, working a part-time job since she lost her full-time employment. Like so many others in our community, she is a victim of the economic

downturn. At the same time that she lost her income, she lost her benefits, her confidence and her dignity. For the first time in her adult life, she needed to ask for help, but she didn't know who to ask or how. "When I built the courage to ask, I realized that I was not alone. There were hundreds, maybe thousands, just like me. I saw people young and old, with families, even grandparents. And that's when I realized how lucky I was to live in such a caring community, where people, everyday people, go out of their way to take care of each other. It was a Godsend for me. When I was given my first package of food, I cried and couldn't stop. It was because I knew that people cared and once again I had hope.

Nearly 30 years after the creation of the Greater Lansing Food Bank, the need still exists to feed members of our community. In fact, over the past 12 months, more people in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties are in need of this support than at any time in our history. For the past year, agency requests for food and support increased more than 25% from the previous year, which also set a record. The good news, though, is that more people are stepping forth to meet that need than ever before. Food drives are non-stop and fund raising has achieved record results, in some of the worst economic times any of us have ever experienced. And what makes this even more important, and tells us volumes about this community, is that the gifts to the Greater Lansing Food Bank are coming from more people and more families. Yes, times are tough, with all of us experiencing significant uncertainty in our lives. Yet people are stepping forth to give what they can...in record numbers, to feed people just like those whose stories we are sharing in this report card.



Todd is in his late 30s. He is married with 3 children. His wife has been on disability because of a medical condition, but Todd was able to meet the needs of his family. Then he got his layoff notice. There just wasn't enough work to keep everyone busy. Soon bills began to pile up. His first concern was to take care of his wife and children. Todd has always been self-sufficient. He never has had to ask anyone for help. In fact, it was just the opposite. Todd was there for his friends and family, and glad to do whatever he could. Now as he looked over the pile of bills, for the first time he realized that he would have to choose between his wife's medications, his rent and food. He kept thinking, "How could this happen?" He heard about a food pantry at his church. Today, he is able to feed his family with good, healthy food which includes fruits and vegetables, milk and eggs and a lot more. Tears well up in his eyes as he tells his story, not for himself, but because he still can't believe how many people were there to help his family when there was a need. "The food we were given took an unbelievable burden off of my shoulders. I can now feed

my wife and kids. This is one less concern that I have. And I know it is because of the good people of this community working with the Greater Lansing Food Bank. As soon as I get back on my feet, the first donation I make will be to help feed another family just like mine. I hope everyone knows how much their support means. I never did until the story was about me."

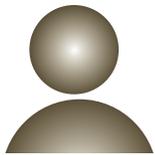
Sharon Miller, Director of Our Savior Lutheran Church Pantry, sees the faces of hunger every day. "If there was no Greater Lansing Food Bank, I don't know what we would do. I've done this for years, but have never seen so many everyday people struggling so hard. What would the elderly, returning veterans and the working poor do on little or no income? People ask me what they can do to help. I tell them, first, be grateful for what you have. Then think about what it would be like if you had a child at home who had to go to bed hungry night after night. Or if you had elderly parents who had worked hard their entire lives and now had to go 'begging.' I tell them to pray for those in need...and then I tell them to make a donation to help feed those less fortunate."

Children from Beagle Middle School preparing plates for the 2010 Empty Plate Dinner.





Neighbors selecting apples from the harvest.

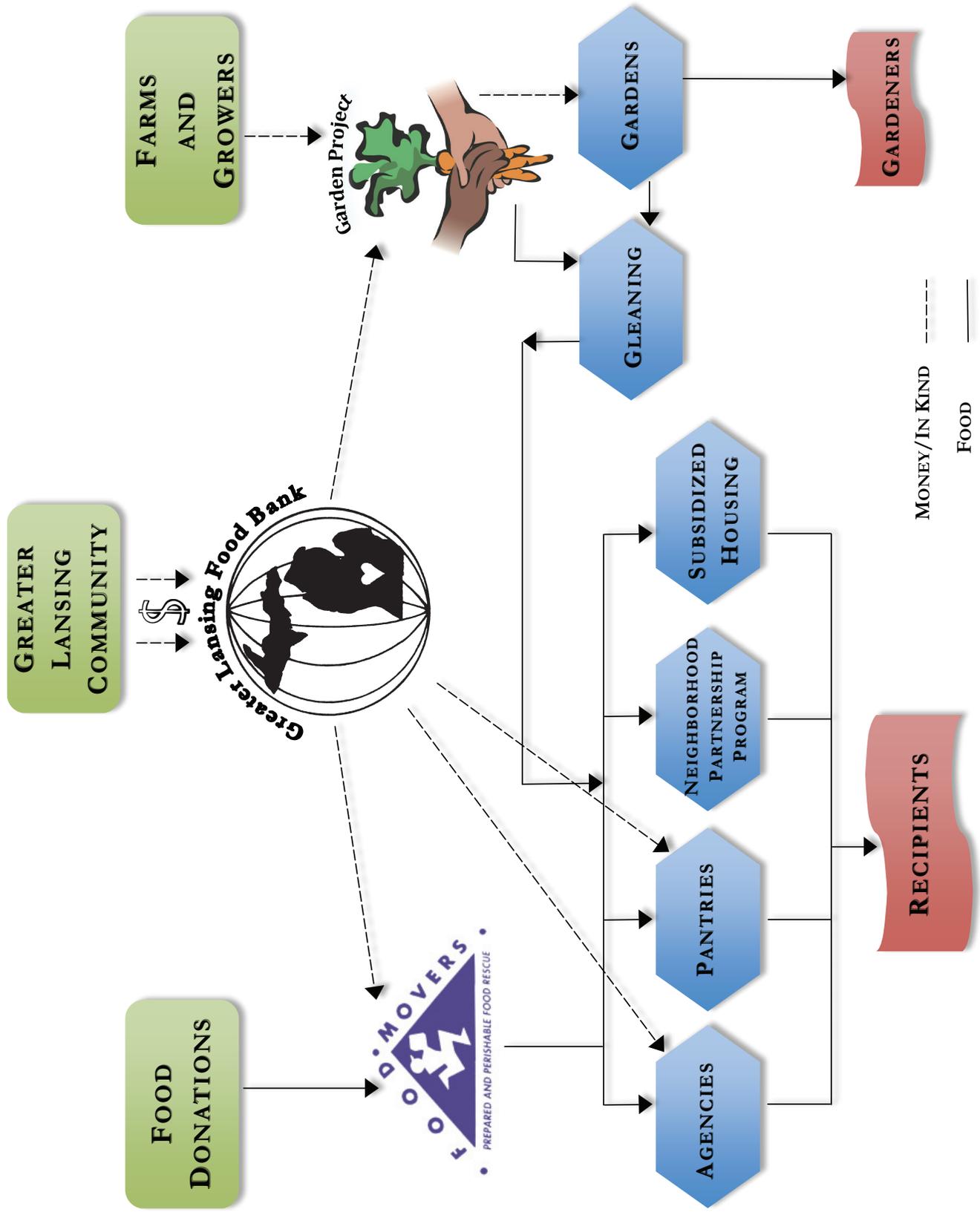


Clyde Hamilton is a home gardener. Clyde was a general carpenter working in home improvement until he was injured. His wife has health problems that confine her to their home. Clyde decided that there was something productive that he could do. With the help of the Garden Project, Clyde began growing a garden in his backyard. He and his wife would eat what they could, and donate the rest to the Food Bank. For Clyde it has been both therapeutic and heartwarming to be able to do just a little bit for others.

The children at Lansing's North School also have a garden. It is right next to 45 community gardens that help to feed many neighbors. With the help of the Garden Project, the kids have learned about gardening and the responsibility of growing their own food. Their harvest of fresh fruit and vegetables is something that each child's family looks forward to each summer and fall.



The amazing network that feeds those in need in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties



The Face of Caring in our Community

Chris Johnson, who donated all the proceeds from his 2010 East Lansing On Target Living Seminar to the GLFB.



What does a caring community look like? Just look around you. In Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties, it is everywhere we look.

Ask Karen Grannemann, Stella Cash and Bill Dansby at the University Club of MSU who raised funds through the Club's 80th anniversary celebration; or Cathy Lazar, Jane Bitsicas, Marian Boulus, Melinda Doyle, Vivian Dwyer, Pam Harden and Elizabeth Vanis at the Country Club of Lansing who raised funds through a member fashion show. Ask Scott Foreman from the controller's office at MSU, who rode his bike to Denver to raise money for the GLFB.



Scott Forman presenting a check from his bike trip from Lansing to Denver.

Then there are Barbara Lowes from the Garden Club of Greater Lansing and Pallavi Murthy, president of the India Cultural Society, and Chris Johnson, who donated all of the proceeds of his On Target Living program to the Greater Lansing Food Bank; and the many friends of our community at Case Credit Union, LAFCU and Capitol National Bank; at Demmer Corporation, Ingham Regional Medical Center, Christman Company, Public Sector Consultants, BCP, Sparrow Health System, Farm Bureau Insurance, Saper Galleries, Associated Builders and Contractors- Central Michigan Chapter, Douglas J and the Accident Fund. There is geologist Richard Lassen, who brings crystals to Barb Fuller at Forest View Elementary School so that the kids can clean them and offer them for sale, with the proceeds this year going to the Greater Lansing Food Bank. There are elected officials like State Representatives Joan Bauer and Mark Meadows who

have given of their time and made personal donations to emphasize their commitments to the cause of feeding the hungry, and there are individuals like Tom Maloney, principal at Lansing Catholic High School, who, with his faculty and students, has held successful food drives and opened up the school to host the kickoff event for the community Envelope Campaign. There are the many media partners who have stepped forth to “get the word out” at the Lansing State Journal, City Pulse and Mid- Michigan Radio Group. This is the face of caring in our community, along with the thousands of additional businesses, families and individuals who cared enough to make certain that no one in our community would go hungry.

So why is the Greater Lansing Food Bank different? And why, with all of the important causes in our community have the people of our community supported this cause. We think the answers are pretty obvious. **Food is a basic necessity. No one should go hungry. Your dollars stay local.** There is no greater commitment in this region than the commitment of the leadership and volunteers and volunteer Board members and partners. Because...it is the right thing to do.

This report card to the community is our way of saying thank you to all those who care, and to say “have hope” to all those in need, because in our community, we do care.

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

Greater Lansing Food Bank Financial Summary of Operations Fiscal Year Ended 9/30/2009

Total Revenues and Public Support including In Kind Donations	\$3,283,798
Less: Management and General Operating Expenses	\$187,592
Revenues Available for Food Support	\$3,096,206

GLFB Distribution - Food Banks, Kitchens and Related Agencies

In addition to the 20 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:

- Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- Bethlehem Temple Church (Breadhouse)
- Central United Methodist Church
- Cristo Rey Community Center
- Faith United Methodist Church (South Lansing Ministries)
- First Presbyterian Church (Lansing)
- Haslett Community Church
- Haven House
- Lansing Church of God in Christ
- Letts Community Center
- Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church
- Northwest Food Pantry
- Okemos Community Church
- Our Savior Lutheran Church
- Salvation Army
- Salvation Army South
- Seventh Day Adventist Community Center
- St. Vincent De Paul - Resurrection
- St. Vincent De Paul - St. Theresa
- Trinity Church

Other Food Pantries:

- Bellevue
- Capital Area Community Services (Mason)
- Capital Area Community Services (St. Johns)
- Clinton Memorial Health Foundation
- Eaton Rapids Food Bank
- Grand Ledge Seventh Day Adventist
- Heart and Hands (Eaton Rapids)
- Helping Hands (Charlotte)
- Holt Food Bank
- Kalamo Food Bank
- Leslie Outreach Food Bank
- Olivet
- Olivet Food Bank
- Potterville Food Bank
- Redeemer United Methodist (Dewitt)
- St. Vincent De Paul (Charlotte)
- St. Vincent De Paul (Eaton Rapids)
- Stockbridge Food Bank

Related Agencies:

- Boys and Girls Club (lunch and snacks)
- EFNEP: MSU Extension (nutrition education)
- Glass House and Holden House (National Council on Alcoholism)
- 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)

Shelters:

- Advent House (weekend shelter/kitchen)
- Crossroads/Gateway (homeless teens)
- Eve, Inc. (End Violent Encounters)
- Eaton SIREN
- Haven House (women and children)
- Loaves & Fishes (homeless)
- RAVE (domestic assault)

Kitchens:

- Open Door Ministries
- Salvation Army Kitchen
- Southside Community Kitchen
- Volunteers of America



Report Card designed and produced
by Blohm Creative Partners.

Our Future Together...

How you can Help

The past, present and future success of the Greater Lansing Food Bank in providing food for those in need in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties is a direct function of the support from the communities we serve. You can help in one of these ways:

- Make a contribution to the Greater Lansing Food Bank at the address below. Your contribution stays local!
- Donate nonperishable food to the Greater Lansing Food Bank to help feed those in need at a local food drive or drop off your donation at the office on Filley Street.
- Volunteer your time to help with mailings, food drives, gardening, Food Movers pickups and deliveries, events and much, much more by calling the Greater Lansing Food Bank at the phone number below.

Help the Greater Lansing Food Bank make a difference, because no one should go hungry!

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