



choose **hope**
not hunger

GREATER LANSING
foodbank



MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Choose Hope, Not Hunger

As a Board, we ask many questions of ourselves and of the management team here at Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB). What do we ask? It's simple: What have we done today, and what can we do tomorrow to get more nutritious food to those in need and those at risk? Because the single focus of our board and team at GLFB is feeding those in need across the mid-Michigan region.

As members of the Board of Directors of the GLFB, we know how important food is for every single person. We cannot function, let alone excel, without nutrition. It is that basic. And that is why this year's theme, **Choose Hope, Not Hunger**, is so important, and so simple. As a community, a society and a nation, we firmly believe that no one should go hungry. And only because of our wonderful community partners, and the amazing support we receive from the people and businesses across our region, are we able to receive and deliver increasing quantities of nutritious food to people in need. As we have often said, it is what caring communities do.

A number of our board members have shared personal stories of times of need in their families that they remember all too well. You see, hunger does not discriminate. It can and does prey on anyone...and everyone. We often remind those we meet that no one chooses to be hungry. And so, hope is what we offer in partnership with you—our caring and giving community.

In this year's *Report to the Community*, we again share stories of individuals who needed our help and those who rose to the occasion to meet that need. This past year was unique, yet so much like years past. There was a need, and as a team and as a community, we provided hope when some in our community needed it most.

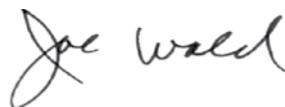
Thank you for caring and supporting the important mission of GLFB to feed those in need.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our team at the food bank, thank you for your continuing support this past year.

Best Wishes,



John Pirich
Board Chair



Joe Wald
Executive Director



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

Executive Director

Joe Wald

Board Chair

John Pirich

Vice Chair

Leslie Brogan

Treasurer

Nikali Luke

Secretary

Lavon Dennis

Members:

Christopher Abood, MD

Jeff Blohm

J. Michael Busch

Joe Chahine

Lauren Forcia

Glenn Freeman III

Linda Headley

Lupe Izzo

Larry Lee

Jim Savage

Pat Spyke

Rose Tantrochol

Carrie Waggoner

Kevin Zielke

Founders:

Camille Abood

C. Patrick Babcock

David Hollister

William Long

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Choose Hope, Not Hunger. We believe this says it all when talking about the role of Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) in the communities we serve.

Support for GLFB doesn't only provide meals for countless individuals, it provides hope for those facing difficult times. We see parents who worry about feeding their children on the weekends when the school cafeteria is not available. We see retirees on fixed incomes who know that unexpected medical bills will severely impact their food budgets. And we see single mothers whose two jobs can't quite meet all their financial obligations and who worry about having enough left over to put nutritious food on the table for their children. For every one of these very real situations and for countless more, GLFB's network of donors, partners and volunteers provides hope. By being there with the most basic of human needs—food—these at-risk individuals can look forward to growth and success. Because you selflessly wanted to make a difference, you had a life-changing impact on individuals and families in our community. Thank you for caring! Following is the story of our past year.

JANUARY

2018 began with bitter cold and immense challenges for our community. Certainly, one of those challenges was to assure that those at risk across the region would have access to nourishment and warmth. Another was the shortage of truck drivers and the lack of produce that would impact our ability to bring in fresh product well into the spring months.

As a community, we came together as we always do to meet these needs. We ended our *annual holiday campaign* in January with donations from **DBI Business Solutions** and the **MSU Athletic Department**, among so many others. Because of the amazing support from our community, GLFB set a record for this campaign, raising nearly \$1.2 million to fund a major portion of our annual costs, funds that enable us to provide food across our region. Our partners at the **Lansing State Journal**, **Adams Outdoor** and **Lansing City Pulse** spread the word far and wide, and the community responded.

FEBRUARY

February brought more snow...and some rain, just to keep us guessing. The rain brought historic flooding to much of our region. This created more challenges, but our community was up to the task.

We were presented with generous checks from our friends at **Farm Bureau Insurance** and the **MSU Rebounders Club**. **Liberty Coin** also kicked off a fundraiser for us, and



LEFT: Michigan Farm Bureau Insurance employees contribute funds to GLFB.

RIGHT: DBI Business Solutions leadership Sue Burger and Steve Klaver present a check to GLFB.



Enterprise Holdings presented the second of three donation installments from their Fill Your Tank Feeding Program. GLFB Executive Director Joe Wald was asked to share the story of the food bank. His speaking engagements included the **Lansing Rotary Club** and the **Mt. Pleasant Kiwanis Club**. During these talks, Mr. Wald explained both the need and how individuals, families and businesses could get involved to help. February also brought the retirement of two long-time volunteers and friends of GLFB. Duane Possanza and Robert (Bob) Noecker announced their retirement. Both special volunteers, the team was sad to see them go and with deep gratitude, we thanked them for their special commitments to help those in need.

February also gave the GLFB team an opportunity to say thank you to a very important community partner, **WLNS TV-6**. WLNS has shared GLFB's message to the community in a number of ways, including their yearly Day of Giving fundraiser at the station. Through 10 years of Day of Giving fundraisers, WLNS TV-6 has provided thousands of dollars of donations and thousands of pounds of food. Mr. Wald was pleased to say thank you in person to General Manager Robert Simone and Operations Director Eugene Shanahan with a special commemorative plaque, which can be proudly seen in the WLNS lobby.

MARCH

In March, we worked to draw awareness to senior hunger, an ongoing situation that is approaching crisis proportions, but does not receive significant attention. Partnering with local Meals on Wheels programs, we were able to distribute additional amounts of fresh produce

to our senior friends. More needs to be done to make certain that this important population has all the opportunities available to comfortably remain in their homes as they age. March also brought appreciated gifts of support from **Swan Electric Company, PNC Foundation**, and our friends at **LAFCU** and **WKAR**, who teamed up again this year to raise funds for GLFB.

APRIL

April showers usually bring May flowers, but April of 2018 brought cold weather which significantly pushed back the spring growing season. This impacted our ability to provide locally grown produce to those at risk well into the summer months.

April is also Volunteer Appreciation Month, and we made a special point to say thank you to the thousands of volunteers who make serving those in need possible throughout the year. We can't thank our volunteers enough. Thank you!

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who participated in the Fight Hunger/Spark Change campaign at **Walmart** and **Sam's Club**. This nationwide campaign provides a considerable amount of local support that stays right here in our community. Important partner **Kroger** also stepped forth with their financial support. In recognition of their contributions toward fighting hunger, one of the GLFB trucks was wrapped with Kroger branding to let the public know of this important partnership. **Lansing Urgent Care** presented the first of four quarterly donations to GLFB as part of their ongoing partnership and commitment to help those in need, and the MBA program at the **MSU Broad School of Business** once again presented the food bank with a team contribution.

MAY

May is always a special month at the GLFB. This year's 12th Annual Empty Plate festivities, once again hosted by the **Kellogg Center** on the MSU campus, welcomed nearly 800 community supporters and raised more than \$575,000 to help feed those in need. The **National Letter Carriers' Food Drive** is another important annual event to help restock our shelves with food donated from across our region. Every year, letter carriers and volunteers collect food donations with the day's mail with the hope of collecting enough food to support GLFB through the summer months. **Kroger, Meijer** and **CATA** also participated by setting up donation sites at local stores. With all the planning, we have learned that one thing we cannot control is Mother Nature. Unfortunately, a rainy and gloomy Saturday had a large impact on the food gathered from this 26th annual community-supported event. Special thanks go out to our many friends from around the community who contributed to this day to help feed those in need. They include **Shaheen Chevrolet, Williams Auto World, Adams Outdoor, WLNS-TV-6, WILS-TV-10, WLNZ-FM, United Way**, the **National Association of Letter Carriers** and the **National Rural Letter Carriers' Association**. Rounding out May was Red Nose Day, a national fundraising program sponsored by **NBC, Walgreens** and **Comic Relief**. We rely on Red Nose Day to help us provide GLFB's We Serve Kids meals to local children.

In honor of 438 three-point shots scored by MSU Men's and Women's Basketball teams during the 2017-18 season, **Abood Law Firm** donated \$10,950 to GLFB for their second annual Beyond the Arc campaign to raise funds and awareness for GLFB.

RIGHT: Lansing Mayor Andy Schor and GLFB Board Chair-elect Leslie Brogan at the Garden Project tour.

FAR RIGHT: India Cultural Society annual luncheon and check presentation to GLFB.



Our new Virtual Food Drive, also introduced in May, allows GLFB supporters to “donate” food items by going online and choosing different food items. Instead of purchasing an item at retail price to donate, this food drive provides an online donation option utilizing the purchasing power of GLFB to purchase these same products at significantly reduced prices.

JUNE

June provided the summer weather we had all been waiting for, and the warmth helped many of our Garden Project community gardens to grow and flourish. The Garden Project program allows area gardeners to grow their own fresh food; use and share their harvest; and donate the excess to those in need. June is also the time that classes end and summer officially begins. With student joy also comes concerns about where meals will come from for young people who participate in school breakfast and lunch programs. As a community, we once again came together, working with the **City of Lansing** and many others to meet these important summer feeding program needs.

In June, we also received an unexpected donation from **AARP** in honor of Eric Schneidewind’s retirement as president of AARP National.

JULY

July brought hot and dry weather to mid-Michigan, providing ongoing challenges to our gardeners, farmers and the GLFB Garden Project team. Once again, though, when it was time for our annual Garden Project Tour, our gardeners were ready to host visitors with their budding harvests. During what is typically

a slower month for donations, retail partner **Costco** stepped up with an increase in their food donations to GLFB, doubling the amount of their monthly donations. A huge thank you to our friends at Costco!

AUGUST

August brought the important Project Connect food distributions, which help families with late summer challenges. As school approaches, Project Connect events feature many wrap-around services, such as: no cost school clothes shopping, basic medical checkups, senior care information and more. GLFB was present with staff members at the Project Connects mobile distributions, handing out backpacks, shelf stable products, milk and lots of fresh produce.

SEPTEMBER

September is Hunger Action Month nationally, and across the mid-Michigan region, activities continued to highlight this need locally. Our friends at **WLNS-TV 6, Blohm Creative Partners, Moonsail North** and many more answered the call to raise awareness by taking promotional “I Support A Hunger-Free Community” photos for GLFB. During this important month of awareness, GLFB brought together all of our agency partners for two conferences, one in Lansing and one in Mt. Pleasant, to share information, talk about issues facing the hungry and plan together for the future. These agency partners—pantries, shelters and kitchens—provide the critical distribution mechanism for the GLFB to get food directly to those in need. The countless volunteers who run these organizations across our seven counties are the true heroes in our communities.

The second year of the “**Hops Against Hunger**” statewide campaign brought a growing partnership between the GLFB and local breweries to highlight the need in our area. A portion of the sales from select ales were donated to support the work of GLFB. Thank you!

Kroger stepped forth once again with a significant grant to allow GLFB to move forward with the purchase of a vehicle for the important Food Movers food rescue program.

OCTOBER

October was highlighted by our 28th Annual Empty Bowls luncheon, hosted once again by our friends at **Troppo Italian Kitchen** in downtown Lansing. GLFB partner **Adventure Credit Union** sponsored the event and provided volunteers, helping us to serve more than 400 friends for a lunch of soup, bread and water. Downtown workers and supporters from around the community stopped in for lunch and left with cherished bowls made throughout the year by our friends at **Greater Lansing Potters' Guild** and **Clayworks Pottery**. They are the stars of this event. And what better way to kick off this important event than with a donation from **CATA**, delivered by new CATA CEO Bradley Funkhouser. Thank you to all who made this such a successful event!

As the summer harvest drew to a close in October, area orchards provided thousands of pounds of fruit and vegetables for distribution through GLFB. Our gleaners were busy as 2018 was a banner year for Michigan Apples.

To conclude the month, **Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley** visited our local Lake Lansing Meijer in East Lansing to purchase and donate milk to GLFB in honor of the 10 Gallon Milk Challenge. Mr. Calley then challenged Meijer, who accepted the challenge by donating 100 gallons of milk



LEFT: Capital Honda chose GLFB as their local charity to support in 2018.

RIGHT: Lt. Gov Brian Calley helped to kick off the 10-Gallon Milk challenge with Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail and local Meijer leadership, which added much more to their milk donation.



and presented GLFB with a generous check. The 10 Gallon Challenge is a social giving campaign, in which someone challenges another to donate 10 gallons of milk to a local food bank. The winners are those in need.

NOVEMBER

November is the official beginning of the annual GLFB Holiday Campaign, and once again this year, after many months of planning and preparing, the 2018-2019 GLFB Holiday Campaign kicked off on November 4. The 2018 holiday campaign theme was "Choose Hope, Not Hunger." Since 1982, the **Lansing State Journal** has partnered with GLFB every year to announce this important campaign to the community. Including donation envelopes in the Sunday edition along with a front-page appeal from the LSJ leadership, our holiday campaign began. **Capital Honda** helped us kick off the campaign with a generous donation. If early donations are any indicator, the support of the community for the mission of GLFB continues to be strong.

As the month began, GLFB received a welcome call from Gary Baxter at **Fox 47** to inform us that GLFB had been recognized and awarded the station's YES! Grant. This grant from the Scripps Howard Foundation included a donation and a month of public service announcements to be featured on the station. This support couldn't have come at a better time, at the beginning of our largest yearly fundraising campaign!

November's turn in weather from unseasonably warm to cold didn't stop community activities and support of GLFB. Dozens of food and fund drives began to dot the community.

Giving Tuesday kept our website busy with

a record amount of online gifts. And once again the team from **HumanArc** held their annual Family Foundation Run/Walk to benefit GLFB. November is always punctuated with Lansing's Downtown Food Fight, and this year was no different. With downtown businesses delivering food and funds to provide nearly 17,500 meals, the holiday season was in full swing. The **Okemos Public Montessori Student Council** conducted their food drive to support the food bank, and the annual Harvest Gathering luncheon enabled the GLFB team to publicly recognize our friend and partner Phil Grimwood and the Helping Hands Food Pantry.

As the month progressed, among our many visitors to the warehouse, we were pleased to welcome Hall of Fame Detroit Lions star Herman Moore and our friends from Fox Sports who stopped by to volunteer at the food bank. Footage from this and other Michigan food bank visits was aired during Thanksgiving week as part of Fox Sports programming.

DECEMBER

WLNS TV-6 held its 11th Annual **Day of Giving** in early December, with viewers and friends donating food and funds to help those in need. Once again, **Auto Owners**, represented by new President Jeff Tagsold, provided strong support with a generous lead gift. This was followed with a gift from the station delivered by new General Manager Scot Chastain. As members of the GLFB team worked together with sponsor 1-800-Got-Junk team members to accept donations in front of the station during the event, many area residents stopped by to drop off donations. It was another successful Day of Giving, raising \$12,500 in food and funds to help those in need. Many thanks to

these important partners.

This month always brings so many wonderful and meaningful donations and food drives from all across the community. The **Playmakers Holiday Classic 5K** event as well as the yearly **Delta Dental Team** food drive had significant impacts on our readiness for the new year. A special surprise had GLFB teaming up once again with **Lt. Gov. Brian Calley** and our friends at Meijer. **Hormel Foods** worked with **Meijer** to donate over 4,000 holiday hams to those in need across the state of Michigan.

As the year concluded and thoughts shifted to the rapidly approaching holidays, the GLFB team was honored to welcome two of our newly elected officials to the warehouse when State Representatives **Julie Brixie** and **Graham Filler** visited to learn more about what we do and how we help those in their districts. Special thanks go out to State Senator Curtis Hertel and his office staff who helped to coordinate this visit. And our friend John Dewey at the **Okemos Music Academy** once again used student recitals as a time to highlight the work of the food bank and encourage parents to donate to GLFB.

Because you selflessly wanted to make a difference, you had a life-changing impact on individuals and families in our community. Thank you for caring!



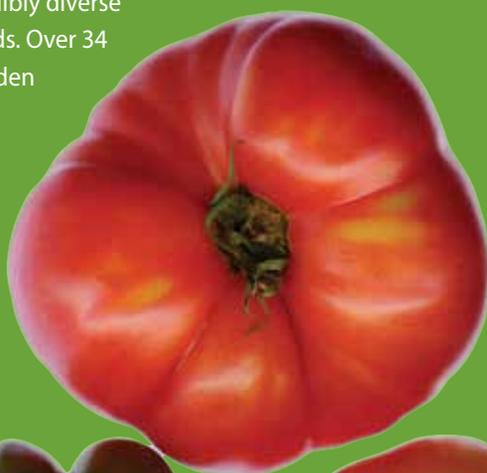
Greater Lansing Food Bank Garden Project **2018 Highlights**

The Greater Lansing Food Bank Garden Project supports 161 amazing community garden leaders, who in 2018 gave time, energy and creativity to 113 total community gardens. Through their combined efforts, we worked to increase local food security and resilience for the people of mid-Michigan.

Over the past year we've been able to offer more resources to our network than ever before, many created in partnership with the community of growers and givers. Our highlights of the past year include:

- Propagated nearly 30,000 vegetable transplants at the Hill Greenhouse that we distributed to our network of gardeners, enabling them to grow their own food and increase self-sufficiency and health.
- Thanks to a generous partnership with Hammond Farms, over 300 yards of compost made its way to nearly three dozen community gardens.
- At the Resource Center, our new coordinator welcomed 1,918 visitors over four months, sending each gardener home with an average of 38 transplants and 21 seed packets each. Along with our tool lending library, a demonstration garden and a slew of helpful volunteers, the Resource Center continued to be a core Garden Project service, increasing access to resources needed to grow nourishing food.
- Our workshops, held almost every month of the growing season, helped to expand the community's knowledge of sustainable growing practices.
- The Garden Project supports more than 37 acres of total growing space, which produced an incredibly diverse array of culturally important foods. Over 34 languages are spoken in the Garden Project gardens!

We look forward to the year ahead, collaborating and empowering the community to grow their own food and prevent hunger. Thank you for growing with us.



GLFB GARDEN PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS

The GLFB Garden Project (GP) works to:

- Help the community grow a high volume of produce to reduce food insecurity and prevent hunger
- Foster self-sufficiency and empowerment
- Build community capacity and connection

Total GP supported space in production:

- Over 37 acres
- 29 acres from 113 community gardens
- Eight acres (est.) from 552 low-income home gardens

Number of gardens across the seven-county food bank region:

- 94 gardens in Ingham County, one in Clare, seven in Clinton, nine in Eaton, two in Isabella
- Two new gardens opened in 2018 (Ingham County Jail and Lake 'O the Hills)

Individuals reached by GP support and services:

- 8,885 gardeners (who provide food for 14,425 individuals in total within their households)
- 81 percent of registered community gardeners are low to low-moderate income
- 26 percent of the community gardeners have immigrant/refugee backgrounds
- There are 34 languages spoken
- 552 low/low-moderate income home gardeners (providing food for 1,932 individuals)

Resources distributed through GP Resource Center:

- 62,021 plant starts distributed in total (also includes direct-to-garden deliveries)
- 11,581 seed packets distributed
- 568 unique clients, for a total of 1,918 Resource Center visitors over the course of the season
- Resources include seeds, plants, canning supplies, advice and tools borrowed

Garden-to-go bags distributed:

- 3,000 bags to 26 agencies (nine in Ingham County and 17 in the six outer counties)
- Bags contain eight common, easy-to-grow vegetables, including beans, carrots and lettuce, along with growing instructions

Donor Highlights



**ZERO
HUNGER
ZERO
WASTE**

The Kroger Foundation

With an organizational commitment to eliminate food waste and help solve hunger by 2025, Kroger of Michigan and The Kroger Foundation have become a powerful force in the fight against hunger with its newest company-wide initiative: Zero Hunger | Zero Waste.

Over the past year, Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) has grown a remarkable partnership with our friends at Kroger of Michigan and the Kroger Foundation. In the form of corporate funds and food donations from our nine area Kroger stores, we can thank the dedicated team at Kroger for providing over 425,000 meals to mid-Michigan in 2018. Especially fond of our Food Movers program — which rescues prepared but unused food from restaurants and event centers — Kroger assisted in providing a new vehicle for the program, making it easier and safer to transport rescued meals throughout the Greater Lansing area, reducing food waste in Ingham and Eaton Counties. This innovative program provided supplies, coordination and transportation for more than 120,900 meals to local homeless shelters, rehabilitation centers and day shelters in 2018.

Kroger has been a longtime supporter of Michigan food banks, including GLFB. We thank everyone at Kroger, from the employees to management and leadership. Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste campaign will help end hunger in local communities and eliminate waste across the company by 2025.



United Dairy Industry of Michigan

A huge thank you to our friends at United Dairy Industry of Michigan (UDIM)! Greater Lansing Food Bank strives to provide as much fresh dairy as we can, and in 2018, our friends at United Dairy made it so much easier to get fresh milk to our clients. UDIM equipped 10 of our pantries with coolers that can hold up to 48 gallons of milk, a significant increase for families who are so happy to be receiving milk. Milk is nutrient-rich and is one of the most requested items. These coolers will allow us to distribute more milk than ever before! Thank you UDIM!

**MILK
MEANS MORE**

United Dairy Industry of Michigan

Thank You to Our Corporate Supporters and Their Dedicated Employees!

Lansing Urgent Care



We are so grateful to our friends at Lansing Urgent Care for their unwavering support of the food bank and our work. Our growing partnership is due to Lansing Urgent Care weaving community compassion into their business model. They have identified numerous ways to get involved and help raise funds for Greater Lansing Food Bank, whether it's a donation coming from a prescription filled at their on-site pharmacy or sponsoring Empty Plates, we are honored to have their support. Without access to nutritious food "we know for certain our community's rate of illness would increase dramatically, especially among families with children, as hunger leads to severe chronic illnesses and conditions," says Catherine Matthews, co-owner of Lansing Urgent Care.



Stemming from their corporate culture dedicated to community involvement, organizations like AF Group, Auto-Owners, Jackson, Farm Bureau, and Delta Dental are changing the landscape of charitable giving in mid-Michigan. Through programs like employer-matched donations, employee driven fundraisers and food drives, and employee volunteer teams, these organizations and many more have made a profound impact on Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) and our mission to fight hunger throughout our community.

"AF Group and its employees are strong supporters of the Greater Lansing Food Bank's mission to provide access to nutritious food to those in need throughout mid-Michigan," said Sarah Garcia, Community Relations Manager at AF Group. "This support is exemplified through our employees' donations, which the company matches dollar for dollar during our annual Caring and Sharing Community Campaign, and through the many hours employees enthusiastically volunteer to partner with the GLFB to alleviate hunger."

"Giving back is ingrained in our business," said a representative from Auto-Owners. "It is a piece of who we are. We are grateful to partner with our associates by hosting food drives several times a year, which benefit Greater Lansing Food Bank. We are proud of our relationship with GLFB. They continue to make a huge difference in fighting hunger in our communities."

"At Jackson, we are passionate about engaging associates in meaningful work that strengthens families and increases economic opportunities for our community," said Kirstyn Shiner, Corporate Philanthropy Specialist at Jackson. "We find providing associates with volunteer opportunities develops relationships across departments and creates camaraderie amongst teams, leading to a stronger company culture. Jackson takes pride in our role as a leading corporate citizen in Lansing, which is driven by the commitment, investment and dedication of our associates who support numerous nonprofit organizations, including Greater Lansing Food Bank."

Because of this dedication to the communities where they live and work, GLFB had received countless volunteer hours, food drive donations and monetary contributions from these organizations and their employees. We are extremely grateful for the commitment that the members of our mid-Michigan business community have given to GLFB and those we serve.

Agencies, Thank You for Choosing

How does one even begin to say thank you to our 140 partner agencies that distribute thousands of pounds of food to our clients on a daily basis? Spread across seven counties, agency staff and volunteers demonstrate a commitment to improving the lives of others. They work tirelessly, without asking for anything in return. As the needs of the community change, they change with it. In 2018, agencies worked with us to provide more produce, expand service hours and conduct outreach to clients.

As these volunteers would tell you, the rewards are many. Everyone who worked with Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) in 2018 has made a difference in someone's life, and our agencies are among the most impactful. GLFB could not feed those in need without each of our partner agencies working together towards a common goal: a hunger-free community. On behalf of the GLFB and all the families you serve, **THANK YOU!**



Partnership

Helping Hands Food Pantry

Phil Grimwood from Helping Hands Food Pantry has served the Greater Charlotte area since 1982. As a retired manager from General Motors, Phil has been volunteering at Helping Hands for more than a decade and has been acting as the agency's director for the last six years. Phil not only "shops" for produce at Greater Lansing Food Bank twice a week, but he does most of the other tasks as well. From unloading the truck and stocking shelves, to listening to families tell their stories, Phil is always there for his clients. Phil even amplifies his clients' stories and voices by writing articles for the local newspaper, keeping his focus on the human side of our work.

Helping Hands is a partner agency that knows the pulse of not only their community, but all of Eaton County. Phil and his team always have a willingness to reach out and to do whatever it takes to improve the lives of those they serve. In 2018, more than 3,900 families (12,000 individuals) received 391,000 pounds of food from this amazing agency.



ABOVE: Phil Grimwood receiving the Beacon of Light Award from Food Bank Council of Michigan Board Chair and Gleaners Food Bank President Gerry Brisson.

ON-CAMPUS FOOD PANTRIES:

Central Michigan University and Mid-Michigan College

As the need continues to grow in our seven counties, Greater Lansing Food Bank is making new partnerships to meet the need. In 2018, we worked with staff at Central Michigan University and Mid-Michigan College to open pantries on their campuses. College hunger has been a hidden need for many years, with some students having to choose between buying books and buying food. These pantries will give students the opportunity to focus on their studies, which is especially important for parents who are returning to school for job training. We will also continue to work with the staff at Michigan State University, ensuring that our regional learning centers have access to nutritious food.

Southside Community Kitchen

Marcia Beer at Southside Community Kitchen is a special Greater Lansing Food Bank partner as she and her team always demonstrate the highest level of compassion. Serving dozens of guests daily at two alternating locations, special care is put into prepared meals by Southside volunteers to ensure a mix of food groups, nutrition and recipes. Many of the guests at Southside Community Kitchen, particularly seniors, have developed friendships with other attendees during their lunches, and camaraderie is as much a part of the Southside experience as food. We need to send a special thanks to Marcia, JoAnne B. and Fr. Bill Luger for allowing us to film TV news stories at the St. Casimir location!

Community Members, Thank You

Volunteers have always been an integral part of Greater Lansing Food Bank's (GLFB) operations, and 2018 was no different. From individuals looking to give back, to corporate groups looking for a team building activity, a lot of care was put into every bit of food shipped by GLFB in 2018. It took 14,322 hours to help us process 1,410,286 pounds of food in 2018! The number of volunteer hours jumps to 29,788 when garden volunteers are added, who help us mulch and weed common spaces. The effort of groups like these allow community gardeners more time to maintain their own vegetable plots over the course of the season.

The year began with many groups stepping forth to volunteer at GLFB to help us sort and package donated food products so that they could find their way to tables across our region. AKA Sorority was one of those groups sorting foods on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a volunteer activity duplicated across the mid-Michigan region on this special day to commemorate the life of a truly great American.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:

Wounded Warrior Project volunteers.

Emergent volunteers can often be found sorting food at GLFB.

Adventure Credit Union chose GLFB as their Community Partner in 2018.

Duane Possanza retired after volunteering for 20 years at GLFB.

Volunteer Ron George working at the GLFB warehouse.

Top Business Volunteers (By hours donated):

- > Jackson National Life: 488
- > Neogen: 254
- > Emergent: 171
- > AF Group: 151
- > Consumers Energy: 104

for Choosing to **Volunteer**



Community Members, Thank You



Garden Project Volunteers

Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) Garden Project volunteers provided 9,844 volunteer hours at the Resource Center, including garden leader estimates, in 2018.

The Capital Area Master Gardeners hosted a booth on May 23 so Resource Center visitors could get SMART gardening tips. In addition to being Master Gardeners, Sara Jaruzel and Susan Beyerlein are both amazing Garden Project volunteers. Sara volunteers as a garden leader for Foster Community Garden and runs a Kids Garden Club. Susan is a regular Thursday night volunteer at the Resource Center. Having knowledgeable volunteers like Sara and Susan at the Resource Center allows visitors to learn new gardening techniques that help them increase their productivity in their own gardens.



Bik Bahadur Rai and Jas Biswa are co-garden leaders at Orchard Court Community Garden. As two of the 162 volunteer garden leaders across the Garden Project network, they serve as liaisons and resources to the 60 families who garden at this southside gem.

Alice F. and Kathy J. volunteer in the Garden Project Demonstration Garden weekly over the course of the entire season—bundled up in March, fighting the heat of July and dividing plants through September. The garden is a showcase for the community thanks to their dedication and care. We so admire their devotion and enthusiasm for keeping Lansing a beautiful place to learn and grow.



Sue Lantz was honored by Mayor Schor for her contributions to Webster Farm Community Garden this year. Sue meets with families, fills water tanks and was instrumental in getting a Love Your Block grant from the city for a new gathering space at Webster Farm. More than 100 families from Bhutan, Burma and various countries in Africa grow a high proportion of their vegetables here each year.

TOP: Jackson volunteers moving wood chips at Orchard Court.

CENTER: Bik and Jas, Orchard Court Garden Leaders.

BOTTOM: Volunteers sorting seeds for the upcoming growing season.

Top Garden Project Volunteer Groups:

- > Jackson National Life
- > Sunrise Movement
- > Lansing Catholic
- > Lansing Christian School
- > Neogen
- > Emergent Biosolutions
- > Lake Trust Credit Union
- > Urban Outfitters

for Choosing to **Volunteer**



"I look forward to coming here. It's a lot of fun, and we do good work. It's almost a social gathering for us. We've met so many people."

— Glenn A.

GREATER LANSING FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER STORY: **Glenn and Karen A.**

With 55 years of marriage and 35 years of volunteering, Glenn and Karen A. are dedicated to each other and to the community. In addition to volunteering pre-merger at the Red Cross Mid-Michigan Food Bank, they currently volunteer weekly at the warehouse, where they sort and process food. They also regularly volunteer at the Cristo Rey Food Pantry, where they help distribute goods directly to families. Food security is so important to the couple, they can also be found serving guests at Empty Bowls Luncheon and collecting donations with postal workers during the National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive. For the letter carriers' drive, they even ended their Florida vacations early so that they didn't miss the early May collection date.

"I look forward to coming here," said Glenn. "It's a lot of fun, and we do good work. It's almost a social gathering for us. We've met so many people."

There have been many changes over the years, and the two have noticed an increase in the amount and type of food distributed.

"The food was sorted differently back then," Karen said. "There were a lot more Pop-Tarts and macaroni and cheese boxes when we started. There is a better mix in the boxes we pack for families; we are sorting apples, carrots and potatoes today."

During the fall, Glenn and Karen visit farms and orchards to help glean donated produce for those in need.

Even with dedicated community members like Glenn and Karen, the need is still growing in mid-Michigan.

"There would be a lot of need that wouldn't be met without the food bank," says Glenn. "I would recommend that people get involved."

Empty Plate Sets New Fundraising

Now in its 12th year of raising funds to support the mission of Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB), the Empty Plate Strolling Dinner and Auction has become one of the premier events in mid-Michigan. Created by Mimi Heberlein in 2007, this annual event has raised more than \$4 million to help feed our friends and neighbors in the community.

On May 3, 2018, the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center hosted another fantastic evening. Thanks to the support of our sponsors, auction donors, food vendors and attendees, **more than \$575,000 was raised — a new record-breaking amount for the event!**

At 2018's event, the Third Annual Founders' Award was awarded to India Cultural Society (ICS). During their annual "Feed The Hungry" holiday luncheon, ICS presented a donation to GLFB to support those in need. ICS has set a goal of raising \$20,000 each year, and with the generous support of the society's members and the community, ICS has been able to raise donations in excess of this goal in recent years. ICS' ongoing support ensures that there are fewer empty plates in our community.

Thank you to the presenting and title sponsors of the 12th Annual Empty Plate Strolling Dinner and Auction: Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, Jackson National Life, and McLaren Greater Lansing.

We would also like to give special thanks to the participating restaurants and caterers for providing the evening's delicious food:

- > Bordeaux at Crowne Plaza Lansing West
- > Kellogg Catering
- > Morton's Fine Catering
- > Radisson Hotel Lansing at the Capitol
- > The State Room at Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
- > Tavern & Tap



Record!

TOP: India Cultural Society receives the third annual Founders' Award.

CENTER: Pat Spyke and Kelli Ellsworth Etchison from LAFCU.

BOTTOM: AF Group team.



FAR LEFT: University Club team at the GLFB Empty Plate Dinner.

LEFT: Deb Muchmore, Cheryl Bartholic and Joan Bauer.

Thank You for Choosing to **Care**



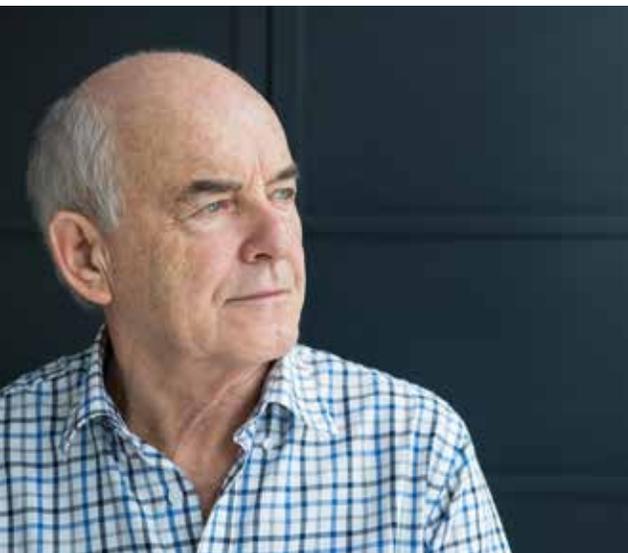
Deborah's Story

"When I was laid off, the grocery store became a place of dread."

When Deborah found herself counting out pennies at the grocery store, she knew it was time to ask for help. Even though she tried, there was no way to afford food and keep up with bills. With her family in mind, she turned to the Greater Lansing Food Bank network for assistance.

"It was a relief knowing the food bank was there to help. I didn't have to be embarrassed putting items back at the grocery store or worry about running out of food. Everyone was so kind, and they really wanted to help me get back on my feet. Eventually I found a new full-time job, and I didn't need as much from the food bank. And then I didn't need food assistance at all.

"My family is indebted to the food bank. They were there for us when we were in need. I'll always repay them for that dignity by volunteering, and I look forward to donating to help someone else. I am SO grateful for all who support the food bank; the work you do is life changing."



Fred's Story

Fred M., a senior in Gratiot County, had applied multiple times for SNAP benefits, but struggled with the application process. As a result of his misunderstanding of application requirements, he was repeatedly denied for benefits. Thankfully, Fred reached out for help. With our assistance, he was able to locate and provide the required information and was approved for benefits. He receives \$61 a month, which keeps his pantry stocked and supplements his Greater Lansing Food Bank food distributions.

Snap Outreach Stats

- > 170 SNAP applications submitted
- > Est. benefits received = \$395,111
- > Est. economic impact = \$707,249
- > Estimated meals attributable to SNAP outreach = 140,609

IN MEMORIAM

THOMAS J. PAVLIK

In March, Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) lost one of our dearest and most dedicated volunteers, Thomas J. Pavlik.



Tom could be found at our warehouse every week for more than 20 years, sorting and boxing donations. He made staff and volunteers alike laugh with stories about his sons and their scouting adventures, and he spoke frequently about his beloved wife, Rosemary, and the incredible meals she was cooking up.

For his dedication to ending hunger, he was a recipient of GLFB's Volunteer of the Year award. He was a staple of our weekday mornings, part of our GLFB family, and he is sorely missed.

C. PATRICK BABCOCK

Founding member of Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) C. Patrick Babcock passed away in 2018. He, along with the rest of our founders, did not hesitate to

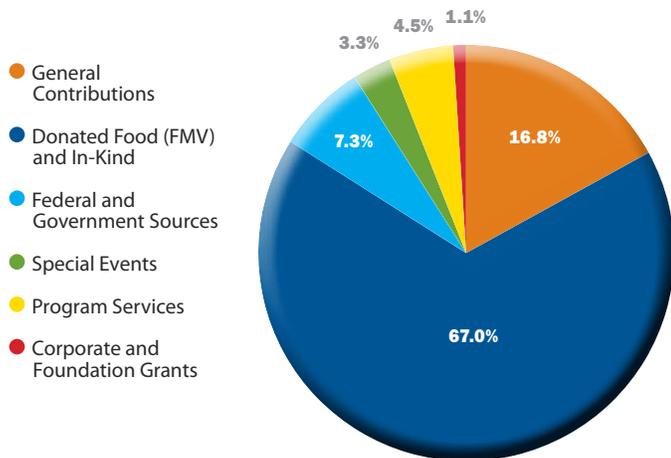


roll up his sleeves and create what became GLFB. In addition to his work at GLFB, his career included work for the State of Michigan and the Kellogg Foundation. Wherever he saw need, Patrick was there with a way to help.

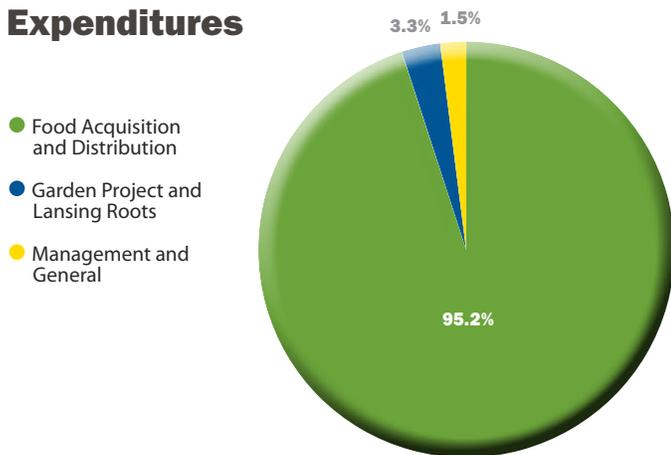
Thank you, Patrick, for having such an amazing impact on our community. Your dedication, passion and insight will be sorely missed not only in our region, but throughout the state.



Public Support & Revenue



Expenditures



Greater Lansing Food Bank's auditors have expressed an unmodified opinion on our financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Based on fiscal year 2018 audited financials

Total Income:\$17,175,777

Expenses:

Program Services:\$15,666,138

Food Bank: \$15,254,306

Garden Project:..... \$411,832

Supporting Services: \$807,336

Management & General:\$554,123

Fundraising:\$253,213

Total Expenses: \$16,473,474

Ending Net Assets:\$6,734,254

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