



Together, we  
are making an  
impact!

In 2021:

GLFB distributed  
more than **9.6  
million meals.**

GLFB's Garden  
Project helped grow  
and distribute more  
than **968,000  
pounds of food.**

Mid-Michigan  
community  
volunteered more  
than **24,000 hours  
of their time** to  
fight hunger.

GREATER LANSING  
**foodbank**



MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

Summer is often the hungriest time of year for children. While most children are excited for summer vacation, 1 in 7 children in mid-Michigan face the burden of their vacation being disrupted by hunger. Without school in session, children are away from free and reduced meals, making it difficult for families to provide the extra meals each day.

At Greater Lansing Food Bank, we know hunger doesn't take a vacation, so neither do we. We worked through the summer to expand the reach of our Nourishing Children programming by strengthening our partnerships with local libraries, YMCAs, medical clinics, and other community organizations that can distribute "backpacks" stocked with healthy, kid-friendly food to children in trusted community settings.

Together with your support, we can continue to feed children during the hungry summer months and all year round. Thank you for your compassionate partnership as we work towards a hunger-free community.

## GLFB UPDATES



*Volunteer prepares hot meals at Cristo Rey Community Center, Lansing MI*

## Power of Partnerships

Between August 2021 and April 2022, 79,000 civilians, including about 6,000 American citizens, left Afghanistan on U.S. military aircraft amidst the 2021 Kabul Airlift following the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces during the final days of the war in Afghanistan. Three months later, Afghan evacuees began getting clearance from the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. State Department to leave the eight military bases where they were being housed and venture to resettlement agencies all throughout the country.

During the next six months, 300 Afghanistan evacuees would resettle in the greater Lansing area through the care of St. Vincent Catholic Charities. This historic, life-saving evacuation of foreign citizens and vulnerable Afghan natives greatly outpaced traditional refugee resettlement timelines. With a low availability of affordable housing in the area, many arriving families were housed in hotels until they could be placed in permanent housing. This process took anywhere from a few weeks to months and, with no cooking facilities in the hotel, St. Vincent Catholic Charities (SVCC) turned to GLFB to help provide the necessary meals to the evacuees as they waited to settle into their new homes.

Lansing has traditionally welcomed refugees from countries around the world in times of crisis, providing a haven and helping them safely resettle. This was no exception. After SVCC reached out to GLFB, we contacted our partner agency, Cristo Rey Community Center (Cristo Rey), knowing that we'd need a community kitchen to

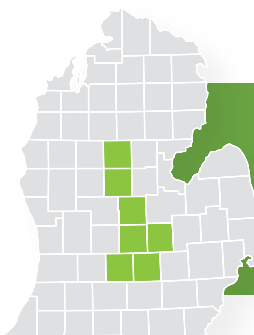
prepare the hot meals for our new neighbors. Without knowing how many meals would be needed, nor for how long, Cristo Rey's CEO Joe Garcia immediately responded, "Let's find a way to make this work."

For the next six months, this program came together through the power of partnerships. Cristo Rey's cook provided the lunch meals during the week. St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. John's Student Center took on weekday dinners and food bank volunteers covered the weekends. GLFB set out to find Halal meat and chicken and provided as much produce and other ingredients as possible. In total, volunteers prepared more than 18,000 meals.

Originally, the hot meals program was expected to run for two to three months beginning in October and ending in December. In April, six months later, the program came to an end as the last of the evacuees settled into permanent housing and access to kitchens to prepare their own meals. Looking forward, "our plan is to continue providing culturally familiar food to the evacuees and others from various cultures. As a food bank we are called to provide food that those in our community are able to eat," says Michelle Lantz, GLFB CEO.



*St. Vincent de Paul Society at Cristo Rey Community Center, Lansing MI*



**Serving the mid-Michigan counties of Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Isabella and Shiawassee.**

# Bridging the Gap

Greater Lansing Food Bank's 60,000 square foot distribution center is the hub of emergency food resources for seven counties in mid-Michigan. In 2021, more than 9.6 million meals passed through the warehouse before being distributed to families in need.

GLFB has long relied on donations from the USDA, manufacturers and other donors to provide food for those experiencing hunger. The same issues that are causing gas prices to reach record highs, grocery bills to skyrocket and many to turn to GLFB for assistance keeping food on the table, have led to a more than 50 percent decrease in USDA donations this year to food banks across the United States.

To fill in the gaps left by the USDA, GLFB has increased our food purchasing budget by more than 50 percent. GLFB has long taken advantage of being able to purchase food in bulk directly from suppliers at discounted prices. Purchasing power comes with other benefits besides prices, including ensuring the availability of nutritious, shelf-stable foods that fit our programs or foods specific to the community that are culturally familiar or medical specific diets. But now we are forced to order more than ever before.

While purchasing food is a routine practice for food banks, the rise in prices and supply chain issues are putting GLFB and other food banks in a difficult situation.



*Reduced USDA donations impact food supply at GLFB Distribution Center, Bath MI*

GLFB remains committed to providing nutritious meals to our fellow neighbors experiencing hunger. It's because of the commitment of our incredible community that GLFB can continue our work as we face supply challenges. We are grateful for your partnership.

## Upcoming Events

### HUNGER SUMMIT | September 13, 2022

Join Greater Lansing Food Bank and the Lansing Chamber of Commerce for the September Economic Club Luncheon. GLFB CEO Michelle Lantz will moderate a panel discussion on how food insecurity impacts every business from employees, clients, potential clients and the communities in which they operate. The panel features distinguished experts on food insecurity:

- Feed America CEO **Claire Babineaux-Fontenot**
- Food Bank Council of Michigan CEO Dr. Phillip Knight

*Tickets can be purchased at  
[www.lansingchamber.org/event-calendar](http://www.lansingchamber.org/event-calendar)*

### HUNGER ACTION MONTH | September, 2022

Hunger Action Month in September is dedicated to spreading awareness for neighbors facing food insecurity and was established by Feeding America.

- 200 food banks across the Feeding America network celebrate by wearing orange, the color for hunger awareness.
- There are several ways to stand against hunger including donating, volunteering and using your voice to advocate against food insecurity in America.
- Mark your calendar for **September 23**, Hunger Action Day!

### EMPTY BOWLS | Fall 2022, Date & Location TBA

The Potters' Choice Auction will return alongside the general availability of unique bowls hand crafted by the talented artists at Greater Lansing Potters' Guild and Clayworks Pottery.

**More details at [GLFoodBank.org](http://GLFoodBank.org)**



GREATER LANSING  
**foodbank**

P.O. Box 16224  
Lansing MI, 48901



**HUNGER**  
DOESN'T TAKE A VACATION

**GIVE BY MAIL:**

Mail your check to:  
Greater Lansing Food Bank  
P.O. Box 16224  
Lansing, MI 48901-1065

**GIVE ONLINE:**

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

