

# 2021

## IMPACT REPORT



GREATER LANSING  
**foodbank**

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

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## Greater Lansing Food Bank Mission Statement:

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Partner to alleviate hunger one meal at a time, to create a future where everyone has access to nourishing food.

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## 2021-2022 Greater Lansing Food Bank Board Members

Nikali Luke, *Chair*

Leslie A. Brogan, *Vice-Chair*

Ken Klein, *Treasurer*

Lavon Dennis, *Secretary*

### MEMBERS:

Christopher Abood, MD

Jeff Blohm

Joe Chahine

Mona Deliwala

Lupe Izzo

Katie Kelley

Deborah Leblanc

Larry Lee

John Pirich

Jim Savage

Sue Snodgrass

Pat Spyke

Roselyn Tantraphol

Carrie Waggoner

Meghan Vanderstelt

Kevin Zielke

Michelle Lantz, *CEO*

### FOUNDERS:

Camille Abood

C. Patrick Babcock

David Hollister

William Long

# A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

## Dear Friends of Greater Lansing Food Bank,

I never suspected that a simple phone call asking for help feeding 300 new Afghan neighbors would hit so close to home.

Last fall, I took a call from St. Vincent Catholic Charities asking for help providing meals to 300 Afghan evacuees after a life-saving mission airlifted them away from the Taliban. The first evacuees were due to arrive five days later! While I knew we needed to say “yes,” I had no idea how we would make it happen, especially we don’t prepare hot meals or even have a commercial kitchen.

I made a first call to Cristo Rey Community Center’s executive director, Joe Garcia, knowing they have community kitchen and already are one of current partners in food distribution. Joe immediately said, “Let’s find a way to make this work together.”

As we recruited a group of volunteers willing to take various shifts and learn Afghan cooking techniques for this seven-day-a-week project, we invited middle-eastern restaurants to provide hot meals for the first couple weeks! Food bank volunteers took the weekends and the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. John’s Student Parish said “yes” to doing the weekday dinners. Cristo Rey’s cook provided the lunch meals during the week. The food bank set out to find Halal meat and chicken and provide as much produce and other ingredients as we could. For the next 180 days the project to nourish our new neighbors came to life through the power of partnerships!

I kept asking myself why this particular effort felt so close to my heart. Why was

it different from the others we have at the food bank?

And then one day it hit me... Someone once took on a similar project for my mother and her family back in the 1940s!

As a child, my mom’s family quickly packed up what they could carry and moved from their home as Yugoslavia was invaded during World War II. They found themselves placed in Austria, housed by a small-town mayor and his family with other refugees. Although they were strangers from a foreign country, someone made meals for them, giving them hope for a better future and the nourishment to survive. Unknowingly, this project allowed me to pay forward the blessings that were given to my own mother!

The best word I can use to describe the experience is “grateful.” I’m different, better, inspired by figuring this out with incredible partners like Cristo Rey, the St. Vincent dePaul Society volunteers and our own volunteers from the food bank, St. Vincent Catholic Charities and the restaurants who all embraced this mission!

I’m also grateful at the passing chance I was given to pay it forward. While my time now will be used for other mission-driven projects, this one will always live in a special place in my heart.

In Service,



Michelle Lantz, CEO



# 2021 IMPACT

On April 1, 2021 the first delivery left the brand new Greater Lansing Food Bank distribution center, ushering in what would be a year when more meals than ever before nourished our neighbors.



**24,085**  
volunteer hours  
completed

**3,249**  
individual  
volunteers



**11,584,995**

pounds of food distributed



**9.65 million meals**

the most ever – an **18% increase**  
over 2020

**871 SNAP**

applications completed



**1,364,625**

pounds of dairy distributed

**2,940,628**

pounds of produce distributed



**80,147**

kids' backpacks  
distributed

# BUILDING HOPE & MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Greater Lansing Food Bank's mission is simple – partner to alleviate hunger one meal at a time, to create a future where everyone has access to nourishing food. To stay true to our mission, Feeding America projections showed us that we would have to innovate and expand our reach to meet the long-term needs of our underserved communities.

Building Hope brought a vision for the future of emergency food

response into reality and a multi-year project and special campaign culminated in early 2021. Now, forty years after GLFB's founding, we are positioned to make a difference for all of our mid-Michigan neighbors experiencing hunger.

In the spring of 2021, with the immense support of our community, GLFB moved into our new, 60,000 square foot distribution center at 5600 Food Court in Bath, Michigan.

A fitting address for the new center of food access programming in mid-Michigan.

The evening of May 25, 2021 the new home of GLFB was officially dedicated during a special ribbon cutting ceremony. We were grateful to have so many friends of Building Hope in attendance to share in this momentous occasion.

Left to Right: Tom Izzo, Building Hope Honorary Co-Chair; Jeff Tagsold, CEO of Auto-Owners Insurance; Christopher Abood, MD, Building Hope Campaign Chair; Michelle Lantz, CEO Greater Lansing Food Bank; Leslie Brogan, GLFB Board Chair; Danielle Robinson, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Philanthropy at Jackson; Lupe Izzo, Building Hope Honorary Co-Chair



# EXPANDING REACH THROUGH INNOVATION

GLFB has focused on innovation and working with local community partners to reach those experiencing hunger where they already are.

GLFB's commitment to expanding our reach began with combining new methods of distribution with more traditional methods. Food banks across the country have always primarily relied on mass distribution methods to ensure efficiency - getting the most pounds to the most people in need. This shift from only mass distribution to include effective community-based partnerships reaching those who have been historically underserved provides hope to our neighbors who are most in need.

With the amazing outpouring of support from our communities, GLFB has focused on innovation and working with local community partners to reach those experiencing hunger where they already are. We have seen what a transformative impact this neighbor-first approach has had on our community, allowing us to offer services in settings where our neighbors are comfortable and most likely to seek out other services. We believe this is a vital step forward in increasing the reach of emergency food resources in mid-Michigan. Already it has allowed us to:

- Address barriers to access through 29 new grassroots partnerships and 3 new full-pantry agencies, reaching underserved community members with well over 1 million meals annually
- Provide meals to Afghan evacuee families that have been resettled in the Greater Lansing area with culturally familiar foods through expanded partnerships with St. Vincent's Refugee Services, Cristo Rey Community Center and the Refugee Development Center
- Distribute over 80,000 emergency food-kit "backpacks" to children living with food insecurity. Our new partners in children-focused efforts have included Capital Area District Libraries, reaching children not yet enrolled in schools and during school closures and holidays.
- Continued expansion of mobile food distributions that bring fresh produce, dairy, and other nutritious, perishable food to neighbors while also connecting them to additional programs and resources, including SNAP and WIC.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

# GARDEN PROJECT FOSTERS GROWTH



In the summer of 2021, Greater Lansing Food Bank's Garden Project oversaw the installation of a brand-new community greenhouse in the heart of South Lansing at the Hill Center. This community greenhouse will operate as a food production and educational space for small scale urban farmers and community gardeners, improving food access within underserved

communities in Ingham County, while stimulating local economic growth. Fostering near year-round opportunities to grow and sell produce, the greenhouse will allow growers to start transplants in late winter, spring, and mid-summer, which is essential to maximizing production during the growing season. It is expected this space will accommodate the growth of

at least 140,000 transplants - valued between \$140,000 and \$224,000 annually. This resource will help community members grow foods that are native to their countries, support the health of their families, reduce the financial burden of grocery bills, and even supplement their incomes on a small scale through the sale of their locally grown produce.



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Based on fiscal year 2021 audited financials

**Total Revenue:..... \$24,042,596**  
(cash & in-kind food value)

**Expenses:**

**Program Services: ..... \$19,892,790**

Food Acquisition and Distribution: ..... \$19,562,737

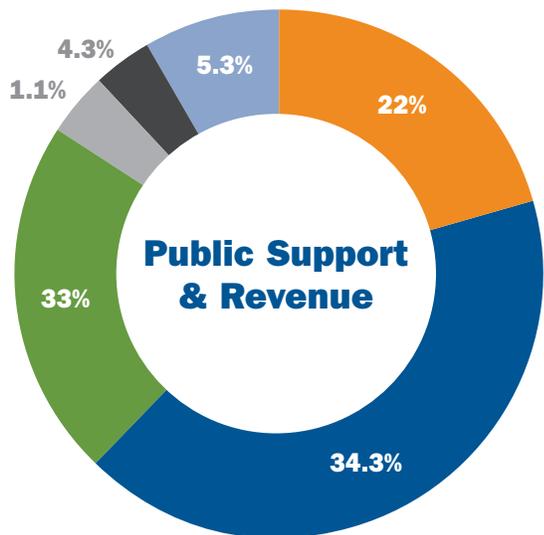
Garden Project:..... \$330,053

**Supporting Services:..... \$973,514**

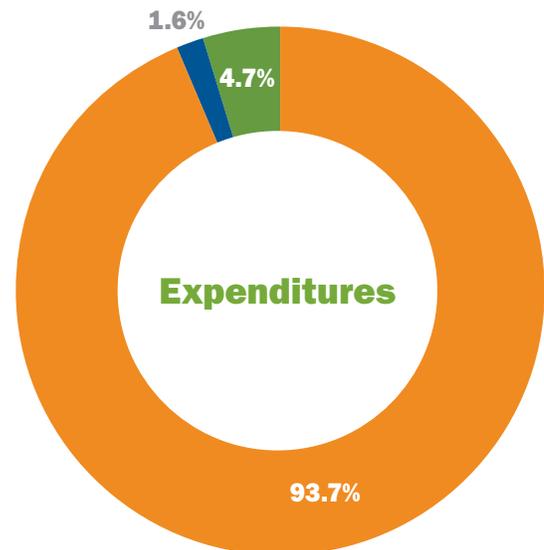
**Total Expenses: ..... \$20,866,304**

**2021 Revenue over Expenses: ..... \$3,176,292**

**Net Assets:..... \$15,564,583**



- General Contributions
- Donated Food and In-Kind
- Government Grants
- Program Services
- Corporate and Foundation Grants
- Temporarily Restricted



- Food Acquisition and Distribution
- Garden Project
- Management and Fundraising

Greater Lansing Food Bank's auditors have expressed an unmodified opinion on our financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021.

# GIVE HELP

**Together, we can make a bigger impact. Our work is built on partnerships, and with your help we can continue to care for our neighbors across mid-Michigan for years to come.**

## **VOLUNTEER**

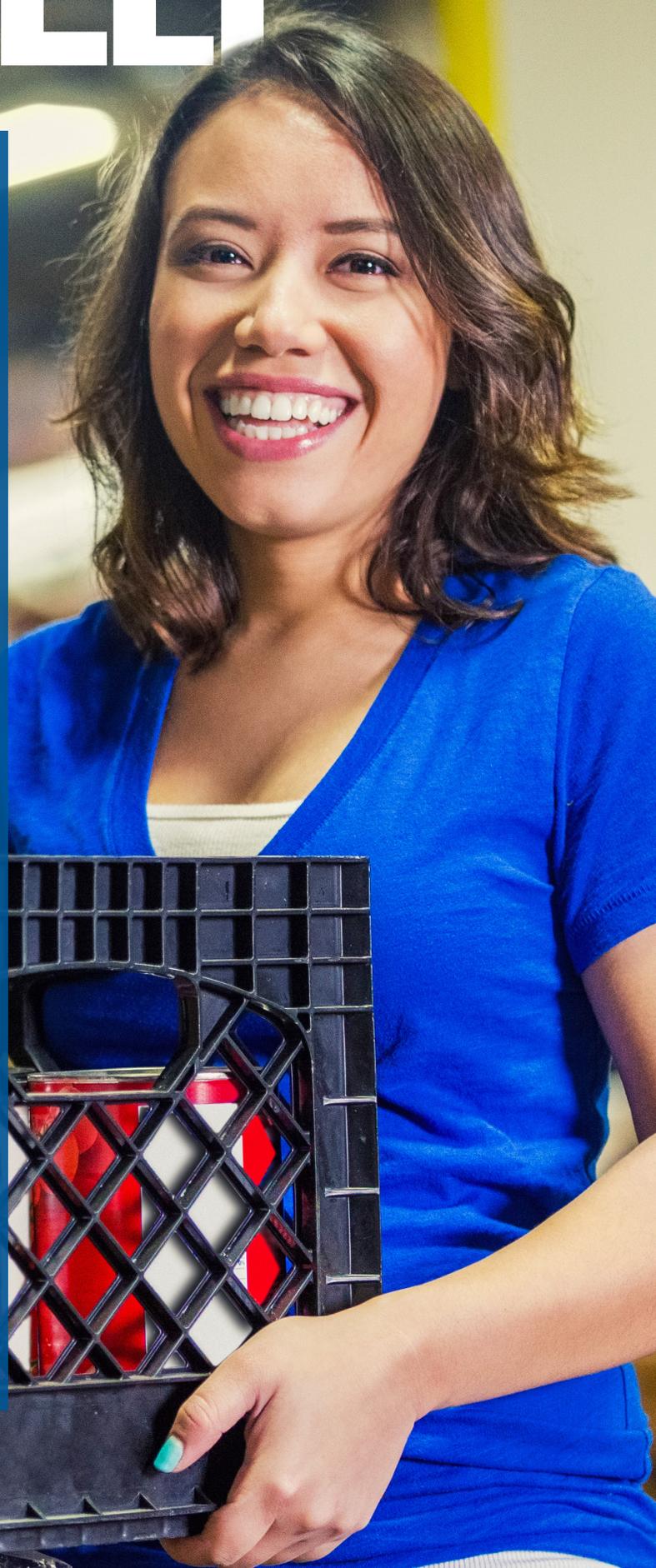
With the gift of a little time, you can make a big difference. Together, with the thousands of volunteers who work with GLFB each year, you can be a crucial link between families and individuals in need and the nourishing food that will keep them going. Pack pantry boxes full of staple foods for a home cooked meal, fill kid's kits with healthy, kid-friendly favorites, or sort nutrient packed produce for our senior boxes.

## **VOICE**

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## **DONATE**

There are many ways to give to GLFB and support our mission to end hunger one meal at a time. Make a one-time gift or become a monthly donor who supports our work year round. Give in honor of a loved one or work with us to get your friends or coworkers involved in a food and fund drive. Every dollar you give can provide up to three meals for a neighbor in need.



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Thank you for your partnership. We hope you continue to invest in this critical work in a way that is meaningful to you. Our philanthropic engagement team is here to partner with you to achieve your goals for giving back.



GREATER LANSING  
**foodbank**

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

**DISTRIBUTION CENTER:**

5600 Food Court  
Bath, MI 48808

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

PO Box 16224  
Lansing, MI 48901

**PHONE:**

(517) 853-7800

**EMAIL:**

[gffb@glfoodbank.org](mailto:gffb@glfoodbank.org)

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

