

GIVE Joy THIS SEASON

GLFoodBank.org

GLFB NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2022



GREATER LANSING
foodbank

GIVE ONLINE



The mid-Michigan community has long been a cornerstone of our lives and basketball has offered us a unique connection to residents in this region. As we head into the holiday season, we reflect on another year and everything for which we are grateful.

In our household, the holidays are a time when we gather with friends and family, rejoicing together with warm meals at the center of those celebrations. Our favorite holiday meals connect us to loved ones, provide nourishment and bring joy from the simplest meals to the oldest family recipes. Meals have a transformative impact when shared with others. And when you support Greater Lansing Food Bank, you are sharing a meal with a family experiencing hunger right here in mid-Michigan.

Families in our community are currently struggling to put food on the table because of inflation, and for too many families the holiday season can be a particularly tough time. When schools close for winter break, children who depend on school meals are uncertain about when they will eat next. For their parents struggling to provide food every day, making the holidays special is a burden of stress. We urge you to come together as a community and make sure a warm meal isn't a concern for any family this holiday season. Together we can give the gift of joy to neighbors right here in mid-Michigan.

Join us in Giving Joy this season,

Lupe Izzo
GLFB Board Member
Izzo Legacy Family Fund

Tom Izzo
MSU Men's Basketball Coach

Give online! GLFoodBank.org

GIVE Joy THIS SEASON

As the holiday season approaches in our mid-Michigan communities, neighbors facing hunger know winter can bring more than just the cold. In the seven counties Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB) serves, 1 in 8 individuals face food insecurity, meaning they do not know when or from where their next meal will come. This season, typically filled with joy, can often be marked by the stress of additional expenses for heating bills, winter clothing and extra food.

The holidays shouldn't be a time of worry. GIVE JOY this season and help GLFB distribute nutritious food throughout our community. Food purchasing costs for food banks across the country are reaching record highs as we battle inflation, supply chain disruptions and considerable cuts in USDA donated food. Your gift of joy will mean that GLFB can continue to stock kitchens across mid-Michigan, connecting families with the food they need to have warm meals.

Help GLFB feed families and give the GIFT OF JOY this season.



TOGETHER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER



Pictured left to right: Michelle Lantz, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, Dr. Phil Knight. Photo: Nate Lentz/Tandem Studios

In September, GLFB had the honor of hosting Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America, the first time in our history we had the national CEO in

our community. At the Lansing Regional Chamber's Economic Club Luncheon, Babineaux-Fontenot joined Michelle Lantz, GLFB CEO, and Dr. Phil Knight, Food Bank Council of Michigan Executive Director, on stage to address mid-Michigan businesses and decision makers about food insecurity in our communities and how it impacts every business.

"What you're doing is helping, we have data that shows the work that we do together is helping," Babineaux-Fontenot shared, referencing the USDA announcement stating food insecurity rates in 2021 were at the lowest they've been since 1998 when the USDA first started tracking it. Our community's incredible efforts to address food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many families from going hungry. This year, as our neighbors once again face economic challenges with rising costs and already tight budgets, we must continue our fight against hunger. "Let's not quit yet," Babineaux-Fontenot implored.

GLFB has already distributed nearly 7.5 million meals to neighbors this year. We work closely with our network of more than 140 community partners to connect individuals and families with food, even amidst a 15 percent increase in the number of households needing our services. GLFB remains committed to providing nutritious meals to anyone experiencing hunger in mid-Michigan and we know the winter season brings new challenges for families across our region.

Because of the commitment of our incredible community, GLFB can continue to make sure nobody faces hunger alone. Together, we are giving the gift of joy this season.

This year, food inflation across the U.S. has risen to the highest level in more than 40 years driven by factors both within the U.S. and abroad. This is forcing low-income households to spend more than 30 percent of their monthly budgets on food.

GLFB is paying 30 to 40 percent more for food purchases this year as compared to last year



50%



decrease in USDA food donations to GLFB as compared to last year



15%

increase in the number of households needing our services as compared to last year

1 in 8



people in mid-Michigan are food insecure

Nearly
20,000



children in mid-Michigan are food insecure

Partner Spotlights

Veterans4USA



Mike Rodgers (left) and a local Veteran

Veterans4USA became a partner of GLFB's during the COVID-19 pandemic when many people, especially those who are veterans, struggled with food insecurity. Together, Veterans4USA and GLFB provide monthly food distributions at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post in Alma and

the Clare-Farwell American Legion post in Farwell. Veterans4USA also helped the Clare-Farwell American Legion become an official food pantry of GLFB, creating more consistent access to nutritious food for veterans facing hunger.

Mike Rodgers, CEO of Veterans4USA, hopes to bring in more partnerships like GLFB to strengthen the surrounding community and broaden the network of support for veterans and their families. "We won't be satisfied because we know that more people are struggling, whether it's veterans, civilians, children or seniors. We all can do more," he commented.

The Bread House



Left to right: Dara Mayhoe; Dara's husband, Mark; Senior Pastor Bishop Alfred P. Singleton together in The Bread House

The Bread House is an international ministry that partners with GLFB as a food pantry in Ingham County. Dara Mayhoe, a key leader of the Bread House's community outreach ministry overseeing the food pantry, knows firsthand the impact of hunger on a family.

"As a child I remember very clearly how my family relied on food donations provided by the food bank. It was one less thing my mother had to worry about as a single parent," Dara said.

Now, with an aspiration to be like those who helped her, Dara commits herself to helping others who face food insecurity. As someone who has been in their shoes, it is important to Dara to provide services with the respect and dignity deserving of anyone who faces hunger.

By partnering with GLFB, Dara and The Bread House are working to expand their programs and partnerships to help more families in need. "I am very passionate about being connected with my community," Dara reflects, "Especially with providing basic needs such as food."



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