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**FEEDING
AMERICA**

HARVEST NEWS

We are dedicated to relieving hunger in metro Detroit and preventing nutritious food waste.

Neighborhood struggles despite prosperity elsewhere in Detroit

On a damp, overcast Tuesday morning in mid January, hundreds of people gather at New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit to receive food from Forgotten Harvest.

While the sky is gray with low-lying clouds, the spirit at this food distribution is high. Volunteers are stationed around the parking lot in front of tall stacks of apples, yogurt and other items, helping to load boxes, carts, bags and crates for those eager to receive food. Folks who show up — some every week — are working women and men who can't afford groceries; seniors who could not purchase medication if they had to buy food; and single mothers who can't quite make ends meet.

One such mother, with five young children, arrives early. She tells Gloria Garrett, director of the food pantry at New Bethel, that she has no food left; the children are hungry and irritable and the mother is distraught.

"You get tearful when you see people who are trying to make it," says Garrett, whose husband (now deceased) started the food ministry at New Bethel 22 years ago. She continues to carry on the ministry with the same compassion treating clients with dignity and respect, welcoming them inside to sit down and stay warm while they wait. Everyone is greeted with a smile and kind words.

"Detroit is getting better, but over in the area we are, there is still a need for a food pantry," says Garrett. She says the neighborhood, located southwest of the more affluent Boston Edison District, is one of the hardest hit areas of poverty in the city.

"There are situations where not enough food is coming into the home. They receive some assistance, but not enough. With Forgotten Harvest, they have enough to feed their children."



New Bethel and Forgotten Harvest are starting to learn more about the families and individuals served by collecting client data through the Link2Feed program. Link2Feed is client intake and reporting software that provides Forgotten Harvest and its partners with real-time tools to identify gaps in services and to better understand community needs.

"It helps us do our work smarter," says Garrett. "The data that goes back to Forgotten Harvest is one of the reasons why we receive enough nutritious food to assist everyone in our line."

Link2Feed consolidates information on the people served so Forgotten Harvest can deliver the right food, at the right place, in the right quantity, and at the right time.

"Food makes a big difference," says Garrett. **"People receive a little food and then can take care of other expenses."**



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REFLECTING BACK WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED A LOT



It's hard to believe 2018 has come to a close. Reflecting back on the year, we have accomplished so much.

January began with the successful completion of our Feeding America

audit and in May the Board of Directors approved a strategic plan that details our transition to a new operational model that will better serve the community. In the new model we move away from poundage as our only metric of success and begin to focus on providing the **Right Food**, at the **Right Place**, in the **Right Quantity**, at the **Right Time**. This will create a situation where we have the ability to deliver a more consistent and nutritious mix to the tri-county area, significantly enhancing the lives of those we serve every day.

Forgotten Harvest has a bright future ahead, allowing us to fully realize our mission of rescuing food and placing it in the hands of those who need it most. We have an incredible group of donors, volunteers, food rescue partners and agencies. With each and every one of them playing an important role in our success, we are all in this together.

I look forward to working with everyone in 2019 to lead the fight to end food insecurity.

Sincerely,

Kirk Mayes
Chief Executive Officer
Forgotten Harvest



248-967-1500
www.forgottenharvest.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

27th Annual Comedy Night – Jim Gaffigan at the Fox Theatre

Friday, June 7 | 8 p.m. | Detroit, MI

Ticket prices will range from \$35-\$175, and will be available through the Fox Theatre box office or at www.forgottenharvest.org.

Corporate sponsorships start at \$1,000 and can be purchased by contacting Rebecca Gade-Sawicki at (248) 864-7527.

F E A T U R I N G

JIM GAFFIGAN

FRIDAY | JUNE 7, 2019 | FOX THEATRE





THREE CHEERS FOR THE DETROIT PISTONS

For nearly 10 years, the Detroit Pistons Foundation has been by Forgotten Harvest's side, fighting hunger in metro Detroit.

It all started with a small Thanksgiving dinner in the arena of The Palace of Auburn Hills for several hundred families from the Pontiac area. That event has continued for many years and brings so much joy to so many families, who at that time of year, go without. But the Pistons, with their generous spirit, wanted to do more. Detroit Pistons owner Tom Gores, Vice Chairman Arn Tellem and the Detroit Pistons Foundation committed to a multi-year investment toward the purchase of three new trucks that help Forgotten Harvest rescue nutritious food from more than 800 locations.

We are so excited to show off the third Pistons truck to join our fleet! The truck has already been put to work rescuing food throughout metro Detroit and delivering it to those in need. **Thanks to the Pistons' commitment, Forgotten Harvest will be able to rescue more than 39 million pounds of food with these trucks during their 10-year lifespan.** Forgotten Harvest is grateful to have The Detroit Pistons and their Foundation as proud partners of our mission.

ATTENTION ALL RUNNERS!

Who's in for The Detroit Free Press Chemical Bank International Marathon?

Looking for extra motivation? You have the opportunity to **RUN FOR A REASON** and fundraise for Forgotten Harvest throughout your training season. When registering, choose Forgotten Harvest on the charity page to join our Running Team! We will help you coordinate your Crowdrise Page, and keep you motivated during the months ahead. Whether you choose to run your first 5k, or have your sights set on a longer race, **you will be helping to end food insecurity in our region!**

For more information or help setting up your Crowdrise page please contact Kim Kalmar at (248) 864-7525 or kkalmar@forgottenharvest.org.



OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

This past November our Farm Volunteer Coordinator Lori Setera put out a request for some volunteers to help finish up the late season harvest of kale at our farm in Fenton.



This call for help was answered by a group of people who had never before volunteered for Forgotten Harvest. These 18 dedicated souls came out and braved a cold 27 degree morning that included a snow squall in the middle of harvesting. Not even the blowing snow diminished their spirits as they harvested over 7,000 pounds of the sweetest and best kale of the season. Volunteers like these and their dedication to the cause are the energy that provides the forward momentum of the organization.

This upcoming planting season, the farm will continue to plant the nutritious mix of veggies that help feed metro Detroiters in need. The plantings this year will be chosen by a number of factors, including nutritional value, recipient preferences and expected yield of Michigan vegetable crops. **“In fact, we are adding mustard and turnip greens, and honey dew melon based on recipient feedback,”** said Mike Yancho our Farm Manager. **“We are looking forward to another successful season of the community coming together to help us produce fresh healthy vegetables for metro Detroiters.”**

Smart Ways to Help Forgotten Harvest

1) Employer Gift Matching Program

Does your employer (former employer if retired) have a gift matching program? Ask Human Resources and simply fill out a form and send it to us.

2) Donate Appreciated Securities

Donate appreciated securities or stocks that you have held for more than one year, receive an income tax deduction for full value when sold, and pay zero capital gains tax.

3) IRA Tax-Free Giving

If you are 70 1/2 years or older, give up to \$100,000 from your IRA without paying any income taxes.

For more information please contact Kim at 248-864-7525 or kkalmar@forgottenharvest.org.

HARVEST CIRCLE MAKES COMMUNITY IMPACT

Forgotten Harvest relies upon the people in our community to tackle food insecurity challenges facing metro Detroit.



Over the past five years, our Harvest Circle (donor members providing annual gifts of \$1,000 or more) has grown from 771 in 2014 to 953 members in 2018. Donations from this special group of amazing donors provides 70% of the funds necessary to fund our annual budget. Individual donors make up 64% of Harvest Circle membership, bestowing **Personal Gifts** and grant recommendations from their **Donor Advised Funds**. This support is crucial to the operations of Forgotten Harvest including the funding of new trucks, maintenance and fueling of our entire fleet, agency relations, food sourcing, volunteer coordination and more.



Mike and Sara have been Harvest Circle members for nine years. Mike recalls his initial connection with Forgotten Harvest. *"I had been introduced to Forgotten Harvest by a retired patient who volunteered at the dock loading trucks. Sara and I then became aware of the things Forgotten Harvest does through involvement with our Temple's annual food drive. We learned of the great need in the community, the pain and hardship of food insecurity and learned and experienced what a marvelous management team Forgotten Harvest had. We knew the Board had great vision and accountability to Forgotten Harvest's mission. We felt that even if we did not have time to physically volunteer at the distribution center, our financial contributions would be used wisely to make our community a better place for our neighbors in need, and by doing so, a better community in which to live. **We feel that Forgotten Harvest is one of the great social service assets of the Detroit Metro area and hope to continue to support it on an ongoing basis.**"*

Although it is difficult to adequately express our thanks, Harvest Circle members are entitled to several "perks" upon joining. They are invited to special events and donor receptions, along with unique tours of our facilities, providing a behind the scenes view of their dollars in action! Members are also offered ride-along opportunities with Forgotten Harvest Drivers, an amazing experience placing donors at the heart of our mission. Harvest Circle members are recognized in our annual report and on our website, and donors receive special reports acknowledging the impact their gifts are making in the reduction of food insecurity in our region. **Harvest Circle members keep our mission moving forward.**

→ INTERESTED?

For information on how to become a Harvest Circle member contact Kim Kalmar, Director of Major Gifts at kkalmar@forgottenharvest.org or 248-864-7525.



FEEDING 8,000 PEOPLE IN ONE DAY

On December 21, 2018, over 100 volunteers assembled 8,000 meals at Forgotten Harvest's warehouse during our 8th Annual Shine Light in Darkness holiday meal event.

With support from our community, Forgotten Harvest employees and volunteers assembled these meals consisting of 6,200 pounds of chicken and chicken sausage, 2,800 pounds of sweet potatoes and 2,200 pounds of green beans and a dinner roll. Recipients of the meals also received a gift bag containing a sweet treat, fruit, and a candy cane. **The fully cooked meals were delivered to various Forgotten Harvest agencies by December 22, just in time for the holiday season.**

A special thanks to all of our partners and volunteers that made this event possible.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS!

Forgotten Harvest has opportunities for motivated people looking for long term volunteer opportunities. These opportunities are a commitment of approximately 2+ hours a week for 6-12 months, and include ...

Link 2 Feed Specialist — Volunteers will work with our partner agencies and clients to help launch and facilitate a new client intake program.

Restaurant Rescue — Volunteers will rescue food from donors throughout the tri-county area and drop that food off to our partner agencies.

Speakers Bureau — Volunteers will attend community events throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties to provide information about and be an advocate for Forgotten Harvest.

→ For more information please reach out to our Volunteer Manager at volunteer@forgottenharvest.org.



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