



MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

HARVEST NEWS

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

Kids Helping Reduce Hunger Our Youth Rescuers

Below: Students from Orchard Lake Middle school come to the Kids Room and make a huge impact, repacking over 1,226 lbs of Cereal

We believe it's important for children to learn about food insecurity and food waste, so they too can take part in addressing these issues in metro Detroit. That's why we, with the support of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, created the Food Rescuers Youth Engagement Initiative. This program includes both service and education opportunities for kindergarten through eighth grade students.

School groups, faith-based summer programs, YMCA camps, and more, have already participated in food repacks at our warehouse and at their own locations. Since May, over 10,000 pounds of food that otherwise would have gone to waste has been repacked through this program alone!



"The program was well thought out and beneficial to all," says Tynetta Muhammad, parent and volunteer at Hillcrest Elementary. "The kids had a blast. Programs like this help plant the seeds of service, caring and kindness in tomorrow's leaders. We were extremely fortunate that our school, Hillcrest Elementary, would be chosen to participate."

In addition to the volunteer repack experience, students have learned about the nutritional benefits of the food they repacked, the scope of hunger and food insecurity in our community, various ways we can prevent food waste, and how they can spread the word about Forgotten Harvest's mission.

Are you interested in getting involved during the new school year? There are so many ways to participate! Coins that Count, our school-based fundraising program, encourages students to bring in spare change to fundraise for Forgotten Harvest. \$1 allows us to provide 4 meals to our community members, so this is an impactful precursor to a volunteer experience!

To get a group registered to volunteer in the dedicated Kids Room, participate in Coins that Count, host a speaker, or learn more about a 'mobile repack,' contact Laura Burton at lbarton@forgottenharvest.org or 248-268-7522.

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ECONOMY IS IMPROVING BUT....



The economy may be improving and the metro Detroit area is experiencing some economic bounce back, but the recovery is still leaving many

metro-Detroiters who were hit the hardest behind. Thousands of people are still struggling to get by because of underemployment, stagnant wages and rising costs of living.

In fact, more than **589,000 people, including 197,000+ children and nearly 55,000 seniors over age 65, live in poverty***. These neighbors of ours may still face food insecurity on a daily basis and are turning to Forgotten Harvest and our partner agencies for help. Hunger can affect people from all walks of life.

Hunger deprives our kids of more than food, A child's chance for a bright tomorrow starts with getting enough healthy food to eat today. For the nearly 23% of children in Wayne Oakland and Macomb county facing hunger, getting the energy they need to learn and grow can be a day-in, day-out challenge. As they grow up, kids struggling

to get enough to eat are more likely to have problems in school and other social situations.

Seniors are finding that after a lifetime of hard work, the rising cost of living and increasing medical costs is affecting many who are living on a fixed income. They find themselves facing an impossible choice — to buy groceries or medical care. This tough choice is driving an increasing number of seniors to seek out help to get the food they need in order to survive or maintain a healthy diet.

Many people are one job loss or medical crisis away from food insecurity – but some people, including children and seniors, may be at greater risk of hunger than others.

Forgotten Harvest is working hard to prevent this. That is why we continue to push forward and grow the operation. We are rolling out our new Board approved Strategic Plan that will define the path and build upon the solid foundation we have established over the last 28 years, for the future of our organization. This plan can be found on our website www.forgottenharvest.org. With this plan and your continued Volunteer and Donation support, we will always be here for our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Kirk Mayes
Chief Executive Officer
Forgotten Harvest

* (U.S. Census, ACS, released Sept 2017)

UPCOMING EVENT



248-967-1500
www.forgottenharvest.org





More than 150 Detroit Pistons staffers came out to the farm on June 26 to help harvest more than 18,000 pounds of kale and collards

Forgotten Harvest Farms continues to bring fresh produce and nutritious foods to help support children, families and seniors in our community who are food-insecure.

CELEBRATING YEAR SIX AT FORGOTTEN HARVEST FARMS WITH INNOVATIONS & FRESH PRODUCE

For the past several years, we have been able to concentrate our harvest on foods that were “nutrient-rich” such as kale, collards, squash and broccoli. Last growing season, we harvested over 842,000 pounds of nutrient-rich produce for those in need.

This season, Forgotten Harvest expects to harvest **one million pounds of farm fresh produce** for those in need by season’s end. **This season’s harvest includes acorn squash, broccoli, brussels sprouts, butternut squash, cabbage, collards, eggplant, kale, potatoes, sweet corn, zucchini and watermelon.** All of these fruits and vegetables will be distributed to more than 250 agencies and partners.

Our farm team, led by Mike Yancho, has worked on the sustainability of our land and harvest through the successful implementation of a cover crop system that protects the land and will improve both the soil health of the farm, as well as reduce irrigational needs and the use of chemical herbicides. Rows of rye, much like the sod on your lawn, are planted in the fall to protect the land during the winter. This spring, the land was seeded and rye was mixed with the soil to improve soil health and reduce invasive weed growth. Another innovation this year was moving to the use of biodegradable plastic mulch and seedling protectant, which decomposes naturally when tilled into the soil without any toxic residue or product waste.

Two additional acres at Forgotten Harvest Farms have been planted with nutrient dense crops such as kale and collards for Flint area residents and families, to continue to help combat the effects of lead in their bodies and enrich their diets and add zest to their meals. We expect to harvest 30,000 pounds of produce on that acreage.

Forgotten Harvest is grateful to Nora Moroun and her family for donating the use of approximately 100 acres of her farm near Fenton, Michigan. Additionally, we could not operate our farm without the assistance of so many individuals and groups, including over 3,000 annual volunteers, who help us operate the farm and assist with planting, harvesting and maintenance.

CHRIS WHITTLESEY SUSTAINING THE MISSION

Forgotten Harvest is so grateful for the annual financial support we received from our donors, especially individuals and families. Individual and family annual giving provides almost 50 percent of our operating revenue. We can not do what we do without your partnership and generosity. THANK YOU!



One of our growing giving programs is our “Sustainer’s Circle” - or monthly giving society. By giving monthly, a donor provides consistent and reliable operating support to Forgotten Harvest while also spreading gift payments out over time. We now have over 350 “Sustainers” providing more than \$130,000 in annual operating support.

One of our wonderful Sustainer Partners is Chris Whittlesey and his family. Chris, lovingly known as “Mr. Fixit,” volunteers regularly at our warehouse. He is our food facility superman extraordinaire. His unwavering dedication and dependable repair and construction skills are an invaluable asset to Forgotten Harvest,

enabling our food distribution warehouse to operate well, and helping to feed so many food insecure children, families and seniors in our community.

Additionally, Chris and his wife, Laura, are dedicated supporters who donate every month. As Chris states, **“We help out Forgotten Harvest because we want to give back to our community, and Forgotten Harvest does very important work providing food for those in our region in need of help.** We give a gift every month, for we know the organization needs our help and financial support to operate the warehouse, trucks and program services. We know our gifts are making a difference, and with the automatic monthly giving, it’s easy.”

If you are interested in becoming a Forgotten Harvest Sustainer, please contact Susan Chomsky by email at schomsky@forgottenharvest.org or by phone at (248) 298-3424. We accept most credit cards.

THANK YOU TO HANNAN LIS

During our July Board meeting, we officially welcomed John Carter, Chase Bank President, as the Chairperson for the Board of Directors. As he starts his tenure as chair at Forgotten Harvest, we would like to thank Hannan Lis for his years of service as Board Chair to the organization. Hannan will be staying on the Executive Committee and will continue to help the organization in many ways. We also want to thank outgoing Board members - Tim Ashley, Teri Battaglieri, Michael Garavaglia, Mary Jo Larson, Sally Krugel, Nora Moroun, Savarior Service, Larry Shulman and Dave Zilko. We would also like to welcome new Board members - Katie Gorman, Margaret Trimer Hartley, Dave McNulty, Drew Ottaway, Sam Rozenberg and Lorna Utley.

Thank you all for your service and dedication to relieving food insecurity in metro Detroit.



IMPACT OF INCREASED TRUCKING COSTS

Forgotten Harvest is an organization that relies heavily on its trucks. In rain, shine and even snow, we rescue and deliver food six days a week. Without our donated fleet of 35 vehicles that are used to pick up and distribute throughout our 2,000 square mile metro area, the organization comes to a stop. The uncertainty of fuel costs and constant maintenance of vehicles is just another challenge we face every year. The biggest challenge this year has been the local and national truck driver shortage. The competition for drivers has driven the overall transportation cost up around 25 percent. For Forgotten Harvest to continue our mission, we need your support to help us combat these unpredictable challenges.



WHAT IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH?

September is Hunger Action Month—the Feeding America® network's nationwide awareness campaign designed to mobilize the public to take action on the issue of hunger. The campaign brings attention to the reality of food insecurity in the United States and promotes ways for individuals across the U.S. to get involved in the movement to help end hunger. Hunger Action Day®, which is the second Thursday in September (September 13), is a day where efforts across the country are focused for greater impact. Hunger exists in every county in the U.S., affecting 42 million people, including 13 million children. The Feeding America network believes that hunger is solvable, and we're leading the fight to end it. You can help by mobilizing your community. We all have a role to play in getting food to our neighbors in need. Please review the enclosed calendar for ideas that you can do all month long to help support Hunger Action Month.

**Act now to
help end hunger.**

HUNGER ACTION MONTH | 



PICK A DAY

TO HELP KEEP HUNGER AWAY

HUNGER ACTION MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2018

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

HUNGER ACTION MONTH™

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

2
Waste Not
Commit to a food waste free day!

3
Learn
Get to know those who rely on Forgotten Harvest by watching the videos on our website.

4
Talk
Set an empty plate. Use this as a reminder of all those who are at risk for hunger.

5
Collect
Sign your child's school up for Coins that Count, which teaches kids about hunger. Contact lburton@forgottenharvest.org

6
Take a Selfie
Post a selfie with an empty plate and say something you can't do on an empty stomach. Tag us, and challenge a friend to participate.

31
Prepare
Save this calendar and follow us on social media for updates all month long.

1
Start
Start collecting your spare change now and donate it at the end of the month.

9
Honor
Celebrate Grandparents Day and make a donation in their honor to help the 1 in 7 seniors who are food insecure.

10
Go Casual
Set up a casual or jeans day with your employer or school. People can donate to dress casual.

11
Volunteer
Volunteer with your friends, family, or coworkers. Visit ForgottenHarvest.org/volunteer.

12
Pack a Lunch
And feed a bunch! Donate your lunch money. Each dollar turns into 4 meals for the hungry.

13
Turn Orange!
Wear orange for Hunger Action Day!
People all over the country are teaming up to raise awareness about food insecurity.

14
Say Thanks
Thank a person who inspires you to volunteer, donate, and remain active in your community.

15
Follow
Follow us on social media to learn about food insecurity and food rescue all year round.

16
Recycle Day
Try to recycle as much as you can for one day to see the impact one day and one family can have.

17
Smile
Set up your Amazon Smile account and start using it. It's the very same Amazon products, but a part of each purchase is donated.

18
Give Up
Give up coffee, pop, or vending machine snacks for one week and donate the money. Each dollar fuels 4 meals for hungry families.

19
Teach
Tell us your favorite tip to reduce food waste! We'd love to hear what you do. Tag us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter to share with us.

20
Waste Not
Commit to a food waste free day and compare to previous attempt!

21
Plant
Consider planting a community garden next spring and give the produce to Forgotten Harvest.

22
Run 5K
To support Forgotten Harvest. Go to EZrunevents.com/golden-harvest-run

23
Visit
Visit Forgotten Harvest Farms, 92 beautiful acres that grows healthy food for families in need. Sign up at ForgottenHarvest.org/volunteer.

24
Visit
Schedule a visit and join us for a behind the scenes tour of Forgotten Harvest.

25
Cook
Cook a meal with your family or friends and talk about hunger and food waste.

26
Experience
Approximately three billion people live on less than \$3/day. See if you can meet your nutritional needs on that budget.

27
Attend
Women's Harvest Lunch. Go to forgottenharvest.org/events for more information

28
Pack a Lunch
And feed a bunch! Donate your lunch money. Each dollar turns into 4 meals for the hungry.

29
Donate
Donate that spare change you've collected to help families in metro Detroit all year long!

30
Continue
It's not too late! Sign up to volunteer at ForgottenHarvest.org/Volunteer to see how your donations are put to work.



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www.forgottenharvest.org

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