



MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

# HARVEST NEWS

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

## SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

It isn't acceptable for the people who have served our nation to face food insecurity.

**Yet, hunger is a serious problem for many veterans.** Asking for help takes courage, particularly for men and women who have protected the nation. By taking that step, they get support from Forgotten Harvest and our partner agencies to help them through challenges and to help their families.

Forgotten Harvest is honored to support our nation's veterans with dignity and respect.

## VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

On a typical weekday, the well-stocked pantry at *Vietnam Veterans of America* in Clinton Township always has a half-dozen or so volunteers on hand. But on Fridays, that number balloons to 40 or more. That's when the Forgotten Harvest truck pulls up, bringing pallets of much-needed groceries. **The volunteers are there to help unload, sort through the food, and store everything away.**



Keith Edwards, co-director of the pantry at Vietnam Veterans of America.



The pantry, currently well stocked, at Vietnam Veterans of America.

From this weekly delivery, cartloads of food are assembled. Each cart contains food staples like frozen meat, root vegetables, assorted snacks, and fresh produce — enough food to keep a family well-fed for several weeks. **On average, these carts go to 72 families a month.** At Thanksgiving, it's almost twice that much.

**The food Forgotten Harvest provides free of charge is critical to their mission of serving veterans.**

## THREE SQUARES

The veterans who come to the Highland Park facility of *Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries* (DRMM) are homeless. Many face disabilities, need counseling, medical services, and treatment of various kinds. **But what they need most of all is a roof over their heads and three square meals a day.**

Those meals are where Forgotten Harvest comes in. Each month DRMM takes delivery on average of over 9600 pounds of food, the equivalent of 38,400 meals, which are nutritionally balanced, with vegetables, protein, and a starch. **Forgotten Harvest's food helps DRMM prepare roughly 200 meals a day, across two facilities.** The food delivered by Forgotten Harvest is the cornerstone of these meals.

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# LETTER FROM KIRK



**Happy New Year!**  
**Thank You** for your  
support in 2019.

In March of 2020, we will celebrate our 30th anniversary. Forgotten Harvest's mission is essentially unchanged from its first days of Nancy Fishman and her Jeep.

**The biggest change is the huge number of people that we are able to help every year by rescuing and delivering 46 million pounds of food completely free of charge and our expectation to what it means to serve our neighbors in need.** Demand for food remains very high and is sure to continue for the foreseeable future. We know that we can make an even bigger impact in the community if we make the changes to our operational model proposed in our Strategic Plan. We are

committed to our goal to deliver the right food, to the right place, in the right quantity and at the right time. **This vision aims for a higher standard based on health and nutrition, wellness and community connection.**

As the organization makes plans to fulfill its vision — **beginning with our Solutions that Nourish - Taking Hunger Off the Table campaign** — it is essential for Forgotten Harvest to optimize its daily operations and programs so they are better aligned with current community needs and better prepared to execute at the levels required in the decade ahead.

Kirk Mayes  
CEO, Forgotten Harvest

248-967-1500  
[www.forgottenharvest.org](http://www.forgottenharvest.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS



Tickets now available at  
[www.forgottenharvest.org/2020comedynight](http://www.forgottenharvest.org/2020comedynight)

FEATURING

# JAY LENO

THURSDAY | APRIL 23, 2020 | FOX THEATRE

*Comedian Jay Leno will headline the 28th Annual Comedy Night to benefit Forgotten Harvest, metro Detroit's only food rescue organization.*

## On Track — August 1, 2020 at M1 Concourse, Pontiac

*On Track to End Hunger, is a premier VIP experience benefiting Forgotten Harvest. Sponsorships are available and include many benefits. Including "Thrill Rides" on the state-of-the-art 1.5-mile M1 Concourse performance track. There will also be live music, silent auction, food and drinks.*

## Womens Harvest Lunch — October 1, 2020 at Royal Oak Farmers Market, Royal Oak

*This is an opportunity for women in the metro Detroit community to come together to make a difference while learning firsthand about Forgotten Harvest. All funds raised will support the operations of Forgotten Harvest Farms in Fenton.*

Sponsorships and tickets are available.  
Contact Rebecca Gade-Sawicki at 248-864-7527.





## AT&T AND FORGOTTEN HARVEST

AT&T and their Believe Detroit campaign donated funds so that Forgotten Harvest was able to host a mobile pantry opportunity at the AT&T Linwood garage facility. On November 20 2019, **AT&T volunteers passed out prepackaged food boxes and turkeys to 400 families just in time for the Thanksgiving**

**holiday, making this time of joy and celebration possible for those receiving this food.** Special thanks to Forgotten Harvest board member Derrick Coleman for bringing the two organizations together so that these holiday wishes could come true.



## FALL PROJECTS ON THE FARM

Forgotten Harvest Farms had another successful planting and harvesting season, in spite of the difficult and rainy spring season. **With the help of so many great volunteers and farm staff, the FH Farm produced more than 882,000 lbs. of fresh produce that was distributed to help feed so many in our community.** Lori Setera, Farm Volunteer Coordinator, exclaims **“we have some AMAZING volunteers that not only help us plant, harvest, pack and repack, among other things for our communities, but that want to help US be the BEST Forgotten Harvest that we can be!”** Each fall, there are many non-farming projects that need to be done to keep the farm and its barns and equipment in good shape. We are lucky to have a group of five guys from FCA that come out every year to help us

with “odd jobs” that we have put off because of harvesting. **We want to recognize our five fabulous friends Greg Corey, Joe Guertin, Tim McMahan, John Swanson, and Zack Whatcott for their dedicated volunteer time and construction talents — even in the snow!**





# HARVEST HEROES — DELIVERING HOPE

Hugh Mahler pulls his Ford Transit Van into a Hollywood Market parking lot. It's a frigid Tuesday morning in November, the morning after a heavier than expected snowfall rocked Southeast Michigan. Hugh greets the manager in the back storeroom and loads a few boxes of produce, bread, and pastries into his vehicle. He takes inventory of what was received, drives from Royal Oak to Farmington Hills, and delivers this small bounty to a designated agency. **"Knowing there is a hunger problem in our community and being part of the solution is a very rewarding experience,"** he says. For the remainder of the morning and into the afternoon, Hugh will continue to make small pick-ups and deliveries of food to agencies, zipping all over metro Detroit in his van.

Hugh is a member of **Harvest Heroes**, Forgotten Harvest's volunteer led food rescue program. Established in the summer of 2019 by Hugh, along with Bob Parrish, **Harvest Heroes completes food pick-ups and deliveries considered too small for Forgotten Harvest's regular truck routes.** After identifying over 50 potential donors with average food donation volumes under 200 lbs., Bob and Hugh began recruiting more drivers and developing routes. **Each route was created strategically within a 10-mile radius, including the recipient partner agency, so that a Harvest Hero could navigate with ease.** A typical Harvest Hero route is completed within two to four hours, once a week. "Give it a try. You will meet some

incredible people that will reinforce or help to restore your belief in people's basic goodness," says Bob.

**As of December 2019, Harvest Heroes has 15 volunteers driving or supporting the efforts of the program and has collected over 34,000 pounds of food in just a few months!** These smaller volume rescues are making a huge contribution in eliminating food waste and fighting food insecurity. **In many ways the Harvest Heroes program harkens back to how Forgotten Harvest got started, one person in a car delivering hope to those who need it most.**



Interested in getting involved with Harvest Heroes? Please contact  
Hugh Mahler at 248-388-5295 or [hughmahler@gmail.com](mailto:hughmahler@gmail.com) or  
Bob Parrish at 313-492-6370 or [robertparrish53@gmail.com](mailto:robertparrish53@gmail.com)

## THEY HELPED:

- 1** Repair our Potato Harvester so we could harvest more than 230,000 pounds of potatoes.
- 2** Frame and install a new front door to our administrative office.
- 3** Re-assemble the fertilizer parts to the strip tiller, which is now ready to go for next season.
- 4** Construct a new volunteer check-in area in the barn, transforming a recycled "bar counter-top" that had been donated.



These are just a few of the projects they have done for the farm, and we are deeply grateful for their help! The farm will be open for volunteers mid-April. Go to [forgottenharvest.org/volunteer](http://forgottenharvest.org/volunteer) to see the latest volunteer news and to be part of the fun.



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## FOOD AND RESPECT

**Our veterans deserve dignity, respect, and a sympathetic ear.** They have bravely fought for their country and our community. Now it is our turn to protect and help them.

No veteran should have to choose between buying food or filling a prescription. **With the help of Forgotten Harvest, the food part is taken care of.**

## VOLUNTEER STORY — ALTRUISM

*Long-time volunteers Art Weinfeld and Bert Stein find purpose, comradery and a higher purpose in volunteering with Forgotten Harvest*



Bert Stein

Bert Stein, 86, and Art Weinfeld, 90, are good friends and regular helpers at Forgotten Harvest, where they've been volunteering for a combined eight years.

**While they both feel that the experience is about giving more than receiving, they**

**end up receiving a lot: fellowship with staff members, community-building with volunteer groups, and purposeful time together.**

"It's not wise if you're healthy to waste time," says Art. "At the end of the day, whatever you've done, you want to feel a sense of accomplishment."

Art and Bert volunteer as much as they are able at least two afternoons per week. "It keeps us mentally alert," says Art.

It also provides purpose. **"It's a lucky retiree that finds something to do to help others less fortunate,"** says Bert. "Art and I are helping

all of those who haven't been as lucky as we've been with our health, our finances, or whatever."

Because of Bert and Art's attendance and keen familiarity with packaging anything that enters the warehouse, they fill more of an oversight and guidance role, labeling items that volunteer groups pack and putting them in the correct shipping crates for distribution.

Bert is particularly impressed by the level of volunteer commitment from area corporations and faith-based groups. He's worked with employees from Quicken Loans, Art Van, DTE, AT&T, General Motors and dozens of others. **"Large and small companies want employees giving back, volunteering,"** says Bert. **"They work extremely hard and walk out tired. It's a good tired. They feel rewarded."**

As Forgotten Harvest individual volunteers, Art and Bert understand that feeling too.

**"Personally, it's fun to walk in here. The comradery is strong, and the leadership makes you comfortable,"** says Bert. **"We found a home."**



Art Weinfeld

**15,939 people** contributed **54,106 hours** of volunteer service last year, sorting, packing, and handling more than **46 million pounds** of rescued food.





### **SOLUTIONS THAT NOURISH** TAKING HUNGER OFF THE TABLE

have grown from Nancy Fishman and her Jeep to an organization that now rescues and delivers 46 million pounds of food every year. These amazing

## **FORGOTTEN HARVEST'S 30TH YEAR OF SERVICE IN METRO DETROIT.**

This year on March 30th Forgotten Harvest will celebrate 30 years of serving our communities. **We**

accomplishments are not possible without you — our donors, supporters, and volunteers. Stop by so we can say a heartfelt THANK YOU and inform you how we are going to be even better in the next 30 years. **Come celebrate with us during our community open house on March 30th, 2020 from 4-7 pm at the Oak Park warehouse facility. 21800 Greenfield Rd. Oak Park, MI 48237**

## **SEASON OF SHARING**

Each year, Busch's Fresh Food Market, a long-standing partner of Forgotten Harvest, holds their Season of Sharing food and fund drive. This past year's drive ran from November 19 - 27. During this drive, customers "purchase" a bag of food or donate money at the check-out registers to be donated to Forgotten Harvest.

**Busch's Season of Sharing raised a record-breaking \$73,000 for Forgotten Harvest. In addition to the monetary support, 30,898 pounds of food were donated, all of which will be distributed to our network of agencies throughout metro Detroit.**

The success of this past year's Season of Sharing would not be possible without the support of our community — the volunteers who assemble the bags of food, and promote the food and fund drive in Busch's stores, and the customers that



donate toward our mission, are key in helping us fight food insecurity. **We extend a special thank you to board member Doug Busch & Busch's Fresh Food Market and the supporters of our mission for such a successful Season of Sharing.**

Are you interested in how to get involved? Busch's next food and fund drive, All About Children, will be here before we know it! **Keep checking our website and follow us on social media to see the latest news on volunteer opportunities and news about the ABC Food & Fund Drive in the spring of 2020.**

## **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 72 years of age and required to take a distribution from your retirement account, you can authorize distributions up to \$100,000 directly to charity interest without paying income tax.

### **4) Join Tomorrow's Harvest Society**

Tomorrow's Harvest Society honors donors who are committed to helping feed metro Detroit families in the future by naming Forgotten Harvest as a beneficiary through their wills, estate plans, and other planned gifts. A planned gift can be especially meaningful because it provides long-term support that strengthens our ability to meet future challenges in the fight against food insecurity.

**For more information please contact Kim at 248-864-7525 or [kkalmar@forgottenharvest.org](mailto:kkalmar@forgottenharvest.org).**