



HARVEST NEWS

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

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

#NoBetterTeam#NoBetterMission

Nobody had a “How To” for dealing with this coronavirus global outbreak. With so many sheltering in place, so many people laid off from their jobs, and numerous people without income, etc., Forgotten Harvest has been designated by Governor Whitmer as an “essential business” and asked by our community to serve as a first responder during this crisis. **We are responding in a big way and have helped to feed tens of thousands of children, families, and seniors every week since early March.** While this is what we have been doing for the past 30 years, we are learning how to carry out our mission in new ways, with an ever-changing environment and a sudden increased need within our community.

In order to quickly respond to this “Never in Our Lifetime” crisis, Forgotten Harvest collaborated with local nonprofit, government, and community leaders to implement critical contingency plans to deliver food in the most effective and safest way possible to address emergency food needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. With the closure of businesses and schools, the economic impact of this unprecedented situation rapidly increased food insecurity by more than 50% for tens of thousands of children, families, and seniors throughout metro Detroit, particularly lower-income families and hourly-wage workers in hard-hit service sectors. Food lines doubled or tripled at many pantries and food distribution sites across southeast Michigan.

Additionally, we immediately prioritized the health and safety of our staff, and we no

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LETTER FROM KIRK



On March 30th this year, we were planning to celebrate our 30th anniversary with a Community Open House Event. Instead of a celebration, on March 1st we started developing our Emergency Response Plan. Our beloved community was hit by the coronavirus.

Schools and businesses closed, and people were requested to stay home to prevent the spread. Everyone's daily lives changed. As Forgotten Harvest closes our 8th week of our COVID-19 Emergency Response, **I want to say thank you to all of the corporate, individual, and foundation partners that have made our Emergency Response possible.** In order to meet the increased demand, we have expanded our operations into two additional buildings. One in Royal Oak donated by 1-800-Self-Storage.com is being used for additional dry storage and as a repacking location, with our volunteer National Guardsmen, to create food boxes for distribution. Another location is being rented for additional cold storage of fresh produce, dairy, and proteins we are purchasing and rescuing to help meet community need.

The increased food sourcing efforts and operational changes to almost every part of our organization have enabled us to set up an additional 17 **Forgotten Harvest "On The Go" mobile pantry** distribution sites throughout metro Detroit. Through these sites and our regular pantry partners, we have been able to deliver over 5.9 million pounds of food that included 55,000 family sized boxes and over 106,000 supplemental lunches for kids. We have also managed to continue serving our regular pantry partners as they have remained open or re-opened their distribution sites.

Forgotten Harvest and our pantry partners in southeast Michigan are facing unprecedented demand. The pandemic has led to swift and widespread job losses in the area, leaving some people in a position where they are struggling to afford food for the first time. Meanwhile, people who had relied on food assistance before the pandemic are seeing limited resources stretched. **The demand for the food Forgotten Harvest supplies has increased 50% and higher at many pantries.**

Through the generous support of the community, we have been able to make a difference in the lives of the many families, children, and seniors already affected by this pandemic. Your continued support is needed to keep our operations going at these increased levels.

Please help us feed the community. Go to our COVID-19 response page to get the most up to date information and make your donation to **Be Part of the Solution** - today.



Kirk Mayes
CEO, Forgotten Harvest

248-967-1500
www.forgottenharvest.org

Follow us on social media for the latest information:



UPCOMING EVENTS

28th Annual Comedy Night Event Postponed

Previously scheduled for April 23, Comedy Night 2020 with Jay Leno has been postponed. Check our website for latest details on our upcoming virtual event!

OnTrack to End Hunger M1 Concourse

Check our website for latest details.

Women's Harvest Lunch Royal Oak Farmers Market

Check our website for latest details.

**Questions? Please reach out to
Laura at lburton@forgottenharvest.org.**



HEALTHY FOOD

FORGOTTEN HARVEST

HEALTHY KIDS

VOLUNTEERS - EMERGENCY RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS

Forgotten Harvest reinforced Governor Whitmer's **Stay Home Stay Safe** order to help keep our staff and volunteers safe by putting volunteer opportunities on temporary hold and arranging for many staff to work from home. On April 1st we reopened a limited number of volunteer opportunities to help with Forgotten Harvest "On The Go" mobile pantry distributions. Forgotten Harvest appreciates and depends on our amazing group of over 15,000 volunteers and plans to re-open additional volunteer opportunities as the situation changes. Please check our volunteer website for new opportunities as they fill quickly. www.forgottenharvest.org/volunteer.

As this newsletter goes to print, Forgotten Harvest is hard at work responding to metro Detroit's COVID-19 crisis. With the closure of schools, libraries, and businesses, some **Healthy Food - Healthy Kids (HFHK)** programming has been temporarily disrupted. At the same time, the economic impact of this unprecedented situation is rapidly increasing food insecurity for many families with children throughout metro Detroit. While the future is unknown, the economic fallout from this crisis will have far-reaching consequences, increasing the need for emergency food for our community's children for some time. We look forward to restarting distributions to all **HFHK** sites as soon as possible. Forgotten Harvest's Healthy Food - Healthy Kids programs will continue to play a key role in nourishing Detroit children as they reconnect with libraries, schools, and youth programs. Currently we are using our existing pantry partners and our **Forgotten Harvest On The Go** mobile pantries to distribute about 20,000 kids lunches every week and additional food for families to create meals.

Forgotten Harvest gratefully acknowledges the additional supporters who make Healthy Food - Healthy Kids possible, **including the Robert F. Beard Charitable Foundation, The Children's Foundation, Delta Dental of Michigan, the Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Kroger Co. of Michigan, Lear, PNC Foundation, and The Skillman Foundation.**



The COVID-19 pandemic has forced our farm team to pivot from being a volunteer-based operation to running on a skeleton crew of dedicated farm staff. While the model has changed for the time being, the farm staff are still working

diligently to provide as much fresh produce to our community as possible. Instead of focusing on vegetables that must be hand harvested by volunteers as soon as they reach their peak of ripeness, the farm is focusing on vegetables that can be harvested mechanically or will wait a few days to allow the farm team to get them picked. With the addition of a new green bean harvester, the farm now has the ability to harvest several crops mechanically, including beans, potatoes, sweet corn, and sweet potatoes. We will also be producing many of the same crops that can be harvested more slowly like cabbage, melons, peppers, and eggplant.

We miss the smiling faces of the thousands of volunteers that normally make our farm run, and we look forward to the time when the community can come out to volunteer as soon as it is safe to do so. **Please watch our website for volunteer opportunities later this summer and fall.** www.forgottenharvest.org/volunteer.





OUR HEROES THANK YOU

We want to thank **everyone** who has made a recent gift to support our mission and critical work in our community. **YOU are OUR HEROES. #NoBetterTeam #NoBetterMission.** Our donors, supporters, and volunteers are an integral part of the Forgotten Harvest family as we work together to help our neighbors.

You have been with us for the past 30 years, helping Forgotten Harvest feed so many in need with nutritious healthy food. Since this crisis hit our community in early March, you have been there for us, providing financial support, resources, food, and supplies that enable us to help our community.

It will take all of the generosity we have received to date and more to ensure our community receives the food it needs to thrive in the face of this threat. **Your gifts – of all sizes –** will continue to make the difference in this effort, as our mission to feed the hungry and food-insecure will continue. **we will continue to need your partnership** to sustain the care for our community.

There are many supporters who have made various donations big and small in recent weeks, and **we thank each one of you.** Our newsletter copy was



drafted in late April, so we apologize if you are not recognized in this newsletter, but we have a webpage listing of those donors who have made contributions of \$5,000 or more. And the end of this article includes an extra thank you to additional donors who have also made charitable gifts.

These are a few special examples of new and old heroes that we are also grateful to:

A special thank you goes out to our friends **Eugene Sherizen** and **Ed Hersch** at **1-800-Self-Storage.com**, who received a call from longtime supporter and board member **Hannan Lis** when Forgotten Harvest needed additional warehouse space quickly to increase capacity. As Eugene said, *“We helped because we could.”* Ed added, *“We had the warehouse and are thrilled that we can help our community at this time.”* 1-800-Self-Storage.com quickly donated use of their warehouse in Royal Oak. Their staff then helped to clean and prep the warehouse so we could work with members of the **National Guard** to create emergency food boxes. With their help and the generosity of **Stan Finsilver’s family and friends**, there were Guardsmen and workers creating 3,500-4,000 boxes daily filled with food for distribution. We also thank the **Detroit Regional Convention Facility Authority** and **City of Detroit** for use of the **TCF Center** in Detroit for a week in March.



Sherizen family

Forgotten Harvest is working at a dramatically increased capacity. With additional COVID-19 food purchasing, staffing and supply expenses, we are spending \$1.3 million monthly to serve

the critical needs of our community. We have received wonderful financial support from you to help us cover these unexpected costs. As a member organization of Feeding America, Forgotten Harvest received a critical \$516,000 grant from **Jeff Bezos**, founder of Amazon, to support our efforts here in metro Detroit. The **Food Bank Council of Michigan** worked closely with the State of Michigan to provide a \$420,000 grant to help.

The **Detroit Pistons, Wayne County** and corporate partners **Lineage Logistics, United Dairy Industry of Michigan, Flagstar Bank, and AAA - The Auto Club** provided an early \$375,000 grant to provide immediate capacity support to our food recovery and distribution efforts in response to COVID-19. *“Forgotten Harvest serves a vital role in providing needed food resources for Detroit and all of southeast Michigan,”* said Pistons Vice Chairman Arn Tellem. *“The need to extend those efforts has increased in response to the COVID-19 crisis and we’re pleased to join forces in providing support to the non-profit as it executes additional services during this critical time.”*

The **McGregor Fund** and **General Motors** both moved up the timing on their grant making and programmatic support to provide timely operating support to help feed children and families in Detroit with nutritious food.

The **Detroit Lions Charities** and **Detroit Red Wings Foundation** are also supporting Forgotten Harvest’s COVID-19 response efforts with contributions, as well the **Lions’ Matt and Kelly Stafford**, who made a personal \$25,000 contribution.

Other local partners who recognized the need and the important work of Forgotten Harvest and made significant contributions in March and April include **PNC Bank** (\$150,000), **Bank of America** (\$150,000), and **United Way** (\$150,000). New partners included **Lineage Logistics** (\$200,000) with **Victory Unlimited Construction, Chill Build and DEEM** (\$125,000), **Amazon** (\$100,000), and **National Food Group** (\$100,000). **Ally Financial, Chase Bank DTE Energy, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles,** and the **Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation** each provided grants of \$50,000.

IN RECOGNITION OF OTHER DONORS THAT WERE ABLE TO MAKE PLEDGES OR GIFTS OF \$10,000 - \$50,000 OR MORE (MARCH 1 THROUGH APRIL 30)

Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation
Center for Financial Planning Inc.
The Children’s Foundation
Crum and Forster Insurance
Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation
Echo Street Capital Management
The Phillip and Elizabeth Filmer Memorial Charitable Trust
The Fifth Third Foundation
Guardian Industries
Here to Help Foundation
The Carl and Debra Hendrickson Charitable Fund
The Huntington National Bank
ITC Holdings

The Jewish Fund
Fred J. Maloof Family Foundation
Mercedes-Benz Financial Services
Motown Soup Inc.
Allan & Joy Nachman Philanthropic Fund
No Kid Hungry / Share Our Strength
Priority Health
Quicken Loans
The Rite Aid Foundation
Russell Family Foundation
Donald R. and Esther Simon Foundation
Sterling Bank & Trust
TCF National Bank

OUR FOOD HEROES- Forgotten Harvest relies on our ability to partner with hundreds of food vendors, distributors and retailers who donate their surplus food. The 25 largest donors of surplus food and supplies are:

Aero Box Company
Busch’s Fresh Food Market
Chobani
Clean the World Foundation
ConAgra
Country Fresh
E.W. Grobbel Sons
Eden Foods
FEMA

International Paper
Kroger
Mastronardi Produce
Meijer
Mercury 1
Michigan Apple Committee
National Food Group, Inc.
Peterson Farms
Rocky Produce Inc.

Sam’s Club
Sysco Food Services of Detroit
Target
Trader Joe’s
U.S. Foodservice Co.
Victory Packaging
Wal-Mart

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longer had the daily benefit of large groups of dedicated volunteers to help us with our mission. We implemented extra precautions including self-distancing measures, personal protective gear and non-contact distribution. We prepared to respond to increased needs for food related to this growing community crisis. Many of our partner food pantries, agencies, and community centers began closing, so we created new drive-up mobile pantry sites in several communities across metro Detroit. **We did all of this rapidly with a small staff of 75 and our fleet of trucks and vans.**

While the need for food in metro Detroit is always high, the impact of COVID-19 has increased that need for the foreseeable future. To meet increased demand, we had to become increasingly flexible to change our food sourcing and agency distribution networks on a day-by-day basis to maintain food distribution at the highest levels possible to community partners as they remain open and face increased need. In addition to operating our grocery rescue and mobile pantry programs, we established 17 new mobile drive-thru food distribution sites in areas of the City of Detroit, and across Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties where food insecurity is most prevalent. At these 17 sites, we are implementing emergency “On the Go” mobile pantry distributions on a weekly basis that feed up to 750 households per mobile site. **Many of our**





sites have huge lines, and sometimes because of increased demand we run out of food.

In order to increase our capacity to serve more people, we secured additional warehouse and food storage facility space. We are storing some protein, meat, and perishable food in a leased cold storage warehouse in Taylor, and thanks to the owners of 1-800-Self-Storage.com, we are using their large warehouse at 14 Mile and Coolidge in Royal Oak to repack food and create more than 3,500 emergency food boxes per day to distribute to our community. We have also hired some seasonal workers and acquired additional trucking logistics help.

**1-800-
Self-Storage
.com**

Our donors have helped us raise our annual budget to serve those in need in metro Detroit for 30 years. The financial and other critical resource support we have received from so many is truly heartwarming and demonstrates the goodness of humankind and how we help each other through difficult times. Forgotten Harvest is working very hard to provide good nutritious emergency food to our community, and we thank you for your partnership. **We cannot do this work without you.**

To learn more about how you can help or get more involved in our crisis response efforts, please visit our website: www.forgottenharvest.org/COVID19.

CREATE YOUR OWN VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER

Do you have a new idea to help us fundraise? Are you part of a club, a business owner or looking for a creative project that makes an impact? Please consider organizing a 'DIY Fundraiser' for Forgotten Harvest! Some successful projects we've seen include virtual walks and runs, donating a percentage of your business' sales, and hosting a virtual trivia night! In lieu of a birthday gift, ask friends and family to donate through a personalized Facebook fundraiser. Invite your neighbors to have a friendly competition to see who can raise more through a peer-to-peer fundraiser. Have another idea? We'd love to brainstorm! **Please reach out to Laura at lbarton@forgottenharvest.org or visit www.forgottenharvest.org/ways-give.**



TAX-SAVVY DONOR

Forgotten Harvest is grateful for the generous response from donors to help us with the COVID-19 crisis. Thanks to a change in tax law, your gift could also be tax deductible for 2020. Here is a breakdown of the benefits for charitable gifts in accordance with the CARES Act:

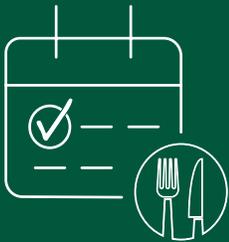
Charitable Giving Incentives (Sections 2204 and 2205):

- Taxpayers who do not itemize deductions on their tax returns may claim a deduction for up to \$300 in charitable contributions made during 2020.
- These deductions will be claimed on their 2020 tax forms.
- The CARES Act also changes the amounts that may be deducted for charitable contributions by both individual and corporate taxpayers:
- The 50% of adjusted gross income cap on the amount individual taxpayers may deduct has been lifted for the 2020 tax year.
- The 10% of taxable income cap, and the 15% cap for donations of food, have both been increased to 25% of taxable income for the 2020 tax year.



QUESTIONS?

Contact Kim Kalmar at kkalmar@forgottenharvest.org. Call 248-864-7525 with questions related to Forgotten Harvest. For tax-specific questions, please contact your tax advisor.



JOIN OUR SUSTAINERS CIRCLE

Sustainers Circle is a monthly giving program that helps fight food insecurity year round. Monthly gifts can be set up via credit card or direct debit from a bank account. **They are tremendously valuable to us because they provide a stream of known income to offset our operating expenses.**

To make a monthly gift, visit forgottenharvest.org or use the envelope provided. For more information, contact Susan Chomsky at schomsky@forgottenharvest.org or 248-298-3424.



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