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HARVEST NEWS

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



SOLUTIONS THAT NOURISH

When the pandemic hit, Forgotten Harvest was a community first responder. We quickly pivoted our processes to ramp up food distributions for those who found themselves without a job, without money to pay rent, and without resources to put a meal on the table.

The economic effects of the pandemic will last long after the virus is under control. It's also important to know that food waste and food insecurity are growing social concerns regardless of the state of our economy. Forgotten Harvest has responded to the increased need in our community over the past 14 years, with a rescued food volume that has more than quadrupled.

Today, we work in a 30,000 square-foot facility that no longer accommodates our rescue and distribution volume of 40+ million pounds of food annually. Increased community need and neighborhood food insecurity mapping has set our new strategic food volume goal closer to 70 million pounds annually. During the pandemic, even with many partner food pantries being closed for periods of time, we were able to distribute 47 million pounds of food to the community, accommodating demand by renting extra warehouse space.

To address critical food distribution needs and current logistical and capacity constraints — with a desire to operate more efficiently — Forgotten Harvest is constructing a new, 78,000 square-foot campus on 8 Mile Road in Oak Park.

Solutions That Nourish is the campaign that is driving fundraising to support the construction of the new campus.

WHY A NEW CAMPUS

First, a healthier, more nutritious, more equitable mix of food is needed for children, families, and seniors who are food insecure.

Our Grocery Rescue model involves drivers picking up rescued food from retailers and redistributing it directly to our community partners who pass it along to people in need. This model often results in a mixture of items that do not represent a complete meal as it is simply based on the surplus collected that day. Space constraints don't allow for the food to come back to the warehouse for sorting before distribution. Trucks are loaded for the Mobile Pantry routes with food that is delivered to our warehouse from manufacturers, farms, and dairies. The donated items vary and can impact the diversity of what is available for distribution.

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LETTER FROM KIRK



During the past few years, Forgotten Harvest has been hard at work implementing our strategic plan and everything that goes along with it. Heads down, focused on the tasks at hand, we have been working diligently to become the best Forgotten Harvest we can be, so

that we can provide a more-balanced mix of fresh and nutritious food for the community. Then, the COVID-19 pandemic hit our community in March 2020 and forced us to do more and serve an even larger number of people in need. I am proud of the work we've done and the commitment our team has to our mission — even amid a global pandemic. **There is truly no better team, or mission.**

I want to give my thanks and appreciation to the 22 members of our board of directors who volunteered on March 10. This motivated leadership group worked very hard for several hours in the afternoon to sort and package over 1,000 boxes of food that will care for and help feed over 1,000 households and families in need in our community. It was great to have our board working closely with our dedicated staff on some daily and important activities of our organization.

I am very excited to tell you that we have started the next phase of strategic planning to address critical areas of community need. The organization will be focusing on additional ways to create a sustainable emergency food security network for metro Detroit. This will include establishing a flexible distribution model that meets the ever-changing needs of the community. Forgotten Harvest will continue to optimize food rescue and sourcing from its diverse supply chains to ensure a nutritional mix of food. We also plan to make additional data investments to improve business decisions to align community need with supply. We know that we have more work to do.

With the completion of our new building getting closer every day, I am so very excited about the future of Forgotten Harvest. I am so proud of what we do in the community. Thank you for your continued support.

Kirk Mayes
CEO, Forgotten Harvest



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www.forgottenharvest.org



When Employees Punch Out, Forgotten Harvest Checks In

Evening pantry serves people who work but still need emergency food support

Most brick-and-mortar emergency food pantries are open during the day, and even most of Forgotten Harvest's own drive-up pantries take place in the morning or early afternoon. But to better serve the food-insecure working families who cannot typically make it to daytime food distributions, Forgotten Harvest hosts an evening pantry in a community with high rates of food insecurity.

On the first and third Monday of each month, the Sterling Heights Forgotten Harvest On the Go Mobile Pantry runs from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., or whenever food runs out. The pantry is hosted at Bethesda Christian Church, located at the corner of Metro Parkway and Schoenherr Road.

The pantry operates using a drive-up model to be considerate of the health and safety of both clients and volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Clients remain in their cars and volunteers load food into their trunks; the amount of food received is based on the number of households for which the driver is picking up.

The 400 to 450 households served by this pantry are in Sterling Heights, northern Warren and other surrounding cities. Families receive a 20-pound box of nonperishable food; frozen meat, dairy, produce, a grain, and some form of beverage.

Like all Forgotten Harvest On the Go sites, the distribution needs 15-20 volunteers to operate efficiently and smoothly. This Sterling Heights site has had good volunteer turnout and support. Forgotten Harvest hopes that Bethesda Christian Church will be able to operate the pantry and manage the volunteers independently by the end of May 2021.



Interested volunteers should visit forgottenharvest.org/volunteer for details.

A SALUTE TO OUR NATIONAL GUARD HELPERS

As a member of the Army National Guard, Private First Class Tyrone Wade knew he would be called on to help the community when COVID-19 began spreading rapidly across southeast Michigan. But he imagined working at a testing site, not a food rescue operation.

Yet, he's glad where he landed, **“To be able to help somebody put food on the table is a little more profound for me.”**

Wade is one of 10 National Guardsmen assigned to Forgotten Harvest since September 1, 2020, to assist with a variety of warehouse tasks, from putting together cardboard boxes, to directing volunteers, repacking bulk food into smaller household-size portions, sorting food from household items or loading food onto pallets.

The Guard's work over the past seven months has been crucial to Forgotten Harvest because the volunteer base dwindled so much when the pandemic hit; there were not enough hands on deck to handle the volume of food.

Sergeant First Class Darwin Brooks supervises the Guard's work at Forgotten Harvest. Having family who has benefitted from food that he packed really helped him connect his work to those who receive it. While he's always understood that people need help, he didn't know how much of a need was out there until he started his assignment with Forgotten Harvest.

“To see the scope and amount of food that's pushed out to meet the demand is quite astonishing,” says Brooks.

By the time the National Guard finishes their stint at Forgotten Harvest at the end of June, they will have 10 months and 12,300 hours of service under their belts.

Forgotten Harvest extends a sincere thank you to the National Guardsmen who have worked so hard. While they were assigned to this duty, they have come to embrace our mission and have allowed us to better meet the demand for emergency food when our volunteer force was greatly limited.



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The new campus will allow for an improved distribution model where all rescued and donated food is brought back for sorting. Thus we can ensure an appropriate nutritional mix is redistributed, reaching each agency and, in turn, each family equitably.

According to Tim Hudson, Chief Development Officer for Forgotten Harvest, the new facility will improve the nutritional mix by 300 percent.

“We have always given out healthy food, but we are improving the mix so that with every distribution, everybody will get a ‘complete plate’ with the proper protein, vegetables, fruit, and grains,” says Hudson.

Secondly, the current facility does not have the capacity to meet the needs of approximately 700,000 people in southeast Michigan faced with food insecurity: not knowing how to find their next meal.

Forgotten Harvest’s current facility is beyond capacity, so much so that we are renting another warehouse to accommodate additional community food needs. A new facility will allow for the handling of up to 90 million pounds of food a year — and will put a stop to paying costly rent for additional space.

It will also allow for efficiencies in operations. The facility will have 15 truck bays and an enhanced food rescue container system to increase truck capacity. This is especially important for food distributed through our mobile pantries, including Forgotten Harvest On the Go sites, where an extremely large volume of food needs to be loaded and dispatched on a daily basis.

Additionally, truck routes will be better synced with community need, targeting neighborhoods with high food insecurity rates.

The space will also make more efficient use of volunteer support, with multiple sort lines creating greater productivity. In a typical year, volunteers provide around 60,000 hours of time to maximize and speed up the sorting and distribution of food. The expanded space and sort lines will allow for a larger volunteer force, thus generating more food for distribution to the region’s most underserved.

With more space and improved efficiencies, the volume of food going out the door will be greater, more targeted, and comprised of a better product mix. The campaign is necessary to effectively meet the need in our community.

The \$17 million Solutions That Nourish campaign began in 2019, thanks to a \$3 million gift from an anonymous community donor. The \$2 million match challenge portion of this gift was raised, and many more dollars beyond that. To date, the campaign now totals \$12.3 million in pledges and gifts from 85 generous donors.

The public phase of the campaign just launched on April 26, 2021, leaving one-third of the total to be raised — roughly \$5.5 million. Two ways to give make it easy for donors to provide the crucial final funds to complete the building.

WAYS TO BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

Make a Donation: Gift commitments can be pledged and paid over a 3 to 5-year period if needed. Leadership gifts of \$50,000 can receive naming opportunities for major-function areas of the planned campus and facility, and gift pledges of \$2,500 and higher will receive recognition on a permanent donor wall displayed in the main lobby of the new facility.

Buy A Brick: Individuals, families, or companies are welcome to purchase various sized brick pavers to be placed on a permanent patio outside of the new facility. Bricks are available at the \$500, \$1,000 or \$2,500 levels.

More support is needed to pull this transformational campaign to the finish line, helping Forgotten Harvest make this vision a reality, rescue more food that would be wasted, and feed more people. We hope to have the new campus open for operations in 2022.

Please visit www.forgottenharvest.com/solutions for more information on the campaign. For questions or additional information contact Tim Hudson at 248-298-3421 or email to thudson@forgottenharvest.org.

THANK YOU CAMPAIGN DONORS

Forgotten Harvest is grateful for leadership gifts and grants of \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 from the following donors (as of April 20, 2021):

The Carls Foundation
Thomas and Carol Cracchiolo Foundation
Peter J. and Constance M. Cracchiolo Foundation
The Henry Ford II Fund
Joel Jacob/Crewhouse
Lenard and Connie Johnston

The Kroger Company
Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation
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McGregor Fund
National Food Group/Zee Zees
Pathways Foundation
Plastipak Holdings, LLC

Ralph L. and Winifred E. Polk Foundation
PVS Chemicals, Inc.
Elizabeth, Allan, and Warren Shelden Fund
Total Health Care Foundation
Wolverine Packing Co.



Months into the pandemic, many people searched for programs to binge watch or video games to play. Two amazing brothers decided to put their energy and savings into

helping others. Nick and Connor Kalkanis saw a news alert that many people in metro Detroit were lining up at mobile pantries and food banks in order to find food to feed their families, and they wanted to do something about it.

The brothers were able to pool their Christmas and birthday money to invest roughly \$2,500 into their project. In order to amplify their impact, they decided to use the money to design and sell face masks on the internet and donate the proceeds to an organization that works to address food insecurity. Nick is a junior at Detroit Country Day School and Connor is a freshman. They designed two masks — one with their school logo and another based on the logo for their website — Masks for Meals. The boys indicated that their school was part of their success, allowing sales to students in school and supporting marketing. They also utilized the power of social media that allowed their site to be shared with people they didn't even know! Understandably they were very proud of their project, but they were blown away by their success, raising \$15,000 from the sale of their masks.

Forgotten Harvest is very honored that Nick and Connor decided to donate their proceeds to us, and they also gave their time by volunteering at our Royal Oak warehouse. The brothers decided to use their gift to support our mobile pantries, providing food to support 60,000 meals with their donation.

“Being a mom, I am very impressed by the initiative of these teens,” said Kim Kalmar, Director of Major Gifts. **“The mobile pantries have allowed Forgotten Harvest to safely distribute to people in need in metro Detroit, and we continue to focus on new areas to distribute by analyzing need and access throughout the tri-county area. This donation will allow us to continue to do that. What a wonderful gift to the community.”**

Summer Lunch Program:

HEALTHY FOOD



HEALTHY KIDS

Forgotten Harvest's summer lunch program targets students who normally rely on the free and reduced-price lunch program during the school year, those whose families find themselves experiencing a meal shortage when children are out of school for the summer.

While this has traditionally been a stand-alone program where kids attend specific sites to have lunch, the model changed last year due to COVID-19. Instead, free lunches were incorporated into the mobile pantry distributions, and that model will continue for the upcoming summer.

How does the process work? As families drive through the mobile distribution to get boxes of food for the household, volunteers will also give them a few prepacked nutritionally-balanced lunches for each child in the household.

“It's going to make it more accessible for people because now they don't have to take their kids to the recreation center or another site for their lunches,” says Kelly McEvoy, Director of Quality and Programming. **“It's like a one-stop-shop, versus having to go to multiple places to feed your family.”**

Along with a different model, McEvoy also expects different numbers this year. The program typically distributes around 110,000 lunches during the summer. This year, the program is planning for 150,000 lunches, which will be distributed through mobile pantries across metro Detroit over 10 weeks, from mid-June to the end of August.

Vendors will provide the lunches that include the basic food groups. Examples of lunches are cheese ravioli, applesauce or raisins, a juice cup, and a snack, or a turkey and cheese cracker kit with a banana and a drink.

For stressed-out parents, many of whom are dealing with the economic fallout of the pandemic, the additional pre-packed meals are a huge help for the family food budget. They're also convenient.

“The parents love it. It's just ready,” says McEvoy. **“The accessibility and the ease takes a lot of stress off parents or caregivers.”**

Thank you to our presenting sponsor, Plastipak Holdings LLC. Additional program support: The Detroit Tigers, Lear Corp., and PNC Bank.



VOLUNTEER ALLSTARS

Since March of 2020, it has been difficult to recruit volunteers — volunteers that we would normally count on to help with the daily operations of sorting and repacking food. And yet the need for assistance has been higher than ever.

To those who were able to start or continue volunteering regularly once we put safety and spacing protocols in place after the pandemic began, we applaud you! The list below recognizes our 2020 top ten volunteers in terms of service hours.

Roosevelt Brown III: 483 hours

Robert Parrish: 443 hours

Hugh Mahler: 419 hours

Diane Rimar: 330 hours

George Gomez: 303 hours

Diane Piskorowski: 264 hours

Neal Searle: 22 hours

Peggy Jaynes: 68 hours

Dan Chandler: 162 hours

Dan Burbulla: 151 hours

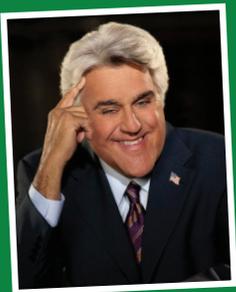
Thank you for your dedication and time.

FROM THE BOARD TABLE TO THE RE-PACKING LINE

Twenty-two Forgotten Harvest board members volunteered on the line in March, repacking more than 1,000 boxes of nonperishable items to be distributed at an On the Go mobile pantry distribution site. **Their work filled up 17 pallets with food boxes that will go to families in need throughout southeast Michigan. Thank you, board volunteers!**



2021 FORGOTTEN HARVEST COMEDY NIGHT A SUCCESS!



Due to ongoing concerns with COVID-19, we decided to make this year's event virtual! The 28th-Annual Comedy Night — featuring Jay Leno — was a huge success

thanks to the support of our donors, supporters, and staff! With the help of our wonderful sponsors, planning committee, and attendees, we were able to host an amazing event, raising more than \$341,000 to help support our mission to end hunger and prevent nutritious food waste by providing enough fresh food for 1,364,000 meals for our community members in need.

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 Hank at hwolfe@forgottenharvest.org or visit forgottenharvest.org/ways-give.