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HARVEST NEWS

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



HOW GROCERY RESCUE HELPS FORGOTTEN HARVEST FEED METRO DETROIT

Every year, 30-40% of food produced to eat in the U.S. goes to waste. We want to get that food in the hands of those who need it. Our innovative Grocery Rescue program helps us recover healthy food such as protein, meat, fruits, vegetables, dairy, grains, and prepared meals from local grocery retail stores.

While Grocery Rescue is a big win for metro Detroit's hungry, it also benefits everyone else in ways that may not immediately come to mind.

Here's a look at two things Grocery Rescue does for the community every day:

When grocery stores donate their food, it keeps one of our most valuable resources out of the landfill. Every year, our country disposes of 30-40% of the food we produce. That's over 35 million tons landfilled every year! As if that were not bad enough, when this food decomposes in the landfill, it creates

large volumes of methane gas. While we always talk about the negative impact of carbon dioxide on our atmosphere, EPA reports that methane is "more than 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere."

When stores donate to our Grocery Rescue program, it also helps keep their waste disposal costs down. So, when your local grocery store joins the Grocery Rescue program, they help feed hungry neighbors, protect the environment, and help reduce retailers' waste disposal expenses, too.

Forgotten Harvest has been rescuing surplus food since our founding in 1990. However, the Grocery Rescue program really took off in 2004 through a program partnership with Kroger, one of the first large-scale grocery rescue partnerships in the U.S. What began with us collecting surplus

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LETTER FROM KIRK



I cannot think of another time when Forgotten Harvest's mission to relieve hunger and prevent nutritious food waste was more important than in the past 18 months. The pandemic brought so much urgency to the emergency food landscape, it was hard to keep up. But keeping up and stepping up was what we

did — funneling **69 million pounds of food into the community over 18 months** to feed folks in need.

By the spring of 2021, we had adapted our emergency response to meet the still heightened need for distribution. We took a few deep breaths, and began to look at the future of Forgotten Harvest and our importance to the food security network. The pandemic taught us that we are necessary for people facing crisis, and we need to ensure our services are here in perpetuity — or until food insecurity is banished in southeast Michigan.

As we developed our future plan, we did not conduct the work in a silo; instead, we engaged the community — nonprofits and faith-based organizations, community leaders, charitable foundations, and others — to help us narrow our strategic vision and create tactics for how to get there.

As a result, a new Strategic Plan has been developed around three key pillars:

Access – establishing a flexible distribution model that meets the ever-changing needs of the community.

Supply – optimizing food rescue to meet the nutritional needs of those we serve.

Community Awareness and Knowledge – making sure people know who we are, how to get food, how to access opportunities (volunteer/employment), and how to donate to our mission.

With these pillars as a guide, we will build upon the work of Forgotten Harvest to ensure an even greater impact in the upcoming years, especially for those who need our service most.

Kirk Mayes
CEO, Forgotten Harvest



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food at several Kroger stores quickly grew into a partnership involving 92 Kroger stores and several distribution centers throughout southeast Michigan. Forgotten Harvest is the largest food rescue partner in Kroger's renowned Zero Hunger Zero Waste initiative, and was very proactive in rescuing more than 3.5 million pounds of nutritious surplus food and groceries from Kroger in 2020.



"Kroger is proud to be a long-term partner with Forgotten Harvest and the lead sponsor of its Grocery Rescue program," said Rachel Hurst, Corporate Affairs Manager at The Kroger Company of Michigan. "Our relationship fits perfectly within our company's Zero Hunger Zero Waste's social impact plan and our commitment to end hunger in our communities and eliminate waste across our company by 2025."



In 2020, during the pandemic, Forgotten Harvest partnered with 290 grocery store locations throughout Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties to recover and distribute 12.7 million pounds of surplus nutritious and healthy perishable food.

"We are grateful to have so many grocery rescue partners and really want to

thank the employees at the stores who assist us daily in this critical endeavor," exclaims Kirk Mayes, CEO. "Our efficient and effective food recovery and distribution logistics services are successful because of their caring and collaborative efforts. Also, due to our community support, the food is distributed free of charge to help feed so many food-insecure children, families, and seniors who are our neighbors."

IN 2020, OUR TOP 10 GROCERY RESCUE PARTNERS AND THEIR FOOD DONATIONS BY WEIGHT IN POUNDS:



- Kroger **3,593,517**
- Sam's Club **1,999,863**
- Walmart **1,797,205**
- Target **1,331,631**
- Meijer **1,149,360**
- Trader Joe's **616,615**
- Costco **547,201**
- BJ's Wholesale **303,200**
- Aldi's **293,565**
- Busch's Market **263,329**

FORGOTTEN HARVEST'S FOOD RESCUERS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM



Teachers, parents, and students! School is almost back in session, and Forgotten Harvest is offering educational programming to engage students with Forgotten Harvest's core principles: food insecurity, food waste, nutrition, and giving back. Forgotten Harvest's Food Rescuers program includes activities and lessons based around these principles to help reinforce students' desire to be thoughtful, engaged, and compassionate members of their communities. The Food Rescuers program includes an introduction presentation by Forgotten Harvest's Community Engagement Coordinator, activity workbook, letter to parents, and program wrap-up! This program is adaptable to both in-person and virtual learning.

If you are interested in Forgotten Harvest's Food Rescuers program, please contact Hank Wolfe Rodriguez at hwolfe@forgottenharvest.org, or give him a call at 248-890-5065.

SUMMER LUNCHES HELPED FAMILIES MAKE IT THROUGH THE SUMMER

For many hard-working parents, summer was a struggle with the added expense of more meals at home for out-of-school kids and the additional cost of daycare for children too young to stay home alone. On top of that, some southeast Michigan families were still struggling from the economic devastation of the pandemic, a time when many parents found themselves unemployed or had to forfeit work to care for children at home. As a result, food budgets continued to be tight.

Fortunately, our Healthy Food, Healthy Kids program helped to meet the need for many struggling families. For ten weeks this summer, from mid-June to late August, Forgotten Harvest made sure young people across metro Detroit received free lunches — up to three meals per child per week — to fill the hunger gap during school vacation. Approximately 150,000 lunches were distributed — up nearly 50% from last year — through our mobile pantry network.

Mobile pantry locations with the highest numbers of children per family were priority sites for the program. The sack lunches were ready to go with no preparation needed by parents, and were loaded into families' vehicles, along with a box of food staples, fresh produce, and other supplemental items.

Forgotten Harvest thanks these generous donors to the Healthy Food, Healthy Kids program:

- **Lear Foundation**
- **Robert F. Beard Foundation**
- **Plastipak Holdings**
- **PNC Bank**
- **The Detroit Tigers**
- **Kroger Co. of Michigan**
- **Ford Motor Co.**

BRICK-BUYING OPTIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH OUR SOLUTIONS THAT NOURISH CAMPAIGN

On April 26th, Forgotten Harvest publicly launched its **Solutions That Nourish Campaign (STN)**, a transformational \$17 million fundraising initiative to maximize the alleviation of hunger and food insecurity across southeastern Michigan, as our organization begins its fourth decade of service. **The campaign is now 75% complete**, and we hope you can be a part of it! To learn more about the campaign, please visit forgottenharvest.org/solutions.

One way to participate is to make a donation by purchasing a personally engraved Campaign Brick to be visibly and permanently installed next spring at our Visitor and Volunteer courtyard near our

facility entrance. To purchase a Campaign Brick, please visit donationbricks.com/forgottenharvest.

Celebrate your memories and loved ones by making them a permanent part of Forgotten Harvest and our new campus! This is a great way to proclaim your love and pay tribute to someone dear or make their birthday unforgettable. 100% of your gift will support Forgotten Harvest & the Solutions That Nourish Campaign.

Your annual operating and programmatic support are still critical and our number one priority to help us feed our neighbors in need daily. However, since this initiative is the most important transition in Forgotten Harvest history, we hope you'll join in making our campaign a success.





THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF RESCUING FOOD

MAKING MEALS VS. PACKING LANDFILLS

Surplus, healthy food often ends up in landfills instead of feeding people who need it. With a purpose to feed people and reduce the waste of edible food, Forgotten Harvest achieves both intents, helping people facing need and the environment in which we live.

As of March 2021, Feeding America estimates that 42 million people in the United States experience food insecurity. Right here in Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne counties, food insecurity impacts 612,000 people, yet more than 30 million tons of food goes into landfills each year (EPA, 2017). Food comprises 15.1% of municipal landfill waste — the second largest contributor.

Why is reducing surplus food from going to landfills so important to the environment?

- When excess food, leftover food, and food scraps are disposed of in a landfill, they decompose and produce methane — a potent greenhouse gas with 25 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide.
- When food is wasted, the resources used to produce

it, such as water, energy, labor, fertilizers, and land, are also lost, causing an unnecessary drain on our natural resources.

Beyond that, much of the food sent to landfills is safe, wholesome food that could have been donated to feed people in need.

Locally, Forgotten Harvest rescues nutritious, surplus, and prepared food from over 800 food businesses: grocery stores, farms, warehouses, dairies, restaurants, caterers, and other places. Some of our major food donors include Kroger, Busch's, Whole Foods, Walmart, Sam's Club, Meijer, Plum Market, Hollywood Markets, Trader Joe's, Great Northern Greenhouse, and Mastronardi.

"Forgotten Harvest helps Kroger deliver on our Zero Hunger, Zero Waste commitment to end food insecurity and waste in the communities in which we live and serve by 2025," says Ken McClure, Regional Director of Corporate Affairs at The Kroger Company.

Last year, our food rescue operations kept 50 million pounds of healthy food out of landfills, addressing hunger, rather than creating refuse.

RECOVERING SURPLUS FOOD IS SECOND HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR PREVENTION OF FOOD WASTE

The EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy prioritizes actions that organizations can take to prevent and divert wasted food. Each tier of the Food Recovery Hierarchy focuses on different management strategies for unused food. Recovering surplus food for food-insecure people, as Forgotten Harvest does, is the nation's second-highest priority. Our mission is aligned precisely with this priority.



- 1. Source reduction:** reduce the volume of surplus food generated.
- 2. Feed hungry people:** donate extra food to food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters.
- 3. Feed animals:** divert food scraps to animal food.
- 4. Industrial uses:** provide waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion and food scraps for digestion to recover energy.
- 5. Composting:** create nutrient rich soil amendment.
- 6. Landfill- Incineration:** last resort to disposal.

HELP COMES IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS

As the number of people who needed Forgotten Harvest's help began to rise at the height of the pandemic, we were incredibly touched by our donors who came forward to help us feed the community. When a number of our pantry partners were forced to close just as the number of people who needed assistance began to increase, these additional funds allowed us to respond, both in the mix of food that we were able to provide as well as our ability to act as a first responder, operating mobile pantries throughout metro Detroit to bring food to those in need. We are humbled by some of our donors who generously gave to Forgotten Harvest during the pandemic and were also first responders themselves!



Doug Busch is the owner of Busch's Fresh Food Market, a local grocery chain with multiple locations in the Detroit area, and a board member of Forgotten Harvest. In the early days of the pandemic, Doug describes the fear felt by his "grocery family." Several associates went on leave due to anxiety about exposure to

the virus. They were forced to hire temporary help, while online business quadrupled and store shelves were quickly devoid of product. It was hard for stores to anticipate what was going to sell as people were buying everything that they could find.

Doug supports two major programs that benefit Forgotten Harvest annually — the All aBout Children (ABC) Food Drive in May, and Seasons of Sharing in the Fall, where shoppers can purchase food to be donated, and vendors contribute additional items. In May, Doug didn't want to burden his staff, but he knew help was needed. He appealed to his vendors, and they raised double the amount typically collected during their annual drive! Seasons of Sharing allowed customers to participate. Everyone

knew someone affected by COVID-19, and donations were happily made.



Riann is a nurse house manager at a large Detroit hospital. She describes her early pandemic days as chaotic, as if "a bomb blew up and she needed to go to war every day." As a leader, she wanted to remain strong and positive, as she knew everyone was afraid. She was proud of her company. They were prepared with

PPE, but every day the rules were changing — wear a mask only in this case, wear a mask all of the time, only wear N95 masks. Many staff members were too stressed to continue in their roles, and those that remained worked long hours and experienced a lot of heartache. Riann works the night shift, and she found her role constantly changing — she was a counselor, a teacher, a mom, a friend. She comforted families who couldn't visit their loved ones and soothed patients who were facing hospital time without visitors, trying to remain a good example for her employees.

Riann has been a longtime supporter of Forgotten Harvest, but she knew additional resources were critical during this challenging time. She grew up less fortunate, but people often helped her. Now, she wants to give back. She researches charities to support, and loves seeing the impact of her gifts while following Forgotten Harvest on Instagram. "You have to help one another," says Riann. "There is too much apathy in the world."

Reflecting on what might be some of the permanent changes after the pandemic ends, Doug and Riann are both hopeful. People are now used to online shopping and in many cases, their habits have changed. Riann sees more help for mental health support and thinks that people are nicer to one another. "If everyone just does a little", says Doug, "It will help. It all adds up."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Forgotten Harvest could not achieve its mission without volunteers to assist with the many tasks that allow us to deliver 138,000 pounds of food each day, which is then distributed to families in need at no cost.

Right now, volunteers are sought for these essential tasks:

Forgotten Harvest Farms in Fenton needs volunteers to assist with farm chores and harvesting vegetables.

Royal Oak Repacking Warehouse on West 14 Mile Road seeks volunteers to help pack emergency food boxes that are then distributed throughout the region.

Weekday shifts are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Forgotten Harvest On the Go

(mobile pantries) allow individuals and families to "drive-thru" to pick up boxes of pantry staples, fresh fruit and vegetables, and children's lunches. Volunteers who work outside, help collect information from families, direct traffic, and load groceries into trunks. Morning, afternoon, and evening shifts are available at Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne County locations.

To review the latest volunteer offerings and sign up, visit forgottenharvest.org/volunteer.





HELP CREATE AWARENESS DURING HUNGER ACTION MONTH

September is Hunger Action Month — the Feeding America® network’s nationwide awareness campaign designed to mobilize the public to act 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 exists in every county in the U.S., affecting 42 million people, including 13 million children. The Feeding America network — including Forgotten Harvest — believes that hunger is solvable, and we’re leading the fight to end it. You can make a difference by donating to Forgotten Harvest at forgottenharvest.org/donate.

This Hunger Action Day, which falls on Friday, September 17, let’s join together by wearing orange (the color of hunger), turning our city landmarks orange, and raising our voices all across the country on behalf of the millions of people facing hunger.

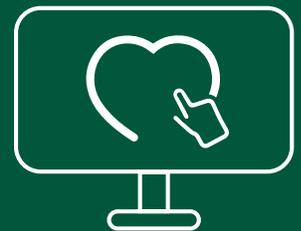


NEW VIRTUAL FALL EVENT: CHOP DOWN HUNGER

Coming October 14 is a new Forgotten Harvest virtual event, *Chop Down Hunger!* Tune in for a fast-paced cooking competition celebrating women in the culinary industry as metro Detroit-based chefs battle to raise funds for Forgotten Harvest Farms. Keep an eye on forgottenharvest.org for tickets and additional information coming soon!

For *Chop Down Hunger* sponsorship inquiries, please reach out to Erica, Corporate Engagement & Events Manager, at emarra@forgottenharvest.org.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE



Is your company, business, group of friends, or family looking to support Forgotten Harvest? Consider a DIY Fundraiser! A DIY Fundraiser is an opportunity for you to use your creativity to raise money for Forgotten Harvest. The opportunities are endless — host a virtual trivia night, a virtual 5K walk or run, “round up at the register” with your business’ sales, or create a peer-to-peer fundraiser. We also have the tools to get your own unique donation page started! Contact Hank at hwolfe@forgottenharvest.org for more information.