



MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

HARVEST NEWS

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



WORSENING HUNGER IN METRO DETROIT RISING COST OF FOOD

According to AAA, Americans are spending over \$700 million more on fuel every day compared to this time last year. When you go to the pump, it is hard not to focus on the amount it costs to fill up your tank. For the people we serve, inflation is even more challenging. We can make the decision not to drive somewhere over the weekend; they must have gas in their car to get to work.

Cathy Kuerbitz, who attends our Moriah High Place distribution in Pontiac, feels the

impact of rising prices. As gas, insurance, food and medicine go up, she worries about her own budget, but she is also concerned for her children. "My kids live over an hour from me. I pick up [food] for them. I pick up for people without transportation, but driving increases my expenses." Although the pandemic has been very stressful, the food she has received at our mobile pantry has helped a lot. As costs increase, any help makes a difference.

Stephanie Mullen heard about Forgotten Harvest from other people, and now she helps the elderly in her community. **"I'm blessed to bless others," she says, "I can't keep it all to myself, and they really appreciate what I bring."** She feels the daily impact of inflation. Her social security income normally comes up short, and the food she gets from Forgotten Harvest helps to stretch her budget.

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For Forgotten Harvest, demand for food assistance is currently 30% above pre-pandemic levels.

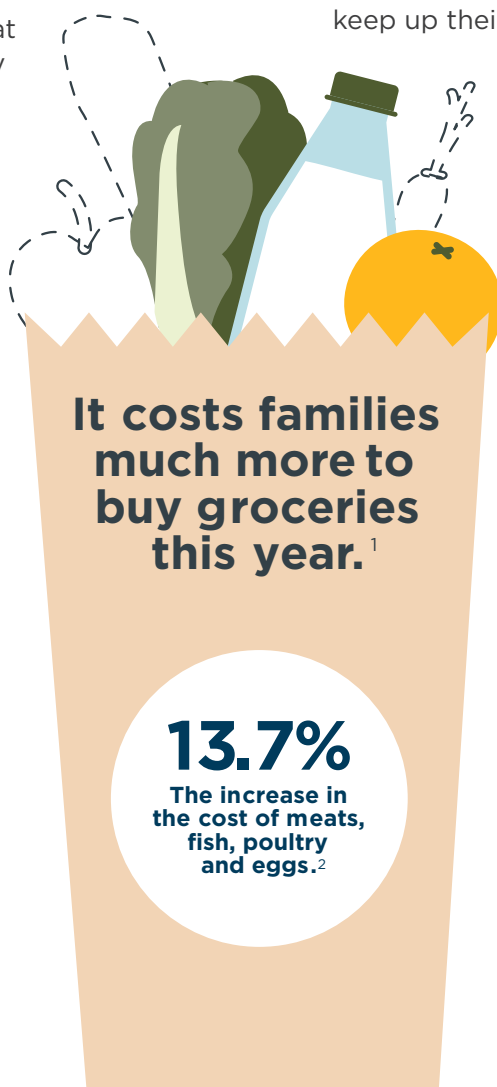
FACING SUSTAINED, UNPRECEDENTED NEED FOR FOOD.

Unfortunately, rising prices also impact our budget. According to Forgotten Harvest's Tony Spindler, Transportation Manager at Forgotten Harvest, it takes roughly 1,500 gallons of fuel per week for all our mobile pantry and grocery rescue trucks to collect and distribute donated surplus food. This doesn't include another 800 gallons of fuel required to operate the refrigeration units on the trucks. The cost of fuel has more than doubled since this time last year. Necessary truck repairs have also increased 34%, if parts are available, and rental trucks (also limited) have gone up by more than 35%. **"The supply chain is also impacting new truck builds," says Tony. "You might get a slate for a new build, but that is just to construct the chassis. A full truck will also require a box, a reefer unit and a lift gate, and they are all provided by different manufacturers, with different supply chain issues."**

Forgotten Harvest is also seeing changes to our food supply. As a member of Feeding America, we utilize the Choice System to share an item for which we have

an overage (i.e., tomatoes in the summer) and to request an item that we need that might have been donated from a national partner or a donor in another area of the country. We have experienced items being unavailable after approval or a substantially different trade required in order to obtain them.

Feeding America has indicated that companies are engaging in less innovation, with fewer new and specialty products, which is impacting the level of donations. For example, if an item is "branded" for Independence Day, and it is July 6th, frequently the item is donated to Forgotten Harvest, since it can no longer be sold in stores. Many companies have decreased the number of items in their product line and have decided to eliminate those products, which means less donations to Forgotten Harvest. Continued shortage of commodity items makes it difficult for companies to keep up their product line, leading to empty shelves at retailers, and fewer donations.



The "silver lining" to all of these areas of concern are our amazing donors. You make our work possible! In addition, we have our own onsite fuel tank and work hard to negotiate the best price for fuel. Our food sourcing department continues to search for new partners to allow diversity in our product types. Our volunteers work two shifts in our warehouse every day and dedicate service hours to our mobile pantries to distribute to the community. **It takes a village, and we are so glad we have one!**

1. "Consumer Price Index Summary." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 12 Apr. 2022, www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm. Accessed 25 Apr. 2022.

2. "Consumer Price Index Summary." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 12 Apr. 2022, www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm. Accessed 25 Apr. 2022.

LETTER FROM KIRK



I hope that you have enjoyed the wonderful summer weather in Michigan!

Here at Forgotten Harvest, our dedicated work continues to help care for and feed our neighbors

in need. We had a very busy spring, moving into our newly completed, innovative food distribution warehouse, volunteer center and new main campus, on 8 Mile Road in Oak Park. We are pleased to report the success of our Solutions That Nourish Campaign, which raised the funding needed to create this facility and campus. We welcomed several hundred supporters and volunteers to see the new campus in May at our Community Open House.

This summer our mission and work continues to help get children and their families through these difficult economic times and the unbearable costs of food and gas and other necessary expenses. We remain committed to feeding our friends and neighbors living in our communities. **Staying sufficiently fed shouldn't require choosing food over other necessities like medicine, shelter or transportation. We have a plan to solve this imbalance. It requires action and involves rethinking what it means to address hunger in a way that delivers complete nutrition for every household.**

Over the past decade, Forgotten Harvest's annual rescue and distribution more than tripled from 13 million pounds in FY 2010 to an estimated 42 million pounds in FY 2022. As we have studied current and emerging needs in the community, we have seen that hunger won't be solved through rescued food volume alone. Instead, we are committed to providing the Right Food to the Right Place in the Right Quantity at the Right Time, we'll do this by delivering solutions that nourish.

I hope you can come out and volunteer this fall and lend your support to Forgotten Harvest in some way. Thank you for your kindness, caring and generosity.



Kirk Mayes
CEO, Forgotten Harvest



248-967-1500
www.forgottenharvest.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Women's Harvest Lunch

Join Forgotten Harvest for the return of Women's Harvest Lunch on Thursday, October 6th!

Benefiting Forgotten Harvest Farms, this event brings together women, businesses, and community leaders

committed to alleviating hunger and reducing food waste in metro Detroit.

www.forgottenharvest.org/womensharvestlunch2022

DONOR HIGHLIGHT

At Forgotten Harvest, we are fortunate to be surrounded by a community of many thoughtful donors. It is because of the generosity of kind people that our work is possible. Meet Alex. He's a sweet, caring, and soccer-loving eight-year-old with a huge heart. He wanted to have his birthday party help others in need. When asked who he wanted to raise money for, he knew just the place: Forgotten Harvest!

He picked Forgotten Harvest because he said **"I know if people didn't have food they couldn't really live, because you need food to live."**

He told his family and friends that he would rather give to a charity than receive gifts at his birthday party. He wanted to donate to Forgotten Harvest because he wanted to help people who are hungry.



When Alex's mom's company heard about his fundraising, they agreed to match what he raised. As a result, he was able not only to raise \$270, but also to secure this match for a total of \$540 donated to those in need! Alex felt amazing being able to donate this amount!

After his birthday, Alex was able to tour our new food rescue and distribution center with his

family. He was able to see firsthand how the money he raised would go directly to feed people.

With thanks to his wonderful parents, at just eight years old Alex already knows the importance of helping his community. We are so lucky to know such a great family!

Feeling inspired by this heart-warming story?

Consider having your special day help support and feed the community!

For more information on how to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, wedding, or event with Forgotten Harvest, contact Hank Wolfe Rodriguez at (248) 890-5065.



SMART WAYS TO GIVE

SUSTAINERS: MONTHLY GIVING

STOCK/IRA

LEGACY GIFT: WILL/TRUST/INSURANCE BENEFICIARY

CRYPTOCURRENCY

AUTOMATIC GIFT PAYMENTS THROUGH YOUR BANK

VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

Looking for new ways to give? Find a donation method that is right for you, and every dollar will be put toward preventing hunger in metro Detroit. When you or your organization donate, you bring hope to a family's table and benefit your community.

- Create a Legacy – Join Tomorrow's Harvest, a society of donors who designate Forgotten Harvest through their will, trust, or name us as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or other asset. Many

of our long-term donors will continue to impact our community for many years to come.

- IRA Giving – If you are 72 or older with a traditional IRA, you are eligible to donate to Forgotten Harvest and receive tax benefits in return. You can give up to \$100,000 of your required minimum distribution from your IRA directly to Forgotten Harvest without having to pay income tax on the distribution. For those who are thinking of creating

a legacy in their estate, naming Forgotten Harvest as a beneficiary of the IRA could provide tax benefits for your heirs as well!

- Harvest Circle – Become a part of Forgotten Harvest's major giving society for those who contribute \$1,000 or more annually. As we must annually raise our operating budget, we are grateful for this special group of donors who provide a large portion of that budget each year!

Please contact Kim Kalmar at 248-964-7525 or kkalmar@forgottenharvest.org with any questions on ways to give.

We Help Feed Our Neighbors in Need



WE SECURE
DONATIONS



WE MOVE FOOD



WE SAFELY STORE AND
DISTRIBUTE DONATIONS



OUR PARTNERS
OPEN THEIR DOORS



TOGETHER, WE FEED
PEOPLE IN NEED

HOW WE ARE ADDRESSING THE CRITICAL NEEDS OF THOSE WE SERVE

To increase our community impact and create an enhanced, more sustainable food security network that provides nutritious mix of food for food-insecure metro Detroit families, we are focusing on four key priorities:



SUPPLY

Consistently distributing the nutritious food we rescue to individuals and families at partner locations and expanding the quantity of food to help address food insecurity for thousands more in metro Detroit



ACCESS

Optimizing locations for emergency food distribution, guided by Forgotten Harvest's Food Insecurity Index, to serve our neighborhoods with greatest unmet need.



KNOWLEDGE

Increasing acquisition and use of data to identify opportunities, define actions, and evaluate effective implementation.



HEIGHTENED COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Enhancing collaboration with community partners to address the barriers causing food insecurity and resulting personal stresses.

NEW PANTRY - SAFE PLACE VETS (MT. CLEMENS)

"This is the first pantry location I have been to. This location is twice a month and it helps me out a lot. I



had been in the military for 21 years. I am now retired. I am on a fixed income because I was in a coma for three months after getting hurt while home on leave. I did two tours in Desert Storm and got hurt on leave. I told my grandmother I would walk to Dutch Girl Donuts and be right back but I never left her street. Someone tried to rob me and split my head open with a baseball bat. I had a closed head injury, and they left me in a coma. That was the end of the military for me. I was an aircraft technician, and they said having epilepsy and seizures from the head injury I could not hold a regular job. But it's ok; I am still here."

— Lieutenant Don T, Safe Place Vets (Mt. Clemens)

KIDS HELPING KIDS

Does your school or school group want to get involved during Hunger Action Month? Consider hosting a fundraiser to benefit Forgotten Harvest! School fundraisers have made a real impact on Forgotten Harvest's mission and serve as a useful tool to educate students on food insecurity and food waste in our region.



Burton Elementary Students raised \$500 in candygram sales, providing 2,000 meals to people in need.

From bake sales to empty bowls, to candygrams, to virtual food drives, students have made a real difference feeding our neighbors in need. Forgotten Harvest offers educational presentations for students as well as Coins That Count – a fundraiser that collects students' spare change to make a big impact.

If your school or school group is interested in getting involved this fall, please contact Hank Wolfe Rodriguez at hwolfe@forgottenharvest.org.

SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Every year, people just like you join us in the mission to end hunger. Hunger Action month is becoming a fast-growing national event. You might be wondering how you and your family and friends can get involved. Here's how:

- A dollar a day can keep hunger away! Save \$1 each day and you can provide the equivalent of 120 meals at the end of the month. Have the whole family get involved, talk to children about how they can help their community.
- Plan a volunteer day- get friends together and plan a volunteer day at Forgotten Harvest. **Check our website to sign up: www.forgottenharvest.org/volunteer**
- **Hunger Action Day is September 23rd.** Help bring awareness to people facing hunger in our community by wearing orange,



turning your profile orange on social media, or even light up your house with orange lights.

- Set an empty plate at your dinner table and discuss what it would mean to a family member if there was no food for them.
- Spread the word about Forgotten Harvest and invite others to follow us

on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

No matter how you decide to get involved this Hunger Action Month, we want to thank you for everything that YOU do. Truly, so much is possible because of your support.

Thank you!