

HARVEST NEWS

See how you help relieve hunger and prevent food waste in metro Detroit



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY

The Community Employment Coordinator of the U.S. Veterans Affairs Department, Mark Meadows, is dedicated to honoring those in metro Detroit who served our country. Although many Veterans are still working today, there are many who need help. Many people would be surprised by the number of Reservist members who are among the homeless. Older Veterans are often unable to make ends meet with their Social Security payments. There is not enough housing in senior centers. "Forgotten Harvest is a godsend. We can take food off the table in their list of worries," says Mark.

Forgotten Harvest has partnered with the VA throughout our service area. Safe Place Vets moved their facility to Macomb County to allow

us to serve the large number of Veterans near Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Operating the pantry on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays enables Selfridge Reservists to come on weekends. Forgotten Harvest is now part of the Selfridge Community Council. "This is a game changer," remarks Kelli Kaschimer, Director of Volunteer and Client Services at Forgotten Harvest. "We now have a seat at the table."

The collaboration that Forgotten Harvest has with Oakland County Veterans' Services Division allows us to attend 1-2 events every month throughout the county — meeting the Veterans where they live. In addition to our participation,

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LETTER FROM KIRK

Dear Friend,

Forgotten Harvest is working hard to provide as much highly nutritious food as possible to the many neighbors who need our help, including children, families, and seniors. **Your continued support of our mission** makes it possible for us to provide a variety of nutritious food to the families and individuals who need our food assistance and those who

are making very difficult life choices during this time of economic uncertainty and increasingly high costs of food, housing, utilities, and fuel. **Thank you!**

People are at the center of all we do, and Forgotten Harvest remains committed to advancing hunger relief in metro Detroit to help neighbors most at risk of experiencing food insecurity, with a focus on increasing equitable food access for every community. As part of our vision, Forgotten Harvest will be investing in and working with our 200 agency partners to strengthen their capacity to nourish and feed our neighbors in need.

We will be utilizing some of the funding we received from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott to establish an *Agency Capacity Fund* that provides direct funding and support to our pantry partners that need capacity assistance to improve food access and supply to those who need our help. These grants and support will greatly strengthen our food distribution network and create better access to and supply of food for those we want to help. We are excited to share more in the coming months about this new, meaningful Fund and its positive impact. Stay tuned!

Kirk Mayes, CEO, Forgotten Harvest

Follow us:



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LITTLE ACTIONS, BIG IMPACT

It's never too early to show your kids how they can make an impact in their community! When Claire and Elise's mom asked what they wanted to raise money for at their lemonade stand, their response was "hungry people." This season, Claire and Elise raised \$77 to go towards helping Forgotten Harvest feed their neighbors.



Claire and Elise helped their neighbors in need!

Whether you're giving time or money, involving your kids strengthens the idea of helping families in our community. There is no too-small measure when showing your kids what they can do to make a difference!

VOLUNTEERS: CRITICAL TO THE MISSION

Forgotten Harvest depends on the dedicated volunteers who help us complete our mission each year. Last year, 14,750 corporate and individual volunteers provided over 49,000 hours of labor. Without this critical support, our mission would not be possible. We have many new opportunities at the Eight Mile warehouse for groups of up to

60 in both the morning and afternoon. These volunteers help our team break down and create family-size portions from the bulk rescued food and also glean and repackage the food that comes in through the Grocery Rescue Program.

Special thanks to our Grocery Rescue Program partner Kroger Co. Zero Hunger Zero Waste Foundation.



What is HARVEST CIRCLE, and HOW CAN YOU JOIN?

WHO: Harvest Circle members are kind and caring people just like you! They partner with us in the fight against hunger and food insecurity and help us to prevent nutritious food waste.

WHAT: Harvest Circle Members (annual gifts of \$1,000 or more) provide most of our total revenue each and every year. These gifts are vital to ensure that children, families, seniors, and Veterans are fed.

WHERE: Harvest Circle members live all over the United States. You can live near or far and make a large impact and help the communities of metro Detroit!

WHEN: Some donors make a gift of \$1,000 or more at one time during the year; others make more than one gift that accumulates to that level!



WHY: Our community has seen a rise in the number of people needing our services. With the costs of gas and groceries, many people are turning to us for help, and we can respond **thanks to people like you!**

HOW: There are different ways to become a Harvest Circle member: one-time gifts of \$1,000, become a Harvest Sustainer by setting up monthly gifts of at least \$85, gifts given through your individual retirement account (IRA) or donor-advised fund (DAF), stock, or cryptocurrency gifts. Memberships start with gifts of \$1,000, but anything above and beyond helps to feed as many in the community as possible.

For more information on how YOU can help metro Detroit by partnering with Forgotten Harvest and becoming a Harvest Circle member, contact Kim Kalmar for more information at (248) 964-7525 or kkalmar@forgottenharvest.org.

DONOR LOYALTY PINS!

As a small token of our appreciation, we will be awarding five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, and thirty-year anniversary pins to our most loyal, dedicated, and consecutive donors. We know that our work wouldn't be possible without our loyal supporters.

We took inspiration from our Forgotten Harvest farm and mobile pantries when creating these

pins. We are so thankful for their ongoing dedication to our mission. Pin yours onto your favorite jacket to show others what you continue to make possible.



these events include vendors providing a variety of resources that the Veterans may need — Michigan Works!, Oakland County Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development, and the Oakland Community Health Network. “Transportation is the biggest challenge,” says Mark. By finding a bus route or map to the closest pantry, Forgotten Harvest is able to help address that concern. Also, by signing up the Veteran for *Link to Feed*, our client intake and case

“This is a game changer. We now have a seat at the table.”

management system, Forgotten Harvest is better able to plan the amount of food to send to our pantry partners, and the Veteran is able to decrease the amount of time spent at the pantry since their information has already been collected.

“A little bit of food goes a long way,” says Mark. His job is to create opportunities for Veterans. Not worrying about where they will find their next meal allows Veterans to take part in those opportunities. You are allowing Forgotten Harvest to alleviate that worry. Thank you!

HARVEST SHOP

You can now order cool Forgotten Harvest merchandise from our online HarvestShop! Not only will you look good representing Southeast Michigan’s only food rescue organization, you’ll also be supporting our neighbors in need. A portion of the proceeds from every piece of apparel sold will go to benefit Forgotten Harvest. You can find the merchandise store on our website by clicking on the HarvestShop link.



GROCERY RESCUE

There's more than enough food in the U.S. to feed everybody; it's a matter of rescuing that food so it ends up in the hands of people who need it most. The USDA estimated that 30-40% of the food supply goes uneaten — ending up in landfills and becoming the second largest contributor to municipal landfill waste in the country.

Forgotten Harvest's **Grocery Rescue Program**, presented by Kroger's **Zero Hunger Zero Waste Foundation**, is an innovative approach to reclaiming nutritious food waste to fight hunger and food insecurity in metro Detroit. Through partnerships with local grocery stores big and small, Forgotten Harvest can rescue healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, dairy, grains, protein, and even prepared food and deliver it to the community free of charge. This program not only benefits the people receiving surplus food to feed their families, it also keeps grocery store waste disposal costs down, keeps food out of landfills, and benefits the environment.

In 2004, Forgotten Harvest became the first organization in the country to engage in large-scale grocery rescue through an initial partnership with Kroger, today known as the company's **Zero Hunger Zero Waste** initiative. Over the years, our Grocery Rescue Program has grown to include 249 partners. In FY 21-22, these grocery stores donated over 17 million pounds of nutritious food to relieve hunger in our community.

Forgotten Harvest's move earlier this year to a new warehouse will improve Grocery Rescue by increasing capacity and efficiency, and better meet the needs of the people we serve.

"We did a study a few years ago to help solidify why we felt the new building was the way to go. In that study, we identified that most of our protein was coming from Grocery Rescue while most of the produce was coming in bulk through the warehouse. If we were to combine those supply chains together, we could increase the number of meals that go out to the community,"



says Mike Spicer, Chief Operating Officer at Forgotten Harvest. "The goal was not necessarily to bring more food in, although that will be an important result of the new building, but it was to do a better job of mixing and distributing the food. That will give our agency partners a better mix of healthy food, which in turn gives a healthier mix to our neighbors in need."

From Forgotten Harvest's warehouse workers, truck drivers, and food sourcing team to our partnerships with food retailers and manufacturers, getting healthy food in the hands of people who need it most is truly a collaborative effort. "The building is just a tool," says Spicer. "We're using it to get the right food to the right place in the right quantity at the right time."

THANK YOU!

Forgotten Harvest warmly thanks our sponsors and guests for their support of **Women's Harvest Lunch 2022!** With your support, we were able to raise over \$114,500 to provide fresh, nutritious produce to metro Detroiters in need through our farm, pantry partners, and grocery rescue system. See you in 2023!



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

One of Forgotten Harvest's largest programs is our Healthy Food, Healthy Kids initiative. This initiative works to provide access to nutritious food for nearly 200,000 children in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

Three different programs make up the Healthy Food, Healthy Kids initiative — the Youth Snack Program, School Pantry Program, and Summer Lunch Program. Each program takes a unique approach to serving our youngest neighbors in need. The Youth Snack Program partners with the Detroit Public Library, as well as the Pontiac Public Library, Inkster Public Library, Mosaic Youth Theatre, and Brilliant Detroit, to provide healthy snacks for students attending after-school enrichment programs.

Our School Pantry Program distributes fresh food year-round to families with children facing food insecurity in our community. By working side-by-side with agencies that provide Head

Start programming for young children, Forgotten Harvest was able to provide over 2.8 million pounds of food to 11 different partners last year.

The Summer Lunch Program brings volunteers to our warehouse to pack lunches to distribute back out to those children who lose access to school-based breakfast and lunch programs during their summer break. This summer, Forgotten Harvest successfully distributed 95,767 meals to approximately 19,152 children in metro Detroit.

Forgotten Harvest is especially grateful for our "village" of volunteers, donors, and supporters who make the Healthy Food, Healthy Kids initiative a reality for the children in our community. A special thank you to Children's Foundation of Michigan, the PNC Foundation, Lear Corporation, United Way of Southeastern Michigan/Meet Up and Eat Up, General Motors Corporation, Russell Family Foundation, and the Robert F. Beard Charitable Foundation.

HOLIDAY CARDS

The holiday season is upon us! Treat your friends, family, and colleagues with a seasonal greeting card for a cause. This year, Forgotten Harvest has 12 card designs for sale, including three new designs! Blank cards are sold in packs of 25 for \$25 each. Customization options are available for an additional \$5. Tribute cards may also be purchased for \$5 and serve as a great way to showcase a gift made in honor of a loved one.

To purchase holiday cards, please visit forgottenharvest.org/holidaycards2022.

