

HARVEST NEWS

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



CHALLENGES WE ALL FACE

We are aware of and concerned about the hardship many of our neighbors face at this time. Global and national supply chain issues and inflation have increased the costs of basic food and utilities, making it more difficult for our food-insecure and vulnerable community to stretch their budgets this winter season. The long-term effects of inflation and disruption of the supply chains are going to be an ongoing challenge that we all need to face together. **With your ongoing support, Forgotten Harvest is doing everything we can do to help our neighbors in need.**

We continue to focus on delivering food to the *Right Places at the Right Time* in the areas of greatest need in our community. To do this, we are opening new pantries in underserved areas



and improving our distribution models. We opened a new pantry in Detroit's Springwells neighborhood, where transportation is limited, and immediately started feeding over 250 families, with many people who walk to the pantry for service. Another pantry was opened at Hartford Village near the 7 Mile and Meyers Road intersection, serving a community of seniors. Additionally, we are piloting a *Delivery to Neighbors* program with Door Dash to have healthy, nonperishable food boxes delivered to up to 400 households per month. This program will help metro Detroiters who have difficulty getting to a Forgotten Harvest pantry either because of lack of transportation or inability

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LETTER FROM LORNA

Dear Friend,

I am honored and excited to serve Forgotten Harvest as its interim Chief Executive Officer while our Board of Directors searches for a new executive leader to support our incredible mission and community impact. As a longtime supporter and board member, I deeply value our organization's commitment and concern for the health and food security of our metro Detroit neighbors in

need. Forgotten Harvest is so grateful for its dedicated donors, volunteers, and hardworking staff.

The year-end holiday season and winter 2023 so far have been very busy. We continue to see increased need for emergency food across southeast Michigan, as inflation and the extremely high cost of food, gas, transportation, and other necessities continue to negatively impact quality of life, with thousands of households struggling to meet basic needs.

Your support of our work is necessary to continue rescuing and distributing surplus nutritious food to those in need, safely. We are seeing significant progress on the utilization of our new facility and success implementing our new strategic plan focusing on five key priorities: Access, Supply, Knowledge, Community Awareness, and Internal Capabilities. We are changing and improving our re-pack and distribution process to create a more nutritious and equitable distribution of food. Forgotten Harvest has recently established an Agency Capacity Fund, where we are working with our food distribution partners to provide critical capacity grant funding to improve infrastructure and food access. Forgotten Harvest is establishing new food distribution sites in many food-insecure communities and planning to increase the number of client-choice food pantries to create greater access to help support families who struggle with food insecurity and hunger.

Additional investments will be made in the coming months to optimize emergency food distribution and create a more sustainable model; provide a consistent, nutritious mix of food at all pantry locations; and enhance technology to maximize client access, collaboration, and impact. Sustaining our vision and long-term support for our increased capacity is critical to our success, and your continued community support will be critical. Visit our website www.forgottenharvest.org for information to volunteer, donate, or stay engaged. THANK YOU for your confidence in our basic needs work and positive community impact!

Lorna Utley

Interim Chief Executive Officer, Forgotten Harvest

Follow us:



(248) 967-1500
www.forgottenharvest.org

AGENCY CAPACITY FUND

Forgotten Harvest Launches New \$5 Million Agency Capacity Grant Program

Forgotten Harvest has announced the inaugural recipients of a new Agency Capacity Grant Program to increase Forgotten Harvest's and its agency partners' collective capacity to reduce food insecurity in metro Detroit. In December 2020, philanthropist MacKenzie Scott donated \$25 million to Forgotten Harvest to support its efforts to fight hunger in metro Detroit. Forgotten Harvest is granting \$5 million of this donation to support its metro Detroit partner agencies with two rounds of grants per year over three years.

The first round of grant recipients received grants ranging from \$5,800 to \$150,000:



**Pastor Sameel of
City Covenant Church**

- **City Covenant Church**, serving the Brightmoor area, will upgrade a commercial kitchen and create an emergency client choice pantry, create a private space for confidential client intake conversations, expand and train staff, and expand their home delivery to homebound seniors and families.
- **A.W.E. Warren City Hall Pantry** serves Macomb and Oakland Counties with a weekly pop-up mobile pantry run by a collaboration of ecumenical churches. Their grant will fund equipment, volunteer training manuals, a coordinator position, a part-time Arabic translator, and marketing to extend their reach to more clients experiencing food insecurity.

- **God's Storehouse**, serving Highland Park and Detroit, will expand the number of clients reached by transporting food to additional locations to increase delivery to those most at risk: the disabled, elderly, and families. Improved logistics and increased volunteers will enable them to build relationships and promote change serving those most in need.
- **Redford Interfaith Relief** will expand their existing delivery service to home-bound seniors, add an additional monthly food pantry with evening hours, upgrade refrigeration, pave their parking lot, add a community outreach coordinator, and renovate their building to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and volunteer safety.
- **Church of God Belleville** will pave their parking lot, make needed interior building repairs, and install a garage building to store additional frozen, refrigerated, and non-perishable items, greatly expanding the range of foods to meet the cultural and healthful food requirements of their diverse clients.
- **Veteran's Support Center Pantry**, serving Macomb County veterans, will replace their aging freezer with a new, large-capacity commercial freezer to support their food distribution for years to come.



"I have never needed help before, but things are really tight right now, especially since I am on disability. It came to the point of do I want to put food on the table? Pay for gas? Or pay the bills?"



The food I receive from Forgotten Harvest helps me and my family and I am grateful for it. This food alleviates a lot of stress on people because it is becoming stressful and difficult out here."

- Juanita M.

CHALLENGES *continued from page 1*

to attend distribution hours. This pilot runs December 2022 through June 2023. These efforts and many more are helping our most vulnerable neighbors get the food they need during difficult times.

Forgotten Harvest looks to improve the nutritious mix at every pantry. Our operations team has been hard at work merging items from both our grocery rescue program and bulk products brought to our warehouse to create an even more nutritious mix of food for distribution. This food is then redistributed to our pantry partners. Our volunteers are helping in three different capacities: creating nonperishable boxes, gleaning and preparing family-sized bags in our clean room, and remixing food brought in from our grocery rescue route. Your support allows all of these positive actions to happen.

SATURDAYS ARE BACK!

It's that time of year again. Everything is a little quieter, colder, and it can be easy to get stuck in a winter rut. **No need to fear!**

Forgotten Harvest is here! Forgotten Harvest provides incredibly fun, engaging, and impactful volunteer opportunities year-round, and here is the latest scoop: SATURDAYS ARE BACK! An outing with your pals, a new family tradition, an unforgettable date? With Saturdays reopening, the possibilities are endless.



On Saturdays, volunteers are needed at our Eight Mile warehouse in Oak Park to help pack emergency food boxes, and re-pack or sort fresh, nutritious food that will be distributed to the surrounding community. Weekday opportunities remain available and include opportunities at our mobile pantries. All volunteer openings are listed at forgottenharvest.galaxydigital.com.

If volunteering isn't a possibility, there are plenty of other ways to help! DIY fundraising, hosting a food drive, or participating in *Coins that Count*, Forgotten Harvest's school-based fundraising program, are all excellent ways to get involved! If any of these ideas pique your interest, please reach out to our Community Engagement Coordinator: mmoorebutler@forgottenharvest.org.

Don't let winter stop you! Grab a coat, a loved one, and come down to Forgotten Harvest. You'll play a pivotal role in reducing food waste and feeding the surrounding community.

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

For the 2022 holiday season, Forgotten Harvest, in partnership with Kroger Co. of Michigan, delivered 6,500 meals of hope to our neighbors in need. Hope for the Holidays provides food relief to the one-in-six metro Detroiters facing food insecurity by providing foods that are a staple of holiday meals. These holiday meal kits are then built by groups of volunteers and distributed to 36 of Forgotten Harvest's partner agencies in the days leading up to the Christmas holiday.

Hope for the Holidays is a true community effort to make sure those who are vulnerable can count on a meal during the holiday season. The program receives food from many generous donors, including United Dairy Industry of Michigan (UDIM), Costco, Andrew Brothers, the Detroit Lions, Hollywood Market, General Mills,

Kap's Wholesale, Fresh Connect, and Second Nature Food Brands. In addition to Kroger Co. of Michigan, RouteOne LLC, FUL Beverage, and Steve Swartz are sponsors who are essential to the program's success.

A sincere heartfelt thank you to our donors and supporters. By coming together, Forgotten Harvest can provide some relief and holiday cheer to an individual or family in need during the holiday season.



IDENTIFYING NEW SERVICE AREAS

It wasn't that long ago that people experiencing food insecurity had to drive long distances to access necessary food for their families to eat. There are still underserved and vulnerable communities here in metro Detroit. To mitigate this issue, Forgotten Harvest utilizes census tract and Link2Feed data to pinpoint where the need is greatest in the three counties we serve.

Rite Aid Healthy Futures (formerly known as The Rite Aid Foundation) approached Forgotten Harvest with a partnership opportunity to increase our service area to residents in the city of Detroit. The focus of Rite Aid Healthy Futures is addressing health inequities in communities that have historically been left behind. Rite Aid has identified the Springwells neighborhood of southwest Detroit as an area of concern without access to nutritious emergency food.

This aligned with Forgotten Harvest's data mapping for food insecurity, recognizing a need in this neighborhood. With a generous two-year grant from Rite Aid Healthy Futures, Forgotten Harvest has been able to expand our service area into Springwells by setting up a twice a month Forgotten Harvest on-the-go mobile pantry with the hopes of expanding further in southwest Detroit before the end of the first year of the grant.

Partners like Rite Aid Healthy Futures make it possible for Forgotten Harvest to continue living our vision of communities that work together to end hunger and increase individual, neighborhood, economic, and environmental health.



RECOGNIZING FORGOTTEN HARVESTERS

We were overjoyed to host our first annual loyalty pin ceremony! We welcomed ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, and thirty-year donors to our new warehouse for a night of history, celebrations, and campus tours. We were able to honor our most dedicated and generous donors with an exclusive Forgotten Harvest enamel pin.

The generosity of many is what makes our mission possible. We look forward to the coming years of celebrations to honor new loyalty society inductees! Thank you to all who make this work possible day after day, and year after year.



One of the best parts about planning the loyalty pin party was learning the stories from our donors, volunteers, and employees about their early experiences with Forgotten Harvest. We were able to speak with Teri Rosenberg, who not only has been giving to Forgotten Harvest for 30 years, she worked with Nancy Fishman, our founder, to collect

**30
YEARS
AND
COUNTING**

and deliver food. “I was on the first advisory board. I had two young children at the time, and I remember picking up food from what is now Delta Airlines and taking it to Mazon, who was able to get it to people who needed it. I remember thinking—this is truly changing my life.” Our donors are the reason that our mission works. Teri is still changing the world. She is building a home in Boulder that has a community garden called “Giving Gardens Farms.” She will help people in Colorado who need it, just like she continues to help here!

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Trying to make an even greater impact for your neighbors in metro Detroit?

A planned giving gift goes directly to support families in need. You can create a legacy by joining *Tomorrow's Harvest*, a society of thoughtful donors who designate Forgotten Harvest through their will, trust, or by naming us as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or other assets. Planned gifts provide long-term support that helps fight hunger. These kind gifts will continue to impact our community for many years to come.

If you have already generously decided to include Forgotten Harvest in your estate plan, please contact Kimberly Kalmar at kkalmar@forgottenharvest.org or (248) 864-7525. **For more information on planned giving, please visit our website: forgottenharvest.org/ways-give.**