

HARVEST NEWS

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



FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY FOR FAMILIES...

In the first six months of 2023, retail food prices increased by 4.8%, creating additional challenges for many individuals and families. Forgotten Harvest is working hard to fill the gap for metro Detroiters in need.

At New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit, food distribution volunteers set up a mobile pantry every Tuesday morning to get rescued food to community members like Linda, free of charge. She is a mother

and grandmother, accessing the pantry to get food not only for herself but for her family and friends. Linda explained, **“I’m retired and disabled, and what I’m doing is I’m helping my daughter out also. She works from home so she can’t get away to do this, and I have grandchildren...and I have a friend disabled. I’m not really doing it just for me at all, because I have two other people that depend on me.”**

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LETTER FROM ADRIAN

Forgotten Harvest is grateful for all your support and assistance. Our region needs our help, and we are committed to nourishing the many children, families, seniors, and Veterans throughout southeast Michigan who don't know how they will get their next meal.

Forgotten Harvest has been a critical source of fresh food for metro Detroit residents for 33 years. Last fiscal year, Forgotten Harvest provided over 40 million pounds of food, free of charge, through 1,889,112 total individual food distributions nourishing an average of 152,750 residents facing food insecurity each month, including 33,566 children and 27,760 seniors.

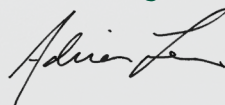
Unfortunately, the impact of inflation has exacerbated food insecurity for too many metro Detroiters. In fact, over the past several months, the number of people receiving food has increased by 32%. In response, we are working collaboratively with our 230 partner food pantries and agencies to make sure that highly nutritious food reaches the most vulnerable populations needing our help.

We are implementing initiatives to enhance nutrition and access to the healthiest foods and creating an equitable food distribution for every community pantry partner. We are investing resources in our partner pantry network to provide more effective services to areas with the highest food insecurity levels.

Additionally, our Forgotten Harvest Farm near Fenton had a great harvest season this year, providing more than 500,000 pounds of wonderful fruits and vegetables such as romaine lettuce, green beans, zucchini, watermelon, and corn. These are just a few of the crops we grow and harvest - true Farm to Table. Our thousands of dedicated volunteers are critical to helping us achieve our goals, and we need more helpers moving forward.

Forgotten Harvest greatly benefits from your partnership and needs your continued support to create healthier communities and to care for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. On behalf of everyone at Forgotten Harvest, thank you!

With much gratitude,



Adrian Lewis, CEO

GIVING TUESDAY

SAVE THE DATE

What kind of impact could our community make if we all decided to give on one day? Let's find out!

On **November 28th, 2023**, our community will come together for **24 hours** of giving to support the work of Forgotten Harvest through **GivingTuesday!**

Last year you supported us on GivingTuesday and helped us provide **1 million meals in metro Detroit**

Help us raise awareness and funds to end food insecurity and reduce food waste by saving the date and making a donation online on November 28th, 2023 at www.forgottenharvest.org/donate.





We Get By With a Little Help From Our Friends...

...it's not just a song by the Beatles! Quite frankly, the help from friends, volunteers, and community members is how Forgotten Harvest can feed metro Detroiters day in and day out. Meet our dedicated friend, Rukayya. She is a true Forgotten Harvester! Rukayya has been a long-term monthly donor and is a recipient of our Donor Loyalty Pin program. After coming on a tour of our warehouse, she knew she wanted to get more involved and became a volunteer.

Individual Actions = Big Impact

Our Harvest Heroes are a small but mighty group of 40 dedicated, long-term volunteers helping our organization with smaller rescue pick-ups. These routes are scheduled once a week, with 2-3 hour time commitments. The pick-ups usually weigh less than 75 lbs. and come from independently owned grocery stores, bakeries, and restaurants. Volunteers are following in the footsteps of our founder, Nancy Fishman, one person making a difference in their neighborhood and community. Last fiscal year, our Harvest Heroes rescued and distributed over 570,600 pounds of food directly to our agency pantry partners throughout Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties. The Harvest Heroes program is another way Forgotten Harvest is fighting food waste and food insecurity in our community.

Do you want to get involved and follow in the footsteps of our founder? Join the team of Harvest Heroes! Please contact Dan Burbulla at 248-930-4255 or dburbulla@forgottenharvest.org



3rd Party Events



Ryder Logistics, HAP, Towne Mortgage, and many others are having fun while making an impact. From golf outings to cornhole tournaments, third-party fundraising events are an engaging way for your company or organization to raise life-changing funds for those experiencing food insecurity in metro Detroit.

If you are interested in organizing your own event to benefit Forgotten Harvest, we are pleased to provide assistance to ensure that it is a success. Below are some fundraising ideas to get started:



Athletic Tournament
Fun Run
Auction
Car Wash

Rummage Sale
Ice Cream Social
Bake Sale
Wine or Beer Tasting

With the holiday season around the corner, consider hosting a third-party event to help feed your neighbors in need! For more tips and guidance, please reach out to Mary Moore-Butler at mmoorebutler@forgottenharvest.org.

Rukayya is now part of our Thank You Crew—a group of volunteers that graciously writes letters of gratitude to fellow Forgotten Harvest supporters. After a couple of weeks, Rukayya knew that this was also the perfect opportunity for her friend, Kim. Since then, Rukayya and Kim (pictured left and right respectively) have been devoted Thank You Crew volunteers. We are so thankful for what they do in their commitment to our community and feel so lucky to have them as friends of Forgotten Harvest!

Do you want to get further involved in your community and volunteer here at Forgotten

Harvest? Please contact our Volunteer Manager, Nicole Peoples at npeeples@forgottenharvest.org. If you are interested in joining the Thank You Crew, please contact Hank Wolfe Rodriguez at hwolfe@forgottenharvest.org.



Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan

The importance of dedicated partnerships that create a better food security network



Many partners contribute to Forgotten Harvest's mission, making possible our food rescue and distribution program that provides millions of pounds of fresh food annually to help nourish metro Detroit residents facing food insecurity. One of these longstanding partners is the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, which recently won the Association of Fundraising Professional's Outstanding Foundation Award. Forgotten Harvest was pleased to nominate the Foundation for this award in recognition of the critical support they have provided to Forgotten Harvest and many other essential SE Michigan nonprofit organizations through their general grantmaking program, special initiatives, and donor-advised funds program.

Since its initial grant to Forgotten Harvest in 2001, the Foundation has supported an array of special projects, capacity-building initiatives, and essential services.

These grants include those to help launch Forgotten Harvest's Grocery Rescue Program, expand our Mobile Pantry Program, and establish a Youth Rescuers Program. Most recently, the Community Foundation provided critical support toward COVID emergency response efforts and the growth of our Harvest Heroes volunteer food rescue program. The Community Foundation's varied grantmaking program benefits residents throughout southeast Michigan, providing much-needed support for essential human services as well as community projects and cultural programs that improve and enrich the lives of community members. By supporting our innovation and growth, Community Foundation grants have helped build Forgotten Harvest's capacity to rescue and distribute as much nutritious fresh food as possible for our community's emergency feeding network. Forgotten Harvest is extremely

grateful for the partnership of the Community Foundation, which has helped make our organization a critical source of nutritious food for metro Detroit children, families, seniors, and Veterans experiencing food insecurity.



NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Crystal, another neighbor, said, **“I’ve been coming here often, and I love Forgotten Harvest.”** This assistance helps her meet basic living expenses and still feed her children.

High food prices aren’t the only obstacle our metro Detroit neighbors face. A retired engineer, Larry has recently started utilizing pantry services because his wife’s medical bills have substantially increased their financial stress. Larry remarked, **“There is a definite need...being on a fixed income, not receiving a salary each week, you know there’s a lot of things that we must do as far as medical bills. I have a wife who is under medical care and attention, so a lot of our money goes toward that. Our insurance and other things are not enough to cover.”**

No metro Detroiter should have to worry about when they’ll eat their next meal...

Many people do not know where their next meal would come from without our support. Some of our neighbors need us for a visit or two when expenses become overwhelming or unexpected situations require the bulk of their resources. No metro Detroiter should have to worry about when they’ll eat their next meal. For more than three decades we have made it our mission to care for our neighbors without judgment by increasing access to fresh, nutritious food. It is our commitment to extend this support to all who need it.



Over 100,000 Lunches for Kids This Summer

The Healthy Foods Healthy Kids (HFHK) program provides food for children and families who don’t have regular access to nutritious food. HFHK consists of:

- Summer Lunch: Annually provides over 100,000 nutritionally balanced lunches to metro Detroit children who need emergency food during the summer when they lose access to school-subsidized meals.
- School Pantry: Targeted distributions to vulnerable families with children where they are already gathering – at agencies with early childhood education programs and schools.
- Youth Snack: Provides nutritious snacks to kids from kindergarten to high school attending afterschool and summer educational programs at enrichment programs throughout metro Detroit.



MORE WAYS TO GIVE: Orchard of Hope

In partnership with Blake Farms, the Forgotten Harvest Orchard of Hope consists of 500 apple trees on the grounds of Blake's Big Apple in Armada, MI. Your gift will support the hundred-year lifespan of these trees, which provide roughly 50,000 pounds of fresh apples each fall to feed our community. Memorial and tribute options are available.

IMPACT OF YOUR DONATION



\$1000

Maintains four apple trees for ten years.



\$500

Maintains two apple trees for ten years.



\$250

Maintains one apple tree for ten years.

To sponsor the Orchard of Hope, call
Karen Siegel at (248) 864-7526.



FORGOTTEN HARVEST

Women's HARVEST LUNCH

Presented by
Kroger Co. of Michigan

Thank You

On Thursday, October 19, 2023, over 300 people joined together at the Royal Oak Farmers Market to enjoy Forgotten Harvest's annual Women's Harvest Lunch. Attendees enjoyed a networking hour, a silent auction, a delicious fall-themed lunch and an engaging panel discussion including local women leaders about strengthening the communities Forgotten Harvest serves. Funds raised at the Women's Harvest Lunch will go to support Forgotten Harvest's efforts to provide fresh, healthy produce to metro Detroiters in need. A very special thank you to our lead sponsors of the 2023 Women's Harvest Lunch, Kroger Company of Michigan (Presenting Sponsor), Lineage Logistics (Rainfall Sponsor), General Motors Company and Lear Corporation (Sunlight Sponsors), and to the many donors and supporters who attended and made the afternoon both impactful and enjoyable!

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We're very social! Join us on:      