

HARVEST NEWS

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



Heat or Eat?

The Impossible Choice of Food Insecurity in the Winter

Winter is here in full force, and the need for food assistance among metro Detroiters experiencing hunger has intensified. Forgotten Harvest has seen a significant increase in the lines at our pantries, in some cases by as much as 30%. The decline in federal food assistance compounded with recent cost of living increases has heightened these hard times for many of our neighbors.

The costs of heat, food, and other necessities are up, forcing individuals and families to make impossible choices about how to dedicate their resources, and which basic needs they may need to reduce this winter. Not enough food to eat and exposure to the cold from a lack of utilities like heat and electricity in the home can drive many to illness, further straining our neighbors with medical expenses and poor health.



Forgotten Harvest exists to help fill in the gaps that remain when one is forced to choose between one necessity and another. **It is our daily mission to empower healthier communities by increasing access to nutritious food, free of charge, and preventing food waste in metro Detroit. Our fleet of Forgotten Harvest trucks are out in the community six days a week to meet our neighbors where they are and without judgement**

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Letter from Adrian

Dear Friends,

As always, I am inspired by the many ways this community shows up for one another. This past holiday season, we came together to uplift our metro Detroit neighbors in need through our Hope for the Holidays themed meal boxes, partnerships with local restaurants and businesses, and, of course, the year-round work with our essential agency partners.

We know that food insecurity is rampant in our community and throughout the country, so while I want to acknowledge the amazing work we've all done, I know there is much still to do. Forgotten Harvest is dedicated to providing enough nutritious food, free of charge, to as many of our neighbors in need as possible. We are constantly evaluating our processes and thinking of new ways to be more effective, and I am so excited for the latest manifestation of that commitment: the **Forgotten Harvest Client Choice Market**.

Designed to reach a demographic of metro Detroiters that can't make it to food distributions operating within traditional business hours,

the Forgotten Harvest Client Choice Market is now serving those in need by appointment with both morning and evening hours. Our intention with this new space is to expand our impact to more of our neighbors while allowing for greater dignity of choice. Rather than receiving a pre-selected assortment of food items, neighbors can move through the Client Choice Market aisles and choose the right food for themselves and their families.

The need for food assistance across our community is up, but I am humbled by and relentlessly grateful for the outpouring of support we see from our staff, volunteers, donors, and sponsors every day. Thank you for your continued participation in helping create a healthier metro Detroit community and extending your care for individuals and families in need.

In partnership,



Adrian Lewis



Client Choice Market | Greenfield Location





Valiant Volunteerism

Feeling Good While Doing Good

After the holidays are over, and amidst the cold winds of late winter, it's important to remember that our neighbors experiencing food insecurity still need our help. While the giving season may be winding down for others, Forgotten Harvest keeps the spirit of giving at the center of all we do. This can be a tough time of year for many in our metro Detroit community. We remain dedicated to extending support and care to lessen the load, but none of that impact would be possible without our volunteers.

Volunteers are an essential component of delivering nutritious food to our neighbors in need. Whether sorting and repacking rescued food at our warehouse, distributing food to our neighbors at mobile pantries, or wearing the Harvest Hero cape and completing their own mini food rescue route, volunteers are crucial to the Forgotten Harvest mission.

The impact volunteers make in our community cannot be overstated. We make each volunteer opportunity meaningful, fulfilling and, hopefully, fun! We have groovy music to keep you moving in the warehouse, like-minded community members for you to meet and befriend, and themed events to show off your favorite looks, like our 80's dance party, Halloween costume gathering or Ugly Sweater day! We always take time at the end to put your efforts into context, so you know just how much of an impact you made in your community that day.

Volunteering with Forgotten Harvest is great for corporate events and teambuilding, beefing up a college application, bonding with your fraternity or sorority group, or teaching the importance of community engagement to Boy and Girl Scout troops. **Bring your friends, family, or team to the party and enjoy the energetic atmosphere of a Forgotten Harvest volunteer opportunity while feeling good about doing good for your community!** To volunteer, visit www.forgottenharvest.org/volunteer-3





Meet Clarine Boles

Clarine Boles recently attended our Donor Loyalty Pin Reception as a 25-year donor! Her time with Forgotten Harvest began as a volunteer. She was a retired school principal with a lot of energy and responded to a request to send out postcards to let people know about our Comedy Night fundraiser.

In the early days, she wore many hats for Forgotten Harvest because there were very few staff members. Eventually, Clarine joined our board as Board Chair. When Forgotten Harvest raised money for our first refrigerated truck, the marketing firm tried to give the truck “personality”, and everyone agreed it had to be friendly with big eyes and a smile. Clarine suggested that we call the truck “Harvey the Harvester” since we were harvesting food to give to the community. From that recommendation, Harvey, our beloved mascot, was born! Forgotten Harvest’s mission remains near and dear to Clarine’s heart, as she remains to ours.

Q: “If you could tell anyone that is thinking about volunteering one thing, what would you tell them?”

A: “DO IT! It’s good for the heart and good for the soul, and it grounds you. All that stuff they say about you getting more than you give is 100% true.”

-Amy, FH Volunteer All Star

Meet Geralyn Papa

“Kids can’t learn if they can’t hear above the rumble of hunger in their stomachs.” After Geralyn heard this at a presentation, she was immediately compelled to do something. She began donating to Forgotten Harvest to reduce food insecurity, and soon she decided to dive in a little deeper. According to Geralyn, she works “part time” as a pharmacist at 35 hours a week. She designates her “other time” for volunteer work at Forgotten Harvest. “Volunteering sounds intimidating, but it is so satisfying. It is rewarding for the people you serve, but is also rewarding to yourself”

Her husband Ken owns Papa’s Refrigeration, and they have been a sponsor of our spring event for 10 years. “He calls me the manager of community relations for the company; I have the ideas, and he is happy to provide the monetary side. We live a charmed life, so we are just trying to give back.” We are so thankful to have Geralyn as a friend of Forgotten Harvest. It’s because of her dedication to the community that children can have the food they need to be able to learn and thrive as they grow.



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We partner with over 220 emergency food suppliers throughout the metro Detroit area so that people experiencing food insecurity don't have to go without, especially in the more challenging winter months.

One neighbor at Kensington Church's weekly pantry with Forgotten Harvest shared a piece of her story with us: **"We're seniors on a limited budget, so this really helps us and makes a big difference for us with other expenses and utilities as high as they are."**

During this time of year, when temperatures can reach dangerously low levels, it is critical to consume enough nutritious foods to support a healthy body and mind. **We are committed to providing our neighbors in need with nutritious food through all seasons, and extend our heartfelt gratitude to the incredible donors, sponsors, and volunteers who continuously support this mission.**



COMMUNITY TRUCK CAMPAIGN

Forgotten Harvest is all about community partnership. **We were founded on the belief that communities are at their best and healthiest when they support each other, and that's exactly what our community stepped up to do when the Forgotten Harvest truck fleet needed a new fellow.** Our refrigerated box trucks, tractor semi-trailers, and commercial vans are the powerhouses of Forgotten Harvest logistics and make it possible for us to deliver 144,000 pounds of food to our agency partners six days a week. These operations have been expanding since we moved into our new warehouse on Eight Mile Road and the need for more truck power has become apparent. Thus, the Community Truck Campaign was born. Nearly 40 community members donated toward this campaign and are directly responsible for getting this new truck on the road to serve our neighbors in need. To thank those who participated, each donor was invited to an unveiling event in December to see their name acknowledged on the side of our newest Forgotten Harvest truck. This truck will help deliver over 2,000,000 pounds of food to the community for the next 500,000 miles of its life. Our gratitude for their generosity, however, will extend far past those 500,000 miles. **Thank you to all who helped get this new truck on the road!**





SMART WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to give to Forgotten Harvest, and you can take advantage of the benefits for you as a donor too!



Stock Giving: Reduce the tax implications to you by giving the security directly to Forgotten Harvest.



Cryptocurrency: Another way to avoid capital gains tax, give crypto directly to Forgotten Harvest!



IRA: Giving up to \$100,000 of your required minimum distribution directly to Forgotten Harvest allows you to avoid declaring that income on your tax return. Naming Forgotten Harvest as a beneficiary of your IRA at death can also bring tax benefits.



Legacy Gift: Naming Forgotten Harvest as a beneficiary of your will, trust, or life insurance can not only help your estate tax return but also allows you to join Tomorrow's Harvest Society and secure your legacy as a supporter of our mission!

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



SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars! Forgotten Harvest's spring fundraiser is quickly approaching, and we want to see this incredible community there! Feeding Detroit Together: A Benefit for Forgotten Harvest will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at MGM Grand Detroit in the Main Ballroom. The evening will include a VIP happy hour, a delectable dinner, short programming, an auction, and live entertainment. Keep an eye out for ticket sales on our website and social media channels! All proceeds from the event will benefit our community as Forgotten Harvest works to reduce hunger and prevent food waste in metro Detroit.