

WINTER 2025



MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

HARVEST NEWS

See how you're helping to relieve hunger and rescue surplus food in Metro Detroit



TAILORING OUR WORK TO WINTER

Winter, for many, brings a sense of fun. Preparing for the holidays, planning trips to the ski slopes, and curling around the fire with loved ones and a warm drink can invoke festive delight. But **for many others, winter can mean their families going hungry** so they can keep the heat on as the temperature plummets. It can mean a parent skipping meals because their child caught the flu and needs medicine. It can mean job layoffs for seasonal workers like landscapers, construction workers, and farmers, leaving their households with less income for groceries.

Slick weather can make driving to the grocery store or a food pantry a struggle. Seniors may not be able to get out of their driveways if snow piles up, and plenty of us know the financial pain of needing a new set of tires to avoid costly and dangerous car accidents.

In short, winter often makes dealing with food insecurity even harder. Forgotten Harvest is committed to lessening the load for Metro Detroiters struggling to put food on their tables this season.

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LETTER FROM ADRIAN

Dear Friends,

Forgotten Harvest's work is year-round. In all seasons, we're committed to better serving our neighbors with nourishing food and care to address food insecurity in impactful and sustainable ways. In our last fiscal year, more than 44 million pounds of surplus food were distributed to our community through Forgotten Harvest's partner agency network. Our Community Choice Market model of service has expanded to include Mobile Markets traveling to underserved communities and offering our neighbors the dignity of personal choice in their food selection. And to further our commitment to environmental sustainability, we've recently partnered with My Green Michigan to upcycle the food loss from our Grocery Rescue sort line into compost, some of which will nurture the soil at Forgotten Harvest Farms. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, food makes up around 24% of the contents in landfills around the U.S., resulting in more than 50% of our total methane emissions. We're very excited to take this latest action toward reducing that statistic.

As winter continues, we focus our attention on supporting our neighbors who can't afford all of their necessities. Between the noticeably higher cost of groceries, increased utility bills as the heat kicks on, and needed medicine while dealing with seasonal illness, expenses can add up beyond budget. Circumstances like this are exactly what Forgotten Harvest is here to help ease. Sustaining our community with nutritious food, especially in the wintertime, is our priority, and how we do that is always evolving to better meet our neighbors' needs.

Thank you for joining us in this fight against food insecurity — there is much still to do, but we have the best community to do it.

In partnership,

Adrian Lewis, CEO

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date! Our second annual Feeding Detroit Together: A Benefit for Forgotten Harvest will be held on **Friday, April 11, 2025, at MGM Grand Detroit**. After the huge success of our inaugural Feeding Detroit Together, which raised enough funding to secure more than 1,180,000 meals for our neighbors in need, we're excited to welcome our community back for another night of philanthropic fun aimed at ending food insecurity for Metro Detroiters. Mark your calendars! We hope to see you there!





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GOODWILL WILL KEEP US WARM

Feeding our neighbors only happens with the help of volunteers. Many generous individuals offer their time and care to the mission every day at Forgotten Harvest’s own Distribution Center, Community Choice Market, and Farm, and our agency partners’ food pantries, congregate meal sites, and community events.

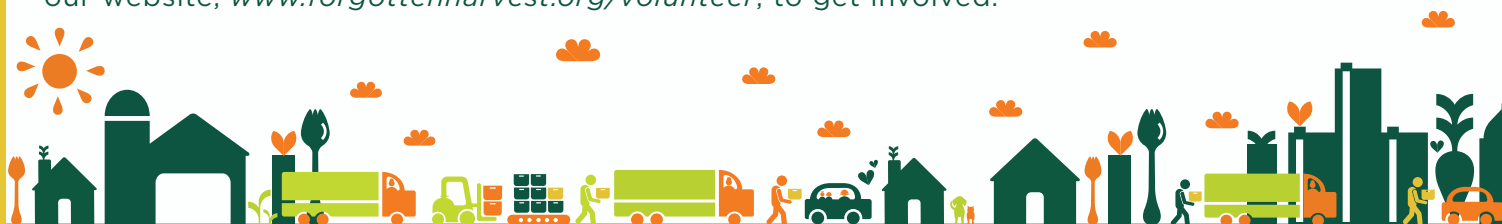
Those of us in the fight against food insecurity commit to showing up for our communities, even in harsh weather. At Metro Church of the Nazarene in Roseville, food pantry lead Renee Wildermuth told us they regularly welcome around 30 volunteers who make their distributions happen. When asked what drives her and her group to be out in the winter weather, she shared, “We need to help people. They need food, and if we’re not there, they don’t get it.”

That’s true for the more than 300 families they serve per distribution and the hundreds of thousands of other Metro Detroiters who visit any Forgotten Harvest-supported distribution site throughout the winter. It’s our responsibility as a community to make sure our neighbors aren’t going hungry, even in wind and snow.

And the goodwill goes both ways. Wildermuth said, “Before I took over as lead, I was doing registration, so I’d be out there for a while in the long line. People would bring us hot cocoa, and if they saw I wasn’t wearing a hat, they’d offer me one.”

At Triumph Church in Detroit, one of our neighbors, Gloria, showed her gratitude for the volunteers serving each week with gifts: **“The people, the volunteers are simply wonderful. I commend them for doing this, for doing what they’re doing and coming out here almost like the postman. Whether the weather is good or bad, they’re out here all the time, working without getting paid. So, every now and then I make them treats and goodies.”**

As a community, we’re indebted to each other’s care. Volunteering with Forgotten Harvest and our agency partners is an easy way to support your community in the winter months. Please visit our website, www.forgottenharvest.org/volunteer, to get involved.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: MCWARM

Forgotten Harvest delivers food for free to more than 200 partner agencies across Metro Detroit. Some are brick-and-mortar sites with dedicated food pantries, some are mobile pantries with drive-through distributions, and some are shelters and homes that provide those they serve with hot meals. As is the nature of a food rescue organization, we do not always know what food we'll have to distribute throughout our community of partners. That means our partners don't always know what food they'll have to offer our neighbors in need.

At congregate meal sites like McWarm at St. Margaret of Scotland in Saint Clair Shores, those preparing food for large groups often have to plan recipes quickly. "I've cooked lots of stuff: stews, soups, chicken legs, meatloaf, pork chops, potatoes. Whatever comes in, we'll decide what we're going to make. We serve everything we get to the people who come in here," said Joe, head cook at McWarm.

McWarm is a warming shelter in Macomb County that offers shelter, showers, laundry facilities, and food for those in need between November and March. Carolyn Johnson, McWarm's dedicated leader, told us she arrives at 4:30 am to start getting everything ready. The team can see around 150 people show up each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to get a hot breakfast, coffee and donuts, a hot lunch, showers, laundry, and available clothes.

"We send them off with a bagged lunch and, if they need it, a bus ticket too," Carolyn said. With a bus stop right out front, McWarm receives people from all three counties of Metro Detroit and feeds each one with food supplied twice a week by Forgotten Harvest. Their large gathering area allows those who may live in solitude on the streets to also receive needed time with community.

Carolyn told us, **"We're here to welcome everyone, and everyone needs to eat."**

Forgotten Harvest is so proud to partner with organizations like McWarm, whose teams see to it that anyone experiencing food insecurity can rely on us for support. Thank you for being here with us.





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We deliver to local distribution sites throughout the tri-county area six days a week to reach our neighbors at a time and place convenient for them. For many who are without transportation or homebound, our home delivery service partnership with Amazon and DoorDash brings the food right to their door. As the Community Choice Mobile Markets are starting to hit the roads of more underserved areas, more of our community members in harder-to-reach neighborhoods are receiving free, nutritious food to support their families.

The work of Forgotten Harvest is to get nourishing, culturally relevant, free food to metro Detroiters struggling to access it

elsewhere, especially in the winter. As well as being a significant factor in our health and necessary for wellness in cold weather, food is a deep part of many cultures and a focal point of gathering together for the holidays. Without it, it's easy to feel cut off from a sense of belonging and can alienate those who feel uncomfortable showing up for their family holiday without a dish to pass.

Everyone deserves to gather around the table with loved ones, enjoying special meals and moments that make the winter weather a little warmer. Your support of Forgotten Harvest makes that possible for hundreds of thousands of metro Detroiters. What a gift!



BRINGING HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

12,000 food-insecure households were served all the fixings for a holiday meal through Forgotten Harvest's Hope for the Holidays meal distributions. Our Food Sourcing and Distribution teams worked tirelessly to secure rescued food and donations of special ingredients to support a festive feast for our neighbors and their loved ones who otherwise may not have had one. Throughout November and December, a mix of shelf-stable and perishable food items like turkeys, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, flour, cake mix, green beans, canned pears, and more were given out at regular Forgotten Harvest-supported distributions throughout Metro Detroit.

Families shouldn't have to sacrifice their meals to make ends meet, but that's the difficult reality for many of our neighbors. Forgotten Harvest spends each holiday season doing everything we can to make sure Metro Detroiters experiencing food insecurity can take at least one burden off their shoulders. No matter what your traditions are around this time of year, winter calls for slowing down and enjoying time with loved ones, and we're proud to have made that easier for our neighbors with Hope for the Holidays. Thank you to our Hope for the Holidays sponsors, Kroger and the Lineage Foundation for Good, who helped make all of this possible!



OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

There are several ways to give to Forgotten Harvest to make sure that surplus food gets into the hands of those who need it, right here in our community! Although many people choose to write a check or send an electronic transfer of funds to us to keep our trucks on the road, others can give in a different way that might have tax advantages to them as well! Making a gift of appreciated securities held more than one year may allow you to avoid capital gains tax while also receiving a tax deduction for your gift. Marketable securities held by a broker may be delivered by wire through Charles Schwab. Please find our brokerage details here:

Charles Schwab
DTC # 0164
A/C Forgotten Harvest, Inc.
A/C #4324-7993

In advance of transfer, please let us know:

1. The name of the stock.
2. The number of shares you are gifting so that we may alert our broker to accept these securities and acknowledge the gift properly.

For tax purposes, the Forgotten Harvest EIN number is 38-2926476. Also, check with your employer to see if they offer matching gifts — it can be a great way to increase your donation! For more information, please contact Kim Kalmar at kkalmar@forgottenharvest.org.

When Judy and Eric first donated to Forgotten Harvest eighteen years ago, they came to us because they were donors to United Way Southeastern Michigan, a wonderful supporter of ours. **“We wanted to give locally,”**

Judy explained, “and we knew that they gave to worthy charities.” As such, they gave smaller amounts to many local organizations that they wanted to support. During the pandemic, that desire increased. They were fortunate to have an income during that time, and they wanted to help others.

“Detroit has been good to us, and we wanted to give

back.” Through her love of reading our newsletter, Judy discovered another important tenet of Forgotten Harvest: sustainability. She is amazed at the amount of food that goes uneaten in this country while people are hungry. She is glad that Forgotten Harvest is doing something about it. **“It starts at home,”** says Judy. People are surprised by how empty her refrigerator is. She goes shopping every few days, because she can. Judy and Eric have indicated that they would like to make distributions while they are “still on this earth!” **They are truly Forgotten Harvesters!**



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We're very social! Join us on: