

SUMMER 2026



MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

# HARVEST NEWS

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



## MORE THAN HUNGER RELIEF

Hunger relief organizations like Forgotten Harvest have been treating food insecurity with barrier-free, immediate food resources for decades. This measure is absolutely important—helping our neighbors keep their kitchens stocked and their families fed alleviates the anxiety that comes from trying to stretch the weekly budget in impossible ways, the physical discomfort of going through the day without having had a decent meal, and the risk of illness and disease from malnutrition or undernutrition.

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## LETTER FROM ADRIAN

Dear Friends,

It's summer, and for many, that brings up vacations, barbeques, camping, and other fun. For many others, though, it means a bigger struggle to feed their families.

For much of the year, children have access to breakfast and lunch at school, covering two necessary meals per child each school day. Once summer vacation starts, those meals need to be provided at home. The additional strain on families' finances is often too much to balance with their other expenses, and they need support to make sure there's enough nutritious food for their entire household.

Summer is one of Forgotten Harvest's busiest times for this reason. In addition to our regular distributions, our team launches several summer feeding programs to help our neighbors deal with the added expenses and ensure the children in our community are well-resourced for the hard work their bodies need to grow, play, and learn.

Forgotten Harvest manages our own Summer Lunch Program, sponsors various sites for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program, and contributes free food to child-focused summer events like Metro Detroit Youth Day.

As new eligibility requirements make it harder for our neighbors to access Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, and additional summer expenses and economic inflation increase the costs of living for families, more and more people are turning to food assistance organizations like ours. We're working harder to get more nutritious food out to our community, and your support means everything in that. Thank you for helping us care for children and families this summer!

In partnership,



Adrian Lewis President & CEO



Save the Date  
**WOMEN'S HARVEST LUNCH**  
10.22.26

Learn more at [www.forgottenharvest.org/womensharvestlunch26](http://www.forgottenharvest.org/womensharvestlunch26).



SCAN FOR INFO

## SUMMER ON FORGOTTEN HARVEST FARMS

This season at Forgotten Harvest Farms, we've planted around 77 acres of nutrient-dense and delicious produce to feed our community with the most nourishing foods possible.

And thanks to an anonymous, transformational donor, we have a new greenhouse and help to complete a fence around the planted acres to deter snacking deer. We expect these new items to help us harvest over one million pounds of produce! Broccoli, cabbage, collards, eggplant, green beans, peppers, herbs, melons, squash, potatoes, and more are taking root—and we need your help to harvest them!

Volunteers are needed during our regular growing season through November to plant and pick the foods destined to fill tables in homes overly burdened by the high costs of living. Sign up on our website [www.forgottenharvest.org/volunteer](http://www.forgottenharvest.org/volunteer) to be part of this community support network!

## SEED TO FEED

If you can't make it out to volunteer but still want to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables for our neighbors in need, consider joining Seed to Feed, an all-digital monthly giving program that supports the day-to-day operations of Forgotten Harvest Farms.

Maintaining the farm has its costs, and your contribution each month will help our team tend to equipment, seeds and seedlings, fertilizer, and crop protection. In return, you'll receive fun communications with behind-the-scenes updates from the farm, volunteer and tour opportunities, and a Seed to Feed sticker to show your support!

To sign up for or learn more about Seed to Feed, please visit [www.forgottenharvest.org/seedtofeed](http://www.forgottenharvest.org/seedtofeed) or contact Kim Kalmar at [kkalmar@forgottenharvest.org](mailto:kkalmar@forgottenharvest.org) or 248-864-7525.



**77  
ACRES  
PLANTED**

**Over  
1 MILLION  
POUNDS  
expected  
this season!**



# Hunger Action Month

September is Hunger Action Month! During these 30 days, people and organizations across our country show up to rally support for a hunger-free future.

That support can look like hosting a food drive in your community, donating or volunteering at your local food rescue\* (\*Forgotten Harvest would be an excellent choice!), or contacting your representatives to let them know a food-secure community is one of your top priorities.

Hunger touches every zip code in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties, and Forgotten Harvest works hard to serve them all. Want to help us strengthen Metro Detroit's food security? Add a Forgotten Harvest Hunger Action Month t-shirt to your wardrobe to spark conversation in your circles about hunger, and download our Hunger Action Month calendar for more fun ways to get involved all September!



**JOIN THE  
HARVEST ADVOCACY NETWORK**  
for those who *carrot* a lot  
**ABOUT FOOD INSECURITY**



Forgotten Harvest is pleased to invite you to join our newly launched Harvest Advocacy Network!

The Harvest Advocacy Network (HAN) is a way for our supporters to learn more about our work and how public policies impact both Forgotten Harvest and the people we serve. Members will be updated on policies that impact food security, receive invitations to related discussion forums, and be notified of opportunities to advocate with elected officials. Our HAN network will help inform Forgotten Harvest's public policy strategy and raise public awareness about the need for solutions to the pressing problem of hunger. We'll stay connected through an electronic HAN newsletter, and ongoing, two-way communication to support our community's exchange of information and ideas.

Approximately 580,000 people in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties are experiencing food insecurity, and the number is rising. These are people with whom we work, gather, worship, and send our children to school. If you are willing to lend your voice to advocating for improved food security, please register using the QR code or by emailing Eric Candela, Director of Government Relations at [ecandela@forgottenharvest.org](mailto:ecandela@forgottenharvest.org).





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But really moving the needle on hunger in our society takes more than providing this week's groceries. Through a grant made by The Children's Foundation, our team was able to explore the concept of food as medicine and develop a program that connects health to what we eat. "I recommended our partner Bussey Center for Early Childhood Education as a pilot site for a nutritional literacy program," said Krista Poole, Forgotten Harvest Senior Client Services Manager. "We built the curriculum to engage preschool-aged children in their own health and help them understand what food naturally does for our bodies."

In the program, Bussey Center instructors identified 35 enrolled children at the greatest risk of food insecurity. These children then had the opportunity to engage with biweekly lesson plans focused on the connection between nutrition and health, getting hands-on experience with healthy foods they may not be familiar with.

"The significance of such a program is health, it's public health at its finest," said Angela Jordan, a Forgotten Harvest Client Services Specialist and former teacher involved in the program. "We're talking to four-year-olds about nutrition! Teaching healthy eating habits at such a young age is so important. There's really a long-term effect here of children making better choices for their health, and if we can lead by example to show them how to prepare things at an early age, their brains sponge it right up."

As well as food literacy, the kids and their families received temperature-controlled meal kit boxes biweekly to bring their nutrition education home with them and introduce the entire household to healthy food options they might not have tried otherwise.

Poole told us, "When my own kids were in a similar nutrition class, the food they brought home were mangoes. I had never had a mango, I'd never looked twice at them at the store, but because my kids introduced them to me, I always keep them in the house. As much as this is for the kids, we're helping the parents out too. One parent told me she'd often go to work with nothing but a PB&J for lunch, and sometimes with nothing at all. The meal kits these families receive have also allowed her to better care for her own health and bring something healthy and substantial for her lunch break."

Providing free meal kits makes it easier for the students and their parents to participate in their lives without the distraction of an empty belly, but this type of care program extends beyond immediate hunger relief. Engaging with food as another kind of medicine helps families make the best choices for their health, and exposure to new foods broadens their options for wellness.

Forgotten Harvest is excited to grow into more programs like this one, and we're so grateful for The Children's Foundation and other support we receive that allow us to get innovative in our fight against food insecurity.



## OTHER WAYS TO GIVE: SUSTAINER DONORS

Ryan Giacalone was first introduced to Forgotten Harvest through a former board member, Jim Trouba. He is a partner with Jim at Grant Thorton, and Forgotten Harvest's mission really resonated with him. He came to one of our Comedy Night Fundraisers, learned more about us, became a sustainer donor in 2017, and has been giving monthly ever since!

Ryan is drawn to feeding people, but he is especially interested in providing good, healthy food options. Because of Forgotten Harvest Farms and other farms and gardens that provide food to Forgotten Harvest, as well as what we "rescue" from grocery stores, we are able to provide our emergency partners with produce to give to those they serve. This has been a game-changer as food prices increase, as it is often less expensive to fill hungry stomachs with other items. The produce that we provide is often the only source of fresh fruits and vegetables that people experiencing food insecurity have in the counties we serve. This was clearly the right mission at the right time for Ryan.

Ryan has spent 22 years with Grant Thorton. He has been able to show his kids through volunteering

that serving is a great way to give back. But Ryan notes, what happens when that message is not passed along from your family? He is very proud of the fact that Grant Thorton brings their interns to volunteer in our Distribution Center, instilling in young professionals a volunteer spirit! And it is also a reminder to those interns that they can make a donation when their life circumstances change.

Although we like to see ANY kind of donation, monthly gifts help us to plan, which is a luxury for a non-profit. We know some of the revenue that we will receive and make schedules accordingly. For our donors, this also helps them budget—they can decide what they want to give annually and break it into more manageable monthly payments. There is a monthly giving option on our website, as well as all of our remits.

**BECOME A  
SUSTAINER  
TODAY!**



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248-864-7525

### WHY MONTHLY GIVING WORKS FOR YOU AND FH



Provides reliable support  
we can count on.



Helps us plan ahead and  
use resources wisely.



Supports sustainable  
growth of our programs.



Creates consistent impact  
for our neighbors in need.



YOU can split your gift into 12  
installments to make a bigger  
impact for your budget.

15000 W. Eight Mile Rd. | Oak Park, MI 48237 | (248)967-1500 | [www.forgottenharvest.org](http://www.forgottenharvest.org)

We're very social! Join us on:

