

Gleaners Harvest

SUMMER 2013

Serving Our Most Vulnerable

P.2

A founding
member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Gleaners Food Drives

Driving innovation in the
fight against hunger
P.10

Stories of Hope

Senior gains strength, pride
from a helping hand
P.4

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Connect with us on Facebook or Twitter

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 [Facebook.com/gleanersfan](https://www.facebook.com/gleanersfan)

 [Twitter.com/gleaners](https://twitter.com/gleaners)

Cost per issue: 26¢



IRON CHEF 9

Be part of the action as two prominent chefs battle to benefit Gleaners Shared Harvest Pantry!

August 8th, Bordine's of Brighton
IronChefEvent.com

WHAT WE DO

Collect 46 million pounds of food a year, either donated from major food processors, retail chains and volunteer food drives or purchased at deep discounts to meet the dietary requirements of those served.

Distribute food for 746,921 meals every week to 558 partner agencies in five southeastern Michigan counties. Partner agencies include shelters, soup kitchens, food pantries, schools and senior citizen centers that provide prepared meals or pantry supplies directly to hungry people.

Feed and educate more than 260,999 children a year through programs such as school-based mobile pantries, SmartBites, Backpack Program, Cooking Matters™, Summer Lunches for Children Program, and Kids Helping Kids®. These programs provide meals and snacks to children through school- and community-based programs and provide volunteer and educational opportunities for young people to learn about hunger and philanthropy.

Inform the community and raise awareness about the solutions to hunger, the people making a difference in fighting hunger, and the issues that still remain in feeding our hungry neighbors.

HOW WE DO IT

Cultivate outstanding relationships with companies in the food processing industry, including the Detroit Produce Terminal, and others.

Use an efficient, technologically advanced system to collect, store and distribute food, with very little waste, through five strategically located distribution centers in Livingston, Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties.

Engage a professional staff and dedicated volunteers to advance Gleaners' mission of curing hunger.

Provide the best service possible to our partner agencies. Gleaners delivers more than 31 million pounds of food to partner agencies for free. The other 15 million pounds are distributed to partners at 18 cents per pound through a shared maintenance program and/or food purchase program to offset the costs of transporting, handling and purchasing food.

Note: Figures based on 2011–12 fiscal year.



Letter from

OUR PRESIDENT



Because of your support, Gleaners is able to provide the equivalent of 100,000 meals per day to people who would otherwise go hungry. For many, this help is temporary, as they recover from a job loss or other, similar crisis.

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For others, recovery is not so simple or quick. Take Barbara, a senior citizen living in southern Wayne County. Barbara worked for many years, earning enough money to take care of all her basic needs and also enjoy an occasional vacation or other special treat. In 2009, however, she was diagnosed with cancer. Today, thankfully, she is in remission. Yet, her ongoing radiation treatments make it impossible for her to work. Her disability check helps, but it doesn't cover all the bills.

Last year, Barbara visited a food pantry for the first time. It was hard for her to overcome her pride at first. But Barbara knew how important nutritious food is to her fragile health, so she sought help. She now receives 50 pounds of food six times per year. She says she likes to select food from the pantry that she can stretch into several meals, like soup.

Barbara hopes to recover fully and return to work. But, right now, she is grateful not to have to choose between paying bills and getting the nutrition she needs to fight her disease.

And I am grateful to you for being there for Barbara and others like her, who rely on Gleaners to get by. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. DeWayne Wells". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

W. DeWayne Wells, President



SERVING OUR MOST VULNERABLE

Mondays and Thursdays...those are the hungriest days in Ferndale's Grant Early Childhood Center. Mondays, due to the limited food the kids get at home over the weekend; Thursdays because kids gobble up what they can, preparing for the days of slim pickings ahead.

"The children come from low-income, high-risk families," says their Head Start/Great Start Readiness Program teacher. "A lot of our children don't seem to get enough food at home." ►



Food insecurity hits both sides of the age spectrum. Sherry, a senior citizen from Warren, talks about the profound pleasure of going to bed knowing breakfast is an

option in the morning. “I actually know I can wake up and have a piece of toast in the morning if I need to. It was so bad, I had no bread. I had nothing in my refrigerator. If it wasn’t for Gleaners, I may have gone hungry.”

While the economy shows signs of improvement, many of our most vulnerable still need help with the basics. Health care, loss or lack of a partner and unemployment are the top three reasons for hunger, making certain populations, namely seniors and children, particularly vulnerable.

Seniors like Sherry often have to make the tough call between food and medicine, or between food and other basic living expenses. When someone has to pay for medical care, food is the first thing off the table, says Detroit’s Haloise Walker. Walker lives in an apartment complex with 200 seniors and disabled adults and oversees their monthly Gleaners distribution. “It’s really hard to afford food,” Walker said.

It’s a slippery slope. When seniors skip meals to pay medical bills, they run the risk of needing more medical attention, as hungry seniors are more likely to be hospitalized and to have chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes than their well-nourished peers.

Seven percent of those that Gleaners serves are seniors; At least 40 percent are kids.

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A recent report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation estimated that 67 percent of Detroit’s children live in poverty, making Detroit’s kids the poorest in the nation. When kids are hungry, they get sick and miss school more often. They struggle to grow and develop physically, and don’t recover as quickly from illness. Gleaners’ reaches hungry kids through several programs, including: school-based mobile pantries, BackPacks, SmartBites, Cooking Matters and summer lunches.

In Ferndale’s Grant Early Childhood Center, the children say a lot of “please” and “thank you,” their teacher notes. “I am so proud of my children and all of their accomplishments.”



Learn more about Gleaners' child feeding programs at www.gcfb.org/programs

SENIOR GAINS STRENGTH, PRIDE FROM A HELPING HAND



Walter Fields is one of 1,200 Midtown residents who rely on St. Patrick's food pantry.

Walter Fields uses a cane to walk, but his voice is strong and kind.

He calls the toddler running through St. Patrick's Parish "sweet angel" and perfectly times his "Be careful, dear!" to save her a tumble off the chapel's teetering ramp.

"I'm a father, grandfather...great-grandfather now, so I have an eye for these things," Fields explains.

The gentle 77-year old waits in Midtown's St. Patrick's on this particular Tuesday morning for his monthly pick up from the food pantry. He walks here from his home on Forest then lugs the groceries home. He's glad to exert himself, he says, as the food program gets him through the month.

"This food gives me a head start." A retiree with bills and a big family, Fields has to budget carefully with both his money and food.

"The food prices out there are unbearable — even with food stamps," says Fields. "A dollar here, fifty-cents there... that adds up over time."

Fields was born, raised and educated in Detroit. He served in the Army as a young man then spent his working years as a consultant for a heavy equipment manufacturer.

He's proud to use St. Patrick's food program and is glad that Gleaners assists the parish in providing the nutritious food he needs. Times are tough, and while the economy is getting a little better, this food "makes it easier to bear," Fields says. "A lot of people need this program. It's good, wholesome food. It's a nice package and I'm proud to use it."

Fields is proud to use St. Patrick's food program.



“You have to be ready to want to do something with your life...”

Casandra and Shaeshiah, roommates at Alternatives for Girls' shelter.



Shelter Helps Girls Plot a Path to Prosperity

In January, Shaeshiah, 21 and nearly six months pregnant, was forced onto the street by her mother, who gave her a list of shelters to call and told her to leave immediately.

Alternatives for Girls (AFG) took her in. The Detroit agency houses up to 30 girls and young women ages 15–21 and up to 10 of their children in its shelter; its program serves homeless and high-risk girls as young as four.

Gleaners partners with AFG to provide healthy food for the girls. Lindsey MacDonald, an AFG staff member, says the food is “critical to the homeless young women as they transition into independent living.”

Clients who are enrolled in the shelter’s 30-day emergency shelter program can apply for its 24-month program, which provides access to classes and training and support with transitioning to self-sufficiency.

“You have to be ready to want to do something with your life,” Shaeshiah says of being an AFG client. “I’m thankful for it because I’d probably be out on the street.” She pauses. “I don’t know where I’d be.”

Shaeshiah takes classes on pregnancy and current events, along with a class called Life 101, which focuses on self-esteem and managing stress. Once her baby arrives, she’ll take parenting classes.

Shaeshiah’s roommate, 19-year-old Casandra, arrived at AFG in October 2011. Today she’s enrolled at Henry Ford Community College and expects to be living independently this summer. She wants to become a social worker, she says.

At AFG, “you have to be out of room by 9:30 in the morning and doing something productive so you can be an independent woman on your own,” says Casandra. “They help you a lot. Case planners and counselors are here to talk and try to support you.

Shaeshiah agrees. “I like the fact that they start at a young age,” she says. “That’s nice, if someone doesn’t have good parents to look after them.”

PARISH FEEDS HOPE

for Midtown Seniors

Eric Hester's volunteer work at St. Pat's inspired him to train to become a deacon.



“We strive to give people enough food for a week... We want to get them some balanced nutritional food to help them out.”

Janet Stonehill doesn't volunteer at St. Patrick's food pantry for the fame and fortune, but one day a gentleman, watching her hand out heavy bags of groceries passed her a \$10 bill for her "strong arms."

"I told him that I couldn't accept the money personally, but I'd give it to the parish," says the 76-year old Stonehill. Then, the long-time food pantry volunteer did the conversion in her head.

"Ten dollars — that's two cases of macaroni," Stonehill laughs, adding, "If it wasn't for Gleaners, we wouldn't be able to stack these shelves nearly as well as we do."

Currently about 1,200 people rely on St. Patrick's Pantry to make it through the month, says volunteer Floria Ellison. The pantry, located in Midtown's St. Patrick's Parish, serves people living in two zip codes.

People in need of the pantry's food help get a hefty supply, containing meat, dairy, fresh fruits and

vegetables, bread, pasta and canned food. About 85 percent of the food comes from Gleaners, Ellison says.

"We strive to give people enough food for a week," says Ellison. "We want to get them some balanced nutritional food to help them out."

The bags are heavy and several people bring rolling suitcases, as they've walked a ways to get there and have a long walk home. Some days, the pantry sees 40 people in a two-hour span, Ellison says.

The operation runs smoothly with tidy shelves, a computer inventory system and a bevy of devoted volunteers.

The reason to help is simple for Eric Hester, the current "strong arms" of the group. "God said 'help the needy.' So that's what we try to do."

HIGH SCHOOL'S WORK PROGRAM PAYS OFF



Plenty of students have to work their way through college. At Cristo Rey, that work ethic starts in the 9th grade.

The Catholic school opened in southwest Detroit in 2008, one of a growing network of Jesuit schools that provides kids in low-income communities with high-quality

education. The schools' funding model is based on partnerships with local companies, who hire students to work one day a week. Typically each partner takes on a team of four students, who split one full-time job. The company pays the salary to Cristo Rey, covering the students' tuition. This year, the Detroit student body will collectively earn \$1.4 million.

"Our students are our largest benefactors," says school President Michael Khoury. "They're literally working their way through high school. They're in a CPA office, in a law office." Cristo Rey's more than 90 partners include the Clark Hill law firm, General Motors, DTE Energy and St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

New students attend four weeks of training in August to prepare for the workplace — everything from how to tie a tie to using a fax machine to appropriate Internet usage at work. Most students get their own desk at their job and an employee badge, Khoury says, "which they love." Between 85 and 90 percent of partners renew each year.

"What's really beautiful is the relationship that develops between kids and work sponsors," says Khoury. "If you ask our kids what they like best about their job, almost universally their answer is, 'I get treated like an adult.'"

Last year the school graduated its first class. All 46 students were accepted to college; 42 are enrolled while another joined the military. The schools' goal "is to be above the national average with no distinction for whom we serve," regarding



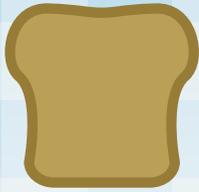
"Our students are very optimistic about their future."

graduation and college enrollment rates, Khoury says. "Cristo Rey kids go to college and stay in college at higher rates than the national average."

"Our kids are very optimistic about their future." Khoury adds. "That's half the battle."

Cristo Rey serves 246 students, 90 percent of whom qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. It partners with Gleaners to serve as a mobile pantry site, providing a monthly distribution of emergency food to Cristo Rey families that find themselves struggling to make ends meet. Students volunteer to pass out the food in the school's parking lot, rain or shine.

"Gleaners helps support our students' success," says Margo Hill, a school therapist. "They're being fed, getting the nutrients they need to be able to come here and stay focused."



Hunger Free summer '13

When school lets out for the summer, kids are at their greatest risk of hunger and malnutrition.

More than 317,000 children in southeast Michigan rely on free or reduced fee school meals. Hunger Free Summer reaches these kids with the nutritious foods they need to stay healthy and fed over summer break.



Give our kids a Hunger Free Summer!

Every dollar you give will be
MATCHED and
provide **6 MEALS!**
Help us reach our goal of
2 million meals
for hungry kids.



HungerFreeSummer.org



Underwriting Partner and Match Donor:



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*David and Cherie
A. Bazzzy - Gift bestowed
in honor of the Bazzzy Family*



*Joshua (Jim) and
Eunice Stone
Foundation*





GLEANERS FOOD DRIVES: Driving Innovation in the Fight Against Hunger

Gleaners is always seeking the most efficient and effective ways we can serve hungry neighbors — thinking about how we get food out, but also how we get it in.

Gleaners Virtual Food Drives

Gleaners new Virtual Food Drive program offers a convenient and quick way to make a meaningful difference in the fight against hunger. You can participate in a drive online, either as part of a group or as an individual.

For organizations looking to host a food drive, Gleaners can customize a virtual page that aligns with your brand and fundraising goal. You don't have to think about where to store the food or how to transport the donation to Gleaners. And donors don't have to remember to shop for items and bring them in; they simply visit your food drive website with a dollar amount in mind and select the items they'd like to donate.



MORE THAN 2,000
community food drives are held for
Gleaners each year, donating about 2.8
million pounds of food to nourish hungry neighbors.

The best part is the value: Gleaners' buying power allows us to purchase food at a fraction of its retail cost, making your dollar stretch farther. We can provide **three meals for every dollar!**

Go virtual!

Shop with us at www.gcfb.org/virtualfd or set up a virtual food drive for your organization by contacting *Stephanie Melnick* at smelnick@gcfb.org or (866)453-2637 ext 270.

Ford Transit Connects Drive Out Hunger

Another way Gleaners is making food drives efficient and cost-effective is our Ford Transit Connect Program. Since 2009, Ford Motor Co. has partnered with United Way to provide efficient vehicles to organizations that transport food to hungry metro Detroiters, donating 13 Transit Connects in total (Gleaners has 4).

Using Transits have saved Gleaners over \$400,000 since the program began, says Carmen Mattia, Gleaners' director of support services. "It was not cost-effective at all to send a semi-truck to pick up a smaller load of food."

Each Gleaners food drive coordinator has access to a Transit, providing food drive materials to organizations and returning to load up the van with donated food. Gleaners' program services department also uses the Transits to distribute food to neighborhoods where access to fresh produce is limited, through the Fresh Food Share program, and to deliver lunches to children who may otherwise go without when schools close for the summer.

Most-Needed Nonperishable Foods

Canned Tuna,
Meats

Meat Stews/
Soups

Peanut Butter

Dried or
Canned Beans

Canned
Spaghetti

Noodles

Rice

Baby Food
or Formula

Cereal,
Oatmeal

Learn more about hosting a food drive, or contributing to an existing one, at www.gcfb.org/fd.

Letter from

OUR BOARD CHAIR



Summer is in full swing in Michigan — a time of year to be sunny! For the Gleaners family, it's a time of optimism and challenge. In the past few years, we have doubled the amount of food we are providing to hungry neighbors, now distributing over 100,000 meals PER DAY. However, we are constantly addressing new challenges.

We have doubled the amount of food we are providing to hungry neighbors, now distributing over 100,000 meals per day.

For one, our sources of food are continually in limbo. As we have increased our distribution, our donated food sources have not been able to keep up and we have had to purchase a greater percentage of our food. In the past year, we had to purchase 47 percent of our food, up 18 percent from five years ago. Through your generosity, we have been able to support this growth.

But as donated food sources continue to decline, particularly federal support through the USDA, we must be able to make quick — and difficult — decisions. While we continue to search out new food sources and increase our efficiency, we must also face the need to direct our emergency food supply where it is needed most — to hungry children and seniors, as this issue of *Harvest* illustrates.

Thank you for your support of Gleaners' mission, nourishing communities by feeding hungry people.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Walt Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Walt Young, Board Chair

Upcoming Events

► **FIND MORE DETAILS**
on these and other upcoming
events at www.gcfb.org/events.



IRON CHEF 9

Thurs, Aug 8

Bordine's of Brighton

Be there as two esteemed chefs go head-to-head for the title of Gleaners Iron Chef! Culinary delights, cocktails, a silent auction and live art performances are all part of the action. Proceeds benefit Gleaners' Shared Harvest Pantry, serving hungry neighbors in Livingston County.

IronChefEvent.com

VINE & DINE

Wed, Sept 25

Neiman Marcus, Somerset Collection, Troy

Help cure hunger while curbing your own at Vine & Dine's 10 year anniversary celebration.

www.gcfb.org/vinendine



GLEANER DAY AT HENRY FORD'S GREENFIELD VILLAGE

Sat, Oct 5

Greenfield Village, Dearborn

Donate five (or more!) nonperishable food items and receive buy one, get one free admission. Sponsored by Gleaner Life Insurance Society.

www.gcfb.org/gleanerday



SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Sat, Nov 9

Metro Detroit

Help Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Venturers feed hungry neighbors. Scouts will deliver empty bags to homes across metro Detroit. Fill your bag with nonperishable foods and leave at your doorstep on November 9 for the Scouts to collect. Have a reminder sent to your mobile phone by texting SCOUT to 51555.



20TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S POWER BREAKFAST RAISES 2 MILLION MEALS *for Hungry Kids*



Thank You

Dulcie Rosenfeld, for inspiring a 20 year journey that has linked powerful women together to make a real difference in our communities.



Student Mentees of the Women's Power Breakfast PowerUp Program



Ruth Ellen Mayhall and Erica Peresman



Eva Tansky Blum and Dr. Glenda Price



Donya Redmond, Terry Campbell, Karla Hall, Peg Tallet, Cynthia Ford, Lori Wingerter, (front row) Mary Lou Zieve, Betty Brooks, Dulcie Rosenfeld



Carolyn Cassin and Ellen Rogers
Photo credit: Elayne Gross Photography

Gleaners thanks our Power Breakfast event attendees, event chairs and sponsors, including:



Find more info and event photos at WomensPowerBreakfast.org





KROGER ROCKS THE RADIOTHON!

Nearly **2.8 MILLION MEALS** were provided to hungry kids this spring, thanks to supporters of the 104.3 WOMC Radiothon for Gleaners.



KROGER LEAD THE PACK, RAISING OVER \$100,000 AND 510,000 POUNDS!

Learn more at ww.gcfb.org/radiothon

Matching Sponsors



**FEDS FEED FAMILIES
FOOD DRIVE**
collects over 14,000 pounds!
www.gcfb.org/feds

**NALC STAMP OUT
HUNGER COLLECTS OVER
1 MILLION POUNDS!**
www.gcfb.org/nalc



**EMPTY BOWLS EVENTS
RAISE AWARENESS
AND FUNDS
TO CURE HUNGER**

February 2013
Pewabic Pottery
Empty Bowls
raised 27,000 meals!

20th Annual
Pinckney Schools
Empty Bowls
raised 20,400 meals!



**ARTISTS OF ALL
AGES NEEDED!**
www.gcfb.org/emptybowls



You!

can make a difference

- **Each \$1** you donate helps Gleaners feed one hungry person for one day.
- **93¢** of every dollar you give goes directly toward feeding hungry people.

1 SEND A CHECK:

Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan
2131 Beaufait St., Detroit, MI 48207-3410

2 CALL IN A CREDIT CARD OR INSTALLMENT GIFT:

Alyce Sclafani, 1-866-GLEANER, ext. 319

3 DONATE ONLINE:

www.gcfb.org

4 TRANSFER STOCK:

Ask your broker to contact John Dennison, 1-866-GLEANER, ext. 233

5 ASK YOUR EMPLOYER FOR A MATCHING GIFT:

Tell your employer you donated to Gleaners and request a matching gift. If your company does not have a matching gift program, ask about starting one.

6 PROVIDE A MEMORIAL OR TRIBUTE GIFT FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION:

Alyce Sclafani, 1-866-GLEANER, ext. 319, or asclafani@gcfb.org

7 LEAVE A LEGACY:

Anne Schenk, 1-866-GLEANER, ext. 242, or aschenk@gcfb.org

8 CONSIDER A CORPORATE CONTRIBUTION:

Tracey Cholish, 1-866-GLEANER, ext. 321, or tcholish@gcfb.org

9 HOLD A FOOD DRIVE:

Stephanie Melnick, 1-866-GLEANER, ext. 270, or smelnick@gcfb.org

10 SUPPORT A FOOD DRIVE OR EVENT:

Visit gcfb.org/eventfood or sign up to stay updated at gcfb.org/info.

11 VOLUNTEER:

You can help with food packing, mailing or at one of our special events. Individuals, families and groups are welcome. To help, contact a Gleaners' volunteer coordinator:

Detroit and Taylor: Karen Rogensues, 1-866-GLEANER, ext. 239, or detvol@gcfb.org

Warren: Bill Jambeau, 1-866-GLEANER, ext. 354, or wjambeau@gcfb.org

Pontiac: Jenna Yuhase, 1-866-GLEANER, ext. 403, or oakvol@gcfb.org

Howell: Michelle Ounanian, 1-866-GLEANER, ext. 335, or livvol@gcfb.org

Special Events: Julie Ptasznik, 1-866-GLEANER, ext. 245, or eventvol@gcfb.org

Cooking Matters: Rebecca Blauw, 1-866-GLEANER, ext. 202, or cookingmatters@gcfb.org

Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is 100% tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**NOURISHING
COMMUNITIES
BY FEEDING
HUNGRY
PEOPLE**

**Gleaners Community Food Bank
of Southeastern Michigan**
2131 Beaufait St.
Detroit, MI 48207-3410
313-923-3535 or 1-866-GLEANER
313-923-2247 Fax
www.gcfb.org

Gleaners Distribution Centers:

**Gleaners Detroit Headquarters &
Distribution Center**

2131 Beaufait St., Detroit

Gleaners Livingston County Distribution Center

5924 Sterling Dr., Howell

Gleaners Oakland County Distribution Center

120 E. Columbia Ave., Pontiac

Gleaners Taylor Distribution Center

25698 Northline Rd., Taylor

Gleaners Joan & Wayne Webber Distribution Center

24162 Mound Rd., Warren

Founding member of:



The Food
Bank
Council of
Michigan



Member of:

The United Way

United Way
for Southeastern Michigan



The Better
Business
Bureau



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THANK YOU

to all the organizations whose food drive collections have helped feed hungry neighbors.

The following food drives each collected **50,000 meals** or more in 2012:

