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Women’s Power Breakfast &
Women’s Power Happy Hour
Join us this spring for two powerful
events that will raise one million
meals for hungry children.
See page 15 for more detail.

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become a fan to stay up to
date on what’s happening and
what our followers think of it.

Facebook.com/gleanersfan
Twitter.com/gleaners

Cost per issue: 29¢

WHAT’S INSIDE?

WHAT WE DO

Collect 34 million pounds
of food a year.

Either donated from farmers, food
manufacturers, retailers and volunteer
food drives or purchased at deep
discounts to meet the dietary
requirements of those served.

Distribute food
for more than 77,000
meals each day to
510 partner agencies
in five southeastern
Michigan counties.

Partner agencies include schools, food
pantries, shelters, soup kitchens and
senior centers that provide prepared
meals or pantry supplies directly to
hungry people to help them stabilize and
secure a brighter future.

Nourish and educate
nearly 144,871
children a year.

Through programs such as School-Based
Mobile Pantries, SmartBites, BackPack
Program, Cooking Matters℠, Summer
Food Service Program, and Kids Helping
Kids®. These programs provide healthy
food 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 end hunger, the
importance of nutrition to community
health, and the people making a difference
in the lives of our hungry neighbors.

Note: Figures based on 2013-14 fiscal year.

OUR MISSION

Our Purpose
Feeding Hungry People and
Nourishing Our Communities

Our Vision
End Hunger in Southeast Michigan

Our 2023 Envisioned Future
We have significantly reduced hunger
among families in southeast Michigan.
We promote self-sufficiency through
education, advocacy, benefits access,
and community engagement.

We engage in strong, collaborative
relationships with like-minded
partners to create and deliver
measurable, relevant, sustainable,
and integrated programs. We receive
significant charitable gifts reflecting
the community support of our
meaningful work and positive results.

We are recognized for innovation and
productivity, setting best practices in
the areas of food safety and nutrition,
program integration, logistics, and
efficiency. We have the resources we
need and are financially strong with
diverse revenue sources.

Dedicated and committed staff,
board, and volunteers work
passionately and cooperatively to
achieve the organization’s vision.
The professional environment is
dynamic, energizing, and spirited.
People realize they are making a
difference in the lives of individuals,
families, and our communities.
You are vital to the people we serve and I’m grateful that you’re part of our mission to nourish our community!

In this newsletter you’ll see some of the ways that we add value to every meal we distribute. You’ll learn about produce initiatives and nutrition, about recipe bags and senior nutrition, and about some of the work we’re doing with Forgotten Harvest to make an even greater impact on households that need us.

I hope, as you read these articles, you take pride in how your support is reaching people today—and also helping them tomorrow.

Several people have asked me recently if the problem of hunger is getting better now that the economy is picking up. The answer is clearly, “yes!” The economy surely helps hundreds of thousands of people in southeast Michigan move from food insecure—to stable. That is great news.

But it’s also true that those still left behind are struggling more than ever. They are often the least educated, have the most health problems, or otherwise have more difficult circumstances to deal with than average. And the economy and safety net aren’t yet big enough for everyone.

That’s why our work continues—and why we are adding value to our distributed food in every way that we can.

Thanks again for all you are doing to help. Together we are making a huge difference for our hungry neighbors.

Gratefully,

Gerald F. Brisson, President
Gleaners is providing more value to hungry neighbors through the distribution of better food and creative thinking in response to community needs.

Forty years ago, food banks were founded with two objectives; use surplus food from farms, wholesalers, and retailers to alleviate hunger, and work with a variety of local organizations efficiently and fairly to distribute as much emergency food throughout the community as possible.

Gleaners and other Feeding America food bank network partners achieve these objectives, and continue to do so, collectively serving over 46.5 million people each year. As demand has changed however, food banks have evolved. Services have grown, and we continue to update our business model to better respond to community needs.

Gleaners has identified three areas to better address food insecurity in our communities:

1. Distributing better food. Not only food that’s more nutritious and healthy, but food that clients want and will use. Not everyone has the same food needs, and this understanding represents a change in our thinking. How can we provide the most nutrition in the choices of food that are available?

2. Continuing to develop and nurture relationships throughout the food supply chain and between partner food banks. How can we work together to deliver a higher impact to our community?

3. Helping food insecure households do the most with the resources they have. It’s not enough to simply give out food. How can we help each household increase the benefit of the food support they receive?

This edition of our Harvest magazine will examine each of these goals in more depth. Read on to learn more about how we’re addressing food insecurity, and how you can help.
It’s a beautiful day and residents are gathering in the common room of the Parkview Place Senior Apartments in Detroit. Some are in wheelchairs and many use canes or walkers. A woman with oxygen sits and chats with another woman holding her grandson on her lap. They’re all here for something they need—fresh fruits and vegetables.

continued on page 4
These senior citizens share a similar story. They have a very limited monthly budget and not enough money for food. Deborah Miller’s doctor wants her to drink Ensure to help her regain weight after heart surgery, but it’s expensive and not covered by insurance. Her government food assistance only provides $16 of help per month.

“Gleaners came along just in time. I didn’t know what I was going to do. There are a lot of other senior buildings around here and they need this too.”

“Gleaners came along just in time. I didn’t know what I was going to do. There are a lot of other senior buildings around here and they need this too.”

In addition to the new distribution sites for seniors, the grant also gives Gleaners the ability to operate nineteen additional school distribution sites where families receive twenty-five pounds of fresh fruits and veggies every four weeks.

In all, 2.3 million pounds of produce will reach seniors, children, and families over a nine-month period thanks to this opportunity.

At Parkview Place, the residents received bags of sweet potatoes, beets, and grapefruits. Samples of freshly made beet relish were available for tasting, and recipes were provided.

Deborah Miller said she likes beets and will try the new recipes. She explained the various ways she makes her food last.
“You cut a grapefruit in half, and then in half again, so you can spread it out over four meals. You only need a little quarter on your plate to add color for a balanced meal.”

Another resident, Velma Cuble, said, “You did me a great favor bringing my favorites today. I can do a lot with a bag of potatoes.”

Ms. Cuble and other residents shared their favorite recipes for the produce they received: candied yams, sweet potato fries, beets with pinto beans and greens.

Like Ms. Miller, Ms. Cuble has a very small monthly budget for food. “There are days when money is low or the weather is bad, and it’s hard to get to the store. This is wonderful for senior citizens in a poor neighborhood. We thank you so much.”

Fresh produce is also distributed throughout the year at Gleaners’ School-Based Mobile Pantries, and made available daily to Gleaners partner agencies.

Providing healthy nutritious food—including fruits, vegetables, and a protein—is a priority at Gleaners. We work directly with local farmers, wholesalers, and our fellow food bank network to obtain a variety of product, in the largest quantity, for the smallest price.

“The produce that Gleaners provides is always here for us. We’re so grateful for the staples like apples and potatoes, it really goes a long way for our family,” says a client from the Monroe County Opportunity Program, a Gleaners mobile pantry site.

“The produce that Gleaners provides is always here for us. We’re so grateful for the staples like apples and potatoes, it really goes a long way for our family.”
The U.S. economy is recovering and job growth continues, but thousands of southeast Michigan households still don’t earn enough to meet basic needs. A recent United Way study showed that an income of $50,000 for a family of four places them in a position to “survive.” They can’t save for emergencies, much less retirement, so even the smallest problem can send them into financial crisis. Forty percent of our region’s population lives below this threshold.
“Many of our recipients are employed but in jobs that don’t provide sufficient income to support their household needs,” say Kirk Mayes, CEO of Forgotten Harvest. “Hunger is a direct challenge to our community’s productivity and success.”

**“Hunger is a direct challenge to our community’s productivity and success.”**

These working households provide services that are vital to the Michigan economy, including jobs such as retail salespeople, truck drivers, and nursing assistants. Often these positions don’t pay enough to afford the basics of housing, food, childcare, health care, and transportation, leaving families in need of help to get through each month.

“Many of our neighbors are one step away from catastrophe - seniors living on fixed income, hard-working families who just need help so they can get through a layoff. It’s only right that we stand by them when they need a hand-up,” says Mr. Mayes.

“Hunger is urgent,” agrees Gerry Brisson, president of Gleaners. “We will always need a way to help people when they have these crises in their lives.

**“Hunger is urgent. We will always need a way to help people when they have these crises in their lives.”**

We can’t end hunger... ever. But hunger can still be solved; it just means we need a safety net that’s sustainable, efficient, leverages every resource possible, and helps people to do as much as possible for themselves.”

As a food bank, Gleaners is focused on providing stability. Food pantry partners order food and rely on consistent access to a variety of shelf-stable items for their clients.

Forgotten Harvest, a food rescue organization, delivers perishable items free of charge, including healthy produce and fresh protein—needed food that’s consumed immediately. Mr. Mayes explains, “70 billion pounds of food is wasted every year. Why should that food go to waste when people can use it, and we can start to eliminate some of the devastating problems that accompany a lack of food or lack of access to healthy food?”

Pastor Erica Dorazio from Word Explosion Outreach works with families in Detroit. “It is very important for organizations like Gleaners and Forgotten Harvest partnering up together to support the community. The people who we feed, we know them. We know their first name, we know their grandchildren. Because we feel that they’re family. Having access to both perishable and nonperishable food is especially important for seniors, they need the nourishment. And with the fixed income they’re on, sometimes their cupboards are almost bare. The need is just tremendous.”
“When we collaborate, we can accomplish the greatest efficiencies, driving down costs so we have more funds to expand hunger relief.”

By working together, Forgotten Harvest and Gleaners can help each organization do more with less. “Every dollar we can save in our partnership will be another dollar that goes to help feed people,” stated Mr. Mayes.

Mr. Brisson concurs. “When we collaborate, we can accomplish the greatest efficiencies, driving down costs so we have more funds to expand hunger relief.”

The presidents of Gleaners and Forgotten Harvest have much more to say about their collaboration. Please follow their discussion at [www.gcfb.org/PartnersInHungerRelief](http://www.gcfb.org/PartnersInHungerRelief), and learn more about how these two organizations plan to work together to address food insecurity.
Gleaners employee Delores Watters had a great idea. She’s the coordinator of Gleaners’ Shared Harvest Pantry in Livingston. “Clients are able to choose from a variety of healthy foods, but the selection is smaller than a typical supermarket and they don’t always know how to prepare the food. People would often ask me, ‘what do you do with this?’” Her solution? Recipe dinner bags.

The dinner bags include a new recipe each month, as well as all of the items necessary to make the recipe, even the spices. They’re available in the pantry every day for all clients. Volunteers have been contributing recipes, and the bags have been a big hit among shoppers.

One of the recipe bags featured salmon patties and a client left a thank-you message for Delores. “I want to thank you very much for putting the recipe with salmon into the bag because I’ve always wanted to make it, but I didn’t know how. When I read about it in cook books, there’s so much stuff, I don’t know if I’m coming or going. Your simple recipe worked really, really well for me.”
To have a lasting impact, Gleaners understands that providing access to healthy food is not enough; we also need to provide information on how to best use that food. In our last Harvest magazine, we introduced the NuVal® Nutritional Scoring System, a tool that helps take away the confusion and guesswork of choosing better food items while shopping.

To provide additional nutrition and cooking education, Gleaners held a weeklong Health Fair at two of our client choice food pantry sites, giving more than 400 shoppers a hands-on explanation of the NuVal® tool as well as nutrition handouts, recipes, and even samples of healthy food items.

Rebecca Blauw, Gleaners Cooking Matters Program Coordinator, went to the Fish and Loaves Pantry in Taylor. “One woman shared that her SNAP benefits were recently cut dramatically, and that she was trying to feed a large family with shrinking resources. She was hopeful that the NuVal® System would help her feed her family meals of higher nutritional quality, even if she wasn’t always able to provide them with adequate quantity.”

Increasing the availability of nutritious and affordable food doesn’t guarantee a reduction in the incidence of hunger and related health challenges; but when nutrition and cooking education are paired with increased access to fresh foods, a lasting impact can be made.
Our friends at Kroger donate a lot of salvage product to Gleaners to help us feed hungry families. Lawrence Seay is the Distribution and Facility Manager at our Pontiac Distribution Center. We asked him to tell us more about his job and the partnership with Kroger.

Tell us about a typical day...
I start by figuring out the projects for volunteers. We typically sort through 24-60 or more pallets per week from Kroger. We usually have four different lines of volunteers sorting and repacking canned goods, dry goods, baby food. Some of the items are near the end of their shelf life or a stack of cans fell over and are dented, but the product on the inside is still good. Then there’s a volunteer cleaning crew, and we set up to begin again the next day.

Why do you do what you do?
I’ve been doing this for almost 18 years and it’s fulfilling for me because I’m helping families.

What inspires you about your job?
It’s inspiring to be able to work with the community. They may have a hardship right now, but we show people we care about them. I always encourage my volunteers to take good care of this food, be careful with the sorting and packing, because this food is a second chance. We want people to know we care. You never know when you might be down on your luck; it could be you that needs this help next time.
This spring, I attended the Gleaners Women’s Power Happy Hour and Breakfast events, both of which were very successful. But what impressed me most was not the money raised or the number of tickets sold. Instead, I was struck by what the women in attendance represented. From individual donors to corporate supporters, from nonprofit leaders to elected officials, these women comprised a small but significant portion of the hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals who make Gleaners’ work possible. I was left with a deep sense of gratitude for the existence of such a diverse and extensive network of individuals and organizations who are part of the solution to end hunger in southeast Michigan.

The Gleaners staff and board of directors set an ambitious goal to significantly reduce hunger by the year 2023. We know we can't do it alone. Partnerships and collaborations with like-minded people and organizations will be key to our success.

From the 510 partner soup kitchens, food pantries and other organizations that comprise the emergency food network, to the thousands of donors and volunteers that fuel Gleaners’ mission, we know that broad community support is critical.

We also rely on collaborations with other food banks locally and nationally, through organizations like Feeding America and the Food Bank Council of Michigan, to source and distribute food to where it’s needed most. Our partnership with Share our Strength will continue to enable Gleaners to help thousands of people eat a healthier diet while saving money through its Cooking Matters™ curriculum.

One of the beauties of the Detroit region is how we come together as a community to help each other. Gleaners is, and I am, grateful to be part of a broad network of organizations and individuals that, together, work to respond to hunger in our community.

Katy Locker, Board Chair
Iron Chef

The 11th Annual Iron Chef competition took place at Bordine’s Nursery in Brighton on August 6th. Hundreds of guests enjoyed an evening of great food, friends, and a little friendly competition.

Special thanks to The Jeanette & Jack Berry Family, Bordine’s Nursery, Lake Trust Credit Union, and St. Joseph Mercy Home & Hospice Care for helping to provide 300,000 meals to hungry families in Livingston County.

The Twisted Table

The Twisted Table Pop Up Dinner raised 34,700 meals for hungry Livingston county families! Chef Jody Brunori from The Laundry and Chef Steve Pilon from The Wooden Spoon created a four course meal that wowed the sold out crowd of 100 guests on March 26th at Gleaners’ Howell facility.

A Million Thanks!

We are grateful to our Power Breakfast and Happy Hour event attendees, event chairs and sponsors, for helping us exceed our goal of providing one million meals to children this spring.

Learn more and find event photos at WomensPowerBreakfast.org.

Happy Hour Event Co-Chairs:
Dawn Rassel, Linzie Venegas,
Karen M. Mazo, & Paige Lustig

Heather Paquette & Beth Gotthelf

Kathleen McCann & Carol Walters
Bernie Smilovitz
Hunger Free Summer Golf Classic

Held at the Detroit Golf Club, the 12th annual Golf Classic provided nearly 500,000 meals to keep children fed this summer.

Thanks to our golfers and sponsors, including: Andiamo Restaurant Group, WDIV, American Specialty Oil, Jenkins & Co.

More info at www.gcfb.org/golf.

Stamp Out Hunger
The National Association of Letter Carriers hosted their 23rd Annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive on Saturday, May 9, collecting nearly 1.1 million pounds of food for hungry southeast Michigan families.

Fill the Gazebo
The Livingston County Association of Realtors collected $15,000 and nearly 3,000 pounds of nonperishable food at the 13th Annual Fill the Gazebo drive on Saturday, May 2!

Children’s Hospital of Michigan Cereal Drive
Thanks to DMC Children’s Hospital of Michigan and their staff, the Professional Nurse Council, Kellogg’s, GDI Omni Inc., iHeartRadio, FOX2 TV and the support of countless local businesses, schools and community members, more than 895,000 cereal servings were collected!

5th Annual 104.3 WOMC Radiothon for Gleaners
3.9 Million Meals for kids raised, thanks to our generous donors and to Kroger and MGM Grand Detroit for matching every pledged dollar. HUGE thanks to Kroger for announcing their gift of $1.2 million in food and funds to help Gleaners alleviate hunger in southeast Michigan.
### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
**Detroit Uncorked**
*Gleaners Detroit Distribution Center*
Taste over 250 wines, craft beers and brilliantly paired hors d’oeuvres at the 11th annual Detroit Uncorked, hosted by the Detroit Wine Organization to benefit Gleaners!
[www.gcfb.org/uncorked](http://www.gcfb.org/uncorked)

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
**Vine & Dine**
*Cranbrook Institute of Science*
Presented by the Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, the 12th Annual Vine & Dine event offers guests an outstanding selection of wines, a strolling buffet featuring fine restaurants and caterers, and musical entertainment.
[www.gcfb.org/vinendine](http://www.gcfb.org/vinendine)

### OCTOBER 6, NOVEMBER 10, DECEMBER 15
**Double Your Donation Days**
*Call Our Phone Bank or Donate Online*
Matching sponsors will double every donation made to Gleaners. Call our phone bank at 855-315-FOOD from 6am - 11pm or donate online. [www.gcfb.org](http://www.gcfb.org)

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
**Hunger Free Holiday Bazaar**
*The Diamond Center at the Suburban Collection Showplace*
Shop goods crafted by Michigan’s finest makers, including watchmakers, jewelers, apparel designers, furniture makers and fine food producers, all while helping to feed hungry families this holiday season.
[www.gcfb.org/holiday](http://www.gcfb.org/holiday)

Please visit our website at [www.gcfb.org/events](http://www.gcfb.org/events) to view more information on our other exciting upcoming events:
- Baker Tilly Turkey Bowl
- Scouting for Food
- Birdie Day
- Canstruction
- Kroger Bringing Hope to the Table
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, 313-571-0411

3 DONATE ONLINE: www.gcfb.org

4 TRANSFER STOCK:
Erica Peresman, 313-571-0383, or eperesman@gcfb.org

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. Contact Denise Leduc at 313-571-0392 or dleduc@gcfb.org with questions.

6 PROVIDE A MEMORIAL OR TRIBUTE GIFT FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION:
Alyce Sclafani, 313-571-0411, or asclafani@gcfb.org

7 LEAVE A LEGACY:
Anne Schenk, 313-571-0202, or aschenk@gcfb.org

8 CONSIDER A CORPORATE CONTRIBUTION:
Tracey Cholish, 313-571-0327, or tcholish@gcfb.org

9 HOLD A FOOD DRIVE:
Stephanie Melnick, 313-571-0362, or smelnick@gcfb.org

10 SUPPORT AN EVENT:
Natalie Fotias, 313-571-0365 or nfotias@gcfb.org

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, Warren and Taylor: Karen Rogensues, 313-308-0589 or detvol@gcfb.org
- Pontiac: Tiffany Liggins, 248-409-1159 or oakvol@gcfb.org
- Howell: Delores Watters, 313-308-0593, or livvol@gcfb.org
- Special Events: Julie Ptasznik, 313-571-0381, or eventvol@gcfb.org
- Cooking Matters: Rebecca Blauw, 313-308-0584, 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.
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**
  25678 Northline Rd., Taylor

- **Gleaners Joan & Wayne Webber Distribution Center**
  24162 Mound Rd., Warren

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

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- Hunger Council

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- Hungry
- Nourishing our communities

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