Gleaners Harvest

WINTER/SPRING 2017

Healthy Pantry Initiative
Increasing access to fruits & veggies
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Gleaners Celebrates 40 Years
Thanks to your support!
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Food Security is Healthy
Improving health through better nutrition
pg. 4
Gleaners ushers in its 40th Anniversary with another year of major accomplishments fueled by your support of and belief in this important mission.

Since 1977, Gleaners has had the honor of nourishing the communities of southeast Michigan by serving its most vulnerable citizens. As we begin to consider the future of our work, let’s take a moment to reflect on some of our achievements over the past several decades.

Stability

Providing families, children and seniors with food staples that help them move past crises and receive the nourishment they need to thrive.

1977  537,000 pounds of food distributed through 15 partner agencies

1983  Pantry Pacs are developed for distribution through agencies, each Pac providing enough food for 50 meals

1986  8 million pounds of food distributed through 165 partner agencies

1996  13.7 million pounds of food distributed through 180 partner agencies

2005  Gleaners partnered with the Salvation Army to organize a pilot of the Summer Food Service Program (free breakfasts and lunches for kids) at two sites

2007  1st Mobile Pantry truck is created using a converted beverage trailer, allowing distributions to take place in remote high-need areas

2016  Nearly 39 million pounds of food distributed through 534 partner agencies; nutritious meals were distributed to 4,200 children during summer break at 95 sites through the Summer Food Service Program; and School Food Mobiles distributed food at 75 sites
Health
A focused effort on increasing the amount of nutritious food and nutrition education provided to our community.

Empowerment
Providing community members with the opportunity and knowledge to make positive decisions to better their lives well into the future.

1986   647,500 pounds of fresh produce distributed
2005  Gleaners and the Food Bank of Oakland County merge, bringing Cooking Matters to Gleaners, helping to provide nutrition education to low-income individuals and families by teaching them how to cook healthy meals on a budget
2008  DTE Energy partnered with Gleaners to fill a gap in access to fresh produce by working together to distribute fresh, local fruits and vegetables from gardens on DTE property to Gleaners’ partner agencies
2011  7.9 million pounds of fresh produce distributed, thanks to the Food Bank Council of Michigan programs like Michigan Farm to Food Bank and Michigan Agricultural Surplus System
2012  Gleaners becomes largest franchisee of Share Our Strength’s Cooking Matters program, graduating 2,195 people from the program
2013  2,704 families receive produce through Gleaners’ Fresh Food Share, a program that increases access to fresh fruits and vegetables in high-need neighborhoods
2014  Gleaners participates in the Food Bank Council of Michigan’s grant-funded Michigan Food Bank Access to Nutrition (MIFBAN) program, increasing the amount of fresh produce distributed by more than 4 million pounds over 2 years and increasing nutrition education to clients
2016  Gleaners’ Food Zoo opens its gates, offering education to the community and demonstrating the link between nutrition and healthy produce. Cooking Matters graduates more than 9,800 students—more than any other year in Gleaners’ history

1984   Kids Helping Kids program is launched, teaching children the impact of hunger on their peers and shows them ways they can help
1997  The Gleaners Garden is established on land across from the warehouse, where clients can glean fresh vegetables from the garden
1999  Shared Harvest Pantry, the first of Gleaners’ partner client choice pantries, opens in the fall, providing a dignified “shopping experience” for clients
2007  6,800 children fed and educated through Gleaners’ dedicated children’s programs
2009  The number of Client Choice Pantries within the Gleaners network increases to 22, doubling the quantity in 2007
2010  Cooking Matters at the Store, previously included only in Cooking Matters courses, begins as a standalone program. Participants enjoy a local store tour where they learn how to get the most nutritional value for dollars spent
2016  Gleaners begins the Healthy Pantry initiative, a new project working to provide nutrition education to pantry clients and easier access to fresh produce to encourage healthy eating and improve overall health. Gleaners also launches My Neighborhood Mobile Grocery, a program providing customers with an opportunity to stretch their limited dollars further each month
You’ve brought so much good to our community by supporting our work! I’m so grateful for you and all the people who have gotten us to where we are today — donors, staff, and volunteers: you who have given so that others could be nourished.

I admire our founder, Gene Gonya, who forged the trail for food banks here and all over the country as well. I admire the Capuchins, Salvation Army, the Archdiocese of Detroit, the Detroit Regional Chamber, and the many others who gave financial support, business oversight, and encouragement as the fledgling food bank made its way and learned the critical skills of finding food, mobilizing volunteers, and distributing everything safely and fairly to the churches and other agencies so they could serve people in need.

I am deeply grateful for my current team of staff, volunteers, and donors who have helped Gleaners expand mobile food pantries, improve the quality and quantity of produce distributed, integrate education and health efforts with food distribution and offer it through our network, and set up dashboards and key indicators of success to monitor our progress. We’ve adopted a “household impact model” to better understand how we improve people’s lives. Our board of directors is contributing to our success with notable advances in development, governance, finance, audit, and HR subcommittee work. And our biggest ideas for growth — mobile grocery and working with health care systems to coordinate services to best serve people who need us — are coming along. These investments are teaching us even more about people who are struggling, the challenges they face, and the habits that they have developed for coping with the stress of their lives. We have pushed the limits of our food purchasing and management capabilities to deliver significant value. We have integrated Cooking Matters, nutrition education and recipes, into our models so people can cook and eat healthier. We are emerging as a statewide leader and as one of the food banks willing to pioneer tactics that are sustainable and scalable.

I’m proud of what we’ve done together and excited about what’s to come. And I’m grateful for your support in time, talent, and treasure which is crucial to our success. You are making a difference in people’s lives — clearly demonstrated in our mission results from last year (more food distributed, more Cooking Matters graduates, research success in diabetes treatment, et al).

You have my heartfelt thanks and admiration for your efforts.

Onward and Upward!

Gerald F. Brisson, President
IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Single parents, grandparents raising their grandchildren, seniors on a fixed income, individuals and families struggling to move past unexpected crises; these are the people we serve. Their backgrounds vary and their stories are vast, changing over the years as environmental conditions evolve. Gleaners’ focus and strategic direction continues to evolve as well, taking into consideration changes in economy, technological advances, and as we learn more and more about the people we serve.

How do we ensure that the efforts of the organization today will lead to the next threshold of food security tomorrow? One of the ways that we do so is by establishing an organization-wide focus on the consumer. We must invest in our partner network and build sustainable programs and food distribution models. This strategic direction has lead to current initiatives that link health to food security and the importance of building community partnerships between winning stakeholders like healthcare organizations and insurers that are invested in reducing healthcare costs and improving the health in the populations they serve, as well as organizations working to improve access to healthy food. Furthermore, this direction highlights the importance of strengthening Gleaners’ partner agency network, establishing significant lines of feedback, and helping to provide the best product options, with a focus on nutrition and balanced meal solutions.

With community support, collaboration, and a disciplined approach, we will hit the next threshold of food security. We are excited to start the next 40 years with a strategic direction that will not only allow us to reach more households with the food that they need, but also maximize the value that we provide with every interaction.

Through all efforts, focus is placed on improving the lives of the people we serve by evaluating the impact of our services at the household level, asking for feedback from consumers, and using that information to drive future strategies.
FOOD SECURITY IS HEALTHY

Improved Health Through Better Nutrition

When families have to choose between buying food and paying bills, nutritious food is often a luxury they can’t afford, yet sacrificing on food quality can make an already difficult situation worse. Poor nutrition can make health issues even more costly to manage and keep people out of work longer, making it harder for families to get back on their feet.

Karlene felt this first-hand when her husband, Jeff, lost his job as an airline mechanic after 9/11 and her family struggled to make ends meet. To complicate matters, Jeff developed lymphedema, a condition that left him with chronic pain and extreme shortness of breath. Karlene watched as he gradually lost his health and lost his hope as his illness progressed.

Between debilitating medical bills, monthly expenses, and the cost of basic necessities, Karlene and her family were at a loss and needed help. She recalls what a difference Gleaners made in their life.

“I was working three jobs. I was going to school full-time to get my nursing license...I was doing everything I could,” she remembered. “You can’t pay the rent and you can’t put food on the table. You can’t buy clothes for your children or even school supplies. But Gleaners was there, saying ‘It’s okay, this food is for you. Take it and enjoy. Nourish your bodies and encourage your souls.’”

For many families like Karlene’s, a sudden, chronic health issue for one
Making Tough Choices that Affect Health

A person can have devastating effects on the whole family. It becomes an overwhelming cycle of medical expenses and trade-offs in spending—things like nutritious food, exercise equipment or even the time and ability to maintain healthy activities become extravagances.

For the past 40 years, Gleaners has worked to feed and nourish southeast Michigan communities and they see what happens when people don’t have to go hungry. Kids do better in school, adults are able to get back on their feet, and families are more financially secure.

Gleaners is ready to make that impact go even further by using food security to break the cycle of chronic disease. New partnerships have allowed Gleaners to build on what’s already been achieved. To build on this body of work and to improve the health of neighbors like Jeff and Karlene, Gleaners has begun working with partners in the healthcare industry to demonstrate how a connection with healthy, sustainable sources of food can not only reduce costs associated with treatment and hospital re-admissions, but also contribute to positive health outcomes for people facing food insecurity thereby resulting in wins for everyone.

For families like Karlene’s, who often have to make the difficult choice between paying bills and putting food on the table, food security is everything and the stability that comes with it is a remarkable relief.

“I had somebody who was going to help me climb that ladder to help pull me out of that ditch so that I could stand on solid ground,” said Karlene. “There was no food in the pantry, there was no money for gas or for rent, but Gleaners was there. They came and they were there, with that heart, saying ‘We’re here for you. We care about you.’”

Feeding America’s clients report that their household income is inadequate to cover their basic household expenses.

Household spending tradeoffs in the past year

69% had to choose between food and utilities
67% had to choose between food and transportation
66% had to choose between food and medical care
57% had to choose between food and housing
31% had to choose between food and education

Source: Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap, 2014, and Hunger in America, 2014
HEALTHY PANTRY INITIATIVE:
INCREASING ACCESS TO FRUITS AND VEGGIES

Squash is plentiful in fall and winter, but many people are unsure how to cook it. It’s a healthy option that’s often overlooked, but on a chilly winter day at the Lord’s Harvest Pantry in Monroe, a volunteer demonstrated how to cut and cook spaghetti squash. The demonstration stand is one of many elements of a new Gleaners-led initiative to provide easier access to healthy produce, as well as education to maintain a nutritious lifestyle.

The Lord’s Harvest Pantry is implementing the Gleaners Healthy Pantry Initiative by creating a marketplace that will look and feel like a small grocery store with fruit and vegetables prominently displayed. In addition to the cooking demonstration stand, a recipe rack will correlate with featured items. These are “nudges” to make healthy food an easy choice.

“Our new marketplace encourages people to pick healthier items,” says Sandy Imber, Food Programs Director. “We want to have options that fit individual situations. We’ll still have canned food, but now we’ll have a new refrigerated unit and baskets to hold more produce in a beautiful, enticing display.”

The Healthy Pantry Initiative is a pilot program with nine current partner agencies, listed in the sidebar on the left. These agencies are implementing changes to give food-insecure families and seniors greater access to fruits and vegetables.

The trajectory of this project was influenced by direct feedback from clients. In focus groups conducted by Growth Capital Network, an independent evaluator, pantry patrons confirmed that fruits and vegetables were important to their families. And yet, of the pantries visited, three had no fresh

NINE PARTICIPATING PARTNER AGENCIES

Food-insecure families and seniors have better access to fruits and vegetables thanks to these pilot partners:

Capuchin Services Center
Detroit

Community Christian Church
Sterling Heights

Food Hub at the Ford Resource and Engagement Center (FREC)
Southwest Detroit

Hospitality House
Walled Lake

Liberty Family Outreach
Warren

Lord’s Harvest Pantry
Monroe

Redford Interfaith Relief (RIR)
Redford

Shared Harvest
Howell

Twelfth Street Food Pantry
Detroit
produce available and others had a very limited selection. Thanks to a $200,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan and support from Forgotten Harvest, who is helping to increase the variety of produce available and improve access to clients, Gleaners is making strides reach the southeast Michigan community and improve food security.

The Twelfth Street Food Pantry in Detroit is preparing for the arrival of a new walk-in cooler that will allow them to stock as much fresh produce as they need — something they weren’t able to do before because of storage constraints. They’re already seeing an increase in traffic as people learn that more fruits and vegetables will be available.

Back at the Lord’s Harvest Pantry, a woman noticed the increase in fresh produce. She’s a working senior with a diabetic husband. Finances are tight, and they do not receive government food assistance. She has an elderly friend who is too proud to come to the pantry for assistance, so she brings him food too. She planned to use the vegetables to make a soup and share it with her neighbor who is quadriplegic.

“I don’t know how to only cook a small amount. I enjoy cooking and taking it to others who need it.” She even volunteered to do a cooking demonstration at the pantry. “Younger people do not know how to cook fresh produce these days.”

In addition to cooking demonstrations, the Healthy Pantry Initiative’s multi-pronged approach includes other service elements such as a Healthy Ambassador. This is a trained volunteer who is available to walk with clients as they select food items, providing assistance and guidance about meal planning, budgeting, and cooking.

“We’re all learning a lot,” says Bobby Cooper, the Board Chair at Twelfth Street Food Pantry. “We have educators coming in to teach clients how to have a healthier lifestyle, but the volunteers learn a lot too. And the more we learn, the more we can teach our clients.”

Gleaners will continue to work with Growth Capital to gain insights directly from clients over the course of this initiative. Only the voices of the families and seniors targeted by this project can confirm whether or not they are getting the right food, in the right amount, at the right time, as well as how that food is affecting their health and sense of food security.
ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016
GLEANERS COMMUNITY FOOD BANK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gleaners is thankful for our 18–member Board of Directors who provide leadership, guidance, and support for our mission.

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Community Leader

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STANDING COMMITTEES

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Victor Green, Assistant Secretary
Ryan Hoyle, Vice Chair
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Katy Locker
Gleaners finished above goal in total food distributed, providing 39 million pounds of nutritious food to our local partner agencies throughout Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Livingston and Monroe counties – an increase of 4 million pounds (or 13%) over the previous year!

With much higher produce distribution overall, Gleaners grew our percentage of healthy food distributed year over year from 74% to 80. Thanks to our partnerships with United Dairy Industry of Michigan, Kroger and Michigan Milk Producers Association, we were also able to distribute more than 61,000 gallons of milk in 2016.

Cooking Matters™, a Gleaners' program where volunteer chefs and nutritionists teach people how to shop for and prepare healthy meals on a limited budget, once again graduated record numbers. In 2016, more than 9,800 people graduated from the program, more than any other year in our history.

Gleaners is committed to promoting self-sufficiency through education, advocacy, benefits access and community engagement. In 2016, we significantly exceeded our target for increasing the economic benefit to the households we serve, growing economic impact from $42 million to $49 million year over year.
Gleaners is grateful to the more than 43,800 donors who make our work possible every year. On these pages, we recognize our legacy donors and President’s Table donors.

THE GLEANERS LEGACY SOCIETY

Established in 2008, The Gleaners Legacy Society exists to build a permanent source of funding in the Gleaners Endowment Fund to continue our mission of feeding hungry people and nourishing our communities. Members of The Gleaners Legacy Society are truly champions in the fight against hunger in southeast Michigan and shall ever be remembered for their valiant efforts.

LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS:
Michael & Adele Acheson
Mr. & Mrs. William Berlin
The Coleman & Shirley A. Mopper Fund for Children
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Gonya

Mr. Jack Krasula
Dana Locniskar & Christine Beck
Eugene & Lois Miller
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Mr. & Mrs. Irving Nusbaum
Harold & Kay Peplau

Dulcie & Norman Rosenfeld
Toni Wisne Sabina
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Slotkin
Mary Stange
The Taste of the NFL
Wayne & Joan Webber
Donna & Walter Young

2016 PRESIDENT’S TABLE

Gleaners’ President’s Table is comprised of individual, corporate, and foundation donors who have contributed $15,000 or more in food, funds, or volunteer hours to help solve hunger in our region.

PRESIDENTS OF GLEANERS:
Richard A. Loewenstein, 1998 – 2002
W. DeWayne Wells, 2008 – 2013
Gerald F. Brisson, Current

INDIVIDUALS
Michael and Adele Acheson
David and Cherie Bazzy
Estate of Robert Brenner
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Ronald and Eileen Eckstein
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FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS
Anonymous
Andiamo Restaurant Group
Laura & John Arnold Foundation
Artichoke Garlic Foundation

Baker Tilly
The Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation
The Bottle Crew
Celani Family Foundation, Inc.
Cisco Systems
Citizens Bank Foundation
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
Costco Wholesale
Thomas and Carol Cracchiolo Foundation
Delta Air Lines, Inc.
DeRoy Testamentary Foundation
Detroit Manufacturing Systems
Detroit Wine Organization
DTE Energy Foundation
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Faurecia
The FCA Foundation
First Presbyterian Church of Brighton
Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation
Benson & Edith Ford Fund
Ford Motor Company Fund
Ford Motor Company Purchasing Group
Joy in Childhood Foundation
The W.K. Kellogg Foundation
The Kresge Foundation
The Kroger Company
The Kroger Company Foundation
The Kroger Company of Michigan
L & M Machining & Manufacturing
Thom and Connie Lipari Charitable Foundation
Making Our Children Smile Foundation
The Marshall Mathers Foundation
Mazda Foundation (USA), INC
MGM Grand Detroit
Moore Stephens Doeren Mayhew
Carl and Irene Morath Foundation, Inc.
Nextep Systems
Rose and Lawrence C. Page Sr. Family Charitable Foundation
Pewabic Pottery
Michael & Peggy Pitt Charitable Trust
PNC Bank
PNC Foundation
Quicken Loans
Rent-A-Center, Inc.
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
Toni Wisne Sabina Foundation
Schaller Corporation
The Elizabeth, Allan & Warren Shelden Fund
Joshua (Jim) and Eunice Stone Foundation
Target Corporate Headquarters
Tenet Healthcare Corporation
TJX Foundation
UAW Region 1A
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
United Way of Livingston County
Urban Institute
Variety, the Children’s Charity
Walmart Foundation
The Walt Disney Company
Wayne and Joan Webber Foundation
Weingartz Family Foundation
WJBK-TV FOX2-Detroit
The Young Foundation

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Archway Marketing Services
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Costco Wholesale
CVS Sales, Inc.
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Flatout, Inc.
Frito Lay, Inc.
General Mills
Horkey Brothers Farms
Jerusalem Foods
Kar’s Nuts
Kellogg Company
Kraft Foods
The Kroger Company
Liberty Wholesale
Lipari Foods
Mastronardi/Sunset Produce
Meijer
Mondelez International
Morley Candy Company
Nestle USA
Oliver Farms
Pepsi Cola
Pierino Frozen Foods
Raisin Valley Inc.
Ram Produce
Reinhart Bakery
Rite Aid Drugs Distribution Center
Royal Banana
S & F Foods, Inc.
Sara Lee/Bimbo Bakery
Serra Brothers
St. Patrick’s Church and School, Brighton
Target
TNG Worldwide
Turri’s Italian Foods, Inc.
Tyson Foods, Inc.
United Dairy Industry of Michigan
Value Center
Value Center Marketplace
Value Fresh Marketplace
Value Wholesale
Variety, the Children’s Charity
Vendtek Wholesale Equipment, Inc.
Walmart
Whole Foods

**FOOD DRIVES**

CANstruction
DMC Children’s Hospital – Cereal Drive
Faurecia – Faurecia FUELS
Great Lakes Council, Boys Scouts of America
Livingston County Association of Realtors
Fill the Gazebo
MJR Digital Cinemas and Cumulus Media
Canned Film Festival
National Association of Letter Carriers
Stamp Out Hunger
Premier Relocations
Quicken Loans/Rock Venture
Rick Young – Mountain of Food
St. Patrick Catholic Church and School
Brighton

**STATE & FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Feeding America
Federated Campaign Stewards
Food Bank Council of Michigan
SE Michigan Area Combined Federal Campaign (Federal Employees)
Share Our Strength
USDA – Michigan Department of Education

**VOLUNTEERS**

AAA
Ally Financial, Inc.
Ameriprise Financial
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
Comerica
Deloitte
DTE Energy
FCA US LLC
Ford Motor Company
General Motors Company
Jewish Vocational Service
PNC Bank
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Quicken Loans
Target
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
Wayne State University
2016 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE

- Donated Food: $57,663,399
- Cash Donations: $11,953,353
- Grants, United Way & Other: $3,232,778
- Purchased Food Reimbursements: $4,139,923
- Agency Shared Maintenance: $684,286

TOTAL REVENUE: $77,673,739

EXPENSES

- Donated Food: $56,695,301
- Purchased Food: $4,796,364
- Programs & Outreach: $11,479,292
- Fund Raising: $3,013,518
- Administration: $809,964

TOTAL EXPENSES: $76,794,439

95% Efficiency for Feeding Hungry Neighbors

MEALS*

- Meals Distributed: 32,445,353
- Meals Per Day: 88,891
- Meals Per Week: 623,949
- Meals Per Month: 2,703,779

*Based on the most recent meals per pound equivalent determined by the USDA
## Gleaners Leadership Team

### Senior Leadership

- **JOHN KASTLER**  
  Vice President of Evaluation

- **BRIDGETT LOMAX**  
  Senior Director of Strategic Insights

- **JULIE BEAMER**  
  Chief Operating Officer

- **LINDA MAKRIS**  
  Chief Financial Officer

- **RACHELLE BONELLI**  
  Vice President of Programs

- **SHERYL STODDARD**  
  Senior Director of Administration

### Leadership

- **Jeffrey Bandy**  
  Controller

- **Katherine Benford**  
  Director of Program Services

- **Gwen Bresko**  
  Director of Information Systems Services

- **Bridget Brown**  
  Director of the Livingston Distribution Center

- **Greg Drouillard**  
  Director of Food Sales Purchasing

- **Stacy Kessel**  
  Director of Marketing & Communications

- **Justin Kimpson**  
  Senior Director of the Ford Resource and Engagement Center

- **Denise Leduc**  
  Director of Community Engagement

- **Carmen Mattia**  
  Senior Director of the Ford Resource and Engagement Center

- **Cortnie Squirewell**  
  Senior Director of the Ford Resource and Engagement Center

- **Rachel Williams**  
  Director of Community Impact Initiatives
It may sound strange but it’s just one of the creative ways Gleaners’ new Food Zoo is connecting with youth and adults to inspire healthy eating and interest in gardening.

Gleaners opened the Food Zoo in June 2016 across from its main warehouse in Detroit. Realizing that ending hunger takes more than supplying food, Gleaners’ goal in creating the Food Zoo was simple: increase nutritional intake by encouraging people to grow and eat more vegetables. An important step in reaching that goal is helping people understand the link between vegetables and nutrition and demonstrating how vegetables can be easily grown with limited resources such as space, time, and money.

The Food Zoo is a demonstration and learning garden rather than a production garden. Youth learn about healthy

How can pizza teach kids and adults about eating healthy? In a pizza garden with tomatoes, basil, and onions, of course!
eating and develop skills in basic food preparation and gardening, all while getting outside. Partner agency staff, and adult volunteers and clients, also have an opportunity to learn about nutrition and to see how they can start their own vegetable gardens at home or at their local pantries.

In addition to the Gleaners staff members who tend to the crops, coordinate agency education, and provide youth programming, two local organizations also play a key role in the success of the Food Zoo. Keep Growing Detroit helps by providing programming for agency partners while connecting them to the Garden Resource Network. During the upcoming growing season, the Capuchin’s Soup Kitchen Earthworks Urban Farm will provide technical expertise including overseeing crops, managing pests and disease, and ordering supplies. This coordinated effort means youth and adult visitors will leave with a full range of connections and skills to help add nutritional variety to their diets.

“Gardening is a great way to engage youth in a positive development program,” said Milaina Macklin, Michigan State University Extension 4-H Program Coordinator. “They can develop so many life skills, from problem solving and leadership to healthy lifestyle choices. You can see their sense of pride and ownership as they see their garden project develop into something that contributes to their health and health of their community.”

The Food Zoo is open May-October, weather permitting, for self-guided tours and group volunteer opportunities. To schedule a time to volunteer, visit www.gcfb.org/volunteer.
July marks the end of my sixth year as a board member and third (and final) year as chair. What motivates not only my fellow board members, but also the more than 40,000 people who give their time annually? How does the work we do contribute to the betterment of Gleaners and society?

As board members, my colleagues and I guide Gleaners’ activities and oversee its major functions including fundraising, human resources, and finance. We meet quarterly to discuss critical issues related to management and set course correction when necessary. We also marshal the strengths of our respective employers and networks, enhancing connections between different sectors to increase Gleaners’ resources and profile. We raise much-needed financial support as well as awareness about hunger while seeking to ensure Gleaners’ future and the services it provides.

Our 40,000+ volunteers contribute by providing the labor needed to pack and distribute tens-of-millions of pounds of food annually. Their hours equate to 62 full-time employees! Reduced staffing costs allow Gleaners to redirect dollars toward feeding our hungry neighbors. Some of these volunteers also offer pro-bono services in marketing, research, and evaluation.

My reflective moment revealed to me the clear benefits volunteers deliver to Gleaners, but what of those dedicating their time? I think that people volunteer because helping our neighbors is a truly human impulse, and a tangible thing we can do to acknowledge our own blessings. I also recognized that, personally, the thought of an individual facing a day with hunger is heartbreaking and worthy of my attention.

Our vision — to end hunger in southeast Michigan — is big! We haven’t reached it, but hopefully, I’ve contributed in some small way. I’m thankful to all the volunteers who helped make my journey an honor and a privilege.

Katy Locker, Board Chair
Deborah Dillard knows what it’s like to need help making ends meet. In the middle of a successful career in the insurance industry, Deborah was diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer and needed to leave her job. The next four years were financially challenging and despite her best efforts, Deborah fell behind on mortgage payments and lost her home of 32 years.

The subsequent years were a challenge but even then, Deborah worked to help others have the help and support that she felt weren’t available to her when she needed it. She’s worked at Gleaners for the last 13 years, using the skills she developed at Blue Cross Blue Shield and Cigna to help Gleaners’ operations run smoothly.

Today, Deborah works in the Development department, processing gifts and making sure donation receipts get out to donors quickly.

Deborah believes deep down that working together, we can end hunger. Her hope is that more people will realize organizations like Gleaners are available when things get tough and there’s no shame in asking for help. She also wants people who are more fortunate to realize how easy it is for someone to lose that financial stability when illness strikes.

“You’re penalized when you’re sick. My son was born in that house and was in private school. When you have to tell your kids that you can no longer live like this…the pain in their faces hurts. A lot of people don’t know what people are going through or what it’s like until you’re in their shoes.”

“I love my job, I love the people, and I wouldn’t change it for anything in the world. I’m so grateful for today and just want to live in the moment.”

Deborah has seen how far Gleaners has come in hunger relief efforts during her 13-year career but still sees the need to reach people who need it most. “I’m glad I’m here. When I see people who need help, I give them my card and tell them to call Gleaners. There’s no reason people should be hungry.” With retirement on the horizon, Deborah knows she will stay on afterwards as a volunteer.
Thanks to your support, we have achieved great things in the past year!

- **9,808** Cooking Matters™ graduates including 2,356 kids and teens, learned how to shop for & prepare healthy, affordable meals
- **47,998** volunteer shifts completed, resulting in 129,594 hours of volunteer work toward Gleaners’ mission
- **67** BackPack Program sites feeding 3,257 children year round
- **933** School-Based Mobile Pantry events provided a monthly source of food for children and their families
- **534** partner agencies engaged to reach hungry neighbors with emergency food
- **2,030** community food drives collecting 2.5 million pounds of food
- **38,934,424** pounds of food distributed throughout the year to neighbors in need
- **14,132,227** pounds of fresh produce provided to hungry families
- **9,808** Cooking Matters™ graduates including 2,356 kids and teens, learned how to shop for & prepare healthy, affordable meals

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017
Women’s Power Breakfast
Cobo Center, Detroit
Join metro Detroit’s powerful women leaders for Gleaners’ 24th annual Women’s Power Breakfast. Enjoy a light breakfast and an inspiring program to help raise one million meals for hungry children and wrap up another successful Million Meal Match campaign. www.WomensPowerBreakfast.org

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017
Stamp Out Hunger
Participate right from your mailbox.
Join your community for Stamp Out Hunger, the nation’s largest one-day food drive! Leave a non-perishable food donation at your mailbox by 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 13 for your letter carrier to collect. www.gcby.org/StampOutHunger

JULY 17-28, 2017
Hunger Free Summer Food Fight
Hosted by your organization or workplace
Join this year’s Hunger Free Summer Food Fight, a food and fund collection in which organizations throughout the tri-county area compete against teams within their division to raise the most meals for hungry neighbors. www.gcby.org/foodfight

MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017
Bernie Smilovitz Hunger Free Summer Golf Classic
Detroit Golf Club
Join us for one of southeast Michigan’s premier charitable golf outings! Take part in a day of great golf, food, and fun. Your support will help provide 2 million meals for hungry children this summer. www.BerniesGolf.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017
13th Annual Iron Chef Competition
Bordine’s Nursery of Brighton
Join us for the 13th Annual Iron Chef Competition and enjoy an evening of great food, entertaining company, and friendly competition — including secret ingredients and a mixology competition! Interested in participating? Email shohendorf@gcby.org for more information. www.IronChefEvent.org

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017
13th Annual Detroit Uncorked
Gleaners’ Detroit Distribution Center
For the third year in a row, Gleaners is thrilled to have been chosen as the Detroit Uncorked charitable partner and host. Join Gleaners and the Detroit Wine Organization in an exciting evening featuring more than 250 world class wines, Michigan handcrafted beers, premium spirits and brilliantly paired hors d’oeuvres. www.gcby.org/uncorked

FIND MORE DETAILS on these and other upcoming events at www.gcby.org/events and www.gcby.org/fooddrives
NEWS BRIEFS

Scouting for Food
The Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan once again participated in Scouting for Food, a food drive that helps address the issue of hunger in the community. In November 2016, the Scouts collected nearly 200,000 pounds of food from generous people in neighborhoods throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe and Genesee counties.

Birdie Day
More than $500 and 290 frozen turkeys were collected on November 13, 2016 to help provide southeast Michigan families with traditional Thanksgiving meals! Special thanks to Whispering Pines Golf Club, the Majestic at Lake Walden, and Oak Pointe Country Club for helping to ensure a happy, hunger-free Thanksgiving for our neighbors.

Canstruction
Architecture and engineering teams from the metro-Detroit area filled Wayne State University's Welcome Center with impressive sculptures made entirely out of cans November 13, 2016 to help feed hungry neighbors through the Canstruction® competition. This event would not have been possible without the support of AIA Detroit, Tower Construction, Kroger, and Wayne Cares.

Albert Kahn Associates was awarded Juror Favorite, People's Choice and Facebook Fan Favorite with their “Super Mario Bros.: CANstruction Edition.”
Radiothon

Thank you so much to our generous donors, 104.3 WOMC, and to Kroger for matching every dollar raised during the WOMC Radiothon on Thursday, February 2, 2017! Thanks to support and kindness of southeast Michigan Hunger Heroes, Gleaners was able to provide 585,000 meals to our hungry neighbors.

Women’s Power Happy Hour

We are so grateful to our Women’s Power Happy Hour attendees, event chairs, and sponsors! The event, held on Thursday, March 27, 2017, helped to kick off Gleaners’ Million Meal Match with more than 350 guests and an evening of sips, savories, and a wonderful silent auction to help feed hungry children this spring.
• Each $1 you donate helps Gleaners feed one hungry person for one day.
• 95¢ 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:
Development Operations,
(866) 453-2637 ext. 660

3 DONATE ONLINE: www.gcfb.org

4 TRANSFER STOCK:
Tracey Cholish, (313) 571-0327
or tcholish@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 Bridgett Lomax at (313) 571-0249 or blomax@gcfb.org with questions.

6 PROVIDE A MEMORIAL OR TRIBUTE GIFT FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION:
Development Operations,
(866) 453-2637 ext. 660

7 LEAVE A LEGACY:
Tracey Cholish, (313) 571-0327
or tcholish@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:
Suzette Hohendorf, (313) 571-0241
or shohendorf@gcfb.org

11 VOLUNTEER:
You can help Gleaners in a variety of ways: packing food for distribution, mailing letters, or even at one of our special events. Individuals, families and groups are welcome. To help, contact a Gleaners volunteer coordinator:

Detroit and Taylor: Karen Rogensues,
(313) 308-0589 or detvol@gcfb.org

Warren: Sherree Gerzanics,
(866) 453-2637 ext. 356 or warvol@gcfb.org

Pontiac: Margarita Ovalle,
(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: Carolyn Sagi,
(866) 453-2637 ext. 257 or csagi@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

**Founding member of:**

- Feeding America
- Food Bank Council of Michigan
- Livingston County Hunger Council

**Member of:**

- United Way
- No Kid Hungry Michigan
- BBB
- Superior Rating
- Liven United
- Macomb Food Bank

**Recognized as:**

- United Way for Southeast Michigan
- Live United
- Macomb Food Bank

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The Gleaners Legacy Society

The Gleaners Legacy Society exists to build a permanent source of funding in the Gleaners Endowment Fund for ending hunger and nourishing our communities into the future. Members of the Gleaners Legacy Society are truly champions in the fight against hunger in southeast Michigan and shall ever be remembered for their valiant efforts.

Michael & Adele Acheson  
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Thank You!