

Gleaners Harvest

WINTER/SPRING 2014

Getting a Firm Footing on the Future, One meal at a time

pg. 4

A founding member of
FEEDING AMERICA



Eating Better for Less

Cooking Matters maximizes meals
pg. 10

2013 Highlights

The fruits of your support
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Join the discussion and become a fan to stay up to date on what's happening and what our followers think of it.

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

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Cost per issue: 29¢



**Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at
Gleaners Detroit Distribution Center**

**Unite with the region's most powerful women
leaders as they come together to solve child hunger.**

www.WomensPowerBreakfast.org

WHAT WE DO

Collect 41.6 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 95,241 meals each day to 562 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.

Nourish and educate nearly 252,000 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 end hunger, the importance of nutrition to community health, and the people making a difference in the lives of our hungry neighbors.

HOW WE DO IT

Cultivate outstanding relationships with farmers and food companies, 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.

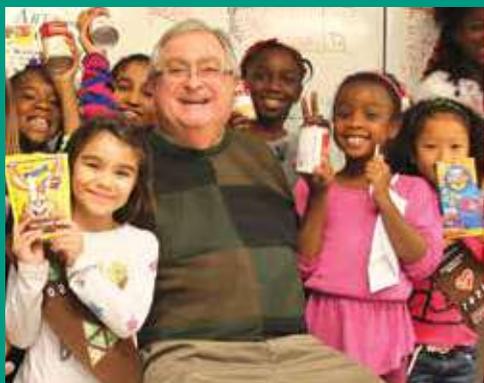
Engage a professional staff and dedicated volunteers to advance Gleaners' vision of ending hunger.

Provide the best service possible to our partner agencies. Gleaners delivers more than 29 million pounds of food to partner agencies for free. The other 12 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 2012-13 fiscal year.



Letter from OUR BOARD CHAIR



Walt visits a West Bloomfield Girl Scout troop that collected food for Gleaners.

As we endure the cold of a Michigan winter, we at Gleaners are active in making change happen! While we are proud of our past, we are even more excited about our future.

Let's review the people we have touched in the past year: Nearly 252,000 children reached through food and education programs; more than 4,000 families graduated from Gleaners' Cooking Matters classes; more than 48,000 volunteers served over 144,000 hours — making us very efficient; more than 48,000 donors contributed to help their neighbors; over 550 partner agencies engaged across our five county service area,

helping us distribute over 95,000 meals each day. These are great accomplishments that your support made possible.

Nearly 252,000 children reached through food and education programs.

But we are always looking ahead on how we can further improve. Change, like spring, is in the air. As we continue to explore new ways to end hunger in our community, our approach has broadened from

providing short-term, emergency food to providing longer-term solutions to help people provide for themselves.

For the shorter-term goal of providing healthy, emergency food, we are pursuing new food sources and distribution methods. We are analyzing every aspect of our food supply chain to see how to further improve our effectiveness and efficiencies. With our emphasis on reaching children, we continue to grow our Hunger Free Summer and holiday programs, increasing hunger awareness and food distribution at times when kids are at greatest risk of going hungry.

At the same time, we are increasingly focused on growing our longer-term programs to elevate community health. We are helping people learn how to sustain themselves so they needn't rely on emergency food.

Gleaners is working to make the long-term future of our community brighter. Change is not only movement, it is improvement.

Walt Young, Board Chair

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to your support, we have achieved great things in the past year!

251,804

kids reached

through programs including School-Based Mobile Pantries, BackPacks, Cooking Matters and Kids Helping Kids.

2,704

Fresh Food Share

boxes of affordable, local produce accessed by families.

48,109

volunteers engaged
in Gleaners' mission.





4,059

Cooking Matters graduates learned how to shop for & prepare healthy, affordable meals.



95,241

meals distributed each day. That's 41,601,477 pounds of food distributed in the year!



GLEANERS



562

partner agencies engaged to reach hungry neighbors with emergency food.



13,462,956

pounds of fresh produce provided to hungry families.

GETTING A FIRM FOOTING ON THE FUTURE, ONE MEAL AT A TIME

Three to four months — that's how long a family typically needs to get out of crisis and back on their feet, says Steven Darr, pantry manager at Open Door Ministry.



Beginning with food, Open Door Ministries in Canton offers a number of services to help struggling neighbors along the upward climb toward a better life. Circumstances that bring people in vary, but changes in employment are the primary cause, says Steven Darr, pantry manager at Open Door. From hours getting cut at work to a loss of medical insurance, employment changes can mean the ends just don't meet anymore.



While the food pantry, stocked mainly through Gleaners, provides immediate relief from hunger, Open Door's job support services help people regain their ability to provide for themselves. Services include a job bank for job seekers, résumé help, and a nationally recognized, 16-week class called "Jobs for Life" that connects people with mentors from the business community and assigns each person a "champion" who provides ongoing encouragement and follow-up.

"We keep track every week of what our clients are doing to improve their situation and if they've taken any of the job support opportunities we provide," says Darr.

Three to four months — that's how long a family typically needs to get out of a crisis and back on their feet, he says. Soon people are back at work and making strides towards self-sufficiency, even volunteering at the pantry for others. The problem is, as soon as someone leaves the program, another person fills the vacancy. A

steady stream of 450 families visits Open Door each week.

On the other side of town, Kathleen was visiting Gleaners' Shared Harvest Pantry in Livingston for the first time.

Her household had grown from three to nine people overnight. Her son had lost his job, then his home. Kathleen welcomed him in, along with his wife and four children, while the family worked to get back on their feet.

"I've never been to a food bank or pantry before. I'm glad it's here. It's a great relief," she says.



Upon registering for food at the pantry, Kathleen learned about support services that could help her son find a new job and, in the meantime, connect the family with assistance that would help them stabilize.

Nourishing Hope

“When you know you’re going to eat today and you’re going to eat tomorrow, you can get to the next problem you have to tackle to get on your feet again,” says Martinez.

“People come to the pantry to fulfill the immediate need of food, and then learn about what other services can help them,” says Monica Martinez, a resource navigator at Shared Harvest. Martinez says many of the people who walk through the door are in a state of crisis and can’t think too far beyond their hunger.

“Sometimes when people come here, especially if it’s for the first time, they have no idea what programs are out there that could help them. They are very upset, they are very sad,” she says.

Martinez is a whiz at referral services and quickly assesses which agencies or programs can best serve her clients. “I sit with them and try to find out what’s the immediate need — aside from food — that would help them stabilize.”

A huge, head-clearing burden is lifted once visitors realize that the pantry will support their families’ nutritional needs to get them through their situation. Pantry visitors can take up to 30 pounds of food per person in their household, including frozen meat, fresh produce, bread and nonperishable foods.

“When you know you’re going to eat today and you’re going to eat tomorrow, you can get to the next problem you have to tackle to get on your feet again,” says Martinez.

“I have a gentleman client who was homeless. He would come in to the pantry every so often to talk with me. I was able to help him apply for a bridge card. He called me about a month and a half ago and said he thought about a conversation we had about seeking permanent housing. He had moved into a shelter and got a job at Michigan State University. He’s just a month or two shy of getting into his own place.”

“The food helps you move on,” Martinez says. “For people living in poverty, every day is a struggle. If you can secure food for yourself and your family, it makes it so much easier to tackle the other things you need to.”



GLEANERS GROWS ACCESS TO FRESH PRODUCE

Denise Long wants her children to eat healthy fruits and vegetables. But after childcare and household costs are paid each month, the single mother of two has little leftover in her budget for food, and what produce is available at stores in her neighborhood is both meager and costly. She often finds herself buying processed, high-carb foods just to keep her little ones' bellies full, even though she knows this isn't the most healthful choice for her family.

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Advancing Hope

When Long started using Gleaners' mobile pantry at Northpointe Academy, her children's school in Highland Park, she was grateful for the assistance.

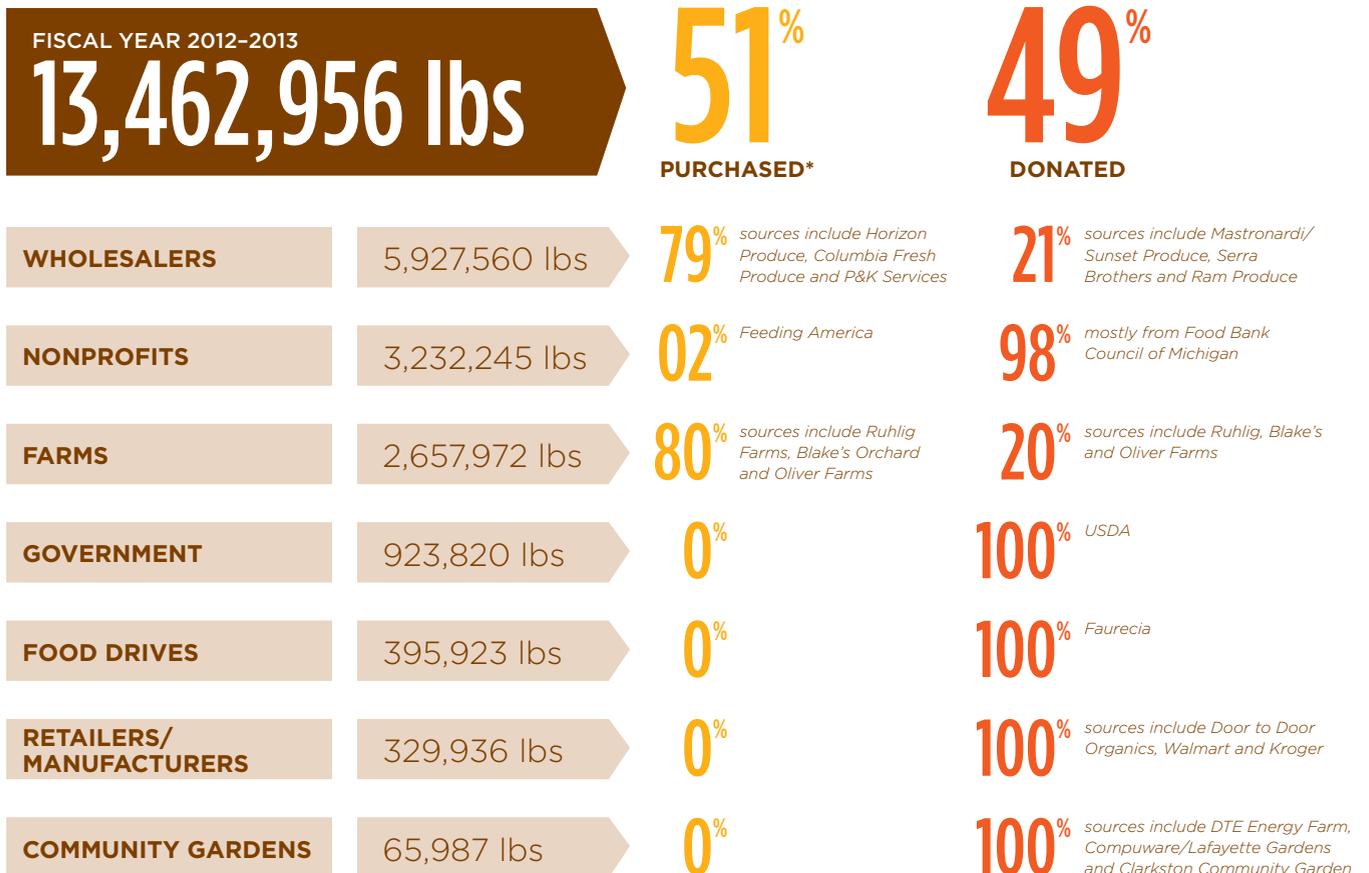
"Apples are so expensive, so this really helps," says Long. "The kids love it."

Eating fruits and vegetables provides essential vitamins, minerals and fiber, and reduces the risk of chronic disease and cancer, according to the Centers for Disease Control. But when families find themselves unable to afford all their basic needs, choosing fresh

foods can seem like a luxury. That's why Gleaners works hard to get donated and low-cost produce for families like Long's all over southeast Michigan.

Gleaners' produce comes from multiple sources, including wholesalers, farmers, retailers, manufacturers and the USDA. In 2013, Gleaners distributed over 13 million pounds of fruits and vegetables to hungry families who would otherwise have limited access to affordable, fresh produce. Just under half was donated; the rest was purchased at a reduced price.

WHERE GLEANERS GETS ITS PRODUCE



*Gleaners purchases produce at very low cost, often times paying only for harvesting and transportation

Farm to Food Bank

Michigan enjoys high yields of hardy produce such as apples, onions, cabbage, carrots, and potatoes. These crops keep for long periods of time and can be transported without losing quality, making it possible for Gleaners to get fresh produce from sources throughout the supply chain. But by working directly with farmers, Gleaners is able to secure produce donations at “ground level,” which translates to increased freshness AND lower cost. In some cases, Gleaners pays only for harvesting and transportation, collecting food that would have otherwise gone to waste.

*Feeding America...is
also helping expand
access to fresh produce.*

Feeding America, a national organization representing the network of over 200 food banks across the country, is also helping expand access to fresh produce.

Mark Christianson, a regional produce sourcer at Feeding America, is working with Michigan growers to get low-cost and donated produce for seven food banks across the state. Christianson often works with growers to secure donations of produce that would be rejected by retail buyers due to appearance.

“Retail buyers won’t take an off-color green pepper, or a misshapen apple, or a crooked cucumber,” says Christianson. “It may not look perfect, but it’s perfectly good to eat.”

You can help Gleaners provide produce and other healthful foods to families in need. Use Gleaners’ buying power through our virtual food drive at www.gcfb.org/virtualfooddrive.



EATING BETTER FOR LESS

COOKING MATTERS HELPS FAMILIES MAXIMIZE THEIR MEALS



Garland and her classmates learn the basics of putting together a home-cooked meal

When Lorae Garland signed up for a Gleaners' Cooking Matters™ course, she didn't expect it to have lasting effect.

"Originally I signed up for the groceries, to be honest. But once I came, I realized that there were things I could learn," she said.

Garland registered for the six-week Cooking Matters course at her son's school in Madison Heights. The course was one of 367 that Gleaners conducted last year, helping over 4,000 families spend their food budgets smarter and eat healthier through education on topics such as food budgeting, food shopping, label reading, food storage and safety, food preparation and healthy recipes.

As a single mother, Garland budgets carefully to meet all the needs for her household. But like many people, she was sacrificing the quality of food she put on the table, having perceived healthy foods to be more expensive and out-of-reach for her family.

“Growing up, my mother made sure we ate healthfully. But as a nurse, she wasn’t always concerned about the cost. I felt that was different for me in raising my son.”

After taking the Cooking Matters course, Garland noted that wiser shopping and proper food storage was making a big difference in the quality of food the family had. She discovered they were able to eat better and cut back on food expenses.

Joe Nader, Executive Chef of Levy Restaurants at Ford Field, has volunteered his time to teach Cooking Matters classes since 2011. Having grown up on food assistance, Nader is well aware of the challenges faced by families with a limited food budget.

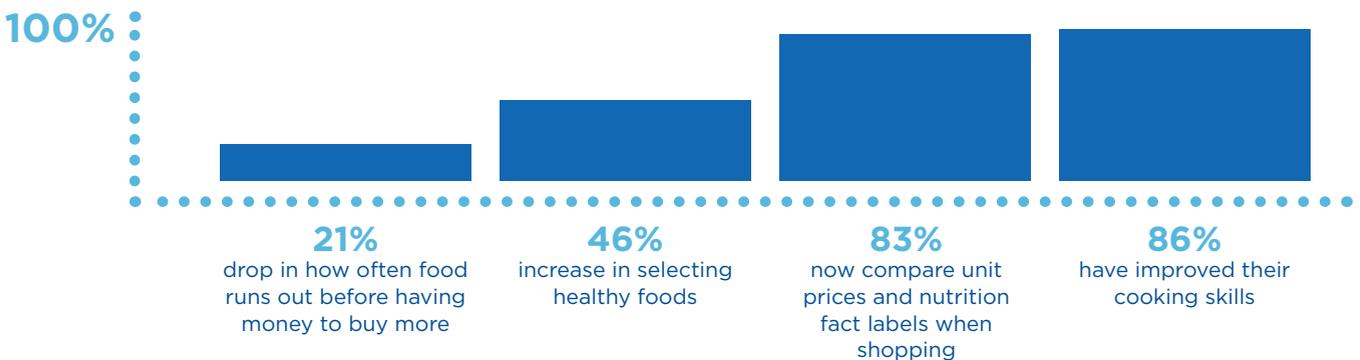
“I know what it’s like,” says Nader. “I know the challenges people face every day, making decisions on a strict budget, and I know that what we teach in the Cooking Matters class—the general nutrition, cooking and shopping skills—makes an immediate difference in people’s lives.”

“You can see the ‘aha moment’ when they realize that they have the power to change how they eat and how they live. That’s the best part for me; knowing that they are going to go home that night and start making immediate decisions that will make their lives better.”



Chef Joe Nader, a volunteer instructor for Gleaners' Cooking Matters

Gleaners' Cooking Matters Graduates Report:



Upcoming Events

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



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2 **21st Annual Women's Power Breakfast**

*Gleaners Community Food Bank,
Detroit Distribution Center*

Join with hundreds of metro Detroit's powerful women leaders to raise awareness and funds to fight child hunger. This event sells out in advance, so reserve your seats now! Receive updates by texting WPB to 51555 or visit WomensPowerBreakfast.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 10 **National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger**

Unite with your neighbors in the nation's largest one-day food drive! Leave nonperishable food items at your mailbox on Saturday, May 10th for your letter carrier to collect. Stay informed by texting GLEANERS to 51555 or visit www.gcfb.org/stamp.



MAY 30 – JUNE 6 **Children's Hospital Cereal Drive**

Reach hungry kids with the much-loved food of cereal. The DMC Children's Hospital is collecting donations to curb child hunger in our community. Last year's drive provided 680,000 servings of cereal — help us top it! Find out more at www.gcfb.org/cereal.



Gleaners 2013 Financial Report

See the flow of food and funds that made it possible for Gleaners to distribute 34.7 million meals last year. A financial overview of Gleaners' fiscal year ending September 30, 2013 is available on our web site at www.gcfb.org/2013Report.

Boy Scouts Serve Hungry Neighbors

The Scouts exercise both heart and muscle during their annual Scouting for Food drive. On November 9, 2013, metro Detroit Scouts and Venturers collected nearly 200,000 pounds of food from the door steps of generous community members!

Thanks also to Kroger, Weingartz, Premier Relocations and the thousands of donors who supported this tremendous effort.

Read more at www.gcfb.org/scouts.



Kroger Feeds Families with Gleaners

During the month of January, Kroger customers passed their savings on to help feed hungry families. Donations helped restock local food pantries after the holiday season. Read more at www.gcfb.org/kroger.

CANstruction

Sculptures made entirely of cans to feed hungry neighbors were on display at the Wayne State University Welcome Center from December 5-13. Metro Detroit design firms created the structures, helped by a donation of \$10,000 in canned food from Kroger. View photos at www.gcfb.org/canstruction.



THANK YOU!

EVERY DONATION MATTERS.

Gleaners thanks each donor who contributed during our last fiscal year, October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013. Donors who contributed \$1,000 or more have received special recognition on our website at www.gcfb.org/donors.

We also thank our 562 partner agencies in five southeast Michigan counties. These food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools and community centers are invaluable in our mission of feeding hungry people and nourishing our communities. Find a full list of our partner agencies at www.gcfb.org/partners.

2013 PRESIDENT'S TABLE

Gleaners President's Table recognizes the community members whose generosity and support have made it possible for us to continue our work of nourishing hungry neighbors. Individuals, corporations and foundations that are part of the President's Table have made major food or fund contributions through Gleaners Community Food Bank to help solve hunger in our region.

On March 6, 2014, Gleaners will honor these dedicated women and men at our annual President's Dinner.

For information on how to take a seat at the President's Table, please contact Anne Schenk at 866-GLEANER, ext. 242 or aschenk@gcfb.org.

Individuals

Shirley Barton
Jack & Heide Clausnitzer
Harry Hobbs
Lauraine Hoensheid
Russell & Kathleen Kittleson
Neal Rubin & Marcy Hayes
Bernie Smilovitz

Foundations & Corporations

Ally
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Baker Tilly
Bank of America
Carl and Irene Morath
Foundation, Inc.
Charter One Foundation
Community Foundation for
Southeast Michigan
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Detroit Public Schools Foundation
DTE Energy Foundation
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Epoch Hospitality Group
Federated Campaign Stewards
First Presbyterian Church
of Brighton
Ford Purchasing Group
General Motors Foundation
Gordon Food Service
Ilitch Charities
ITC Holdings Corp.
Joshua (Jim) and Eunice
Stone Foundation
L & M Machining & Manufacturing
Laocoon LLC
Livingston County United Way
Mandell L. and Madeleine H.
Berman Foundation
Matilda R. Wilson Fund
Max M. & Marjorie S.
Fisher Foundation
MAZON
Michael & Peggy Pitt
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Rent-A-Center, Inc.
Rose & Lawrence C. Page, Sr.
Family Charitable Foundation
Schaller Corporation
Target
The Bottle Crew
The Chrysler Foundation
The Elizabeth, Allan and
Warren Shelden Fund
The Grainger Foundation
The Helen L. Kay Charitable
Private Foundation
The Holley Foundation
The June & Cecil
McDole Foundation
The Kroger Company
The Kroger Foundation
The Sam Williams Foundation
The Suburban Collection
The TUKTAWA Foundation
The Young Foundation
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Dallas, Inc.
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Weingartz Family Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation

Food Donors

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Door to Door Organics
DTE Energy Garden
F&AM Inc.
Frito Lay
Hiller's Market
Kellogg Company

Kraft Foods Group
Kroger Stores
LaGrasso Brothers
Lipari Foods
Mclane Co.
Mondelez International
National Food Group
Nestle USA
Oliver Farms
Pepsi Bottling Group
Pierino Frozen Foods
Ram Produce
Return Incorporated
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Ruhlig Farms
Serra Brothers
St. Patrick's Church and School
Target
Tom Maceri & Son
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Value Center
Variety - The Children's Charity
Walmart Stores, Inc.
Whole Foods Market

Food Drives

Cabrini High School
Great Lakes Council,
Boy Scouts of America
Livingston County Association
of Realtors - Fill the Gazebo
MJR Theatres & WJR/WDRQ/
WDVD - Canned Film Festival
Quicken Loans IT
Seaholm High School
St. Patrick Catholic
Church of Brighton
The Detroit Zoo - Bunnyville
United Methodist Church -
Hands4Detroit
University of Detroit High School
U.S. Government Agencies -
Feds Feed Families

State & Federal Organizations

Feeding America
Food Bank Council of Michigan
Share Our Strength



You! can make a difference

- **Each \$1** you donate helps Gleaners feed one hungry person for one day.
- **94¢** 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. 306

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

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

Howell: Karen McNally, 1-866-GLEANER,
ext. 332, 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**
25678 Northline Rd., Taylor
- Gleaners Joan & Wayne Webber Distribution Center**
24162 Mound Rd., Warren

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Member of:



Recognized as:



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**Gleaners thanks our school-mobile pantry sponsors,
whose support helps us provide food for
9,000 families each month.**

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