**OUR MISSION**

We exist to provide households with access to sufficient, nutritious food, and related resources. We accomplish this through collaboration, efficient operations, education, and innovative solutions to achieve a hunger-free community in southeast Michigan.

**OUR VISION**

To end hunger in southeast Michigan.

---

**Milk Milestones**

Gleaners’ milk movement started with a simple plea in 2015 from a team member: Our families need milk. Milk is expensive, so many families go without, and it’s one of the most-requested yet least-donated food items.

In the past four years, Gleaners has gone from essentially providing no fresh milk in 2015 to 158,000 gallons in 2018, the equivalent of 74 full-time jobs.

To end hunger in southeast Michigan.

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**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIR**

2018 was an exciting year in terms of growth and innovation at Gleaners, and we are excited to share with you the strides we’ve made toward our mission of achieving a hunger-free community.

There are two key areas of growth and innovation. First, the Best Food Forward, a school-based initiative that aims to bring households in a school district to financial security. We hear heartbreaking stories from educators all the time about how children are coming to school hungry because there is not enough to eat at home. You can’t have a food-secure child if they live in a food-insecure household. To address this, Gleaners has been working with a local school district to explore educational outcomes if every student and their family didn’t have to face the chronic stress of hunger. The work we’re doing now will lay the foundation for pilots we will launch next school year.

Second, we are building on the success of our Healthy Food Home Delivery program to better serve food-insecure patients with complex health needs. Through this initiative, we’re looking at how better access to nutritious food affects health outcomes. So far, with our first Healthcare pilot done in partnership with Henry Ford Health System, our efforts have helped closed the gap for a majority of food-insecure patients, with more than 95 percent saying the food packages met their needs.

As we plan for the future, we are using evidence-based data to devise solutions that will not only address the root of the problem, but will also help more struggling families prosper and thrive.

Thank you for all you do for Gleaners. It is our honor to stand with you in the fight against hunger.

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**Connect with us on Social Media**

Join the discussion and become a fan to stay up-to-date on what's happening and what our fellow carriers are saying.

Facebook: facebook.com/gleaners
Twitter: twitter.com/gleaners
Instagram: instagram.com/gleanersfoodbank

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**OUR VISION**

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---

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The project at CHASS launched in late 2018 with the goal to enroll 125 CHASS patients who have a body mass index over 30 and an A1C over 8. Every two weeks for six months, patients will receive food boxes that contain all five food groups and a mix of fresh, frozen, and shelf-stable foods. The box is meant to provide a substantial amount of nutritious food for the participant in order to help them improve their eating habits over the long term.

To further reinforce healthy eating, participants will also take cooking classes focused on preparing traditional foods in healthier ways, making health-conscious choices in each food group, and shopping for nutritious foods on a budget. CHASS’ clientele is nearly 80 percent Latino, so there is also a special emphasis on providing culturally appropriate food.

“The Healthy Table is a partnership between Gleaners and CHASS as part of Gleaners’ Healthy Food Home Delivery program. The project at CHASS launched in late 2018 with the goal to enroll 125 CHASS patients who have a body mass index over 30 and an A1C over 8. Every two weeks for six months, patients will receive food boxes that contain all five food groups and a mix of fresh, frozen, and shelf-stable foods. The box is meant to provide a substantial amount of nutritious food for the participant in order to help them improve their eating habits over the long term.

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“Through Gleaners’ healthcare initiatives, the food bank has been exploring how improved access to healthy foods can improve health outcomes among food-insecure households while reducing healthcare costs at the same time,” says Rachelle Bonelli, vice president of programs at Gleaners. In Wayne County, the food insecurity rate is 23 percent, making it the most food-insecure county in Gleaners’ service area. Of those people who are food insecure, one in three is not eligible for food and nutrition assistance programs.

Food insecurity and chronic disease are highly correlated, and poor nutrition often worsens ongoing health problems and increases the risk of developing chronic disease and poor mental health. Among Gleaners’ clients, nearly 22 percent report having a household member in poor health and 33 percent report a family member with diabetes.

Aside from the health consequences, food insecurity can also have costly implications for the economy and healthcare system.
"Improving access to nutritious food is a critical step toward reducing the disproportionate rate of chronic disease found among residents in low-income communities," says Bonelli. "Through our healthcare initiatives with entities such as CHASS and the National Kidney Foundation, we will leverage our expertise on cost-effective food procurement and delivery to better serve low-income participants who struggle with chronic disease and face food access barriers."

Dr. Felix Valbuena, chief executive officer at CHASS, says the work he does as a doctor in the exam room with a patient will impact only 20 percent of a patient’s health.

“One of my philosophies here at CHASS is what can we do to provide the 80 percent?” he says, adding CHASS is a “one-stop shop” for services but they can’t offer everything to close that gap. The partnership with Gleaners aligns with that philosophy by helping to offset those social determinants such as transportation and poverty.

The home delivery aspect is exciting for the diabetic patients of CHASS, Valbuena says, because party stores and fast food restaurants are more easily accessible than grocery stores in the community CHASS serves.

“We’re very excited about this project,” Valbuena says. "Participants will learn a lot of new skills and information that will help them and then trickle down to their families.”

Gleaners is also working with the National Kidney Foundation to evaluate the effects of pairing food with the Diabetes Prevention Program, a health education program aimed at reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease.

The food Tonia’s received through Gleaners through the School Food Mobile, “has been exactly what I need … it has literally rescued us.”

The single mom of two teenage daughters struggles with a chronic autoimmune disease that wreaked havoc on her health, and she’s living on a fixed income of almost $13,000 a year.

But there’s one thing that doesn’t keep her up at night - how she’s going to put food on the table. Her daughters receive healthy breakfast and lunch at school, and she receives healthy food through the School Food Mobile pantry at L'Anse Creuse Public Schools in Clinton Township.

Things weren’t always tough for Tonia. She had a good-paying job and her family lived comfortably.

In 2007, she went through a bitter divorce and when she separated from her husband, she had only $54 in her pocket.

Then she lost her job after the financial collapse of 2008. After being unemployed for a while, she went back to school to start a new career and became licensed as a certified clinical medical assistant.

And then the health problems started to mount. She suffered from kidney
When John Bernia was an assistant principal at a middle school, a girl whose family was struggling to make ends meet took drastic measures to feed her family — she snuck back into the school after hours to take food from the kitchen. Her father was disabled and her mother worked as much as she could, but it wasn't enough. So the girl took matters into her own hands, Bernia says.

It's stories like these that have stuck with Bernia. And it's a story that ended well because thanks to community-based partnerships with local churches and nonprofits, the girl was able to get help for her family.

Bernia is the chief academic officer at Warren Consolidated Schools, a district that is working with Gleaners — as well as the Michigan Department of Education, the Food Bank Council of Michigan, and Wayne State University — to bring households to food security through Best Food Forward.

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease where the body's immune system attacks tissues and organs, affecting many different body systems. Inflammation caused by lupus can cause kidney damage (kidney failure is one of the leading causes of death among people with lupus) and increase the risk of complications such as cardiovascular disease, infection, and bone tissue death.

With the autoimmune disease "your body turns on itself. It could be something as simple as when you wake up and you're coughing and your body starts to get aggravated. Your body is attacking your own lungs, which within hours you could drown to death," Tonia says.

To manage her health conditions, she uses chemotherapy and immune-system depressing medications and tries to eat a healthier diet. The food she's received through Gleaners through the School Food Mobile "has been exactly what I need ... it has literally rescued us."

She's made beans and rice, chicken and potato soup, and even her own version of lettuce wraps with ground chicken just like her and her daughters' favorite dish at P.F. Chang's. She even made a birthday cake for her youngest daughter using the frozen cherries she received. Not only has the food helped her eat more healthfully to help manage her disease, but also allowed the three of them to enjoy more family meals together.

"I would not be in the situation if I didn't have to be," she says. "I enjoyed having a job. I enjoyed being able to provide for myself and my daughters the best that I could and when that got taken away from me I had to revamp how I lived."

"The fact that I'm dragging my kids through it, it's hard. It's an everyday battle. And the fact that I know once a month something wonderful is coming for us, it is a godsend. There have been times I had to pay for medicines that were unbelievably expensive, that if it wasn't for Gleaners' food, I don't know where we would've been."

6

GLEANERS HARVEST

WINTER/SPRING 2019

Best Food Forward: A ‘Game-Changer’

When John Bernia was an assistant principal at a middle school, a girl whose family was struggling to make ends meet took drastic measures to feed her family — she snuck back into the school after hours to take food from the kitchen. Her father was disabled and her mother worked as much as she could, but it wasn't enough. So the girl took matters into her own hands, Bernia says.

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"You can't have a food-secure child if you don't have a food-secure household."
"You can’t have a food-secure child if you don’t have a food-secure household," Gleaners President Gerry Brisson says.

Launched in the summer of 2018, Best Food Forward is a school-based initiative that aims to understand the impact of food security on academic achievement, health, behavior, and economic stability for the students and their families. According to Hunger In Our Schools: Share Our Strength’s Teachers Report, two-thirds of teachers nationwide say children regularly come to school hungry because they are not getting enough food at home. They say this greatly affects students’ ability to focus, their behavior, and their ability to learn. This initiative will look at the outcomes of providing food security.

Gleaners already engages in schools to serve struggling families all across its service area through programs such as School Food Mobile pantries and BackPacks. Best Food Forward goes beyond that. It aims to not only ensure households are food secure, but also improve the way kids learn, engage, and eat at school. To prepare to launch the pilot in schools next academic year, Gleaners has been taking an evidence-based approach to crafting the most effective solution to ending food insecurity. A dedicated team has been working on immediate achievable successes while developing a longer-term plan for the district. An initial assessment explored current nutrition programs and respective participation rates as well as community partners, curriculum, wellness policies, school-based health services and other considerations. The learnings from this pilot will inform a scalable and replicable model for other Michigan counties.

"Best Food Forward is ‘a game-changer for us with respect to how we support our community,’" Brisson says. "It’s critical to our strategic plan. It’s critical to our improvement plan when we talk about our student support network and making sure kids are supported and safe and cared for.”

“Often when we're working on a school-based approach, the student is not the only one that needs support. The families are also in need of support.”

"We want to make sure that we’re doing all we can as a community resource to support kids and support families.”
Kroger's Zero Hunger Zero Waste initiative works nationally with groups like Gleaners to bring aid to Americans struggling with hunger.

You can't see it but it’s there: One in 6 people in southeast Michigan faces the toxic stress of not having enough to eat.

That’s why Kroger is a proud partner of Gleaners, helping to serve struggling families in southeast Michigan. Kroger is an expert in the grocery business. Gleaners is an expert in food banking. Both are experts in feeding people.

Gleaners and Kroger have a longstanding relationship and share the same mission to fight hunger every day, says Rachel Hurst, corporate affairs manager for The Kroger Co. of Michigan.

Gleaners’ mission “completely aligns with our mission,” she says. “They are our conduit to help feed as many families as we can. Their values align with our values, and we know that they are committed at the same level we are to end hunger.”

As a top Gleaners donor, Kroger’s many supporting initiatives helped provide 1.7 million meals to Gleaners, in fiscal year 2018 alone. Their support ranges from financial sponsorship of events such as the inaugural M.I.L.K. Movement gala, Detroit Uncorked, and Cruisin’ for Zero Hunger at the Dream Cruise, to their annual round-up program in-stores, product donations of nearly 610,000 pounds of food, and in-kind donations. This includes shopping bags for the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive, and the parking lot use for convenient promotion and drop-off of some of the largest food drives. Finally, Kroger provides the lowest pricing on milk, helping Gleaners distribute 198,000 gallons of milk last year to families in need.

Through its nationwide Zero Hunger | Zero Waste initiative, Kroger aims to end hunger in the communities it serves and eliminate company waste by 2025. Forty percent of the food produced in America goes to waste, yet so many people in the community go to bed hungry.

“We are in the food business to feed people from our everyday shoppers to those that can’t shop with us. This is our corporate responsibility to bring awareness to the reality of hunger and feed more families. We want to serve America through food inspiration and uplift,” Hurst says.

Since the Great Recession, the economy has recovered and many Michiganders hit hard by the economic downturn have gotten back on their feet. But there are many who are still struggling. If the state is going to continue to rebound, we have to invest in its greatest asset—our fellow neighbors. And that’s why Kroger gives.”

In 2018, Gleaners’ partnership with Kroger made an incredible impact on their shared mission to end hunger in southeast Michigan.

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Zero Hunger | Zero Waste

Hunger is a widespread but often invisible problem in our community. It can affect anyone — a co-worker, a neighbor, even someone in your own family.

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Ford Motor Company Fund
Ronald Weingartz
Weingartz
Keith Whitfield
Wayne State University
### 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

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

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2018 FINANCIAL SUMMARY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td>Meals Distributed</td>
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<td>Meals Per Day</td>
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<td>Meals Per Week</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Based on the most recent meals per pound equivalent determined by the USDA</em></td>
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GLEANERS’ HARVEST

2018 PRESIDENT’S TABLE

Gleaners’ 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.

Michael and David Acland
William and Elizabeth Barlow
Community Foundation for Southwest Michigan
eunge and Julie and Japhet Israel

Laura and Adam Beckner

Hunger in southeast Michigan and shall ever be 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 volunteer efforts.

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 volunteer efforts.

2018 PRESIDENT’S TABLE

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The Celiar Family
The Chard Family
The Clancy Family
The Chanteliers
Lisa and Dave Crandall
Sheryl and William Crain
Ronald and Edith Crenshaw
Cynthia Fish
Philip W. Fisher
Robert H. Gendron
Mary Ivey and Neil Rabin
Dr. Sevilla Hallman
Joni and Lauren Jacob
Ann Janssen
Jaffe and Susan Kelsey
Russell and Kathleen Kivisto
William J. Koss
Thom and Cornia Lapid
Estates of Jolene Mack McDaid
Ralph E. Miesel

Foundations & Corporations

Gleaners Restaurant Group
Joint Fund
Entrepreneurial Foundation
Arbor College Foundation
Baker Tilly
Bordewich’s
The Bottle Crew

DEFINITION: President’s Table members have contributed $15,000 or more in food, funds, or volunteer hours to help solve hunger in our region.

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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.

Donate
• Send a Check: Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan 2131 Beaufait Street, Detroit, MI 48207-3410 • Call in a Credit Card or Installment Gift: Development Operations, (866) 603-2637 ext. 660 • Donate Online: You can easily make a secure donation online today at www.gcfb.org.

Food Drives & Events
To hold a food drive or support an event, please contact Stacy Averill, Senior Director of Marketing, (313) 923-3535 x322 or saverill@gcfb.org

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, please visit www.gcfb.org/volunteeropportunities.

Other Ways to Give
There are a lot of ways you can make a difference in the lives of our hungry neighbors. Browse our list of other opportunities at www.gcfb.org/ways togive.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Women’s Power Breakfast
April 23, 2019
MGM Grand Detroit
Bernie Smilovitz Hunger Free Summer Golf Classic
Tuesdays, July 23-27
Detroit Golf Club
15th Annual Iron Chef Competition
Thursday, August 8, 2019
Bedrosians’ Nursery of Brighton
2019 M.I.L.K. Gala
Friday, October 4, 2019
Detroit Athletic Club

Find more details on these and other upcoming events at www.gcfb.org/events.

We are incredibly grateful to the sponsors and supporters who make these events possible. Thank you!
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