Paul comes to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes’ pantry prepared. He’s a middle-aged man who prides himself on knowing what he has to do to stay healthy and organized. He places his reusable shopping bags in his grocery cart and strikes up a friendly conversation with the volunteer assisting him. As he sets a carton of fresh eggs and a package of fresh breakfast sausage in his basket, he comments that he’s excited to cook sausage and eggs before he heads to work in the evening.

“I’m on disability due to an illness,” Paul shares, “but I still contribute, I still want to do my part if I can.” He works five nights a week washing dishes at a popular local eatery. He loves his job and gushes about his managers, how they offer free meals to employees, but he often has to turn them down due to health reasons. “I’m a diabetic so I can’t eat heavy-carb food and, a lot of the time, that’s what they’re dishing out during our breaks.”

Paul’s concern for his health is apparent while he’s shopping at KLF. He bypasses pastas, breads and juice drinks and makes a beeline for fresh protein, whole grains and produce. He’s also conscious of taking no more than he thinks he’ll use. “I can’t have sweets, so I love fresh fruit,” Paul explains, “And I love soul food. I’m from Memphis, so I love to cook home-style food.”

Paul moved to Kalamazoo a number of years ago to help care for his ailing mother. He found it tough to get on his feet, but finally saved enough money to get his own apartment. “I was living with my brother, and I was grateful for his help, but there’s nothing like having your own place.” He also expresses gratitude for KLF’s services because, at times, it’s the only access he has to the fresh foods that keep him healthy.

With two bags of groceries in hand, Paul makes his way toward the door while giving a friendly nod to KLF staff and volunteers. He has a 20-minute walk home ahead of him, but he walks a little lighter knowing sausage and eggs are on the menu.

Client name changed for anonymity

YEAR-END NUMBERS
Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes wrapped up its 2015-2016 fiscal year on June 30th. With your help, we were able to feed more people than we have in years past!

156,661
The number of Grocery Pantry Program food orders we filled.

28,689
The number of unique individuals we were able to serve through the Grocery Pantry Program.

25,782
The number of Weekend Food Packs we distributed to local kids.

71
The total number of KLF food distribution sites.

DISCUSSION GROUPS
Join us as we review and discuss Kathryn J. Edin & H. Luke Shaefer’s $2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America. Staff welcomes the community to KLF at 901 Portage Street on Wednesday, August 10th at 2 p.m. or Thursday, August 18th at 6 p.m. Please RSVP to Meg by August 5th at 488-2617 ext. 218 if you plan to join us.
Imagine stepping foot into a food pantry for the first time. It could be because you recently lost your job and had to make the daunting choice between buying groceries or paying the mortgage. Perhaps you’re suddenly caring for grandkids and your typical grocery budget, which was barely meeting the needs of one individual, cannot sustain you as well as others. Maybe you were recently diagnosed with an illness that requires a specialized diet, one that includes more fresh food and, for as long as you can remember, your limited budget couldn’t afford such luxuries. It’s for these reasons that Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes (KLF) works every day to ensure that, for the people who need our services, tough choices are left at the door.

Our Grocery Pantry Program provides food based on USDA nutritional categories. While we always have these options available in non-perishable form, we also make them available in the form of fresh meat, dairy products, eggs, and fresh produce. We’re lucky to have dedicated gleaners who visit local grocery stores on a weekly basis to pick up items like bread and produce. We also have committed food industry donors who often astonish us with donations of fresh meat, eggs, milk and produce when we need them most. More often than not, fresh food is the first thing that needs restocking in our pantries because people with limited food budgets can’t afford to shop for more expensive perishable items.

Much like a grocery store, our pantry shelves and coolers are stocked with a variety of products to fit the needs of the diverse clientele we serve. We strive to provide people with choices and we’re thrilled that, at the end of a busy pantry day, our shelves tell the story of a community that appreciates having access to an array of options.

NOTE FROM JEN

Imagine stepping foot into a food pantry for the first time. It could be because you recently lost your job and had to make the daunting choice between buying groceries or paying the mortgage. Perhaps you’re suddenly caring for grandkids and your typical grocery budget, which was barely meeting the needs of one individual, cannot sustain you as well as others. Maybe you were recently diagnosed with an illness that requires a specialized diet, one that includes more fresh food and, for as long as you can remember, your limited budget couldn’t afford such luxuries. It’s for these reasons that Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes (KLF) works every day to ensure that, for the people who need our services, tough choices are left at the door.

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: THE ONSTAFF GROUP

Since its inception in 1985, The OnStaff Group has always focused on people in our community. Whether you are a job seeker or a hiring professional, OnStaff provides comprehensive, customized human resource services to make rewarding employment matches.

But in 2011, OnStaff turned the spotlight on something else – childhood hunger. It all began when Executive Vice President, Emily Turner, was having a conversation with her young daughter, Hannah. To get a “vacation” from wearing school uniforms for a day, Hannah and her classmates were encouraged to bring food items for Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. Hannah was shocked to learn that there were children in the community who didn’t have food to eat. She pleaded with her mom to help do something about childhood hunger. And from that conversation, the annual OnStaff Dollar Drive-Thru was born.

The concept was simple – encourage people to donate just one dollar to help with childhood hunger during summer months. OnStaff turned to their friends at 107.7 WRKR for help. Rocker morning show hosts Mike McKelly and Stefani Bishop were quickly on board and now, each July, the Rocker broadcasts live for 12 hours and encourages listeners to “drive thru” one of several locations around town to donate. The OnStaff Dollar Drive-Thru has raised nearly $35,000 since inception to alleviate childhood hunger in Kalamazoo County.

Brandon Jeannot, Operations Manager, shared, “At OnStaff Group we come in contact with over 10,000 job seekers a month. Through their personal stories we are acutely aware of the needs of many in our community. We are proud to be an active community partner supporting many worthy organizations.”

Thank you, OnStaff Group, for your dedication to keeping Kalamazoo County a healthy, thriving community!
Are you interested in helping make Kalamazoo a hunger-free community? We’ve got a place for you! Attend a brief volunteer orientation to get started.

Sign up with Volunteer Coordinator Cherise Buchanan at 269.488.2617 ext. 209 or Cherise@kzoolf.org.

ORIENTATION DATES
WED, AUGUST 3
WED, AUGUST 24
SAT, SEPTEMBER 10
WED, SEPTEMBER 21

MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON: AUGUST COUPON #154
Help us fill our pantries as we wrap up the summer season.
Donation Amount
$___________
Please send your contribution by August 19th.
Food Wish List: Whole Grain Pasta

GIVING COUPON: SEPTEMBER COUPON #155
Participate in National Hunger Action Month with a donation to KLF.
Donation Amount
$___________
Please send your contribution by September 16th.
Food Wish List: Canned Meat

DID YOU KNOW?
All food at KLF goes through a rigorous inventory process; it’s sorted into one of 16 categories, checked for quality, inputted into a computer inventory system, and then stored or assigned to one of four KLF programs. From there, KLF’s 24 pantries can order exactly what they need through an online database. Our warehouse staff and volunteers then load inventory onto trucks for delivery, most often, the following day.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes depends on hundreds of volunteers each year to make our programs possible. We’d like to give a special thanks to our most recent Volunteer Spotlight Award Winners:

Gayle Stephenson | Ed Luscomb | Joy Anderson | Molly Hassing
Jean Knopf | Fay Smith | Charlie & Andrew Graves

THE STATE OF FOOD WASTE
A report released late last year estimates that the United States tosses an average $162 billion in food per year. The New York Times also reports that one third of the edible food the world produces is never consumed and reducing food waste by 20 to 50 percent globally could save $120-$300 billion per year by 2030. The amount of food tossed each year could feed the over 800 million people struggling with food insecurity, and when you take into account the amount of water, resources, and labor that goes into food production, we’re wasting far more than sustenance.

Oftentimes, the food being tossed is still edible. Confusion about food Sell By and Best By dates compounds the problem, and the result is 32 million metric tons on food rotting in landfills each year. To see how much a household of your size wastes on average, and for great food-saving tips, visit www.savethefood.com. To decipher how long food is good for after the Sell By or Best By date, and to see how to store food to extend its life, visit www.stilltasty.com.

Reducing food waste is one way we can all help in the fight to end local, and global, hunger.
THANK YOU TO GROUPS & CORPORATIONS
FOR YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS

AAA
Abrazas
Ace Parking Lot Striping
Advanced Vascular Surgery
Advia Credit Union
AFCOM Michigan Council No. 25
Agility Health
Alamo Drafthouse
Alamo Little League
Aldi Foods
Alfred E. Bike
All Seasons Express
Alpha Kappa Alpha
Alpha Omicron Pi
Alpha Xi Masters Chapter of
Beta Sigma Phi
Americans for Progressive Freedom
Ameriprise
Alta Resources
Anderson Bros Steamatic
Anytime Fitness- Portage
AT&T Michigan
Austin Lake Riparian Association
Autobody USA - Westside
Barb’s Smokehouse
BASIC
BCBS of Michigan
Bell’s Brewery
Bermuda Enterprises, Inc.
Bert Hybels Trucking
Bethel Baptist Church
Big Lot’s
Biomat USA Kalamazoo
Borgess Health
Borroughs Corporation
Boy Scouts Of America- Rota-Kwan
Branch Gymnastics
Bread & Roses Child Care Center
Panera Bread
Browne Troop #0470
Burnett Foods
Caporossi Construction, LLC
CARES
Cherry Tree Financial
Child and Family Psychological Services
CIT Bank
Claron Group
Clutch Business Eaton - Vehicle Group
Coca-Cola
Cole Galvas, PC
Comerica Bank
Comstock Family Dentistry
Construction Labor Services, Inc.
Consumers Energy
Costco
Creative Dining Services
Crisp’s Fontaine Excavating
CSM Group
Cummins Label Inc
Daw’s Security Corporation
Davis Central Dalys
DeHoyos Chevrolet
Denso Manufacturing Michigan, Inc.
Desert Streets, P.C.
Discount Drain Cleaning
Dollar Tree
Drake Road Orthodontics
Drew Telecom Group, Inc.
Educational Community Credit Union
Edwards Garment Company
Family Dollar
Family Health Center (NIC)
FedEx Ground
Fiji
Fitness Yoga, LLC
Flowers Corporation
 Flynn Ground
Flint, Boulé & Taris, P.C.
FOCUS Kalamazoo
Food Dance Cafe, Inc.
Fraternal Order of Eagles Aux. 3531
Getman Corporation
Girl Scout Troop #80320
Girl Scouts of America
Grand Traverse Pie Company
Graphic Packaging International
Greater Horizons
Greenleaf Hospitality Group
Gun Lake Casino
Hackett Catholic Prep
Harding’s Market
Harold Zeigler Kalamazoo
Head Start
Heartside Senior Community
Hinman Company
Hodgson Enterprises
Hope Woods Senior Community
HUMANVENTURES
Hunter’s Place Condo Association
ICT Consulting Group, Inc.
Intentional Yoga
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Iota Phi Theta
Irish-American Club of Kalamazoo
J. Allen & Company
Jack And Jill Of America
Joseph A. Bruno MD PC
Junior League
Kahoon’s Kitchen
Kalamazoo Antique Auto Restorers
Kalamazoo Area Runners
Kalamazoo County Association of Retired School Personnel
Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau
Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety
Kalamazoo Fit Body Bootcamp
Kalamazoo Kamps Good Sam
Kalamazoo Kitty
Kalamazoo New Car Dealer Assoc.
Kalamazoo Round Table
Kalamazoo SportsWear & Regalia
Kalamazoo Valley Antique Engine & Machinery Club
Kalamazoo Young Business Professionals
Kalsee Credit Union
Kappa Alpha Psi
Kendall Electric
Kiwani’s
Knappem Milling Company
Knights of Columbus 6980
Knights of Columbus Council 1616
Knights of Columbus Council 1962
KPS Professional Support Services
KRESA
LaCambe Trucking, Inc.
Ladies Library Association
Lawrence Industries, Inc.
Let’s Swirl
LifePlan Resources, LLC
Lindsay Dedicated Services, Inc.
Little Caesars
Louie’s Trophy House Grill
Loy Norrix High School
LVM Capital Management
Mac’s Department Store
MANH+HUMMEL USA, Inc
Maple Hill Auto Group
McDonald’s Towering
MDOT
Meijer Inc. #119
Menards
Metcalf Systems, Inc.
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Department of Transportation
MillAssist Services
Miller Energy Company
Miller-Davis Company
Morgan Stanley
MRC
Mutual Resource Management, Inc.
MWIEB
Nutty Insurance Agency
Old National Bank
OnStaff USA
Otsego Champion Force Cheerleading
Otters, LLC
PACE Analytical
Parchment High School
Park Village Pines
Parker Aerospace
Paw Paw Wine Distributors
Pedal
PED- Chapter DIW
People’s Food Co-Op
Pepperidge Farms
Peters Construction
Pfizer, Incorporated
Philippine-American Association of Southwest Michigan
Phi Theta Kappa
Pine Lake Association
Pinewood Glen Apartments
Plainwell Ice Cream
Prab, Inc.
Pro Med Family Practice
Promotion Concepts
Pure Meadow Farms
Quality Air Service
Rajzer Farm Market & Greenhouses
Rapids Capital Inc.
Rick Miles Produce
Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.
Ritsema Precision Machining
Robinson Industries, Inc.
Rod Benders Car Club of West Michigan
Rollerworld
S & L Laboratories
Sanitor Manufacturing Company
Sapa Extrusions North America
SignArt, Inc.
Sons of Norway- Askaladden Lodge
Southwest Michigan Imaging Center
Southwest Michigan Psychiatric Services
Spartan Nash
St. John Bosco Knights of Columbus
State Farm Insurance
Staten Golf Course
Styrkey Medical
Sugar Bowl Bar
Super Book
Superior Sweeping Service, Inc.
Tau Beta Pi, Michigan Kappa
T.H. Harding Company
Talmer Bank & Trust
The Bunco Group
The Cadmus Group, Inc.
The Broncos of Bronson
The Ladies of the 80s
The Surgical Group of SW Michigan
The Trinity Group, Ltd.
Theodore B. Ryan Intermediate School
Thompson Reuters
Three Rivers Women’s Club
Tibbs Brewing Company
Tops-Michigan 539 Comstock
Town & Country Supermarket
Trillium Staffing Solutions
Trio
Two Men And A Truck
UCM/Wesley Foundation
United Steelworkers International
Union Local No. 2-1010
Utility Workers Union Local 150
Van Buren County Master Gardeners
Vans’ Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners
Verhage Fruit Farm
Villas of Stonehaven
VANL
Visser Construction, LLC
Wall Street Community Garden
Walther Farms
Western Dental Care, P.C.
Western Michigan Gamers Guild
Western Michigan University
Students & Staff
Westnedge Wellness Center
Windmill Elementary PTO
WMU Bookstore
Women’s Life 888
YMCA of Greater Kalamazoo
Zoetis

IMPACT TIP
You know the impact you have when you work together. Imagine what you can accomplish when you give together! For tips to create a successful Employee Giving Challenge, contact KLF Development Director Greta Faworski at Greta@kzolfd.org or 488.2617.

POWER IN NUMBERS
Kalamazoo County is fortunate to be the home of many businesses that produce exceptional products and provide quality jobs for our residents. We are grateful for each and every food item, dollar, in-kind service or volunteer hour that we receive from our partners in the corporate world – we couldn’t do it without you!

Several large corporations have integrated feeding hungry people into their company culture by holding annual fund drives for KLF. These corporations, which include Pfizer, Stryker Instruments, and Zoetis, had very successful 2016 drives collecting a total of $57,000 of employee and corporate donations! While each drive is unique to each corporation, they have one thing in common – helping to end local hunger!
Our Mission
Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes will feed hungry people and engage our community in the fight to end hunger.

Our Values
Respect
Diversity & Inclusion
Stewardship & Accountability
Integrity
Collaboration
Urgency
Service

Connect with Us
facebook.com/KalamazooLoavesAndFishes
twitter.com/KzoLoavesFishes

Staff / Business Office
269.488.2617
Joan Atwell, Call Center Coordinator
Cherise Buchanan, Volunteer Coordinator
Mary-Elizabeth Bell, Finance/Office Coordinator
Paul Bushek, Warehouse Assistant
Art Cole, Services Director
Joe Cook, Warehouse Assistant
Bob Dekker, Warehouse Assistant
Greta Faworski, Resource Development Director
Linda Fox, Call Center Coordinator
Joe Galaviz, Warehouse Assistant
Laura Galaviz, Donor Database Coordinator 206
Kathy Gernaat, Operations Director 212
Meg Gernaat, Marketing Coordinator 218
Dave Hafner, Warehouse Coordinator 211
Phyllis Hepp, Organizational Development Director 210
Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director 213
Deb Josephson, Services Coordinator 214
Marvin King, Food Procurement Specialist 224
Kim Hinds-Lepsy, Call Center Assistant 307
Jackie Smith, Pantry Coordinator 221
Mary Foley-Wilson, Accounting Coordinator 222

Kalamazoo
LOAVES & FISHES
Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

901 PORTAGE STREET
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49001-3005

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DONATE TO THIS YEAR’S FOOD IS FUEL CAMPAIGN & FEED KIDS THIS SUMMER

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