EMMA’S STORY

Keeping four boys fueled for success is no easy task. Just ask Emma - she knows from firsthand experience.

Having spent a good portion of her professional career in hotel and restaurant management, Emma made the intimidating and exciting decision to head back to school at age 42. The mother of four knew making this decision would take grit and strategy and was relieved to find an abundance of community resources to help her on her journey. When she and her fiancé found their budget wasn’t keeping their cupboards from going bare, Emma relented and sought help from Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes (KLF).

“Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes has eased my burden and allowed me to focus on my kids, go back to school, and follow my dreams of developing an amazing dessert business concept,” Emma shared. Emma knew a little bit about KLF before calling the Need Food line, but says that visiting the pantries has changed her perception. “There’s fresh produce, vouchers for milk, healthy carbs, canned veggies that I love to use in slow cooker meals - the list goes on and on,” Emma gushes. “The foods are so balanced it’s like taking a trip to the grocery store.”

Her unwavering optimism and eagerness to share recipes from the home-cooked, healthy meals she creates with food from KLF pantries is inspiring, but it does come with lessons learned. “Poverty knows no prejudice. It can happen to anyone, regardless of intelligence, religion, color, sexual orientation, or any other variance,” Emma said. She wants anyone who finds themselves in her family’s position to know that KLF helps people from all walks of life. “There’s no need to go hungry. Reach out to people.”

Emma knows her journey is far from over, but she can breathe easier knowing her boys are fed and there’s a helping hand just a phone call away should she need it.

Client name changed for anonymity
Collaborations and volunteers are the heart and soul of Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. Here are some community collaboration highlights from the past few months:

- Our food procurement team had a weekly presence at the Kalamazoo Farmers Market allowing us to receive donations from vendors at the end of market hours on Saturdays (we’ve received over 2,000 lbs of market donations thus far).
- Kalamazoo Public Schools extended the Summer Food Service Program by one week and the Food Bank of South Central Michigan helped KLF feed Kalamazoo County families at three additional Mobile Food Initiative sites in an effort to further alleviate hunger for children and families during the last weeks of summer.
- Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo worked with KLF staff to evaluate the Weekend Food Pack Program to better understand how we’re meeting the needs of children who are food insecure on weekends.
- Ministry with Community (MwC), a local agency containing one of KLF’s oldest and busiest pantry, has been hard at work wrapping up construction on their new facility. When construction delays threatened to close the MwC pantry, their pantry volunteers took charge and temporarily moved their operation to KLF’s Portage St. location to ensure clients still had access to food.

We close the chapter of another summer season feeling determined and prepared to tackle fall and winter. We know we’re well-equipped to handle what’s ahead thanks to all of you.

NOTE FROM JEN

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: OLD NATIONAL BANK

When Old National Bank entered the Kalamazoo County market in 2013, it was apparent that being a true community bank was a key component of their mission. To Old National Bank, community banking means not only working hard to be their clients’ bank for life, but also means investing in vital community causes and empowering their associates to do the same.

At Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes (KLF), we’ve seen this commitment to the community firsthand over and over again. On the first Monday of every month, different associates from the seven Old National Bank (ONB) locations in Kalamazoo County take turns volunteering in KLF’s Melzer Pantry. Since this partnership began, over 20 associates have helped on this direct service level, working closely with clients to provide a positive, dignified experience. In addition to volunteering in the pantry, ONB associates help each summer with KLF’s Dollar Drive Thru fundraiser, and a local Branch Manager has served on the KLF Board of Directors and committees.

Volunteering is only one aspect of how ONB has supported Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. Food drives at each branch have resulted in 2,100 pounds of food donations. And this spring, ONB sponsored KLF’s Community Celebration, allowing us to honor volunteers and community partners without having to dip into our own funds to do so. Phil Harbert, Michigan Region President of Old National Bank, spoke at the Community Celebration and reiterated the Bank’s commitment to alleviating hunger in Kalamazoo County.

Joe Kiser, Old National Bank’s Community Relations Manager, shared, “Being a part of the community is ingrained in our culture. Supporting community members, including those experiencing rough times, is who we are. We believe strongly in the mission of Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes and are honored to be a partner in this very important work.”

Thank you, Old National Bank, for all you do!
GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT AT KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES!

We're always looking for extra hands to pitch in during the holiday months, and we'd love to have your help as we wrap up 2016. If you're itching to give back this year, there's still time! Host a food or fund drive, or volunteer with us! Contact KLF Volunteer Coordinator Cherise Buchanan at 269.488.26178 ext. 209 or email her at Cherise@kzoolf.org to get details about how you can help.

CORPORATE PANTRY POWER

Kalamazoo County is lucky to have a wealth of companies and businesses that power our economy. We're also extremely lucky that a lot of those companies make it a point to give back to the community they call home. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes benefits firsthand from employee giving initiatives, not only when corporations like Pfizer and Stryker host fund drives for those in need, but also when teams of employees lace up their tennis shoes to put in hands-on volunteer time.

Our Melzer Pantry, located on Portage Street, is often abuzz with volunteers from local financial institutions, government offices, product manufacturers, and healthcare practices. One of the many ways corporations help ease food insecurity in our community is by stocking pantry shelves and assisting clients while they shop for food. These volunteers are part of the 400+ people KLF depends on each week to make our programs function. They make it possible by committing to one or two days each month and, oftentimes, rotating the employees who help so it doesn't burden their business practices and everyone gets an opportunity to give back.

We're always looking for philanthropic-minded groups who want to help at KLF, especially with a new high-capacity pantry opening later this year. If you're interested in learning more about how to get involved, please contact KLF Volunteer Coordinator Cherise Buchanan at 488.2617 ext. 209 or email her at Cherise@kzoolf.org.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

We've got exciting things happening at KLF this fall, and we need your help to ensure they're successful! Attend an upcoming volunteer orientation and become part of the KLF family.

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

ORIENTATION DATES

SAT, OCTOBER 8
WED, OCTOBER 26
SAT, NOVEMBER 12
WED, NOVEMBER 30
HOW DO WE GET FUNDING?

The majority of our funding is provided by generous community members, foundations and local corporations. It would be impossible to provide the services we do without them.

Sixty-six percent of KLF’s funding comes from individual, corporation and group contributions; This is incredible and shows the importance of each gift large or small. Twenty-seven percent of our funding comes from local foundations and corporate grants. The remaining 7% of our funding comes from other investment income, United Way designations, and special events.

Because KLF is so lucky to receive a generous amount of in-kind donations we also account for the food, volunteer time and miscellaneous donations we receive from the community. Some may be surprised to learn that our 2014-2015 in-kind donations equated to over $4M in support. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes strives to be good stewards of the support we’re given and so just 6% of our funding goes toward general management of the organization.

We work hard each day to ensure the support we receive directly touches those who need it most. After all, it’s because of the community that we’ve been able to fight hunger in Kalamazoo County since 1982.

DID YOU KNOW?
At Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes
$1 = 3 MEALS

THANK YOU CHURCHES
FOR YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE PAST YEAR!

Augusta Fellowship United Methodist Church
Bethany Reformed Church
Bethany Women’s Bible Study
Calvary Bible Church
Centerpoint Church
Chapel
Christian Life Center
Church Women United
Community of Christ Church
First Baptist Church
First Church of Christ, Scientist
First Congregational Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church
Grace Christian Reformed Church
Gracespring Bible Church
Gull Lake United Methodist Church
Gull Lake United Methodist Church Sonshine Circle
Heritage Christian Reformed Church
Hope Reformed Church
Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Jewish Federation of Kalamazoo
Kalamazoo Covenant Church Men’s Bible Study
Kalamazoo First Assembly of God
Kalamazoo Islamic Center
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lighthouse Community Church
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Milwood Christian Reformed Church
Milwood United Methodist Church
Moorepark Community Church
North Park Reformed Church
North Presbyterian Church
Oshtemo United Methodist Church
Pathfinder Church
People’s Church
Pine Island Church
Portage Chapel Hill United Methodist Church
Portage United Church of Christ
Prairie Edge Christian Reformed Church
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Second Christian Reformed Church
Second Reformed Church
Sisters of St. Joseph
Skyridge Church of the Brethren
St. Ambrose Church
St. Augustine Cathedral
St. Catherine of Siena
St. Joseph Church
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church
St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish
Stockbridge Ave. United Methodist Church
Sunnyside United Methodist Church
Third Christian Reformed Church
Threads Church
Trinity Lutheran Church
Trinity Reformed Church
United Church of God
Unity Church of Kalamazoo
Unity of Kalamazoo Prayer Group
Voyage Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Westwood Christian Reformed Church
Westwood United Methodist Church
Zion Lutheran Church

IMPACT TIP
The IRA Charitable Rollover provision allows individuals who have reached age 70½ to donate up to $100,000 to charitable organizations directly from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA), without treating the distribution as taxable income. If married, each spouse can transfer up to $100,000 from their IRA.

For more details, contact your tax advisor.
IN HONOR OF
Allison Cooley Roberts
Elaine & Jerry Roberts
Art Cole
Robert J. Cole
Kristi Blythe
Sue Gilbertson-Beading
Debbie Gill
Andrea Foster
Elizabeth Bruce
Barbara & Timothy Liggett
Gary Weidman
Kayla Weidman
Jason & Tracy Miller’s Wedding
Jim & Betty Miyagawa
Jennifer Johnson
Jon Riccio
Joe & Judith Grosser
William Burns
Mr. & Mrs. John Boase
Tucky & Chuck Elliott
Meg & John Wonser’s 80th Birthdays
Sara Mounger
Larry & Sandy Rose’s 60th Anniversary
Jachanan & Mabel Stenesh
Mary Brown’s Birthday
James Carney
Rev. Mary Van Andel
Jay & Diane Hecker
Preston L. Cross
Sharon & D. Terry Williams
St. Luke’s Church
Joan Hartman
Tom Zwief
Joseph Van Bruggen

IN MEMORY OF
Anastasia Schauer
John & Jamie Lawlor
Ann G. Bennett
Anonymous
Nancy Beirich
Erika Birg
Kaye Collins
Bruce Edger
Agatha Ellis
Jane Erickson
Jim & Martha Hilboldt
Lowell & Elizabeth Mason
Terrence & Maureen O’Rourke
Aaron Riker
Susan Stoffer
Dorine Tedrow
Mary Lou & Win Todd
Antonia H. Rostami
Mr. Jeffrey Rostami
Arline Simmons
Eleanor & Harold Heikes
Barbara Sheldon
Sally & William Birch
Richard & Elen Fox
Margaret Hamilton & Rodney Carpenter
Richard & Raelyn Joyce
Marcella & Joseph Kelemen
Chris & Carol Mercede
Barbara Sheldon Cont. . .
John & Roxanne Nigg
Ruth & Edwin Sheldon
Carol Payne Smith
Lovette Teichert
Lynwood & Joan Topp
Rita Trallis
Barbara Trenter
Kandie Wood
Bo Charkowski
Jim & Maggie Mosby
Carol Ritchie
Bruce & Carla Springer
Carole Walsh
Ronald & Nancy Honeysett
Darrell M. Rostami
Mr. Jeffrey Rostami
David Thomas
Corky O’Rourke Thomas
Doug & Marie Renaud Stone
Robert & Norberta Renaud
Douglas Paul
Mark Paul
Frank Ossiff, Jr.
Diane Ossiff & Gerald Hansen
Fred Meagher
Shawn & Nancy Hagen
Gladys Kozar
William & Ellen Kozar
Grace Hoekstra
Gertrude Hoekstra
Helena R. Contessa
Peter & Elizabeth Wuts
Helena Timberlake Overbay
John Arthurs
Rita Bigelow
Elizabeth Cranston
Mary Davidson
Glora & Richard Emmons
Robert Hovenkamp
James & Leila Nye
Beverly Schmitt
W.E. Upjohn Institute of Employment Research
Equanimity Wealth Management
7-11
Elder Henry Grayson, Sr.
Howard & Robyn Robinson
Jack & Marian Fisher
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James, Lucille and Joseph Dillon
Colleen M. Berger
JJ Jarrett
Jay Jarrett
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Frances Reish
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John & Mary Veld
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Maria Maki & Brian Smith
Olga Visser
Diana & Thomas Hoy
Oswald & Alvina Renaud
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Patricia Breen
Kay Baetsen
Patricia Coleman
Liz Roelofs
Phyllis Denison Callen
The Ladies of the 80s
Rachel Galperin
Sharon Wittenberg
Rebecca Pernice
Diana & Thomas Hoy
Oswald & Alvina Renaud
Robert & Norberta Renaud
Ruth Metcalf
James & Jayne Mayer
Susan Weir
Carole Newburry

For corrections or mailing database updates, please contact Laura Galaviz at 269.488.2617 x206 or laura@kzoolf.org.
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

Senior Hunger Stats

- OVER 5 MILLION AMERICANS OVER THE AGE OF 60 ARE FOOD INSECURE.

- IN KALAMAZOO, 8% OF LOCAL SENIORS LIVE ON LESS THAN $12,000 PER YEAR.

- PEOPLE 65 YEAR OR OLDER REPRESENT 14.5% OF THE U.S. POPULATION, ABOUT ONE IN EVERY SEVEN AMERICANS.

- NEARLY 1 IN 5 SNAP PARTICIPANTS IS ELDERLY OR DISABLED.