

FOOD for THOUGHT



Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

JUNE/JULY 2017

RICH'S STORY

Rich slowly rises from his seat at KLF's Melzer Pantry and grabs his walker. The woman next to him rises, too, guiding him by chairs of people to take his turn to shop for groceries. The pantry volunteer assisting Rich takes the piece of paper he's holding that outlines the food allotments for a household of one. "I'm shopping for me, but she's helping" Rich says, gesturing to the woman following behind him.

The woman with him, an acquaintance who happened to have a bit of free time to drive Rich to the pantry, helps him decide what food to select. "He doesn't have a lot of family in the area, and I'm not sure he'd be able to make it here on his own," she leans in and quietly shares with the volunteer.



Although Rich has a hard time getting around these days, he still

lives alone and is determined to take care of himself. Most days it can be a challenge getting to the mailbox let alone to the grocery store when you can't drive, so Rich is grateful his neighbor offered to take him to KLF when his food supply was low and his food budget was maxed out.

"Neighbors helping neighbors. That's what this is," Rich says when praised for asking for help when he needed it. "You see this?" he asks as he gestures to the volunteer and the woman who drove him to the pantry, "This is three layers of neighbors helping neighbors."

Rich is right. At KLF, we see firsthand each day how multiple layers of neighbors looking out for one another builds a better community. It takes volunteers who generously give their time in our warehouses, call center and pantries as well as donors who supply the food and funds we need to sustain our programs. It takes people like Rich's neighbor who, even with her own busy life, is still looking for ways to help those around her.

"I think this will get me through," Rich mutters to himself as he surveys the food he selected for himself. We think Rich and his neighbor are the perfect reminder that, even when life is busy, we can still find ways to help those around us. ■

Client's names changed for anonymity

TOP 10 FOOD DRIVES

JANUARY - APRIL 2017

- 1 District Two Little League
5216 Pounds
- 2 Rollerworld
2009 Pounds
- 3 Gull Lake High School
1962 Pounds
- 4 Stryker Instruments
1687 Pounds
- 5 KAMSC
1413 Pounds
- 6 Westside Kiwanis Club
1023 Pounds
- 7 S&J Laboratories
956 Pounds
- 8 Maple Street Magnet School
for the Arts
932 Pounds
- 9 PNC Bank
835 Pounds
- 10 Curves for Women - Romence
678 Pounds

SAVE THE DATE



THE ONSTAFF GROUP

DOLLAR DRIVE-THRU

THURSDAY, JULY 13TH

- A NOTE FROM JEN - MEET LAURA STANDAL

To further our efforts to allow readers to see KLF through the eyes of our staff, volunteers and community partners, we sat down with Laura Standal, Special Ed Resource Room Teacher and Coordinator for the Weekend Food Pack Program (WFP) at Comstock's North Elementary School. She plays a key role in ensuring students at her school receive the 90 food packs KLF delivers each week, providing them meals during weekend hours when other food sources may be scarce. - *Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director*

Q: In your opinion, how important are school food programs to the children within your school?

A: They're vital. The breakfast *and* lunch programs are so important for these students.

Q: Do you feel the food packs your students receive from KLF make a difference in student's ability to thrive both during the week and on weekends?

A: Absolutely. If they didn't have these packs, many of them would have little-to-no access to food during weekend hours.

Q: Do you feel every student within your school who lacks food security during weekend hours is currently covered by the WFP Program?

A: No, but we have such a large need at our school, and we have to prioritize which students are most in need. That's why we make sure to inform parents and caregivers about other KLF services like the Grocery Pantry Program where they can receive four-days worth of groceries for everyone in the household versus two days worth of food for one student.

Q: As an educator, how do you see hunger affecting your students in the classroom?



A: If a child is hungry, their ability to take in information, process that information and learn is nearly impossible. That's why it's so important to make sure basic needs are met first. If those basic needs go unmet, how can we expect a child to move past that starting point and succeed academically? ■

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: KALAMAZOO FARMERS MARKET



For 104 years, the Kalamazoo Farmers Market has been a staple on Bank Street. On a mid-summer Saturday, the market can be abuzz with as many as 125 local farmers and vendors selling their produce, homemade jams, local honey, pasture-raised meat, and so much more.

In 2013, the PFC Natural Grocery and Deli took over market operation and has seen tremendous growth in attendance and vendor participation since that time. They've also made a commitment to getting fresh food into the hands of those in our community who can't afford to purchase their own. So, last year, market management teamed up with KLF to connect vendors with ways to donate their leftover food goods for those experiencing hunger when Saturday hours came to a close.

"It's the role of KLF staff and our vendors' generosity that make this all happen," says Gaby Gerken, Market Manager. "A few vendors even bring extra product to the market specifically to give to KLF."

Previously, leftover food was being composted, dumped, or schlepped back to farms and businesses for sale elsewhere. This partnership allows for easy on-site donation to KLF each Saturday and generated nearly 30,000 pounds of donated fresh food in 2016.

Equitable access to fresh food is vital to building a healthier Kalamazoo community. We're excited to partner with the Kalamazoo Farmers Market again this year, and we are extremely grateful for the generous donations of fresh food we receive from vendors. ■

HELP FIGHT HUNGER THIS SUMMER

VOLUNTEER

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



UPCOMING ORIENTATION DATES

- June 17
- June 21
- July 8
- July 19

MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:
JUNE
COUPON #164

Ensure local children have access to healthy food this summer with a donation.

Donation Amount
\$ _____

Please send your contribution by June 16th.

Food Wish List: Healthy Snacks

GIVING COUPON:
JULY
COUPON #165

Summer is our most in-demand season. Your help is appreciated.

Donation Amount
\$ _____

Please send your contribution by July 21st.

Food Wish List: Canned Fruit

VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' largest food program, the Grocery Pantry Program (GPP), serves an average of 700 people per day through 24 pantries. These pantries are tucked inside churches, community centers and service organizations throughout Kalamazoo County and are, for the most part, operated by volunteers. At any given time, KLF has around 1000 active volunteers who assist without food programs. It takes an average of 450 volunteers each week to successfully operate KLF's programs and, without ample volunteer manpower, the impact of the GPP would be greatly diminished.

"Our pantry coordinators and the army of volunteers who support them, are among the most dedicated, dependable, mission-driven people that we partner with here at Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes," Deb Josephson, KLF Services Coordinator, said. "Their concern for the food security of the families we serve is exhibited daily, as they do whatever it takes to make sure that our pantries are open, warm and welcoming to the members of our community who are in need."

Volunteers help with an array of pantry operations. In addition to the warehouse volunteers who ensure food deliveries are made each day, volunteers stock pantry shelves, assist clients while they shop, ensure pantries are kept clean and safe, take weekly pantry inventory, and even help recruit other volunteers to pitch in. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' two high-capacity pantries, the Douglass and Melzer pantries, are the only pantries within the network that have paid staff members to oversee the volunteers who help in those locations.

We're always looking for dependable hands to help! If you'd like more information about becoming a regular KLF pantry volunteer, please contact KLF Volunteer Coordinator Cherise Burchanan at 269.488.2617 ext. 209 or Cherise@kzoolf.org. ■



THANK YOU

This year's National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive generated

85,742

pounds of food for hungry people in our community!

Special thanks goes to NALC Branch 246



TRIBUTES 3/3/17 - 5/11/17 Special thanks to those who honor friends and family through contributions to KLF!

IN HONOR OF

Lee Accorso
Sam & Barb Accorso

Martha Betke
Cynthia & Kevin Kole

Susan Beute
Harvey Beute
Carolyn Kozlowski
Kathy Spilman

Sidney Brush's 70th Birthday
Susan Grother

Art Cole
Evan & Sharon Kokales

Stu Eddy
Rita & Norman Bober

Harold Fitzgerald
William Fitzgerald

Laura & Joe Galaviz's 1st Anniversary
Jane & Jeff Puvogel

Doutzen Naat
Meg & Matt Gernaat

Heather Haan
James Stafford

Betty Haas
Ronald & Donna Holmes

Jackie Hanna
Judy Hanna

Sarah Hill
Tom & Janelle Hohm

Dona Marie Johnson
Larry & Elaine Johnson

Jennifer E. Johnson
Jon Riccio

Kalamazoo Central HS Class of 1954
The Ladies of the 80s

Kalamazoo's Hungry People
John "Dale" & Cheryl Westbrook

Carter Macey
Melissa Richardson

Mothers
James & Megan Roth

Niambi Pringle
Ryan Allen
Rachel Vote

Jim Robey and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research
Kalamazoo Community Foundation

Our 38th Wedding Anniversary
Howard & Robyn Robinson

Margie Sherwood
Kathleen Sherwood & Karen Cathcart

Daniel Sitar
Andrea Hurst

Beth Spencer
Hillary Berry

June Swanson's 96th Birthday
Tom & Jan Tiderington

Rodney & Robyn Todd
Christy Kenyon

Tiffany & Daniel VanPeenen's Wedding
LaKeisha Gill
Jane Irwin
Bryan Simpson

Ineke F. Way
Yvonne Unrau

Stuart Werner's Birthday
Richard Hutson

John "Dale" Westbrook's 79th Birthday
Cheryl Westbrook

IN MEMORY OF

Richard Albert
Trudi L. Giffin
Don & Beverly Huff

Al Amundsen
Peninnah & Mark Miller

Rebecca Block
Deborah & William Clark

Ruth I. Boot
Hennie & Walt Kloosterman

Todd L. Bower
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Patrecia Breen
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Marge Carr

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Pete & Wanita Comensoli

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Robert Coppes
Angie Mastenbrook

Marie Cummins
John "Dale" & Cheryl Westbrook

Dorothy Curtiss
Dan & Susan Curtiss

Evalyn R. DeForest on Mother's Day
Phil & Kathleen Maneikis

James & Lucille Dillon
Colleen M. Berger

Joseph Dillon
Colleen M. Berger

Sandra Duryea
Alvin & Betty Holmes

Evan Ebling
Moyra M. Ebling

Arthur and Lorraine Flegel
Lawrence & Ardith McPhillips

Fred Gain & Cordelia Fues
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Jessica Scytko
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Jeff & Julie Townner
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James & Jane Zwiers

Marguerite Kolb
Grant Kolb

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William & Ellen Kozar

Dante Latora
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Lucia Leonardelli

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Doris MacPhee
Ted & Patricia Skartsiaris

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Jim Magnan

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Maria Maki & Brian Smith

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Thomas Oorbeck
Jean A. Oorbeck

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Beyond Ourselves
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Alma Rausch
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Elma Witsaman
Thomas Neal
Herbert & Shirley Smith

Henry & Johanna Yzenbaard
Joyce Yzenbaard-Clark & Patrick Clark

For corrections or mailing database updates, please contact Joe Galaviz at 269.488.2617 ext. 206 or joe@kzoolf.org.

DOUGLASS PANTRY NOW OPEN

On May 9th, we had our inaugural service delivery in our new high-volume pantry located within the Douglass Community Association. After several years of exploration and planning, we are excited for the growth in service capacity that this new pantry allows. The pantry will support the needs of many Kalamazoo residents in the Northside neighborhood who currently travel to our Melzer pantry in Edison for their groceries or are not able to access a pantry at all. Lack of transportation can be a major hurdle to food security.

The number of individuals we can serve through this pantry depends on the availability of both funds and volunteers. During the first year of operation, we will serve 40 households - approximately 120 individuals - each week. As funds and volunteers are secured, we will continue to add shifts.

Special thanks to the staff and board of directors of the Douglass Community Association for their leadership and partnership (they are pictured with the KLF staff and board in the adjacent photo). We would also like to thank the individuals and groups, including Advia Credit Union and Stryker, who have already committed regular volunteer hours to this pantry. Lastly, we are grateful to our donors, including the PNC Foundation and LISC, who have invested in this new endeavor. Gifts of food, funds, and time from our generous supporters are what allow us to continue to help those who are struggling in our community. ■



CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

A UNIQUE WAY TO GIVE.

GIFTS THAT PAY YOU INCOME.

A Charitable Gift Annuity enables a donor to transfer cash, marketable securities or real estate to an organization issuing the gift annuity in exchange for a current income tax deduction. In addition, the organization promises to make fixed annual payments to the donor for life. When the donor passes away, the charity keeps the gift and that donor leaves a legacy in their name. Annuity payments can begin immediately or can be deferred to some future date. **For more information about supporting Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes through Charitable Gift Annuities, please contact KLF Development Director Greta Faworski at 269.488.2617 ext. 208 or Greta@kzoolf.org.**

HELP FUEL KIDS FOR SUCCESS ALL SUMMER LONG

Your donation to this year's **Food is Fuel Campaign** helps KLF provide food to the thousands of kids who lose the security of school feeding programs during summer months.



THE SIMPLY GIVE PROGRAM GIVES TO KLF

Look for **Simply Give** donation cards next time you shop at Gull Rd. and Westnedge Meijer stores. Last year, your donations through this generous community program totaled nearly **\$21,000** and allowed KLF to purchase the variety of foods we needed to meet our nutritional standards.



Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

901 PORTAGE STREET
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49001-3005

FOOD REQUEST LINE: 269/343-3663
P 269/488-2617 · F 269/343-3669
WWW.KZOOOLF.ORG

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
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KALAMAZOO MI
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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

THE LASTING EFFECTS OF CHILDHOOD HUNGER

For thousands of children in Kalamazoo County, hunger is a daily reality. It's not only about the day-to-day struggle of not having enough to eat. Oftentimes the effects of hunger can be lifelong and can play a significant role in a child's ability to thrive.

Children facing hunger are 2X more likely to have chronic health issues than those who don't experience hunger.

- Malnutrition
- Stunted and wasted growth
- Cognitive, emotional, and social issues
- Reduction of motor skills
- Lower activity levels
- Psychiatric distress
- Low self-esteem
- Behavioral issues
- Depression, aggression, and irritability



You can help fight childhood hunger this year.
Donate to KLF's Food is Fuel Campaign for Kids.
KZOOOLF.ORG/Donate

JUNE/JULY 2017

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 Paul Bushek, Warehouse Assistant
 Art Cole, Services Director
 Carol Cormack, Office Coordinator
 Bob Dekker, Warehouse Assistant
 Greta Faworski, Resource Development Director
 Linda Fox, Call Center Coordinator
 Lizbeth Fuentes Rosas, Bilingual Call Center Assistant
 Joe Galaviz, Development Assistant

EXT.	Kathy Gernaat, Operations Director	212
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