



2016 | 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Promoting a hunger-free community since 1982.

MISSION

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes will feed hungry people and engage the community in the fight to end hunger.

VISION

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes works toward a hunger-free community.

STAFF

JOAN ATWELL

CALL CENTER COORDINATOR

CHERISE BUCHANAN

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

MARY-ELIZABETH BELL/CAROL CORMACK

OFFICE COORDINATOR

PAUL BUSHEK

WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

ART COLE

SERVICES DIRECTOR

JOE COOK/BOB DECKER/RAY KUERTH

WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

GRETA FAWORSKI

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

LINDA FUHLBRUGGE FOX

CALL CENTER COORDINATOR

LIZBETH FUENTES ROSAS

BILINGUAL CALL CENTER ASSISTANT

JOE GALAVIZ

WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

LAURA GALAVIZ

DONOR DATABASE COORDINATOR

KATHY GERNAAT

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

MEG GERNAAT

MARKETING COORDINATOR

DAVE HAFER

WAREHOUSE COORDINATOR

PHYLLIS HEPP

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

JENNIFER JOHNSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEB JOSEPHSON

SERVICES COORDINATOR

MARVIN KING

FOOD PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

KIM HINDS-LEPSY

MELZER PANTRY COORDINATOR

JACKIE SMITH

DOUGLASS PANTRY COORDINATOR

MARY FOLEY-WILSON

ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR

THE ABOVE REFLECTS STAFF AND POSITION TITLES FOR KLF'S 2016-2017 FISCAL YEAR.

IF A CHANGE IN STAFFING OCCURED DURING THE YEAR, IT IS ALSO REFLECTED.

Over the past fiscal year, we saw a lot of discussion and debate around issues of food equity, food waste, and how to remedy the increasing problem of hunger. As the leader of an organization that provides food to hundreds each week, I can attest that there's simply no more time for debate about what can and should be done for American families facing hunger. Those putting children to bed with empty stomachs or teens sacrificing meals so siblings or grandparents can eat aren't few and far between – there are 41 million people just like them throughout the United States, nearly 40,000 of which happen to be here in Kalamazoo County.

Years ago, even before the recession of 2008, KLF expanded service exponentially to increase emergency food availability for thousands of residents. We knew then that growing numbers of families were food insecure and we, as a community, should respond. In a very short period of time, we reached our goal - but still there were people in need. Even today we often reach our daily Grocery Pantry Program capacity in a few short hours.

This ever-increasing demand for food has prompted us to look beyond what can be done in this moment to support people where they stand. We've wondered what else the community needs. **Are we serving people in a way that doesn't hinder their path to self-sufficiency? Can we provide food in a different way for those who have the least support and are the most vulnerable?** These questions have fueled our commitment to the Kalamazoo County Hunger-Free Community Coalition (see page six for details). They've prompted us to think outside the box and take steps to revamp our Caseworker Pantry food pick-up process. They've led us to open pantries in schools to better serve busy families. We didn't spend months debating. Local partners gave a supportive nod. Volunteers stepped forward. Donors generously gave dollars. And we got to work.

Long gone are the days when we believed that we could work ourselves out of business. Long gone are the days when we believed we could wait for others to solve this issue. **We must lead by example, as a community, if we want to see progress in this fight to end hunger.** Thank you for continuing to stand alongside us.

JENNIFER JOHNSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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KAREN MCPHAIL

STACY RANDOLPH

Since joining Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' board of directors last year, two things have consistently stuck out to me:

1. Hunger is an always evolving issue. There is no magic solution that will eliminate the unique hunger needs of our community in one fell swoop.
2. The people KLF serves are also ever changing which requires us to adapt to meet the needs of our clients. It's for these reasons that each of KLF's five food programs are so critical and why we're always fine-tuning those programs to best serve the community.

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' operation has been greatly enhanced over the past few years with updated facilities, equipment, and skilled staff as well as the dedicated volunteers on whom we rely. As motivated and committed as our staff and volunteers may be to carry out our mission, we still recognize that a broader collaboration is required to tackle issues relating to hunger. Cooperation between local, state and national leaders is imperative to strengthening federal food programs and policies, educating the public about the correlation of diet and poor health, decreasing food waste, combating low wages, and much more. This is why we've been particularly attentive to bringing new voices and ideas into the conversation over the past twelve months, and we look forward to continuing this work in the year ahead.

I'm privileged to work with very dedicated, skilled and compassionate individuals in this fight to end hunger. While we admit we don't have all of the answers, our resolve to stand alongside our neighbors in need has remained steadfast. We will tirelessly continue to pursue our goal to provide healthy, nutritious food while employing new strategies to maximize the resources entrusted to us. We've been at this for over 35 years now, and we are committed to serving the community as long as hunger remains an issue.

HERB BOYER BOARD PRESIDENT



FIVE THINGS WE THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW



YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

95% of our financial support comes from LOCAL individuals, corporations, churches, and foundations.



PEOPLE POWER

Our organization is supported by over 400 volunteers per week.



WE HAVE GROWN

This year, we provided 162,758 four-day food orders through our Grocery Pantry Program – a 240% increase from 10 years ago.



\$1 = 3 MEALS

Our average cost for a four-day food order – at least 12 meals - was \$2.55.



ACCESS IS CRUCIAL

Through all our programs, we distributed food at 73 locations in Kalamazoo County.

OUR FOOD PROGRAMS AT WORK

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes operates multiple food programs to combat hunger in Kalamazoo County and to meet the unique food needs of our clients and the community.

INFANTS

5,707 POUNDS OF DAIRY AND SOY-BASED INFANT FORMULA WERE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH DESIGNATED LOCATIONS WITHIN THE GROCERY PANTRY PROGRAM.

CHILDREN

39% OF THE FOUR-DAY FOOD ORDERS PROVIDED THROUGH THE GROCERY PANTRY PROGRAM WERE FOR CHILDREN.

850 FOOD PACKS WERE DELIVERED EACH WEEK TO 16 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. WEEKEND FOOD PACKS ALLEVIATE HUNGER WHEN SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS ARE UNAVAILABLE DURING WEEKEND HOURS.

3 SCHOOL PANTRIES OPERATED AT KALAMAZOO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS.

TEENS

6 SCHOOL PANTRIES OPERATED IN KALAMAZOO PUBLIC MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS.

TEENS CAN ACCESS OUR GROCERY PANTRY PROGRAM THROUGH PARENTS, GUARDIANS OR BY CALLING OUR NEED FOOD LINE FOR THEIR OWN APPOINTMENT.

ADULTS+FAMILIES

700 PEOPLE WERE SERVED, ON AVERAGE, EACH DAY BY THE GROCERY PANTRY PROGRAM.

24 PANTRIES OPERATED IN OUR NETWORK TO SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES. PANTRIES ARE LOCATED IN COMMUNITY CENTERS, CHURCHES, AND SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES.

5 MOBILE FOOD INITIATIVES (MFI) WERE HELD EACH MONTH TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD ITEMS TO FAMILIES. NO APPOINTMENT OR REFERRAL IS NECESSARY AT A MFI.

SENIORS

575 LOW-INCOME SENIOR CITIZENS RECEIVED FOOD ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COMMODITIES SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP).

16 HOUSING COMPLEXES AND COMMUNITY CENTERS SERVED AS DISTRIBUTION SITES FOR CSFP.

IN ADDITION TO CSFP, SENIORS RECEIVED SUPPORT THROUGH THE GROCERY PANTRY NETWORK AND MOBILE FOOD INITIATIVES.

PARTNERS

72,814 POUNDS OF FOOD WERE DISTRIBUTED TO SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY PARTNERS WHO SERVE HOT, READY-TO-EAT MEALS TO INDIVIDUALS OF ALL AGES.

DISTRIBUTED FOOD

We take great pride in the food we put on plates, and we're pleased to report that fresh produce topped the list at 22% of what filled our client's grocery carts last fiscal year. See what we distributed by category below.

3,505,463 TOTAL POUNDS

22% FRESH PRODUCE

18% PROTEIN

14% CAN/FROZEN PRODUCE

14% BREAD/BAKERY

9% DAIRY

7% MIXED/ASSORTED

7% MISCELLANEOUS

5% GRAINS/PASTA/RICE

4% CEREAL (HOT/COLD)

FOOD SOURCES

People often ask, "Where do you get all the food for your pantries?"

It's no small task to secure enough food to meet our nutritional goals, price requirements, and service commitments. No-cost and low-cost food sources can be volatile for many reasons and, often, we must purchase from the wholesale market to keep our shelves full. Community donations are also important as they help lower our food costs and provide variety to the pantries.

27% PURCHASED FOOD Because of our commitment to nutritionally-balanced food options, we increasingly must turn to wholesalers to secure important food staples. Bulk purchasing and researching the best deals helps keep costs low.

24% CHARITABLE FOOD NETWORK Through the Food Bank of South Central Michigan, we have a connection to the national charitable food network Feeding America. This partnership allows us to access no-cost and pennies-on-the-pound food items.

23% FOOD RESCUE Our volunteers pick up perfectly edible grocery store food destined for the dumpster because of "sell by" dates. We currently "rescue" food from 10 stores each week.

15% GOVERNMENT SOURCED FOOD We receive food from the USDA to support the low-income seniors enrolled in the Commodities Supplemental Food Program. When available, we receive additional food from the USDA for our pantries.

7% COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVES From corporations to churches to school groups, community members provide essential food donations to help us meet our service commitments.

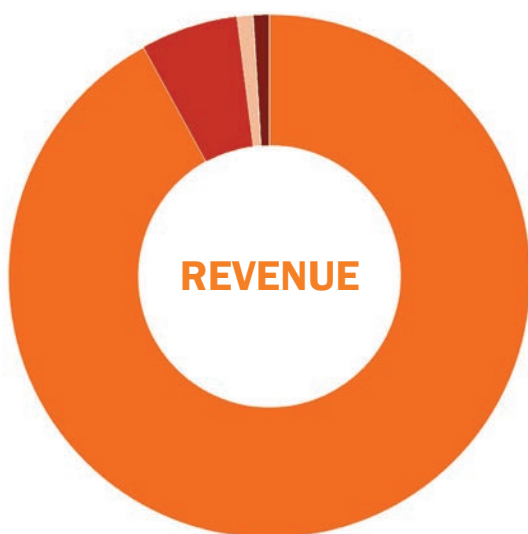
4% FARMS + GROWERS The hard work and generosity of local farmers provides fresh-from-the-field produce to our clients.



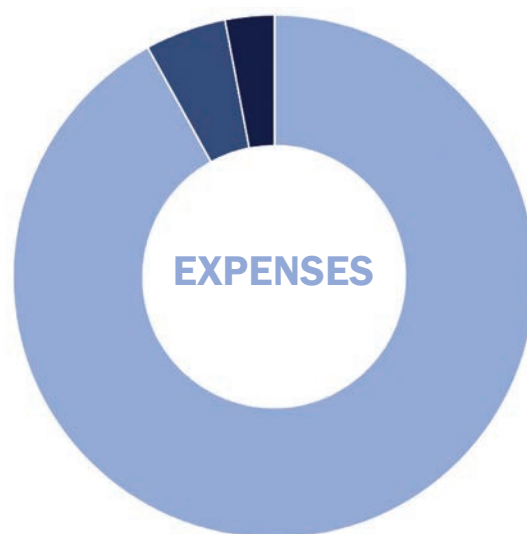
THE NUMBERS

Despite the constant demand for services, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes continues to look for creative ways to reduce operating costs so donated dollars are used as efficiently as possible.

\$1,836,233 WAS RAISED THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS.



CONTRIBUTIONS 92%
GRANTS 6%
INVESTMENTS 1%
SPECIAL EVENTS 1%



PROGRAM SERVICES 92%
MANAGEMENT + GENERAL 5%
FUNDRAISING 3%

VOLUNTEER HOURS WERE VALUED AT \$1,067,328

DONATED FOOD WAS VALUED AT \$4,173,821

VOLUNTEER TIME

FOOD DONATIONS

EXPANDING OUR REACH

KALAMAZOO COUNTY HUNGER-FREE COMMUNITY COALITION

The Kalamazoo County Hunger-Free Community Coalition is on a mission to make systemic improvements to food security and nutrition among county residents. The Coalition is made up of over 30 local organizations that work collectively on anti-hunger projects. Kalamazoo

Loaves & Fishes provides backbone support to the Coalition by facilitating meetings and serving as the fiscal intermediary. Depending on the specific project, Coalition members provide staff, resources or knowledge to leverage existing food resources so that our community sees maximum benefit. If the Coalition identifies unmet needs or service gaps, it works with local partners to find creative, local solutions to meet community needs. While the Coalition's steering committee meets quarterly, specific work groups meet more frequently, depending on the specific projects underway.

Over the past year, the Coalition has focused on:

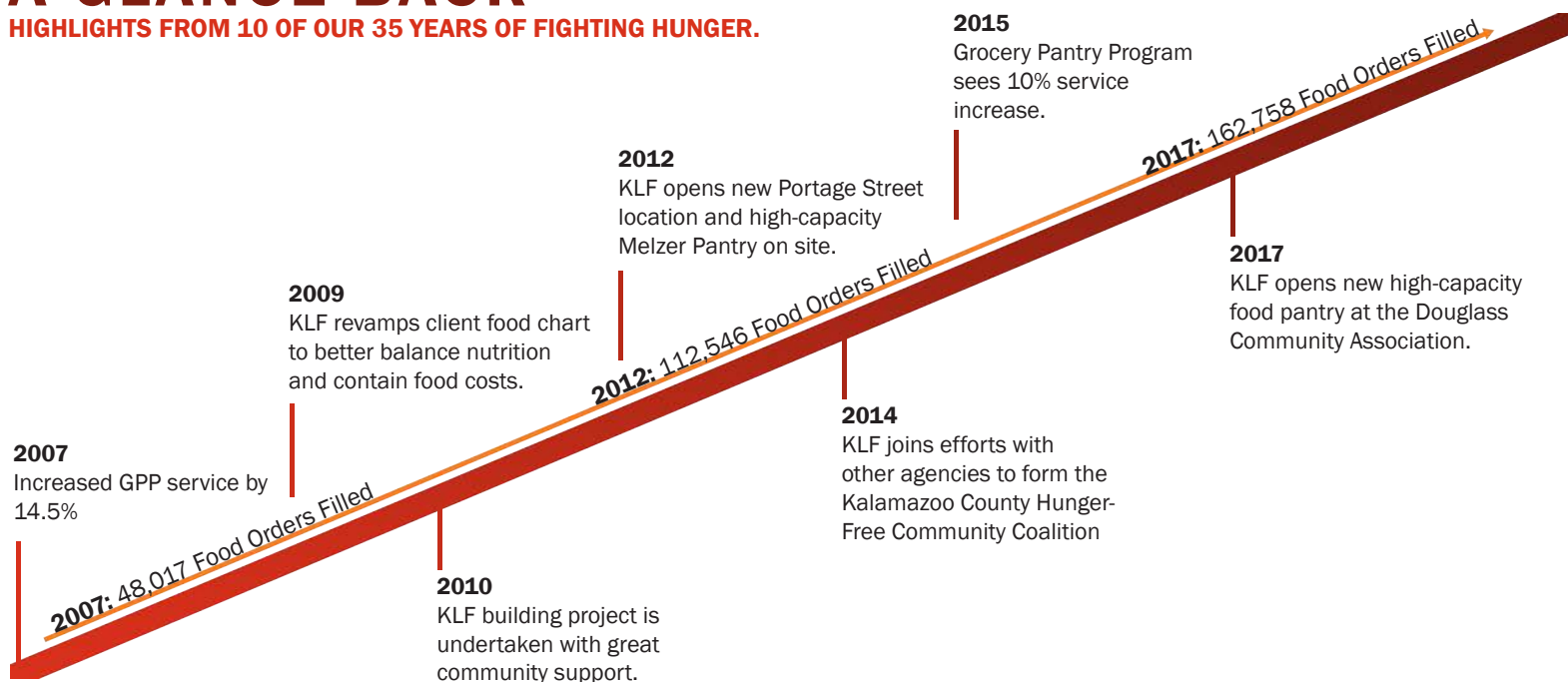
- Strengthening healthy food resources for the community.
- Organizing community support to bring the Double Up Food Bucks (DUFEB) Program to local grocery stores.
- Exploring the potential to increase kids' meals through federal food assistance programs.
- Continuing to strengthen the Summer Feeding Service Program for youth throughout Kalamazoo County.
- Educating the community about new federal work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) to receive food assistance.
- Working with WMed students to better identify and combat food insecurity during pediatric visits.
- Participating in a pilot program through the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for Coalition strategic planning. The Coalition is one of only three entities awarded funding by the Academy for this purpose.
- Collecting data to help with mapping underserved areas of Kalamazoo County.

The Coalition's success in strengthening food assistance programs, stretching the food budgets of low-income residents, and providing nutritious meals to local youth is only possible through the collective contribution of each community organization and partner who generously contributes toward a community plan to solve local hunger.



A GLANCE BACK

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 10 OF OUR 35 YEARS OF FIGHTING HUNGER.





KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

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