MEET DEREK

DEREK ISN’T THE TRADITIONAL COLLEGE STUDENT. At 25-years-old, he admits that he’s getting a late start compared to many of his peers. While he’s quick to make light of the fact that it has been a while since he has lugged textbooks around, he will correct anyone who assumes it’s due to post-high school floundering.

“I wasn’t set up to jump right into college after high school,” Derek shares. “I wanted to make sure my little brother made it through school before I could focus on a degree.”

Derek took on a father figure role for his younger brother after their dad passed away unexpectedly. Derek was only 14—his brother was nine. His mother struggled to cope with the loss, and Derek eventually found himself working nights to pay for the things he and his brother needed. All the while maintaining his 3.6 high school GPA.

“I knew that Dustin needed me for support, for a sense of normalcy while he was getting through high school. I don’t regret waiting to get my degree if it means we’ll both have better futures. It’s what dad would have wanted.”

Student loans are necessary for Derek to pay for school, but he’s trying to do as much as he can on his own. He works two jobs, carries a full course load, and shares a room with his brother in a rental that’s also home to four other people.

“I’m not going to lie, it’s enticing to take more loan money than I need to pay for the things I’ve never had, like my own computer, but I won’t do it,” Derek explains. “I can use the computer lab. I only spend money on what I really need.”

From time to time Derek and his brother visit a Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes’ food pantry when their hard-earned dollars don’t cover all of their necessities.

“It’s rare that we have to go, but the food really helps, and sometimes it’s better than what we can justify buying at the store,” Derek says.

Though the past has presented unexpected challenges, Derek takes them in stride. “I’ve had a good life compared to a lot of folks, and one day I’ll pay my debts by helping someone in my shoes. I’ve just got to get this degree first.”
Remaining mission-focused means asking ourselves; Are we using our resources to provide service to as many food insecure individuals as possible in Kalamazoo County? In 2016, our staff and Board of Directors embarked on a strategic plan to identify and address the changing face of hunger in our area. What we found further confirmed what we already knew; Our current service model doesn’t work for everyone and there are food insecure people who are either not being served or are being underserved. Through our advocacy work, we also know that cuts to federal food assistance are proposed and there will likely be more people experiencing hunger.

It became clear that we needed to make changes to ensure we were providing food to as many people as possible.

Our current service model allows clients to schedule a pantry appointment once every 30 days with self-declaration of need. If further support is needed, a client can obtain a referral from a caseworker for extra visits. The practice of caseworker referrals began during the 2008 recession to help people withstand rough financial times. Our data shows that the number of households using our services more than 15 times per year has increased by 5% since that time. However, the amount of our total service capacity utilized by these households has increased by 15% in the same time period. In other words, we are concerned that the increase in consistent referrals is impeding access to food assistance for others who may need support on a situational basis or who are new to hunger. Most days, our pantries fill to capacity, and many people are not able to secure food because of it.

After a great deal of evaluation and discussion with key stakeholders, we are implementing a new service model that will begin on January 1, 2019. In the new model, clients will be able to schedule a pantry appointment once every calendar month and will receive three additional self-managed visits that can be used anytime throughout the year. We will no longer accept referrals from a caseworker or third party for extra pantry visits. In the new model, only 5% of our client base will see a reduction in service, and our staff have already met with caseworkers to discuss the upcoming changes and how we, as a community, can help these clients connect to resources that will supplement their Loaves & Fishes visits each month. We’ve hired a Human Services Coordinator to help clients navigate the change and access additional federal and community food resources if needed. We do anticipate, however, that the change will allow new people to access our services, maintain service levels for 95% of our clients, and will increase food assistance to those who have been underserved in the past. The new model will also allow us to explore non-traditional ways of providing food to those who can’t currently access our system for a variety of reasons.

We understand that change can be difficult or confusing for everyone involved. However, we feel that these changes will allow us to use our resources in the most responsible way possible. This new model is our response to community need and aligns with our mission and founding principles of providing emergency food assistance. Clients have more flexibility to schedule extra visits without going through a caseworker. The new model is designed to be more equitable. We will not be providing any less food to the community — we will be providing the same level of food, if not more, to a greater number of individuals.

If you have questions regarding this change, please contact Program Director, Art Cole, at 269-488-2617 or art@kzoolf.org. For more information, visit our website at kzoolf.org or join us at one of our upcoming community information sessions.
When you make a call to Lindsey Dedicated Services, Inc., you’ll likely be greeted on the other end by the president of the company. Becky Moise started the business with her late husband Bradley Lindsey in 2001. Over the past 17 years the business has outgrown its basement office, one truck operation, and two-person team. Today, LDS Inc. employs a team of drivers and mechanics who handle regional trucking that, from time to time, also includes hauling food for Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

“I doubt that LDS, Inc. is different from any other trucking company,” Moise humbly replies when asked if she feels her company’s commitment to helping the community sets it apart from the competition. “We just got lucky finding KLF and finding a niche to be of service. I am sure others would do the same if they found their niche.”

Her business found this niche years ago through Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes’ Mobile Food Initiative (MFI). Not only did Moise’s team volunteer to pick up food from Battle Creek on the mornings of the MFI, but her staff also volunteered on-site to distribute food to members of the community. It was at the MFI’s that Moise had a chance to learn more about KLF’s needs and decided that her company could do more to help.

“I have always loved what KLF does for our community,” Moise shares. “Helping those who do so much for those in need does not put anyone out of their way. It is just the right thing to do.”

Lindsey Dedicated Services, Inc. now handles all of the maintenance of KLF’s trucks, only charging the organization for needed parts. They provided insight and guidance when KLF purchased two of its largest trucks, and Moise’s staff frequently handles food pick-ups in Wayland, Michigan at no charge. Each year LDS, Inc. donates trucking assistance during the National Association of Letter Carriers’ Food Drive and, recently, the company saved KLF over $1,000 by handling a food pick-up in Illinois.

Moise is proud to have three generations of family on her staff and insists that employees who aren’t related by blood are still considered family. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is grateful that her family sentiment goes beyond the bays of her building on Shakespeare Avenue and that it extends to those in our community who need it most.
THE TOP 10 - FOOD DRIVES MAY - AUGUST 2018

ROLLERWORLD
1472 POUNDS
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
797 POUNDS
THE CLEANING AUTHORITY
664 POUNDS
ALL SEASONS EXPRESS
577 POUNDS
KALAMAZOO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
494 POUNDS
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC LIBRARY
473 POUNDS
NORTH PARK REFORMED CHURCH
403 POUNDS
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
385 POUNDS
KALAMAZOO ISLAMIC CENTER
375 POUNDS
PINE ISLAND CHURCH
368 POUNDS

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 about the IRA Charitable Rollover Provision, contact your tax advisor.

To see other ways to give to KLF, visit kzoof.org/donate

- A NOTE FROM JEN - MEET KAREN MCPHAIL

While KLF’s staff and day-to-day volunteers provide vital backbone support for our services, it’s our Board of Directors and committee members who push us to approach fighting hunger from new angles. For this newsletter we sat down with Karen McPhail to learn what ignites her passion to fight hunger in our community.

- Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director

Q: You have been a KLF Board Member for six years as well as the chair of the Food Security Advocacy (FSA) committee. Why did you want to serve on this committee?

A: My initial interest in the FSA committee was to learn more about how legislation impacts access to food and how I could become more active in supporting causes and policies that feed people. During my time with KLF I’ve learned how varying public factors influence personal ones and how intertwined those factors are: the economy, environment, food, health, housing, transportation, politics — the list goes on! I continue to learn from fellow FSA members and feel compelled to fight harder for affordable, nutritious food for all.

Q: Why do you think it’s important for an agency like KLF to educate others about how public policy affects food security?

A: KLF has the data and platform to share how food access impacts communities in a clear, non-partisan way. The more we know as individuals, the more we can do to change the conversation and influence policy as a collective. It’s vital that KLF educate our community in addition to being a resource for needed food.

Q: What are some of KLF’s advocacy initiatives that you are most proud or which you’ve most enjoyed?

A: I’m very proud of KLF’s efforts in the formation of the Kalamazoo County Hunger-Free Community Coalition and our work alongside other participating agencies. The KLF FSA committee has also sponsored two photo exhibits, providing inspiring and very literal views of hunger.

Q: How can others who are interested in advocating for food security get involved?

A: A great place to start is the KLF website Advocacy page to learn more about current programs, statistics, and ways to get involved.
IN HONOR OF
Lee Accorso
Sam & Barb Accorso
Ben Barber
Samual Comminissaer
Sheila & Gary Bigelow's 50th Anniversary
Ruth Caputo
Louelina Bing
Kalamazoo Round Table
Herb Boyer
Christine & Jim Flagger
Mary Brown
Constance & Jim Bush
Shirley Bumgardner
Kari Wildner
My Birthday
Susan Caufield
Jeanne & Mel Church's 30th Anniversary
Marcia & Charles Lukan
Fr. Bob Cole
Art Cole & Sally Reames
Sharon Dickey
Kari Wildner
Dr. Phil Doyle
Jan & Melvin White
Harold Fitzgerald
William Fitzgerald
Jolene Jackson & Lonnie Hannaford's 15th Anniversary
Carol & Richard Van Antwerp
Phyllis Hepp
Jon Riccio
Marianne & Jim Houston's 50th Anniversary
Corky O'Rourke Thomas
Ken Hudok
Samuel McMillan
Jennifer Johnson
Jon Riccio
Dr. John Kavanaugh's Retirement
Karen & Curtis Finch
James Kirklin
Kalamazoo Round Table
Anne Wend-Lipsay
Rev. Linda & Dr. Frederick MacDonald
Kristine Mauro
Joseph Mauro
Joan Mowery
Grace Hospice Foundation
Heike O'Boyle
Kalamazoo Round Table
Our Children & Grandchildren
Robert & Loree Bagley
Our Friends
Ronald & Donna Holmes
Bernie Rodes' 85th Birthday
Norman & Carol Braksick
Marlin Gerber & Jacqueline Wylie
Jack & Ellen Neal
Mary Lou Rohwer
Elie Thomassen
Kirk Trewsdel
Betty Wels
Guy & Mary Helen Shawkey
Art Cole & Sally Reames
Pat Shiley
Jane & John Hoogerheide
Jon & Karen Taylor's Anniversary
Christine Willhite
Donald Thall
Kalamazoo Round Table
Elizabeth Thall
Kalamazoo Round Table
Robert Thall
Kalamazoo Round Table
Joyce Vandernay
Doug Bos
Max & Frieda Walter's 65th Anniversary
Joyce & Marshall Draper

IN MEMORY OF
Robert Appelgren
Ron & Molly Hamilton
Loretta Atkinson
Keith & Paula Adridge
Robert & Sharron Meisnerhield
Larry Pierce
Linda Slack
Cathy Smith
Nancy Vida
Cindy Beachler
Charlotte Hubbard & Marshall Beachler
Mark McMurray
John Bosker
Richard & Marcia Groenheide
Patricia Breen
Kay Baetsen
Bonnie Brush
Sidney & Robert Brush
Tom Carr
Margie Carr
Bonnie Clark
Martha Vandelinde
Patricia Coleman
Ms. Elizabeth G. Roelofs
Gloria Copeland
Brian & Carol Copeland
Earl Crosby
Anonymous
Kathy Breese
Chris Burt
Paul & Debbie Carlson
Clayton Champion
E Paint Recycling, LLC
Jack & Phyllis Jakway
Joe & Dave Kent
Helen Petersen
Bonnie M. Sparacino
Gerald & Sandra Spears
Thelma J. Van Til
Tom Crooks
Martha Vandelinde
Bob DePierre
Marlene DePierre
James Dillon
Ms. Colleen M. Berger
Lucille Dillon
Ms. Colleen M. Berger
Joseph Dillon
Ms. Colleen M. Berger
George Elliot
Andrea & Thomas Bishop
Don & Yvonne Eversdyk
Prudence D. McCabe
Jennifer & Mical Pugh
Linda & Thomas Riley
Paul & Lesley Triemstra
Helen Flaspohler
David & Jo DeShon
Mary V. Godfrey
Julia Shaw
Frances Graham
Matt & Mary O'Rourke
Thomas Grainger
Thomas & Charissa Oliphant
Joe Grosser
Robert & Lynn Horton
Catherine Grostic
Wendy & David Arnold
James & Marilyn Barney
Kathryn Benton
Irene Booth
Sally & James Brinkman
Billie Halfmann
James Hastings
Carol Hodges
Dorothy Hok
Dan & Sherry Kettenbeil
Rev. Dale & Ruth Krueger
Anne & Alexander Lipsay
Jeffrey & Mary Pellegrum
Clarendt Plott
Robert & Jacqueline Riley
David & Eileen Ruten
Catherine Grostic Cont.
Margaret Welch
Joe & Betty Haas
Ronald & Donna Holmes
Jo Hastings
Karen Maciomed
Carol Hildbold
John & Peggy Costello
Gertrud Hille
Ellen L. Piano
Dorothy Hinckley
Joyce & Todd Kroes
Sue Mater
William Peston
Deb & Suzanne Schauer
Tom James
Diane Dobkins
Jerome Kohel
Martha & Robert Schinderer
Marguerite Kolb
Grant Kolb
William & Gladys Kozar
William & Ellen Kozar
Lance Lambert
Martha Vandelinde
David & Betty Levene
Amy Krueger
Linda Renaud Lutz
Robert & Norberta Renaud
Collene Magnan
Mr. James. Magnan
Violet Maki
Maria Maki & Brian Smith
Fred Meagher
Nancy & Shawn Hagen
Kathy Mizeur
Vincent H. Mizeur
My Parents
Margery & Joe DeRuyter-Smyth
Jaimie Oorbeck
Martha Vandelinde
Frank Ossif, Jr.
Diane Ossif & Gerald Hansen
Carol Passavant
Parchment Garden Club
Sherman Potter
Marilyn J. Smith
Cyndi Puzевич
Connie & Leon Puzевич
Tom Pyke
Susan Pyke
Alvina & Oswald Renaud
Robert & Norberta Renaud
Jessica Renaud
Robert & Norberta Renaud
Doug & Marie Renaud Stone
Robert & Norberta Renaud
Brian Rife
Christina M. Nelson
Roberta June Roe
Margorie Plough
Darrell & Roz Plough
Chuck Jako
Patrick (Pat) Rooney
Martin Glista
Antonia H. Rostami
Mr. Jeffrey Rostami
Darrell M. Rostami
Mr. Jeffrey Rostami
Marilyn Scheel
Mr. John F. Scheel
Martin & Emma Schmitt
Robert & Norberta Renaud
Peter J. Schmitt
Beverly Schmitt
Theodosia & Fred Schneeburger
Brian & Julie Schneeburger
Norm Seim
Tresa Moore
Foster L. Sherwood, Jr.
Marjorie Sherwood
Elizabeth Sinkula
Dorothy & Roland Fancher
Judith Rector

For corrections, mailing database updates or to receive our newsletter via email, please contact KLF’s Development and Communications Coordinator, Katie Munson-Pauwe, at 269.488.2617 ext. 206 or Katie@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

SCHOOL-BASED PANTRIES
KLF’s school-based pantries are highly effective at reaching students and families struggling with hunger. These pantries make it convenient for children, teens and families to access our services in a familiar neighborhood environment.

See school-based pantry stats below!

KLF operates six full-service pantries in local schools that provide four-day food orders to students and families.

KLF operates four hybrid pantries in local schools offering snacks and single meal items to kids and teens.

Full-service school pantries provided 3,242 four-day food orders during the 2017-2018 school year.

KLF’s school-based pantries distributed nearly 70,000 pounds of food during the 2017-2018 school year.

School-based pantries are located in elementary, middle and high schools.