

FOODFOR^{THOUGHT}

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

“We don’t really have much to cook with. Our fridge is in rough shape, and we only have a small frying pan.”

MEET KENNY



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IT'S A GRAY DAY OUTSIDE, just barely reaching 30 degrees. Kenny rides up to the pantry on his bicycle because it's the only transportation he has and, unlike the bus, it doesn't cost anything. He comes into the pantry and chats with a staff member while he waits for his turn to shop.

Kenny shares an apartment with two of his friends. It's cramped, but splitting rent is the only way they all have a roof over their heads. One of his roommates is expecting a child with his long-time girlfriend, and she will be moving in soon as well. They each try to contribute to the household in their unique way. After paying for rent and utilities, the income from their minimum wage jobs doesn't last much longer. One of his friends recently hurt his back and isn't able to work much due to the injury, so things have been extra tight.

“We don't have much to cook with,” says Kenny. “Our fridge is in rough shape, and we only have a small frying pan. We mostly use the microwave.” This situation guides his selections when it's time for him to shop. He gravitates towards foods like canned ravioli, hearty stews, and canned meat. “These kinds of foods work best for me and my buddies. They fill us up, and we can heat them in the microwave.”

When Kenny is nearing the end of his shopping trip, a volunteer asks if he will be able to carry everything on his bike. He chuckles and says, “I've gotten pretty good at balancing. And I just got to make due.” As he heads towards the door, Kenny pauses and turns back to the volunteer. “Thank you. I don't know what we would do without this.”

YOU'VE GOT MAIL

*Client's name changed to protect anonymity.

- A NOTE FROM JEN - MEET BILL BROWN, KLF WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

The latter half of 2019 was busier than ever for KLF's warehouse staff and volunteers. Now that the holidays have come to a close, we sat down with Bill Brown, KLF Warehouse Assistant, to get the inside scoop on how our newly-expanded warehouse has already allowed us to better serve our clients and food donors.

— Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director

Q: If the warehouse's holiday season could be described in one word, what would it be and why?

A: Generosity. The community steps it up a notch during the holiday season. It's amazing to see. During our busiest period, it was not uncommon to have as much as 1600 pounds come through our donation door on a given day. Community donations are very important because they provide variety for our clients.

Q: If someone wants to continue making a regular food donation in the new year, what are you in need of?

A: Jelly and jam. Peanut butter is in good supply, but we lack jelly. Low-sugar canned fruit and boxed meals, too.

Q: How has KLF's recent freezer/cooler expansion helped in terms of food donation, storage, and pantry variety?

A: We've seen a demand for more variety in our pantries. The expansion has allowed us to provide more of what our clients and pantry coordinators expressed an interest in seeing on the shelves. For example, we went from offering six types of fresh, frozen meat in pantries to 26. We also plan to use one section of our expanded space as a "root cellar". This capability makes us better equipped to store larger donations of fresh produce.

Q: What's the most common reaction you get when people step foot inside the newly-expanded space?

A: People are always amazed at the scale of our operations, and I'm excited to see how this new expansion will allow us to better collaborate with farmers, food suppliers, and the community. We welcome everyone to stop in and take a tour so they can see what we're working on with their own eyes.

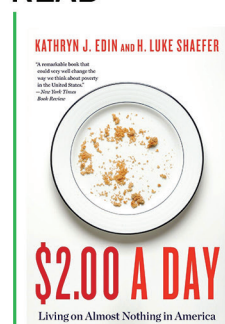


Bill Brown stands in KLF's newly-expanded freezer.

NEW YEAR. NEW PERSPECTIVE.

See hunger and poverty from a new perspective with these critically acclaimed books, documentaries, and podcasts hand-selected by our staff. Check your local library and streaming services for titles.

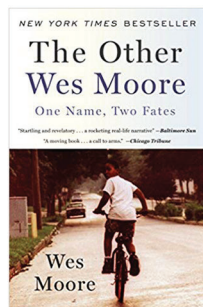
READ



\$2.00 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America by Kathryn Edin



The American Way of Eating: Undercover at Walmart, Applebee's, Farm Fields and the Dinner Table by Tracie McMillan

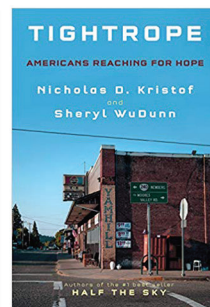


The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore

WATCH



The Starfish Throwers (2014)



Also a book! Tightrope: American's Reaching for Hope by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn (2020)

LISTEN



Podcast Hacking Hunger. Produced by World Food Program USA.



THE TOP 20 FOOD DRIVES SEPTEMBER- DECEMBER 2019

KC FEEDS KZOO

KALAMAZOO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL WITH
HILLSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL & LINDEN GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL
13365 POUNDS

DENOYER CHEVROLET

1606 POUNDS

RADISSON PLAZA HOTEL

1053 POUNDS

RICHLAND FIRE-ROSS FIRE DEPARTMENT

1040 POUNDS

BORGESS HUMAN RESOURCES

976 POUNDS

AEROTEK

970 POUNDS

ZOETIS

960 POUNDS

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

950 POUNDS

ROLLERWORLD

932 POUNDS

PARCHMENT HIGH SCHOOL

870 POUNDS

EDISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

847 POUNDS

NEWELL DESIGN

712 POUNDS

BELL'S BREWERY, INC.

686 POUNDS

ARCADIA ELEMENTARY

670 POUNDS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

669 POUNDS

BOSCH AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE SOLUTIONS

668 POUNDS

COLLEGE PANHELLENIC COUNCIL/IFC WMU

645 POUNDS

PARAGON OPHTHALMOLOGY PC

634 POUNDS

THE CLEANING AUTHORITY

626 POUNDS

MAPLE STREET MAGNET SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

609 POUNDS

NEED FOOD? CAN'T GET TO A PANTRY?

For many people, there can be obstacles to visiting one of our pantries. Lack of transportation, work schedules, illness, and childcare to name a few.

Our **Caseworker Pantry** helps get food into the hands of individuals who may not be able to access our pantries in the traditional sense.

- Local human service professionals can call 269.488.8918 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to schedule a pick-up time for a client's four-day food order.
- Food is pre-packaged but includes both perishable and non-perishable items for each member of the household.
- Food is picked up at KLF's warehouse located at 901 Portage Street in Kalamazoo.

Just like the traditional Grocery Pantry Program, clients can obtain food from the Caseworker Pantry twice per month. Not sure if you qualify as a human service professional, but know a client, student, or another individual who needs help securing food? Reach out to our Services team for more information.



MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:
FEBRUARY
COUPON #196

Spread the love!
Fight hunger this
Valentine's Day.

Donation Amount

\$ _____

Please send your contribution
by February 21st.

Food Wish List: Rice (Bag or Box)

GIVING COUPON:
MARCH
COUPON #197

Start the spring season in
the spirit of giving. Your help
makes all the difference.

Donation Amount

\$ _____

Please send your contribution
by March 20th.

Food Wish List: Canned Fruit

USDA: A NEW CHAPTER

As of October 1, 2019, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes has been approved by the State of Michigan to receive United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) food directly. While we have distributed USDA food for many years, we received it via the South Michigan Food Bank. We were grateful for this connection through the Food Bank; however, as we grew and after we expanded our cold storage, it made logistical sense for the product to come straight to our docks.

What this means:

- We will be receiving a greater variety of USDA products and in larger quantities.
- Perishable products, such as produce and dairy, will arrive fresher and last longer as they will not have spent extra time at a third-party warehouse.
- Larger quantities of produce and dairy, when available, will be offered.
- More USDA food will be coming into Kalamazoo County than ever before.
- While we will still need to purchase approximately 50% of our inventory, this extra product will help round out our selections and quantities.



Above is an example of the food KLF provides to clients through the Grocery Pantry Program.

The USDA food supply can be volatile at times. It is directly affected by what is happening on a national and global level, including factors such as weather and trade policy. Regardless, at any given time, there will be great products from which we can choose. We are excited about this new chapter of our food procurement and for the partnership we have with USDA and the State of Michigan.

WELCOME TO THE BOARD!

We are excited to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors! **D'Angelo Bailey** is an Assistant Director of Development at Kalamazoo College. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the organization from his background in the non-profit sector and fund development. D'Angelo was a member of the Resource Development Committee for a year before joining the Board. **Jeff Pohler** is an Assurance Manager at Plante Moran. Jeff's experience as a CPA and his knowledge of non-profit accounting will be valuable in his role as Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee. He joined the committee this summer before joining the Board. Welcome, D'Angelo (left) and Jeff (right)!



SUSTAINERS CIRCLE MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

The Sustainers Circle Program provides KLF with a stable, continual source of revenue. Monthly gifts make a difference year round, especially when donations are low, but need remains high. **Giving is simple and can be done via credit card, direct debit, or check from your financial institution. It's a convenient, yet very effective way to support the community. And it makes it easy to budget and plan your charitable giving**

To get started, please contact Greta Faworski by phone at 269.488.2617 ext. 208, by email at greta@kzoolf.org, or visit kzoolf.org.

FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON



TRIBUTES

Generous donations made to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes in someone's **HONOR**. Donations made 11/1/19 - 12/31/19.

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Our Children & Grandchildren

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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

KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

Community Celebration

Thursday, March 19, 2020

John E. Fetzer Center | 251 Business Court, Kalamazoo, MI

Hors D'oeuvres | 6 p.m. Presentation | 7 p.m.

RSVP: MANDAKINI AT 269.488.2617 EXT. 206 OR MANDAKINI@KZOOLF.ORG

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

CONNECT WITH US



KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES IS A



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Mandakini Brophy, Dev. & Communications Coord.
Bill Brown, Warehouse Assistant
Patsy Burnett, Program Manager
Paul Bushek, On-Call Warehouse Staff
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214 Kristen Heggie, On-Call Program Coordinator
206 Dave Hafer, Procurement & Transportation Coordinator
217 Kim Hinds-Lepsy, Services & Education Coordinator
210 Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director
217 Ray Kuerth, Volunteer Coordinator
222 Nate Mattson, Financial Analyst
217 Gina Nowling, Douglass Pantry Coordinator
208 Maria Rivera-Ayers, Program Coordinator
201 Nadina Williams-Barrett, Comm. Engagement/Advocacy

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