

FOODFOR THOUGHT

APRIL/MAY 2020



MEET TERRY

TERRY PULLS UP FOR HIS APPOINTMENT. The back of his truck is full of tools and work gear. Terry hasn't been to KLF for food assistance since 2008. "I am a contractor, but all my jobs have been postponed," says Terry. He looks back at the items we are putting in his truck and says, "Wow, that's more than I expected. Thank you—its hard for me to ask for this kind of help."



MEET SANDY

WHEN SANDY CALLED, SHE WAS VERY CONCERNED about how she would get food. She is 70 years old on a fixed income with several medical conditions. Sandy no longer drives and lives alone in a small apartment in Portage. When she heard that KLF was delivering food to those who are homebound, she cried with relief.



MEET ROGER

ROGER ARRIVES FOR HIS APPOINTMENT ON HIS BIKE. It's a very windy day, so he's bundled up. When he made his appointment, Roger told us that he was homeless and didn't have access to any cooking tools or refrigeration. We've pre-packed his order with non-perishable items that don't require cooking. Roger balances the bags on his handlebars, tells us to stay safe, and heads on his way.



MEET LUIS & MARTINA

LUIS AND MARTINA ARE PICKING UP GROCERIES for a household of six. They have two children who are home all day because schools have been canceled until fall. Martina's elderly parents also live with them so their grocery bill has always been pretty high. "With the kids home from school, it has been tougher for us to make ends meet." Luis is still working, but his hours have been reduced. "Thank you—we really appreciate these groceries."

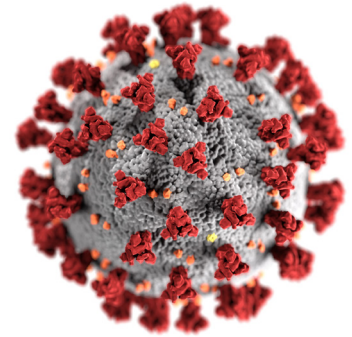
A NOTE FROM JEN: COVID-19 AND HOW WE'RE RESPONDING

We watched the COVID-19 situation develop and began to prepare. Like so many, we hoped it wouldn't escalate and that our emergency plans would not be necessary. But on a Sunday evening in mid-March, members of the leadership team sat around the table and agreed. For the health and safety of everyone, it was time.

KLF has always prided itself on choice and access for everyone. Deciding to temporarily close our extended network and go to pre-packed food orders was very difficult.

However, most of our pantries are staffed by volunteers who fall into the at-risk categories defined by the CDC. We love these volunteers, and their safety was of the utmost importance to us. We also faced the challenge that some of our pantries are housed in facilities that closed, such as public schools and local community centers.

For everyone's safety, staff members and volunteers who fell into the at-risk categories were asked to stay at home. That left us with a skeleton crew of eight staff members. We brought on several temporary staff who were familiar with our system, including an intern and some volunteers. Then we jumped headfirst into our "new normal". Flexibility and nimbleness have been crucial. It hasn't been easy, and we've learned a lot about what doesn't work. This organization grew out of community need, partnerships, and generosity, and that's what will help us all weather this storm. **Like most of you, we grieve for normalcy. But we are so grateful that, with your support, we can continue to help others.**



KLF'S TEMPORARY MODEL

Grocery Pantry Program

- Operating from the KLF main facility on Portage Street in Kalamazoo
- Pre-packed food orders for curbside pickup
- Appointments are still scheduled through the Call Center at 269-343-3663
- Scheduling 20 households every ½ hour from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
- Clients still receive four-days' worth of food for everyone in the household (both perishables and non-perishables)
- Everyone can receive food twice per month
- Additional 20 spots reserved for caseworkers to pick up for home delivery
- Additional 15 spots reserved for home deliveries to those who can't leave home or travel to our main facility
- Twice-monthly deliveries to several residential facilities, such as Rickman House
- **Serving an average of 500-600 individuals daily through this model**

Mobile Food Initiative

- All regularly scheduled mobile food distributions continue to operate
- Pre-boxed, drive-thru model
- Several one-time distributions have been scheduled in key locations

Agency Meal Program

- Continue providing food to several agencies, including YWCA and Jim Gilmore Healing Center, who prepare hot meals for their clients or residents

Commodities Supplemental Food Program (a program for seniors)

- Double distribution was given in April

Emergency and Quarantine Box Distribution

- Providing emergency food boxes throughout the community including Eastside Neighborhood Association, Interfaith Homes, El Concilio, Ecumenical Senior Center, Portage Senior Center, Boys & Girls Clubs, Senior Services, Salvation Army, KRESA, several churches, and other agencies as requested. If possible, we also provide these agencies with perishable items.

**YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS MAKE THIS ALL POSSIBLE.
THANK YOU!**



PLANT A ROW!

Consider growing an extra row of fruit or veggies for those experiencing hunger in Kalamazoo County! Don't have a garden? You can still get involved! Grab extra produce when you visit a grocery store or farmers market. Those struggling with hunger often forego fresh produce when trying to stretch grocery budgets. More info at: kzoolf.org/plant-a-row

MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:
APRIL
COUPON #198

Let medicine be thy food.
Your donation provides nutritional sustenance.

Donation Amount

\$ _____

Please send your contribution by May 15th.

Food Wish List: Canned Tuna

GIVING COUPON:
MAY
COUPON #199

Plant seeds of hope.
Every dollar provides three full meals.

Donation Amount

\$ _____

Please send your contribution by May 29th.

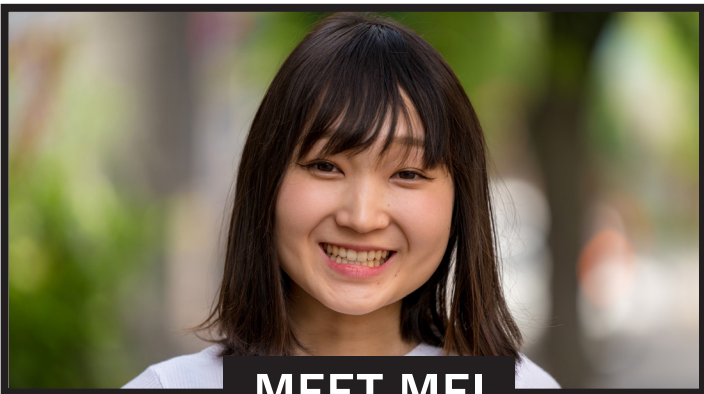
Food Wish List: Canned Veggies



Peace House picks up food to deliver to those in the community who are unable to get to our Portage Street location.

PARTNERSHIP POWER

The past two months have called for creativity—and a lot of help from our partners. In addition to our delivery program, local caseworkers, teachers, and other social service professionals have played a major role in getting food to families. These partners often have the knowledge and trust of food-insecure families who may never reach out to us directly. We get the food orders ready, our partners pick them up, and off they go to deliver them. It's a great way to get more food in the community and for our partners to check on their clients and students during this critical time.



MEET MEI

MEI FIRST REACHED OUT through the KLF Facebook page. She said she was a part-time student at KVCC and had recently lost her job as a server at a local restaurant. "So how do I know if I am eligible for food?" Mei asked. "I really could use some help." When she arrives the next day for her appointment, she is energetic and bubbly. "Thank you!" she yells as she starts to drive off, "This means so much!"

EVENT UPDATES

NATIONAL LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE
The United States Postal Service has postponed this annual food drive. They will announce a new date later in the year.

KALAMAZOO HOT DOG WALK
This annual May fundraiser will be held a little differently this year. For full details on this year's walk, visit hotdogwalk.com.

KLF COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
Originally scheduled in March, we hope to hold this event later in the year.

See more upcoming events at kzoolf.org/events.



CARES ACT AND CHARITABLE GIVING

A stimulus bill called **Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act** was signed into law on March 27th. The **CARES Act** is intended to provide economic relief during this uncertain time.

The Act also includes two important provisions that impact charitable giving. These include:

- Previously, only people who itemize their taxes could claim charitable deductions. **The CARES Act will allow non-itemizers to deduct up to \$300 in cash giving for the 2020 tax year.**
- For those who itemize, the bill lifts the cap on annual giving from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent. For corporate charitable giving, the bill raises the annual limit from 10 percent to 25 percent of taxable income. The cap on deductibility of food donations from corporations increases to 25 percent of taxable income, up from the current 15 percent cap.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO HELP

●●● FIGHT HUNGER ●●●

FOOD

We are still accepting food donations at this time. Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday from 9 am to 3 pm.

We Are Currently In Need Of

Jams/Jelly	Granola Bars	Baking Mixes
Soups/Stew	Canned Meat	Boxed Meals

FUNDS

Food costs are higher than ever. Need continues to increase. We purchase at least 50% of our inventory. With our purchasing power, your donation goes a long way.

AT KLF, \$1-3 MEALS

You can donate online at kzoolf.org.

TIME

We are in need of volunteers! Our current needs include packing food boxes and assembling food orders for pick-up. For health and safety reasons, we have specific volunteer criteria at this time. To learn more, visit kzoolf.org or contact Ray, our Volunteer Coordinator, at ray@kzoolf.org.

SEE MORE WAYS TO FIGHT HUNGER AT KZOLF.ORG



MEET MARCUS & ASHLEY

“WE’VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE,” Marcus says as we open his car’s hatch to load groceries. “My wife and I have both been laid off because of the virus.” Ashley asks if we have formula available for their six-month-old daughter. “Its always been tough to afford, but its really getting expensive now.” After we grab the formula and start to close the hatch on their vehicle, Marcus says, “Thanks—we just never thought we would need this help.”



MAKE A MONTHLY GIFT

During normal times, food insecurity is a year-round issue. The COVID-19 crisis makes the days ahead even more uncertain for many in our community. Establishing a monthly gift is an easy way to make a tremendous impact on an on-going basis.

- Give via credit card, direct debit, or check from your financial institution.
- Convenient, yet very effective way to support the community.
- Makes it easy to budget your charitable giving.
- Provides KLF with a stable, continual source of revenue.
- Helps people in need year-round, especially when donations are low but need is high.

For more information, please contact Greta Faworski at 269-488-2617 x208 or greta@kzoolf.org.

TRIBUTES

Generous donations made in someone's HONOR or MEMORY. Donations made 1/1/20 - 3/31/20.

IN HONOR

Charlotte Hubbard
Linda Hubbard

Linda E. Hubbard
Linda Hubbard

Jennifer Jackson
Karen Urban

Jennifer Johnson
Jon Riccio

KLF Volunteers
David & Sandy Rozelle

Kalamazoo Central Class of 1954
The Ladies of the 80s

Kristine Mauro
Joseph Mauro

Mr. & Mrs. B. W. Maxey
Eva Hanka

Cheryl & Pat McKenna
Barry & Kathryn Steadman

Chuck & Lana Ocvirek
Rachel Packer

Greg Plano
Ellen L. Plano

Dan Pope
Dan & Barb Barber

Jonathan Riccio
Tony & Judith Riccio

Tony & Judy Riccio's 50th Wedding Anniversary
Jon Riccio

Michael F. Rice
Millie Lambert

Karen Statler
Patricia Santek

Ruth E. Thornton
Ronald & Teresa Spruill

Jim & Monie Vandenberg
Maple Hill Auto Group Employees

Carol Widman
Robert Caliva

Jennifer Zuniga
Maria Zuniga

IN MEMORY

Bette Anderton
Gale De Kleine

Cindy Beachler
Charlotte Hubbard & Marshall Beachler

John Bulger
Bob & Candis Warner

Marilyn Burlington
Carol & Rex Grant

Inez L. Camburn
Daniel McIntyre
Ann Camburn
Brian Low
Linda VanZee
Edward Yue

Dr. & Mrs. Moises Cillan
Lauretta Cillan-Chung, M.D.

Bonnie Clark
Martha Vandelinde

Patricia Coleman
Ms. Elizabeth G. Roelofs

David Almon Collins, Sr.
Peter & Mary Anne Collins

Gloria Copeland
Brian & Carol Copeland

Tom Crooks
Martha Vandelinde

James & Lucille Dillon
Ms. Colleen M. Berger

Joseph Dillon
Ms. Colleen M. Berger

Dr. James Dolan
Bill & Carrie Venema

Lexi Doorlag
Sue Mater

James Durecki
Anonymous
Kathleen Anthony
Mr. & Mrs. Balogh
Timothy & Patricia Dent
Lisa Irwin
Christine Jonardi
Evelyn Klein
David Marks
Barbara Ogrin
Robert & Helen Ogrin
Connie Reisterer
Robert & Patricia Townsend

James Forden
J. William Newberry

Mariell Gazdag
Betty Cleland

Hank Girr
Kathy Breyfogle
Kristi & Steve Chapman
Louis & Barbara Farraye
Dean Freng
Eugene & Vivian Wood

Hazel Goorhouse
Geana Goorhouse

Desdamona Hale
Steven Patterson

R. Dayton & Allene Hubbard
Linda Hubbard

Ruthann Humphrey
Stephen Humphrey

Marilyn Jones
Carol & Dave Ticknor

Tonia Kalleward
Kimmy & Scott Getman

Robert Kaufman
Ellen L. Plano

Nancy Kehrl
Laura Berry
Joyce & Michael Siegel

Marguerite Kolb
Grant Kolb

Janice M. Kopen
Florence Brenner

Helen Kosko
Jerome & Kathleen Amrhein

Susan S. Lake
Kerry Lake & Paul Arkinstall

Lance Lambert
Martha Vandelinde

Barbara Leiendecker
Sara Miller

Jane Leversee
Kathleen Fleece

Maxine L. Louden
Lori Klutts

Floyd & Ann Luginbill
Jim Luginbill

Linda Renauld Lutz
Robert & Norberta Renauld

Patricia MacPherson
Kathleen Fleece

Mary F. Marr
Thomas Lent

Beth McLaren
Ken & Evelyn Reid

Kenneth George McMullen
Ligita & Sandra Samsons

Kathy Mizeur
Vincent H. Mizeur
Gale & Kathleen Newell

Dr. Russell Mohney
Eilene Summe

Paul Murray
Patricia Owens

My Sister Karen
Kathleen Burke

Donald Nakken
Gregory S. Nakken

Brian Louis Oman
Don & Mary Lou Oman

Jaimie Oorbeck
Martha Vandelinde

Richard Ostericher
Karen Hiler & Terry Dorcy

Robert Overbeck
Durrell & Marsha McKenzie

Thomas R. Pyke
Susan Pyke

Jessica Renauld
Robert & Norberta Renauld

Alvina & Oswald Renauld
Robert & Norberta Renauld

Patricia A. Rork
Cynthia Sanfilippo
Barbara & Terry Wolowink

Antonia H. Rostami
Mr. Jeffrey Rostami

Darrell M. Rostami
Mr. Jeffrey Rostami

The Ryan and Korinek Families
Susan Korinek

S & B
Kameswara & Vijaya Tatineni

Marilyn J. Scheel
Mr. John F. Scheel

Martin & Emma Schmitt
Robert & Norberta Renauld

Peter J. Schmitt
Beverly Schmitt

Daris Schuring
Carol & Dave Ticknor

Susan Sefton
Susan Pyke
Carol Tolis-Bucklin

Foster L. Sherwood, Jr.
Marjorie Sherwood

Joani Siwik
Christine & Andrea Siwik

Eleanor M. Smith
David & Lynn Houghton

Sandra Snow
Amy Snow-Buckner & Michael Buckner

Tom Sunday
Charlotte Hubbard & Marshall Beachler

Dr. W. Bryan Staufner
Dr. & Mrs. Allen C. Egloff

Doug & Marie Renauld Stone
Robert & Norberta Renauld

Aarend & Verl Stoppelberg
Kathleen Fleece

Kay Stratton
Michael McCarville

C. James & Winona Swope
Paul & Diana Swope

Florence Tiller
Paul & Diana Swope

Shirley Tyndell
Gale & Kathleen Newell

Lois Vale
Al Kreitner

Clara Van Til
Thelma J. Van Til

Kathryn VanDis
Alexander & Anne Lipsey
Michele C. McLaughlin
Richard & Mary Halpert

Gopalam Vanimisetti
Hima Vanimisetti

Roon & Olga Visser
Ineke F. Way

Shirley Walter
Kent & Anne Southworth

Dave Warner
Ron & Molly Hamilton

Marguerite Weber
Carol & Dave Ticknor

Sue West
Lisa Stech

Florence & Barney Westra
Karl W. Westra

John Westra
Karl W. Westra

Sally E. Wrench
Susan & Nicholas Beute
Barbara Redmond

Flora Hoekstra Zeinstra
Gertrude Hoekstra

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, receipts and gifts acknowledgements may be delayed. Because we are short-staffed, all of our administrative and management staff members are in the warehouse and pantry every day. We are not at our desks often, but we are getting a lot of food out the door! We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding!

DATABASE UPDATES?

For corrections, mailing updates, or to change how your newsletter is delivered (via USPS, email, or both), please contact Mandakini Brophy at 269.488.2617 ext. 206 or Mandakini@kzoolf.org.



NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
KALAMAZOO MI
PERMIT NO. 1693

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.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

#VOLUNTEERLOVE

We miss our regular volunteers and appreciate the new faces who have helped over the past month.
YOU MAKE OUR PROGRAMS POSSIBLE!

APRIL/MAY 2020

CONNECT WITH US



KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES IS A



STAFF / BUSINESS OFFICE

269.488.2617
Alysse Breckenridge, Senior Program Manager
Mandakini Brophy, Dev. & Communications Coord.
Bill Brown, Warehouse Assistant
Paul Bushek, On-Call Warehouse Staff
Carol Cormack, Office Coordinator
Seth De Los Santos, Warehouse Assistant
Greta Faworski, Resource Development Director
Lizbeth Fuentes Rosas, Program Coordinator
Joe Galaviz, Warehouse Manager

EXT.
214 Dave Hafer, Procurement & Transportation Coordinator
206 Kristen Heggie, On-Call Program Coordinator
217 Kim Hinds-Lepsy, Services & Education Coordinator
217 Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director
222 Ray Kuerth, Volunteer Coordinator
217 Nate Mattson, Financial Analyst
208 Gina Nowling, Douglass Pantry Coordinator
201 Maria Rivera-Ayers, Program Coordinator
211 Nadina Williams-Barrett, Comm. Engagement/Advocacy

EXT.
212
201
221
213
209
207
225
201
218