



- MAKE AN IMPACT -

An excellent way to provide long-term support to our community is to name Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes as full or partial beneficiary of your life insurance policy. For more information, please contact your insurance agent.

THANK YOU

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

76,122

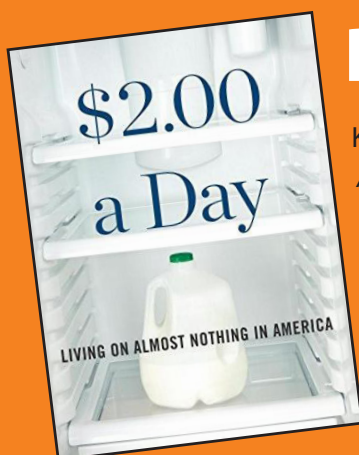
pounds of food for hungry people in our community!



Thanks to the generosity of the Kalamazoo Valley Plant Growers Cooperative and the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Food Innovation Center, KLF was able to hand out approximately 4,480 vegetable plants on May 14th to clients. The variety of donated plants ranged from okra and onions to strawberries and beets and were well-received by those struggling with food insecurity.

The effort is part of KLF's Plant A Row program which aims to promote food security through gardening while also encouraging local growers and gardeners to donate their extra harvest to KLF to help get fresh food into the hands of those who may not have access to it. "My garden is sitting there ready, but I haven't been able to afford plants," said one KLF client at the plant pick-up. KLF will hand out plants through mid-June.

If you'd like to donate fresh produce from your garden, KLF accepts donations Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at 901 Portage Street in Kalamazoo.



READ WITH US THIS SUMMER!

KLF staff is reading Kathryn J. Edin & H. Luke Shaefer's *\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*. This book is an account of poverty in America based on two decades of research and delivers new evidence and new ideas to our national debate on income inequality.

We will host several discussion groups later this summer. Dates will be posted on our website and social media pages. We look forward to hearing your review of the book!



Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

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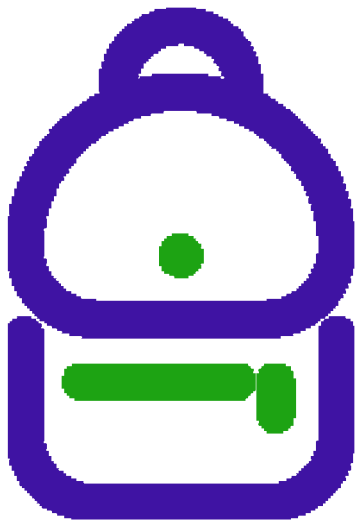
FOOD REQUEST LINE: 269/343-3663
P 269/488-2617 · F 269/343-3669
WWW.KZOOOF.ORG

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



FILLING THE FOOD GAP THIS SUMMER DID YOU KNOW?



70% of Kalamazoo Public School students qualify for free or reduced lunch programs.



48% of Kalamazoo County students rely on school breakfast and lunch programs to meet daily nutritional needs.

KLF sees a demand for services nearly double in July & August when school feeding programs are no longer available for local children.

For information on free summer meals for kids & teens, visit: kresa.org/meetup

JUNE/JULY 2016

Connect with Us



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FOOD for THOUGHT

Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

JUNE/JULY 2016

TRISHA'S STORY



Trisha and her daughter sit patiently at Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' Melzer Pantry until it's their turn to shop. When it's her turn grab a grocery cart, Trisha flashes a warm smile and greets the KLF volunteer with a cheerful hello.

Most who encounter Trisha would never know she's battling cancer. They wouldn't suppose the woman sitting next to her in the pantry was a friend who drove her to get food that morning, and, judging by her demeanor, they certainly wouldn't assume she was struggling to make ends meet.

She thanks KLF volunteers profusely for helping her shop and confesses that her cancer medications leave her with little appetite, but she makes every effort to excitedly chat about the meals she'll prepare from the food on KLF's shelves with her daughter.

"This has been really hard," Trisha shares, "but this service is so helpful. Thank you." It's probably the twelfth time that she's thanked a KLF volunteer since arriving that morning.

The high cost of medical bills and her ailing health has taken its toll. Like so many with stretched budgets, Trisha must allocate the funds she has to pay for necessities and, sometimes, that means reaching out to KLF to fill the food gap during the month.

Her eyes light up when she reaches the produce table. "I love tomatoes," she shares. She places a few in her cart then turns around a moment later, after KLF volunteers encourage her to take as much as she can use, to grab a few more. "They're one food I actually like to snack on," she says as she tucks her second handful into a bag.

Before she leaves, she turns and thanks KLF volunteers one last time. "You have been so helpful. I'm so grateful for this service."

Trisha is a true reminder that hunger does not discriminate. Skipping meals is detrimental to staying healthy and strong, and we're thrilled we can provide a source of nutritious food to aide in her recovery and help her create lasting memories of cooking at home with her daughter. ■

Name changed for anonymity

TOP 10 FOOD DRIVES

JANUARY - APRIL 2016

- 1 District Two Little League
4500 Pounds
- 2 Thomas Ryan Intermediate School
3105 Pounds
- 3 Kiwanis Club of Westside Kalamazoo
1229 Pounds
- 4 Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners
1009 Pounds
- 5 Clark Logic
890 Pounds
- 6 Nulty Insurance Agency
842 Pounds
- 7 Bell's Brewery, Inc.
740 Pounds
- 8 Curves for Women, Romence
645 Pounds
- 9 St. Luke's Episcopal Church
640 Pounds
- 10 Rollerworld
602 Pounds

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

WE ARE HUMBLLED BY THE SUPPORT OF THE KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY. THE FIGHT TO END HUNGER WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

NOTE FROM JEN

For many families, summer months are packed with burgers and s'mores by campfire, lakeside lunches, and an abundance of fresh, seasonal produce. For an equal number of local families, summer months are the breaking point for already-stretched budgets.

It surprises people to hear that summertime is when we see the highest need for food assistance. Over 48% of students in Kalamazoo County rely on free and reduced breakfast and lunch programs to meet their nutritional needs. For many kids, these may be the only meals they receive each day. When schools lock their doors for the summer, families no longer have access to school meals and, more often than not, don't have the resources to replace them.

Missing meals - missing important calories - has a lasting, detrimental effect on growth and brain development. At KLF, we want to make sure that kids are given the best chance to succeed and regular access to food helps them do that. You can play an important role in keeping local children from going to bed hungry this summer by donating to our Food is Fuel Campaign for Kids. The need for our services nearly doubles during July and August, and with each dollar we receive, we can provide a child with enough food for three meals.



Thank you, in advance, for valuing the potential of our young people, and making sure they have adequate nutrition over

the next few months. Your support provides peace of mind for thousands of parents and their children, and it makes all the difference in raising the strong, smart leaders of tomorrow. When you look at the children in your life, can you imagine them going without meals? Help us help local children. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Johnson".

Executive Director

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: RAJZER'S FARM MARKET & GREENHOUSES



You could say that providing food to people is in Chris Rajzer's blood. After his grandfather lost his Chicago grocery store during the Depression, he made his way to Michigan and took up farming to make ends meet. At the time, he probably didn't imagine his grandson would follow in his footsteps, but today Rajzer's Farm Market & Greenhouses proudly stands at 76301 M-51 Highway in Decatur.

Each year Rajzer's Farm donates thousands of pounds of fresh produce to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. They grow 20 crops on 700 acres and always make sure to set aside a portion for KLF. "This is a hobby that got out of hand," Chris Razjer said with a chuckle. "My wife and I started selling produce from a wagon in front of our house in 1977 and this is what it turned into."

Rajzer confesses that he's not one to wear his moral principles on his sleeve; he'd rather share his values through actions and feels strongly that giving to others is one of the best ways to celebrate life. During the farm's busy season, he, his son, and their 40 employees make a concerted effort to clear as much produce from the field as possible. It allows his employees the opportunity to give back in a unique way – by giving their time to glean for those who may otherwise go hungry.

"I'm a believer that if you do good, good will come back to you," Rajzer said.

We want to thank Chris, his son Brian, and their employees for their support. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is able to provide more fresh produce to those experiencing hunger because of their commitment to doing good. ■



Are you interested in helping make Kalamazoo a hunger-free community? We've got a place for you! Attend a brief volunteer orientation to get started.

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

ORIENTATION DATES

SATURDAY, JUNE 11
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29
SATURDAY, JULY 9
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

- OPEN CALL FOR VOLUNTEER - RECEPTIONISTS

We currently have openings for

Volunteer Receptionists

Mondays 8 a.m. - Noon

Tuesdays 8 a.m. - Noon

Fridays 8 a.m. - Noon

We're also looking for dependable volunteers to sub (as your schedule allows) when regularly-scheduled volunteer receptionists are not able to cover shifts.

Four-hour shifts Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Please call Cherise Buchanan at 269-488-2617 ext. 209 or email her at cherise@kzoolf.org for further information.



RAISING A GLASS

Milk Means More and local Harding's Market stores teamed up in May for the Great Michigan Milk Drive. Thanks to the generosity of shoppers, nearly \$8,000 was raised to help KLF provide fresh milk to those experiencing hunger in our community. A matching donation will be made to families in Flint by the United Dairy Industry of Michigan farmers to help combat the effects of lead absorption by providing key nutrients.

"Children need a nutritious diet and full bellies to reach their full potential. We're happy to partner with local businesses to make sure families are getting the help they need to raise healthy and strong kids," Jennifer Johnson, KLF Executive Director, said.

MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:

JUNE

COUPON #152

Consider making a Father's Day donation in someone's name.

Donation Amount

\$ _____

Please send your contribution by June 17th.

Food Wish List: Healthy Snacks

GIVING COUPON:

JULY

COUPON #153

Help ensure local kids have access to proper nutrition this summer.

Donation Amount

\$ _____

Please send your contribution by July 15th.

Food Wish List: Canned Fruit

SAVE THE DATE!

This Year's Dollar Drive-Thru is:

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13TH

Every dollar donated during this 12-hour fundraiser provides a local child breakfast, lunch and dinner for one day.

Dollar Drive-Thru is Sponsored By



THE ONSTAFF GROUP
DOLLAR DRIVE-THRU

TRIBUTES

3/5/16 - 5/9/16 Special thanks to those who honor friends and family through contributions to KLF!

IN HONOR OF

Kalamazoo Central High School Class of 1954

The Ladies of the 80's

St. Luke's Church

Joan Hartman

Abigail & Tiana, Shooting

Survivors of Feb. 20, 2016

John & Cheryl Westbrook

Susan Beute's 73rd Birthday

Harvey Beute

Malcolm Kramer's Birthday

Ronald & Jane Kramer

Jean Cox

Robert Cox

Ruth Drenth's 90th Birthday

Ruth Drenth

Sue Glenn

Elaine & Jacque Hovenkamp

Juanita Goodwin's Birthday

Howard & Robyn Robinson

Jason Heystek's 40th Birthday

Gregory & Rachael Grover

Joe & Laura

Jane & Jeff Puvogel

Robert R. & Norberta J.

Renauld's 66th Wedding

Anniversary

Robert & Norberta Renauld

Tony & Judy Riccio

Jon Riccio

Dr. Josh Vander Weide

Anna Mae Miller

IN MEMORY OF

Isabel Best

Tucky & Chuck Elliott

Charles Bokar

Keith & Paula Aldridge

Patrecia Breen

Kay Baetsen

Jim Brooks

Julie Chenery

Mike Hamilton

Marilyn Burlington

Carol Grant

James Bushouse

Anna & Wayne Nicolen

Patricia Coleman

Liz Roelofs

George Commissaris

Erma Commissaris

Douglas Commissaris

Ronald Cozart

David & Beth Cook

Gerald & Evalyn DeForest

Phil & Kathleen Maneikis

Alyce DeVolder

Catherine Chevalier &

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Bob & Kathy Gadwood

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Linda Mary Renauld Lutz

Robert & Norberta Renauld

Larry MacPhee

District Two Little League

Umpires

Violet Maki

Maria Maki & Brian Smith

Sophia Marvin

Thomas & Charissa Oliphant

Garry McCormick

John Hall

Shawn & Nancy Hagen

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Vincent Mizeur

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Florence, Barney & John

Westra

Karl W. Westra

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Phyllis Crawford

Kay Yunger

Marcia & C. Robert Cowell

Michael Zann

Patricia Carlin

Flora Hoekstra Zienstra

Gertrude Hoekstra