

KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES FOOD for THOUGHT

Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016

EMMA'S STORY

Keeping four boys fueled for success is no easy task. Just ask Emma - she knows from firsthand experience.

Having spent a good portion of her professional career in hotel and restaurant management, Emma made the intimidating and exciting decision to head back to school at age 42. The mother of four knew making this decision would take grit and strategy and was relieved to find an abundance of community resources to help her on her journey. When she and her fiancé found their



budget wasn't keeping their cupboards from going bare, Emma relented and sought help from Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes (KLF). "Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes has eased my burden and allowed me to focus on my kids, go back to school, and follow my dreams of developing an amazing dessert business concept," Emma shared. Emma knew a little bit about KLF before calling the *Need Food* line, but says that visiting the

pantries has changed her perception. "There's fresh produce, vouchers for milk, healthy carbs, canned veggies that I love to use in slow cooker meals - the list goes on and on," Emma gushes. "The foods are so balanced it's like taking a trip to the grocery store."

Her unwavering optimism and eagerness to share recipes from the home-cooked, healthy meals she creates with food from KLF pantries is inspiring, but it does come with lessons learned. "Poverty knows no prejudice. It can happen to anyone, regardless of intelligence, religion, color, sexual orientation, or any other variance," Emma said. She wants anyone who finds themselves in her family's position to know that KLF helps people from all walks of life. "There's no need to go hungry. Reach out to people."

Emma knows her journey is far from over, but she can breathe easier knowing her boys are fed and there's a helping hand just a phone call away should she need it. ■

Client name changed for anonymity

TOP 10 FOOD DRIVES

MAY - AUGUST 2016

- 1 Dollar Tree
3313 Pounds
- 2 Pine Island Church
1588 Pounds
- 3 S & J Laboratories
1349 Pounds
- 4 Relay For Life
1034 Pounds
- 5 Milwood United Methodist Church
853 Pounds
- 6 Rollerworld
684 Pounds
- 7 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
665 Pounds
- 8 Kalamazoo Islamic Center
433 Pounds
- 9 Kalamazoo Christian Middle School
415 Pounds
- 10 Calvary Bible Church
362 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 YOU.

NOTE FROM JEN

Collaborations and volunteers are the heart and soul of Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. Here are some community collaboration highlights from the past few months:

- Our food procurement team had a weekly presence at the Kalamazoo Farmers Market allowing us to receive donations from vendors at the end of market hours on Saturdays (we've received over 2,000 lbs of market donations thus far).
- Kalamazoo Public Schools extended the Summer Food Service Program by one week and the Food Bank of South Central Michigan helped KLF feed Kalamazoo County families at three additional Mobile Food Initiative sites in an effort to further alleviate hunger for children and families during the last weeks of summer.
- Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo worked with KLF staff to evaluate the Weekend Food Pack Program to better understand how we're meeting the needs of children who are food insecure on weekends.
- Ministry with Community (MwC), a local agency containing one of KLF's oldest and busiest pantry, has been hard at work wrapping up construction on their new facility. When construction delays threatened to close the MwC pantry, their pantry volunteers took charge and temporarily moved their operation to KLF's Portage St. location to ensure clients still had access to food.



We close the chapter of another summer season feeling determined and prepared to tackle fall and winter. We know we're well-equipped to handle what's ahead thanks to all of you. ■


Executive Director

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: OLD NATIONAL BANK

When Old National Bank entered the Kalamazoo County market in 2013, it was apparent that being a true community bank was a key component of their mission. To Old National Bank, community banking means not only working hard to be their clients' bank for life, but also means investing in vital community causes and empowering their associates to do the same.

At Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes (KLF), we've seen this commitment to the community firsthand over and over again. On the first Monday of every month, different associates from the seven Old National Bank (ONB) locations in Kalamazoo County take turns volunteering in KLF's Melzer Pantry. Since this partnership began, over 20 associates have helped on this direct service level, working closely with clients to provide a positive, dignified experience. In addition to volunteering in the pantry, ONB associates help each summer with KLF's Dollar Drive Thru fundraiser, and a local Branch Manager has served on the KLF Board of Directors and committees.

Volunteering is only one aspect of how ONB has supported Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. Food drives at each branch have resulted in 2,100 pounds of food donations. And this spring, ONB sponsored KLF's Community Celebration, allowing us to honor volunteers and community partners without having to dip into our own funds to do so. Phil Harbert, Michigan Region President of Old National Bank, spoke at the Community Celebration and reiterated the Bank's commitment to alleviating hunger in Kalamazoo County.

Joe Kiser, Old National Bank's Community Relations Manager,



shared, "Being a part of the community is ingrained in our culture. Supporting community members, including those experiencing rough times, is who we are. We believe strongly in the mission of Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes and are honored to be a partner in this very important work."

Thank you, Old National Bank, for all you do! ■

GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT AT KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES!



We're always looking for extra hands to pitch in during the holiday months, and we'd love to have your help as we wrap up 2016. If you're itching to give back this year, there's still time! Host a food or fund drive, or volunteer with us! Contact

KLF Volunteer Coordinator Cherise Buchanan at 269.488.26178 ext. 209 or email her at Cherise@kzoolf.org to get details about how you can help. ■

MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:
OCTOBER
COUPON #156

This fall season, help by making a donation to help those experiencing hunger.

Donation Amount

\$ _____

Please send your contribution by October 21st.

Food Wish List: Soups/Stews

GIVING COUPON:
NOVEMBER
COUPON #157

Get into the giving spirit! Give a little to those who may otherwise go without.

Donation Amount

\$ _____

Please send your contribution by November 18th.

Food Wish List: Canned Veggies

CORPORATE PANTRY POWER

Kalamazoo County is lucky to have a wealth of companies and businesses that power our economy. We're also extremely lucky that a lot of those companies make it a point to give back to the community they call home. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes benefits firsthand from employee giving initiatives, not only when corporations like Pfizer and Stryker host fund drives for those in need, but also when teams of employees lace up their tennis shoes to put in hands-on volunteer time.

Our Melzer Pantry, located on Portage Street, is often abuzz with volunteers from local financial institutions, government offices, product manufacturers, and healthcare practices. One of the many ways corporations help ease food insecurity in our community is by stocking pantry shelves and assisting clients while they shop for food. These volunteers are part of the 400+ people KLF depends on each week to make our programs function. They make it possible by committing to one or two days each month and, oftentimes, rotating the employees who help so it doesn't burden their business practices and everyone gets an opportunity to give back.

We're always looking for philanthropic-minded groups who want to help at KLF, especially with a new high-capacity pantry opening later this year. If you're interested in learning more about how to get involved, please contact KLF Volunteer Coordinator Cherise Buchanan at 488.2617 ext. 209 or email her at Cherise@kzoolf.org. ■



We've got exciting things happening at KLF this fall, and we need your help to ensure they're successful! Attend an upcoming volunteer orientation and become part of the KLF family.

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

ORIENTATION DATES

SAT, OCTOBER 8
WED, OCTOBER 26
SAT, NOVEMBER 12
WED, NOVEMBER 30

HOW DO WE GET FUNDING?

The majority of our funding is provided by generous community members, foundations and local corporations. It would be impossible to provide the services we do without them.

Sixty-six percent of KLF's funding comes from individual, corporation and group contributions; This is incredible and shows the importance of each gift large or small. Twenty-seven percent of our funding comes from local foundations and corporate grants. The remaining 7% of our funding comes from other investment income, United Way designations, and special events.

Because KLF is so lucky to receive a generous amount of in-kind donations we also account for the food, volunteer time and miscellaneous donations we receive from the community. Some may be surprised to learn that our 2014-2015 in-kind donations equated to over \$4M in support. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes strives to be good stewards of the support we're given and so just 6% of our funding goes toward general management of the organization.

We work hard each day to ensure the support we receive directly touches those who need it most. After all, it's because of the community that we've been able to fight hunger in Kalamazoo County since 1982. ■



IMPACT TIP



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, contact your tax advisor.

THANK YOU CHURCHES

FOR YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE PAST YEAR!

Augusta Fellowship United Methodist Church	Oshtemo United Methodist Church
Bethany Reformed Church	Pathfinder Church
Bethany Women's Bible Study	People's Church
Calvary Bible Church	Pine Island Church
Centerpoint Church	Portage Chapel Hill United Methodist Church
Chapel	Portage United Church of Christ
Christian Life Center	Prairie Edge Christian Reformed Church
Church Women United	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Community of Christ Church	Second Christian Reformed Church
First Baptist Church	Second Reformed Church
First Church of Christ, Scientist	Sisters of St. Joseph
First Congregational Church	Skyridge Church of the Brethren
First Presbyterian Church	St. Ambrose Church
First United Methodist Church	St. Augustine Cathedral
Grace Christian Reformed Church	St. Catherine of Siena
Gracespring Bible Church	St. Joseph Church
Gull Lake United Methodist Church	St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Gull Lake United Methodist Church Sonshine Circle	St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church
Heritage Christian Reformed Church	St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish
Hope Reformed Church	Stockbridge Ave. United Methodist Church
Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Sunnyside United Methodist Church
Jewish Federation of Kalamazoo	Third Christian Reformed Church
Kalamazoo Covenant Church Men's Bible Study	Threads Church
Kalamazoo First Assembly of God	Trinity Lutheran Church
Kalamazoo Islamic Center	Trinity Reformed Church
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church	United Church of God
Lighthouse Community Church	Unity Church of Kalamazoo
Lord of Life Lutheran Church	Unity of Kalamazoo Prayer Group
Milwood Christian Reformed Church	Voyage Church
Milwood United Methodist Church	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Moorepark Community Church	Westwood Christian Reformed Church
North Park Reformed Church	Westwood United Methodist Church
North Presbyterian Church	Zion Lutheran Church

TRIBUTES

6/24/16 - 9/4/16 Special thanks to those who honor friends and family through contributions to KLF!

IN HONOR OF

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Tucky & Chuck Elliott

Meg & John Wonser's 80th Birthdays

Sara Mounger

Larry & Sandy Rose's 60th Anniversary

Jachanan & Mabel Stenesh

Mary Brown's Birthday

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For corrections or mailing
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Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

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P 269/488-2617 · F 269/343-3669
WWW.KZOOOF.ORG

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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

SENIOR HUNGER STATS

- OVER 5 MILLION AMERICANS OVER THE AGE OF 60 ARE FOOD INSECURE.
- IN KALAMAZOO, 8% OF LOCAL SENIORS LIVE ON LESS THAN \$12,000 PER YEAR.
- PEOPLE 65 YEAR OR OLDER REPRESENT 14.5% OF THE U.S. POPULATION, ABOUT ONE IN EVERY SEVEN AMERICANS.
- NEARLY 1 IN 5 SNAP PARTICIPANTS IS ELDERLY OR DISABLED.



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016

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Cherise Buchanan, Volunteer Coordinator
Mary-Elizabeth Bell, Finance/Office Coordinator
Paul Bushek, Warehouse Assistant
Art Cole, Services Director
Joe Cook, Warehouse Assistant
Bob Dekker, Warehouse Assistant
Greta Faworski, Resource Development Director
Linda Fox, Call Center Coordinator
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