

KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

FOOD for THOUGHT

Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

DENNIS'S STORY

Dennis wasn't sure what to expect as he nervously approached the front doors of Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes on Portage Street. He had spent the weekend wrestling with the decision to seek help with groceries having never needed to do it before, but since taking in his three young grandkids he was having a hard time making ends meet.

The woman at the front desk greeted him with a smile and listened intently as he explained that he was temporarily looking after his grandkids and, despite working full time, was in need of some help. He breathed a sigh of relief when he was asked to take a seat in the lobby to wait for someone to assist him.

Dennis was surprised to learn that he would be assigned to shop at the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes pantry closest to his home that same day and that he could choose the foods his family needed most. "Here I thought maybe I'd get a box or two of food and be sent on my way," Dennis shares, "But instead I was able to pick out the foods I knew my grandkids would eat and that I could make into meals and save for leftovers."

"Asking for help wasn't easy," Dennis admits. "I've always been independent and able to stand on my own two feet, but I had to put my pride aside and make sure we had what we needed to get through the month."



Dennis hopes his trips to KLF's pantry are few and far between, but is grateful the service is available should a car repair or broken furnace throw a wrench in his monthly budget.

"I was shocked to learn that KLF helps an average of 700 people per day," Dennis said.

"Hearing that made me realize that there are many others in my shoes."

Dennis is grateful he can provide a sense of security to his grandkids, and he's thankful to live in a community that helps its neighbors thrive. ■

Client name changed for anonymity



**RUN THROUGH THE LIGHTS
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**
www.gazellesports.com

Grab your friends and family for this fun run through the holiday lights in downtown Kalamazoo! Proceeds from this holiday tradition benefit Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

All event participants are required to wear lights and reflective gear. Compete to win prizes for this year's Best Holiday Costume or Most Family Members at the Event!

PRESENTING SPONSOR



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EVENT HOSTS



NOTE FROM JEN

Imagine the holiday season without tables full of delicious family recipes and counter tops overflowing with goodies from friends and neighbors. Oftentimes we take these routine elements of holiday memory-making for granted. For nearly 40,000 people in Kalamazoo County, sitting down to a table abundant with food this time of year may be dream rather than reality. Families are left to make difficult choices. Paying the rent. Filling the car with gas to get to work. Keeping the house warm in the winter. When the monthly necessities are covered, there's often little money left for food.

For 35 years, our community has partnered with KLF to provide food assistance to those trying to make ends meet, especially this time of year. From holiday food drives and new volunteer groups lending a helping hand, to local businesses getting creative to generate community support to fight hunger - our

community fosters hope for so many and makes it possible for people to share wholesome, healthy meals around the dinner table. We're asking that, while wrapping up another year celebrating family traditions, you consider starting or carrying on a tradition of giving.

Every dollar donated to KLF stays local, has

an immediate impact, and provides enough food for three full meals. Your gifts allow those struggling to go to sleep at night with the faith that tomorrow will be better. What better gift could there be?

From the KLF family to yours – happy holidays. We wish you a healthy and joyful new year. ■


Executive Director



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: KALAMAZOO CENTRAL'S STUFF THE BUS



Over the past five years, the ambitious students at Kalamazoo Central High School have donned their Maroon Giants gear and braved cold temps to pack a school bus full of food for people struggling with hunger in Kalamazoo County. They mingle with shoppers outside of local Harding's market stores, encouraging people to donate what they can. Their efforts have been instrumental in helping Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes fill pantry shelves during the holiday season, generating over 25,000 pounds of donated food since 2011. This year, students are gearing up for another morning of food-filled fun on **December 10th from 9 a.m. - noon at Harding's Market locations on West Main and Stadium Drive.**

Students at Kalamazoo Central make Stuff the Bus a priority largely due to their exposure to a diverse school district and community as a whole. Students expressed that they see how important good meals are to the success of their peers, both in and out of the classroom, and wholeheartedly believe everyone deserves the opportunity to not worry where their next meal will come from.

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is honored and grateful to have the support of students who want to make a difference in their community. Their efforts serve as a great reminder of the good that can be accomplished when a group of determined individuals come together for a common cause.

Thank you, Kalamazoo Central students and staff! The holidays are made brighter for so many because of you! ■



We have the perfect
volunteer position for you!
Join us at an upcoming
orientation to learn more!

Orientation Dates

December 10th
January 14th
January 25th

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

MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:
DECEMBER
COUPON #158

'Tis the season to give.
Your donation stays local
and has an immediate impact.

Donation Amount
\$ _____

Please send your contribution
by December 16th.

Food Wish List: Canned Meat

GIVING COUPON:
JANUARY
COUPON #159

Start the New Year by
extending a hand to
someone in need.

Donation Amount
\$ _____

Please send your contribution
by January 20th.

Food Wish List: Beef Stew



**OVER 400 VOLUNTEERS PITCH IN EACH WEEK TO HELP
FEED HUNGRY PEOPLE IN KALAMZOO COUNTY.
THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING COMMUNITY!**



IN DEMAND ITEM: PROTEIN

One of the most in-demand items Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' pantries stock is high-protein food. Oftentimes people with limited food budgets have to forego purchasing higher cost food like fresh or canned meat, dairy and high-protein soups and stews. For this reason we try to make sure we have options available in all of our pantries to help clients maintain a well-balanced diet and access nutrients to keep them healthy.

Protein plays an important role in the human body, and at KLF we understand the important role food plays in keeping the community healthy and strong. If you're donating food this holiday season, consider donating high-protein items like canned chicken or fish, high-protein soups and stews, or healthy fruit and nut mixes. ■



WHAT YOUR GIFTS MAKE POSSIBLE

The community plays a vital role in Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' ability to feed as many people as we do each day. Only three percent of our funding comes from federal sources and that means the other 97% comes from grants, bequests, designations, and donations from individuals, groups and corporations. For nearly 35 years, you have answered the call when neighbors are struggling with hunger and have helped us grow from our beginnings

in a church basement to now 23 pantries county wide. Your help was instrumental in making 2016 a success and allowed us to further fight hunger in Kalamazoo County.

IMPACT TIP



Have a hard-to-shop-for someone on your list this holiday season?

Give to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes in their honor!

- Your gift stays local and has an immediate impact.
- For every \$1 gifted, you'll provide three meals for someone in need.
- KLF can provide to you or mail special gift recognition cards for your recipients.

Visit kzoolf.org for donation details.

The largest of our programs, the Grocery Pantry Program, continues to thrive providing nearly 700 people with grocery assistance each day.

We're committed to providing both perishable and non-perishable food items in each of our pantries and it's with your help that we can continue to offer fresh dairy, fresh produce, and fresh meat to those who need it.

We're now welcoming groups of volunteers to our warehouse each month to assemble Weekend Food Packs for local elementary school children. Packs are distributed to 850 children each week to bridge the gap during weekend hours when food may be limited at home. **We're also gearing up to open another high-capacity food pantry in the Northside neighborhood in early 2017.** Once fully functioning, the pantry will serve an additional 200 households per month.

Thanks to the generosity of local growers and the help of weekly volunteers, we were able to glean and process 27,500 pounds of food donations from the Kalamazoo Farmers Market between the months of July and October. The donations from this first-year endeavor created an additional 22,900 meals for people in our community.

As we begin to wrap up another year, we want to extend our most sincere gratitude for your support. You allow us to tackle local hunger in new ways and continue to be the reason the 40,000 individuals and children struggling with hunger in Kalamazoo County don't have to go to sleep with empty bellies. Thank you. ■

TRIBUTES

9/5/16 - 10/31/16 Special thanks to those who honor friends and family through contributions to KLF!

IN HONOR OF

Sue Beadling

Bob & Jean Christie
Samuel & Abigail Berman
Eleanor J. VanZandt

Margaret Carr

Barbara Guse

Father Robert Cole

Art Cole & Sally Reames

Bob & Diane Dekker's 50th Anniversary

Roy & Mary Ackerman
Colleen Anspach
Jacqueline & Larrie Austin
Michael & Ruth Benovic
Nancy & Steven Bird
Tim & Angie Butcher
James Butterly, Sr.
Dan & Susan Curtiss
Karen Curtiss
Sandra & Dale Dejong
Kathie & William Dekker
Roger & Barb Dekker
Shirley & Douglas Deyoung
James & Yvonne Hackenberg
Wilbur & Marilyn Leer
Jim & Jan Merkle
Harold & Lola Nutter
Richard Nutter, Jr.
Donald & Esther Nutter
Paul & Denise Otis
Deb & Mike Pattison
Dave & Dot Riley
Clyde & Dolly Simeroth
Deb & Gerry Spitters
Janet Witt

Marshall & Joyce Draper's 31st Anniversary

Marshall & Joyce Draper

Bob & Jane Elyea's 50th Anniversary

Sue & John Czuk

Dr. Kevin Hallgren

Jan & Melvin White

Joan Hawxhurst & Steve Bertman

Edwin Martini & Genanne Zeller

Msgr. Michael Hazard

Joyce K. Thran

Phyllis Hepp

Jon Riccio

Jennifer Johnson

Kim & Kevin Labadie

Nancy Klee's Birthday

Marlena Holden

John & Linda Mason

Sheila & Gary Bigelow

Karen McPhail

Dr. Mark Orbe & Mrs. Natalie Jones Orbe

Reagan Mead

Jean Lealofi

Lisa Pascoe's Birthday

George Lennon

Pasta Pals

Shirley Bumgardner

Barbara Patterson

Barbara & Richard Ley

Janet Perkins

Barry & Carolyn Packard

Dr. Romeo & Mrs. Patricia Phillips

Von & Fran Washington

Beverly Pollard

Alton & Beverly Pollard

Susan Pyke's Birthday

Lisa Vigneault

Laura White

Sherry Devries' Mother

Joanna

Stoppelberg Family

Kathleen Fleece

USPS Mail Carriers

Nancy Jones

Joseph Tocco

Jean Lealofi

Lynn Ann Weller's Birthday

George Lennon

IN MEMORY OF

Robert P. Amrhein

Jerome & Kathleen Amrhein

Bette Anderton

Carl & Gale DeKleine

Mary Anson

Robert Anson

Effie Bauer

Maria Maki & Brian Smith

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Joan Hoffman

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Susan Kiser

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Frank Shinkonis, jr

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Mary Ann Stratman

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Joann Carlson

Thomas Carr

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Patricia Catrow

Westnedge Hill Walkers

Emilia Caviani

Maria Maki & Brian Smith

Karen B. Cernik

Joseph Cernik

Joseph J. Cernik

Patricia Coleman

Liz Roelofs

Gloria Copeland

Thursday Morning Musicians

Patricia Albertson

Luanne Brown

Janet Cavanaugh

Art Cole & Sally Reames

Kyle & Barb Elmsblad

Trudy Grantham

Francis & Toni Gross

Bill & Margaret Hendriksen

Shirley Horn

Dorothy Kasunic

Karenda Klosowski

Alexander Lipsey & Anne Wend Lipsey

Janice M. Mackay

Dr. Ruth Ann Meyer

Paul & Anne Pancellia

Kevin Ricco

Sister Susan Ridley, O.P.

John & Mary Pat Schermerhorn

Joyce K. Thran

Mary Ann Voss

Diane D. Worden

Bob Crowhurst

Joan Crowhurst

Georg Ann Eberle

James & Sharon Bosco

Robert R. Elwell

Janice Elwell

Jim Fineout

Amy & Gerald Morris

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Gail Fitzpatrick-Fox

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Dan Gehl

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Tony & Julie Genovese

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Bob Groggel

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Gertrude Hoekstra

Geoffrey Hoover

David & Candace Docken

Robert Doti

Patricia Gherardi

Douglas Krueger

Kathy Lamin

Elaine Mihalyfi

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Patricia & Scott Schrum

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Fran Phelps

Sharon Dickey

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Inez Pochyla

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Robert & Norberta Renauld

Jessica Ann Renauld

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Brian Rife

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Darrell M. Rostami

Mr. Jeffrey Rostami

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Martin & Emma Schmitt

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Sidonie L. Shane

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The Howlands

Peter & Marilyn Caine



Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

901 PORTAGE STREET
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FOOD REQUEST LINE: 269/343-3663
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WWW.KZOLFF.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



KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



\$1 = 3 MEALS

YOUR GIFT STAYS LOCAL
AND GIVES HOPE TO SOMEONE
WHO IS STRUGGLING.
DONATE AT KZOLFF.ORG

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

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Staff / Business Office

269.488.2617
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Cherise Buchanan, Volunteer Coordinator
Paul Bushek, Warehouse Assistant
Art Cole, Services Director
Joe Cook, Warehouse Assistant
Bob Dekker, Warehouse Assistant
Greta Faworski, Resource Development Director
Mary Foley-Wilson, Accounting Coordinator
Linda Fox, Call Center Coordinator
Joe Galaviz, Warehouse Assistant

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