

# KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES **FOOD** for **THOUGHT**

*Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982*

DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

## OMAR'S STORY

For most people, there's an assumption that if you work hard and do your part to contribute to society, your efforts will be rewarded in the form of self-sufficiency. The long hours spent away from family are worth it when it means you'll earn enough to cover basic needs and have the ability to maintain a small savings. The reality is that, for many, long hours on the job don't provide enough to cover basic needs, and they find themselves on the constant verge of financial disaster. What's worse is when a temporary injury leaves someone struggling to make ends meet unable to work at all. That's the reality Omar was faced with earlier this year.

"I've always worked hard, and it happened at the worst time," Omar solemnly shares. "I am also supporting another family member right now so we're both in a bind."

Omar lost his job when he found himself unable to work due to a back injury. As a result of losing his job, he was evicted from his apartment located within a senior retirement complex. He's saddened by the situation not only because he's left scrambling to find a new place to live, but also because he has always played by the rules.

"I paid taxes all my life. I don't drink or do drugs. I have no criminal record. I even have teaching credentials. This just feels so tragic," Omar says.



Despite feeling defeated, Omar didn't let his disappointment tarnish his work ethic, and he's very grateful for KLF's services. After months of living on the streets, he shares that receiving help with groceries has allowed him to put money towards the gas he needs to get to work and finally cover the security deposit for a new apartment.

Now working two jobs, he looks forward to leaving his situation behind him. Unfortunately, the feeling of financial uncertainty is a not-too-distant

*Client name changed*

*for anonymity*



**ONE DOLLAR PER DAY  
KEEPS HUNGER AT BAY**  
**KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES  
2017 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**

PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING A  
GIFT TO HELP KALAMAZOO  
COUNTY FAMILIES IN NEED.

**VISIT  
KZOOLF.ORG  
TO GIVE A GIFT**

**FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT GIVING,  
CONTACT GRETA FAWORSKI AT  
269.488.2617 EXT. 208**



**Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is a  
Guidestar Platinum Charity!**

Guidestar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofits, and less than 8% of the charities in their database hold the platinum ranking. You can rest assured that the funds you donate are truly making an impact in Kalamazoo County. Only 9% of KLF's yearly expenses are administrative costs.

## - A NOTE FROM JEN -

This time of year can be especially trying for those struggling to make ends meet. This is a season synonymous with tables dressed in old family recipes and gathering with gifts in hand for friends and loved ones. But for the nearly 40,000 people in Kalamazoo County who grapple with hunger each day, the holidays are a time to simply get through in hopes that the flip of the calendar will bring a reprieve from the relentless stress of poverty.

We're fortunate to be in a community that stands strong for neighbors facing hardship, and we encourage you to start the new year alongside us to fight hunger here at home. A few ways to get involved over the next year include:

**DONATE:** Each dollar donated to KLF provides three full meals for someone in need, and donated food provides food variety within our 24 pantries.

**VOLUNTEER:** KLF relies on an average of 450 volunteers per week to make our programs possible. Visit [kzoelf.org](http://kzoelf.org) to see how to get started.

**ADVOCATE:** Share KLF information via e-mail and social media with your friends, family, and followers to raise hunger awareness and encourage people join the fight to end it.

**READ A BOOK:** Gain a greater understanding of the underlying causes of hunger in America by reading a book like *\$2 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America* by Kathryn J. Edin.

**SPUR CHANGE:** Learn about, and advocate for, better policies and legislation surrounding the root causes of hunger and poverty - fair wages, family leave policies, food access, housing costs, etc.

Thank you in advance for your gift and support of our mission. From the KLF family to yours - happy holidays.



We wish you and yours a healthy and joyful new year.

Executive Director

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: MAPLE HILL AUTO GROUP



There's no better place to be for the holiday season than Kalamazoo County. When the giant Santa Claus appears downtown, that's often the cue to grab the lawn chairs and head to Michigan Ave. for the Holiday Parade or to lace up your sneakers and enjoy the colorful decor at *Run Through the Lights*. For many, these events have become family traditions. For one local business, they're one of the many ways in which they give back.

Maple Hill Auto Group has been the presenting sponsor of the *Kalamazoo Holiday Parade* and *Run Through the Lights* for many years. Jim Vandenberg, owner of the business, has a big heart for those struggling with basic needs. He has also been a longtime supporter of Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

"Everyone should experience a little magic during the holiday season, even if they're experiencing hardship," said Jim Vandenberg. "We support these programs to bring joy to the entire community and to encourage people to extend a hand to others as they celebrate the season."

Vandenberg understands that the holidays can be a stressful time for families trying to make ends meet. His father passed away when he was nine leaving his widowed mother, Louise, to provide for herself and her three children. For a time, the family utilized Aid to Dependent Children, a program that provided financial assistance to kids whose families had low or no income. Louise was determined to provide the kind of life she and her husband had envisioned for their children, and her hard work and determination eventually allowed her to send her kids to college.

We want to thank Jim Vandenberg and the staff of Maple Hill Auto Group for all they do for our community. The holiday season wouldn't be what it is without their support.



## TOUR OUR SPACE

It's amazing to witness the community spirit that comes alive during the holiday season at Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. We invite you to be a part of the action by touring our facility, located at 901 Portage Street, with us! No RSVP required!

**DECEMBER 13**  
**4-5 PM**

**JANUARY 18**  
**10-11 AM**

If you'd like to schedule a date and time for you or a group to tour our facility, please call Greta Faworski at 269.488.2617 ext. 208, or email her at [Greta@kzoolf.org](mailto:Greta@kzoolf.org).

### MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:  
**DECEMBER**  
COUPON #170

Get into the spirit of the holiday season by sharing a meal with someone in need.

Donation Amount  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your contribution by December 15th.

Food Wish List: Cooking Oil

GIVING COUPON:  
**JANUARY**  
COUPON #171

Resolve to give in 2018. Every dollar you donate provides three full meals.

Donation Amount  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your contribution by January 19th.

Food Wish List: Beef Stew

## THANK YOU



**TO THE OVER 400 VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP MAKE OUR FOOD PROGRAMS POSSIBLE EACH WEEK - THANK YOU. THIS WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.**

## FOOD FUNDS VOLUNTEERS ADVOCATES

The food and funds donated.

The hours spent assisting with KLF services and events.

The voices lent to conversations about local and federal food programs.

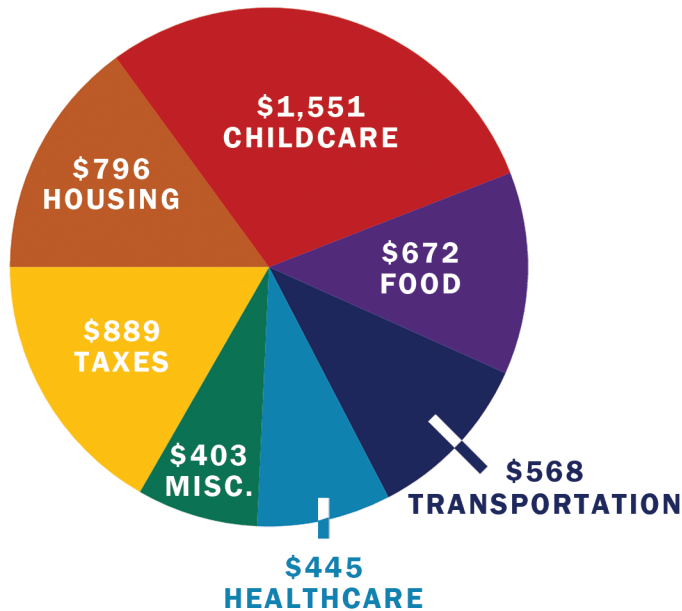
**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE IN 2017 TO FIGHT LOCAL HUNGER.**

# WHY SO MANY STRUGGLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY

HUNGER IS AN UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCE OF POVERTY, AND FOR MANY KALAMAZOO COUNTY FAMILIES, MEETING BASIC NEEDS IS STILL AN UNATTAINABLE GOAL. HERE'S HOW WAGES STACK UP AGAINST THE COST OF LIVING IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY.

For more information about Michigan's Self-Sufficiency Standards, visit [SelfSufficiencyStandard.org/Michigan](http://SelfSufficiencyStandard.org/Michigan)

## REAL MONTHLY COST TO MEET BASIC NEEDS IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY HOUSEHOLD WITH 2 ADULTS AND 2 YOUNG CHILDREN



## \$8.90

THE CURRENT MINIMUM  
WAGE IN MICHIGAN.

## \$14.37

THE HOURLY WAGE A HOUSEHOLD  
WITH 2 ADULTS AND 2 YOUNG  
CHILDREN REQUIRES TO MEET  
THEIR BASIC NEEDS.



41% OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY  
HOUSEHOLDS STRUGGLE TO MEET  
THEIR BASIC NEEDS.

[www.UWMich.org/Alice](http://www.UWMich.org/Alice)



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.

## IT TAKES BOTH: FOOD + FUNDS

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes can provide a four-day food supply for **less than three dollars**. Because of our pennies-on-the-pound purchasing power, we're able to stretch the funds you gift us to the max. We make a commitment to offering fresh produce, dairy, and meat in all of our pantries, which means we need to purchase those food items that aren't typically donated. During our last fiscal year, KLF secured 27% of our food through the wholesale market.

While the *monetary donations* we receive make it possible to continue our vital food programs and serve nearly 700 people per day, *food donations* allow us to provide variety within our 24 Grocery Pantry locations. Last fiscal year, 8% of our food came from community food drives and food donations. Food variety is key to meeting clients' needs in a way that respects their dignity. Clients are able to access food that allows them to maintain a diet based on their health, cultural, religious, or lifestyle needs.

Donations from our community (volunteer hours included) have always been the mighty force behind our mission. Whether you donate food, funds, time, or any combination of the three to our organization, know that they work in tandem to effectively carry out our mission and feed those experiencing hunger in our community.



# TRIBUTES

9/11/17 - 11/06/17 Special thanks to those who honor friends and family through contributions to KLF.

## IN HONOR OF

### Lee Accorso

Sam & Barb Accorso

### Larry & Nancy's Wedding

John & Joyce Petro

### Margaret Carr

Kay Vermeulen

### Bob & Jean Christie

Sue Gilbertson-Beadling

### Pam & Al Cox

Jane & Jon Streeter

### Harold Fitzgerald

William Fitzgerald

### Helen & Ron Flaspohler

Anonymous

### Frank & Toni Gross

Angela Gross

### Phyllis Hepp

Jon Riccio

### K Central Class of 1954

The Ladies of the 80s

### Marvin King

Jon Riccio

### Alexander Lipsey's Birthday

Rene Meave

### Anne Wend-Lipsey

Wes & Annmarie Freeland

### Ben Longstreth

Jane & Jon Streeter

### Katie & Scott Longstreth-

### Tokstad

Jane & Jon Streeter

### Paul Matyas' Retirement

Mary Anderson

### Karen McPhail

Dr. Mark Orbe &  
Mrs. Natalie Jones Orbe

### Katie & Andy's Wedding

Kari & Tony Benjamin Hamann

### Kathy Shultz

Jane & Jon Streeter

### Dr. Eric Shay

Anonymous

### Christine & Andrea's Wedding

Sandy Mastromatteo

### Maggie Woodruff

James Woodruff

### Tom & Rachel's Wedding

Robert & Judith Shrimplin

## IN MEMORY OF

### Effie Bauer

Maria Maki & Brian Smith

### Pat Bigelow

St. Martin of Tours  
Episcopal Church

### Linda Black

Janet Kovach

### Esther Brush

Joseph Markus  
Joyce Steeby

### Claire Callan

Ellen L. Plano  
Stephen & Marlene Denenfeld

### Karen B. Cernik

Joseph & Julie Cernik

### Bonnie Clark

Martha Vandelinde

### Patricia Coleman

Elizabeth G. Roelofs

### Gloria Copeland

Brian & Carol Copeland

### Lou Cronkite

Rick Cronkite

### Tom Crooks

Martha Vandelinde

### Eva DeHollander

Elizabeth Williams

### Bob DePierre

Marlene DePierre  
Robert Lihosit &  
Pamela DePierre

### Rachel Drafta

Robert & Terri Drafta

### Evan Ebling

Moyra M. Ebling

### Tucky Elliott

Kate Barnes  
Chuck Elliott

### Barbara Foster

Nancy & Ronald Creech

### Robert Goodwin

Cynthia Bilger  
Michael McCarville  
Roger & Molly Williams  
Larry Bilger  
Donna Blair  
Andrew Bilger  
Barbara & Reuben Calow  
Fred Douglas  
Nancy & William Fish-Stone  
Kay Gebhart  
David Lundquist  
Pamela Moons

### Ed Grau

Pat & Michael Kiser

### Dora J. Gressley

Sharon Dickey

### Helen Haase

Howard DeGood  
Richard & Marcia Groenheide

### Desda Hale

Adele Paxson

### Jo Hastings

Karen Macklom

### Robert Heckema

Donna & Russell Dusseljee

### Lori Hernandez

Lydia Garcia

### Grace Hoekstra

Gertrude Hoekstra

### Wanda Hoy

David & Diane McClendon  
Robert & Linda Powell  
Jamie Pribble  
Tom & Chris Tenney  
Diana & Thomas Hoy  
Patricia Ann Lemanski  
Southern Bleacher Company  
Patricia & Leonard Wilcox

### Arturo & Dora Johnson

Olga Mercado

### Louis Klein

Elaine Kuntz

### Marguerite Kolb

Grant Kolb

### Gladys & William Kozar

William & Ellen Kozar

### Louise Kracker

Joyce K. McNally

### Lance Lambert

Martha Vandelinde

### Bob Laverack

Gary & Deb Bradshaw

### Maxine Loudon

Lori Klutts

### Grant Luther

The Morabito Family  
Barbara & Charles DeVries  
Barbara Fox  
Carol Hilboldt  
Robert & Patricia Huiskamp  
Edward & Marianne Huttlin  
Diana Wagoner & Family

### Linda Renauld Lutz

Robert & Norberta Renauld

### Colleen Magnan

James A. Magnan

### Violet Maki

Maria Maki & Brian Smith

### Sandra L. Manifold

Julia Miller

### Katie Higgins Metheny

Bob & Marguerite Higgins

### Kathy Mizeur

Vincent H. Mizeur  
Gale & Kathleen Newell

### Matt Morgan

Michael & Shirley Summers

### Egon Nithammer

Loretta M. Walsh

### Jack Nuyen

Christine & Thomas Hamilton

### Chavelo Olivarez

Olga Mercado

### Jaimie Oorbeck

Martha Vandelinde

### Thomas Oorbeck

Jean A. Oorbeck

### Frank Ossiff Jr.

Diane Ossiff & Gerald Hansen

### Richard Petrick

Sue Mater

### Alvina & Oswald Renauld

Robert & Norberta Renauld

### Jessica Renauld

Robert & Norberta Renauld

### Doug & Marie Renauld Stone

Robert & Norberta Renauld

### Joan Rentschler

Dave Rentschler

### Hazel Rhodes

Marguerite Clay  
Charles E. Miller

### Antonia H. Rostami

Mr. Jeffrey Rostami

### Darrell M. Rostami

Mr. Jeffrey Rostami

### Carole Kohli Saye

Suzanne & Jack Smith

### Marilyn Scheel

Mr. John F. Scheel

### Martin & Emma Schmitt

Robert & Norberta Renauld

### Harvey Seilheimer

Katherine Seilheimer

### Barbara Sheldon

Mr. David A. Sheldon

### Foster L. Sherwood, Jr

Marjorie Sherwood

### Joani Siwik

Richard & Susann Arlington

Patricia Dehart

Sandra Howard

Sandy Mastromatteo

Christine J. Siwik &  
Andrea Patka

### Georgiana Smith

Maria Maki & Brian Smith

### Sylvia Smith

Allison & Robert Leonard

### David Stratman

Mary Ann Stratman

### C. James & Winona Swope

Paul & Diana Swope

### Captain William Tony Tolbert, USAF Retired

Von & Frances Washington

### Jennie Usitalo

Maria Maki & Brian Smith

### Richard Van Marren

Phil & Betty DeYoung

### Roon & Olga Visser

Ineke F. Way

### Carole Walsh

Ronald & Nancy Honeysett

### Shirley Walter

Stan & Chris McGrew

### Barbara Young

Anonymous

### Johanna & Henry Yzenbaard

Mike & Shirley Lohrberg

### The Yzenbaard/Hassing Family

Joyce Yzenbaard-Clark &  
Patrick Clark

---

For corrections or mailing  
database updates,  
please contact KLF's new  
Development Assistant,  
Katie Paauwe, at  
269.488.2617 ext. 206 or  
Katie@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.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

GRAB YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND HEAD TO THE MOST FESTIVE FUN WALK/RUN IN KALAMAZOO!

Run  
through  
the  
Lights

DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>  
6 PM

BRONSON PARK | DOWNTOWN

REGISTER NOW AT  
GAZELLESPO RTS.COM

PARTNERSHIP WITH GAZELLE SPORTS AND  
KALAMAZOO AREA RUNNERS  
EVENT BENEFITS KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

PRESENTING SPONSOR  
MH Maple Hill auto group  
driven by trust and integrity

ADAMS OUTDOOR ADVERTISING | TOWNSQUARE MEDIA

AGILITY PHYSICAL THERAPY AND SPORTS PERFORMANCE | GREENLEAF HOSPITALITY GROUP | NULTY INSURANCE  
GORDON WATER | MILLER DAVIS COMPANY | PANERA BREAD | THE CANOEUM | WALMART



DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

## CONNECT WITH US



KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES IS A



## STAFF / BUSINESS OFFICE

269.488.2617  
Joan Atwell, Call Center Coordinator  
Bill Brown, Warehouse Assistant  
Paul Bushek, On-Call Warehouse Staff  
Art Cole, Services Director  
Carol Cormack, Office Coordinator  
Bob Dekker, On-Call Warehouse Staff  
Greta Faworski, Resource Development Director  
Linda Fox, Call Center Coordinator  
Lizbeth Fuentes Rosas, Bilingual Call Center Assistant  
Joe Galaviz, Warehouse Coordinator

EXT.	Meg Gernaat, Marketing Coordinator	218
201	Dave Hafer, Procurement & Transportation Coordinator	212
217	Kim Hinds-Lepsy, Melzer Pantry Coordinator	307
217	Phyllis Hepp, Organizational Development Director	210
207	Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director	213
222	Deb Josephson, Services Coordinator	214
217	Denise Koning, Human Resources Director	224
208	Ray Kuerth, Warehouse Assistant	217
201	Andrea Meinema, Volunteer Coordinator	209
307	Katie Paaue, Development Assistant	206
211	Jackie Smith, Douglass Pantry Coordinator	225