

FOODFORTHOUGHT

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

“Unfortunately, walking away meant leaving only with what we could carry.”

MEET NINA

IF YOU MET HER on the street you would sense that Nina has seen a lot in her short life. While she exudes warmth and optimism, her demeanor carries with it the undertones of hardship, uncertainty and grit.

Nina recently made the brave decision to walk away from a relationship that had taken a dangerous turn. A victim of domestic violence, she recognized the signs of abuse as they began to unfold before her. Wanting to protect herself and her school-age sons, she left the security of the home they were living in to make a go of things on her own.

“I’ve been homeless. I’ve looked in the mirror and seen bruises and shattered teeth. That’s not the example I want to set for my boys,” Nina laments.

“Unfortunately, walking away meant leaving only with what we could carry.”

Her battle has been uphill. She has had to settle for dilapidated and costly rental housing, a lack of furniture like standard kitchen appliances and beds, and little money for food.

“Loaves & Fishes is a bright light in this season we’re going through right now,” Nina shares. “The boys feel a sense of normalcy when they get to help me shop at a pantry.”

She’s determined to redefine “normalcy” for her kids. While they may not have the luxuries many people take for granted, they are loved, clean, fed, and know the importance of kindness.

“In our own way we take care of the people in our neighborhood, and we rescue dogs that are being neglected,” Nina shares with pride. “When I get on my feet, I want to start a shelter where domestic violence victims can house pets and possessions until their situation improves.”

Nina is determined to see a brighter future, and she’s grateful that, when she lays her head down at night, she knows her boys have food in their bellies.



PFIZER'S MATCHING GIFTS DEADLINE IS MARCH 1ST!

Applications must be received by the Pfizer Foundation no later than the 1st for contributions made during the 2017 calendar year. For more details, visit: pfizerplus.com.

DON'T FORGET



*Client's name changed to protect anonymity.

A NOTE FROM JEN | MEET HERB BOYER

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' Board of Directors will see a new face in the President's seat this year. For this newsletter, we sat down with Herb Boyer to get his thoughts on leading the charge to fight hunger and what excites him about what's to come. - Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director



Q: What excites you about leading the KLF Board?

A: It provides me the opportunity to work with very skilled and caring people drawing upon their expertise for creative, forward-looking ideas and obtaining consensus for strategies to fulfill our mission.

Q: Hunger is a complex issue. What inspires you and the Board to fight this age-old problem with renewed vigor?

A: KLF's operation has been greatly enhanced over the past few years with excellent facilities, equipment, and skilled staff combined with marvelous volunteers. We will continue on this path in an enthusiastic, professional, and compassionate manner. The new tax law will necessitate some changes and associated challenges that may create some modifications to our past approaches, but with this there will also be new opportunities awaiting our organization.

Q: How has your perception of hunger changed since joining the KLF Board?

A: It has made me more aware that hunger is ever growing, even when the economy is turning around. I never realized before that the clientele KLF serves is also ever changing. It's not a perpetual reliance. The food services that we offer truly fulfill an essential role in our community for people trying to recover from a life crisis.

Q: Finish this sentence: The fight to end hunger requires _____.

A: Continued reminders to members of our community that there truly is a hunger problem right here in our own backyard.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

There have been some new faces moving about the KLF office these past few months so we'd like to take a moment to officially introduce them to you.

Denise Koning serves as KLF's new Human Resources Director. She started in October of 2017 and says that her favorite thing about working at KLF is watching the organization's community of staff, volunteers, and donors come together every day to make our work possible. Bill Brown joined KLF in late 2017 as a Warehouse Assistant. Brown swiftly adapted to the fast pace of his role and brings new livelihood to the atmosphere of the warehouse.

Longtime KLF staff member Deb Josephson retired this past December after contributing 10 years to the Services team. Linda Fuhlbrugge Fox has moved into Josephson's former role as Program Manager. Former Call Center Assistant Lizbeth Fuentes Rosas will now serve as Program Coordinator.



Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes has also welcomed Daniel Haines, Associate Vice President - Institutional, Investment Strategist at Zhang Financial, to the Board of Directors. He brings over 10 years of financial planning experience to the KLF team. Existing board member Herb Boyer has stepped into the role of Board President following the steadfast leadership of Rob DeWit who remains on the Board.

We look forward to using the passion, ideas, and guidance our new team members bring with them to fight hunger in our community.

NEW YEAR. NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

The new year is a wonderful time to tackle fresh goals and connect with the community on a more intimate level. The turning of the calendar serves as a source of rejuvenation and fresh starts for many, but for nearly 40,000 people in Kalamazoo County, it also brings new anxieties about the scarcity of food and the relentless worry about how one will feed themselves and their families.

That's where you come in.

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is always looking for new hands to help fight hunger. Volunteers are the heart of our organization (we utilize the help of an average of 400 per week to run our five food programs), and we're currently looking to fill the following roles:

Box Truck Drivers | No CDL Required

Drivers help KLF procure and deliver the food we provide to the community. We welcome anyone interested in this position to schedule a ride-along with current staff or volunteers to see if the role is a good fit. Volunteers must also pass a Department of Transportation physical paid for by KLF.

Pantry Stockers | Thursday and Monday Mornings

Pantry stockers ensure our shelves are filled with a variety of food for each pantry shift. We're currently in need at our Melzer Pantry on Portage Street and our pantry at the Douglass Community Association on West Paterson St.

If you're interested in learning more about volunteering with KLF, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Andrea Meinema at 269.488.2617 ext. 209 or email her at Andrea@kzoelf.org.

THE TOP TEN FOOD DRIVES SEPT-DEC 2017

KALAMAZOO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

8023 POUNDS

ROLLERWORLD

1913 POUNDS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 6980

1622 POUNDS

DIMPLEX THERMAL SOLUTIONS

1581 POUNDS

EDISON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

1441 POUNDS

NATIONAL FLAVORS, INC.

1373 POUNDS

THE CLEANING AUTHORITY

1361 POUNDS

KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1336 POUNDS

YMCA OF GREATER KALAMAZOO

1303 POUNDS

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP FIRE/ ROSS-AUGUSTA FIRE DEPARTMENTS

1231 POUNDS

MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:
FEBRUARY
COUPON #172

Your contribution will help
stave off hunger as the spring
season approaches.

Donation Amount
\$ _____

Please send your contribution by
February 16th.

Food Wish List: Rice

GIVING COUPON:
MARCH
COUPON #173

Help breathe hope into a
new season for someone
else by making a donation.

Donation Amount
\$ _____

Please send your contribution
by March 16th.

Food Wish List: Canned Fruit

**Congrats to Kalamazoo Central students for
beating all of their past food drive records!**



BECAUSE OF YOU...

At the end of each year Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes conducts it's Annual Campaign to raise funds that are critical to keep our food programs running throughout the following ten months when monetary donations taper off, but demand-for-service is still high. Each year our goal is set based on our community's needs as well as the projected costs to provide our services. Each year you have stood alongside us to ensure thousands of your neighbors have access to nutritious food for themselves and their families. This year was no exception.

Not only are you the reason our Campaign goal was met, but you also collected over 55,000 pounds of food for us between November 1st and December 30th and donated thousands of volunteer hours to our mission. We're so appreciative of your support, and hope you'll help keep momentum going through 2018.

Donated time, food, and money work collectively to fight hunger each year. From all of us at KLF, **thank you for refusing to let hunger win.**

ENROLL TODAY!



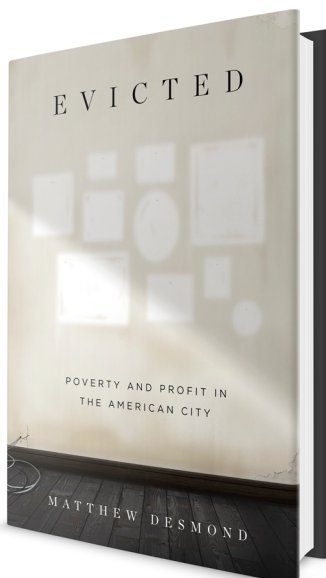
Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, in partnership with Senior Services, Inc., Area Agency on Aging, and The Salvation Army, has operated the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) since 2010 to get additional groceries into the hands of local seniors. Just last month the State of Michigan announced that it received additional CSFP funding allowing us to increase our program caseload by 18 percent!

We now need your help to ensure these food funds remain in Kalamazoo County. If caseload level caps aren't filled or nearly filled within the next eight months, our community's new caseload cap could be reduced.

Enrollment in CSFP is simple! Adults ages 60 or older can enroll the first Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. - noon at The Salvation Army on Burdick Street. You'll need to know your total household income and be prepared to present state ID. For full eligibility guidelines based on household size and income, visit bit.ly/KzooCSFP.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program groceries are distributed once per month at 17 Kalamazoo County sites. Groceries include non-perishable items like fruits, vegetables, dried goods, meats and cheese to help fill food gaps.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION



Today, over 1 in 5 of all renting families in the country spends half its income on housing.

Matthew Desmond

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

The Kalamazoo Public Library has selected Matthew Desmond's *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* as it's 2018 *Reading Together* title. We're encouraging our staff, volunteers, supporters, and the community to check out this eye-opening book from your local library branch and join us for one of our two book discussions to be held on:

Thursday, March 1st

Noon - 1:30 pm

Monday, March 5th

6 - 7:30 pm

Groups will meet at KLF located at 901 Portage Street. Light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP to Katie Munson-Paaue by February 26th at 269.488.2617 ext. 206 or Katie@kzoolf.org.

GET A QUOTE | WILL BE DONATED \$10

When you get a quote on auto insurance, Liberty Mutual Insurance in Portage will donate \$10 to KLF!

Contact Omar Khayyam at 269.569.7198 or visit his office located at 7894 Oakland Dr. for your quote **by March 1st**. Getting a quote could save you money while providing thirty meals to someone in need!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: SARKOZY BAKERY



Sarkozy Bakery has been a southwest Michigan staple for more than 40 years. Owner Judy Sarkozy, who actually has her PhD in physiological psychology, got her start baking bread by chance thanks to the blizzard of 1977, a drafty farm house, and Julia Child's french bread recipe. "We didn't have much to eat so I scrounged up what I could to make a meal," Sarkozy reminisces. "The rest is history."

Today, her bakery is nestled among other shops and businesses on the 300 block of Michigan Avenue and serves homemade pizza, soup, cookies and, of course, bread.

"Kalamazoo is a fabulous city," Sarkozy says matter-of-factly. "It's small enough that you can do something about the problems you see, but large enough to have a rich culture of art, music, libraries, and more."

Sarkozy's love of providing food to Kalamazoo extends beyond the front doors of her bakery. She's also the reason that hundreds in our community have access to a homemade, hardy loaf of bread each week.

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' pantries are stocked with loaves of Sarkozy's whole wheat sandwich bread, baguettes, sourdough boules and more. Sarkozy's donated goods come to KLF through D&W grocery stores as well as her bakery downtown. She's been helping KLF provide balanced nutrition to clients for years and says that her first donations started years ago when a local minister began picking up her stale loaves to donate.

"I appreciate that the food isn't going to waste," Sarkozy shares. "Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes makes donating simple. It's wonderful."

Today, clients are delighted to see the familiar black and gold logo on the bags of bread available to them in pantries. It's a sweet reminder to clients that, even though they may be in a season of hardship, local businesses are there to lift them up in unique ways. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is so grateful for the support of Sarkozy and her team for their help in the fight to end hunger.

MONTHLY GIVING IS SIMPLE + REWARDING

Give via credit card, direct debit, or check from your financial institution.

Convenient, yet very effective way to support the community.

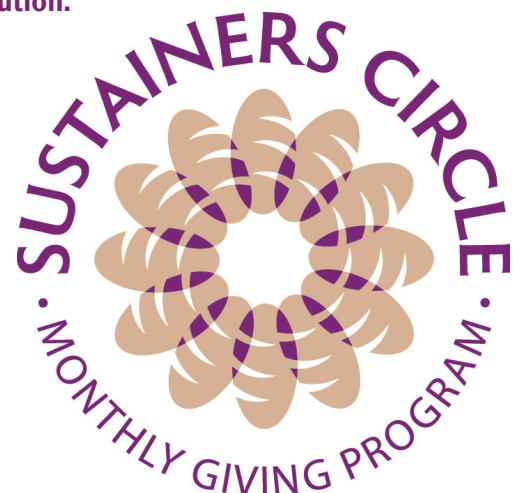
Easy to budget your charitable giving.

Provides KLF with a stable, continual source of revenue.

Make a difference year round, especially when donations are low, but need is still high.

Making a consistent effort to fight hunger has never been easier. Join Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' *Sustainers Circle Monthly Giving Program* today.

For more information, please contact Greta Fawroski by phone at 269.488.2617 ext. 208 or by email at greta@kzoof.org.





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

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

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

JOIN US FOR AN UPDATE FROM OUR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DONOR AND VOLUNTEER
AWARDS, HORS D'OEUVRES, AND MORE!

THURSDAY, MARCH 22ND
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

AT THE FETZER CENTER
2350 BUSINESS COURT
WMU CAMPUS
6:30-8 PM

COMPLIMENTARY PARKING IS
AVAILABLE DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO
THE FETZER CENTER IN LOT 72F.

RSVP TO KATIE MUNSON-PAAUWE AT
KATIE@KZOOLF.ORG OR 269.488.2617 EXT. 206



FEBRUARY/MARCH 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, Program Director
Carol Cormack, Office Coordinator
Bob Dekker, On-Call Warehouse Staff
Greta Faworski, Resource Development Director
Linda Fuhlbrugge Fox, Program Manager
Lizbeth Fuentes Rosas, Program Coordinator
Joe Galaviz, Warehouse Coordinator

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