

FOOD FORTHOUGHT

APRIL/MAY 2018

“I never knew this program existed. I feel like I can breathe again.”

MEET JAKE + TAYA

JAKE AND TAYA TIMIDLY MOVE through the door of a local nonprofit agency. The entryway is a flurry of activity due to the resource fair being held that afternoon. People are milling about in search of service information or items that may help them better meet their basic needs.

Taya is holding a quiet, wide-eyed little boy who appears to be about a year old. She quietly asks a volunteer at a greeter's table if they know where she might find information on how to obtain help with food. The volunteer guides she and Jake to a table hosted by Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes in the rear of the large gymnasium.

“We have very little where we're staying,” Jake discloses. “and we're almost out of food.”

The couple has fallen on hard times and currently calls a room at a friend's house home. They're both looking for work, but progress has been slow and funds are in very short supply.

Although relieved to learn about KLF's services, Taya feels pangs of panic once more when she learns that food pantries are full for the day. It's Friday and she knows her family needs help with food before pantries reopen Monday morning. That's when she's told about receiving grocery items through the Mobile Food Initiative (MFI).

“We can just stop by in the morning to grab food without an appointment?” she asks the KLF staff member to clarify as she looks over the MFI locations listed on the schedule. “I never knew this program existed. I feel like I can breathe again.”

Jake tucks away a few extra copies of the MFI schedule for others they know may need help with food in a pinch. While they plan to make an appointment to visit a pantry Monday morning, a sense of relief floods over them knowing they can visit a MFI distribution site to bridge the gap over the weekend.



NATIONAL LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE ON MAY 12TH!

Be part of the largest one-day food drive in America.

Leave non-perishable food items for your mail carrier to collect!



DON'T FORGET

*Client's name changed to protect anonymity.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT | MALL CITY CONTAINER



Gary Koster, Mall City Containers President, and Sheryl Garlick, Mall City Containers Administrative Manager.

When people think about the work Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes does, they often envision carts of food, or individuals reaching for a can of soup or a few handfuls of fresh produce. While these musings are correct, they often leave out one very important factor: boxes. It takes a lot of boxes to move the over three million pounds of food KLF distributed last fiscal year, and that's why we're so grateful for the support we receive from longtime local business Mall City Containers.

Mall City Containers has called Kalamazoo home since 1974, and has been helping KLF fight hunger since the late 1980's. They provide boxes at nearly the cost of material by donating the required labor and delivery. They also generously donate extra boxes, overruns, and canceled orders to KLF and

other non-profits when they're able. Some may also be surprised to learn that, in the past, Mall City Containers opened its doors to house a KLF pantry when there were few food distribution sites in Kalamazoo County. They also ran the Solar Gardens program at their property on North Pitcher Street in partnership with the City of Kalamazoo to teach people how to grow their own food. Not only have they offered their location as a hub to combat hunger, they also offer employees an additional paid week off if it's used to volunteer with a local charity.

"Mall City recognized a need for assistance in Kalamazoo and supports agencies that serve a broad spectrum of people that may be faced with different challenges. The needs were great in the 80's and certainly appear to be just as great today," said Gary Koster, Mall City Containers President, when asked why the company goes out of their way to give back to the community.

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is proud to work with this 100% employee owned business. The staff works hard each day to ensure they're fostering success that will support their families, and the community as a whole, for generations to come.

2018 COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

AWARD WINNERS

Willie Webster

Outstanding Volunteer Award

Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Weekly Volunteer Group

Individual Golden Loaf Award

Jill Etter

Group Golden Loaf Award

Rex Hafer & Kalamazoo Central Students

Marcia Jackson Hunger Advocacy Award

Kalamazoo College

Food Industry Supply Hero Award

Walther Farms

Community Pillar Award

OnStaff USA

Anne Wend Lipsey Food Justice Award

Park Street Market

PFC Grocery & Deli

Town & Country Supermarket



UTILIZE OUR SPACE!

We built our space at 901 Portage Street with our community partners in mind. That's why we welcome you to use our large conference room for your next meeting or small-scale event.

The space comes equipped with movable tables and chairs, food serving area, WiFi, AV equipment, white board, bathroom facilities, and on-site parking. And best of all - it's free to use!

For more information on space availability and amenities, please contact Greta Faworski by phone at 269.488.2617 or via email at Greta@kzoolf.org.

BUILD A STRONGER TEAM THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

Being able to work well as a team is a key component to growing a thriving business, civic group, and even a family. Volunteering at Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes as a team outside of your typical setting provides a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when your group works toward a common goal.

The benefits of volunteering are vast, but there are a few perks that stand out when thinking about how the experience can strengthen your team:

- 1. A Sense of Achievement:** You're probably used to working toward goals or project deadlines with teammates, coworkers or friends, but standing at a table to prep food for those in need is a powerful experience that imparts a huge sense of team accomplishment.
- 2. Foster Social Responsibility:** Engagement surrounding social responsibility is on the rise, and getting involved can inspire others to follow in your footsteps.
- 3. Change of Scenery:** Sometimes everyone needs a change of pace and scenery to recharge the soul. Volunteering as a team in a new environment will allow you to network with other organizations and create a memorable experience as a group.
- 4. Real-Time Awareness:** Sometimes team goals and deadlines are months in the making, but when you volunteer at Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes you'll go home knowing just how you've helped local individuals and children after only a few hours of work.



For information about volunteering at KLF as a group, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Andrea Meinema at 269.488.2617 ext. 209 or Andrea@kzoolf.org.

MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:
APRIL
COUPON #174

Happy Spring!
Celebrate a new season by
helping a neighbor in need.

Donation Amount
\$ _____

Please send your contribution by
April 20th.

Food Wish List: Canned Tuna

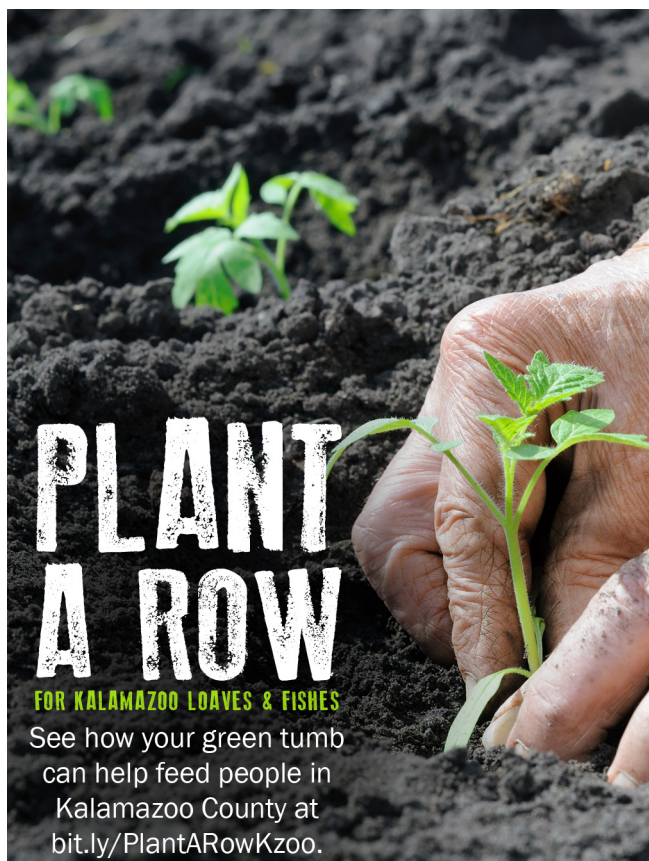
GIVING COUPON:
MAY
COUPON #175

Give a gift in honor of the
Letter Carriers' Food Drive
happening this month!

Donation Amount
\$ _____

Please send your contribution
by May 18th.

Food Wish List: Canned Veggies



A NOTE FROM JEN | MEET LIZ FUENTES

Lizbeth Fuentes stepped into the role of KLF Program Coordinator in February after serving as Call Center Assistant for 10 months. For this newsletter, we sat down with Liz to get her insight on what it's like working in KLF's Call Center.

- Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director

Q: The Call Center is the first point of contact for clients accessing Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' Grocery Pantry Program and, sometimes, their first interaction with KLF. How important is it for you and volunteers to be emotionally flexible to meet clients unique needs?

A: It's very important. We know our clients use our services while they're going through difficult times. We don't ask too many questions. We don't need explanations. They simply tell us they're in need and we provide groceries.

Q: If there's one thing you could convey to people about the clients Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes serves it's:

A: Our clients are very grateful for the services they receive. I can hear a sense of relief in their voices after they have scheduled they're appointments, after they know they will meet a basic life need without being questioned or judged.

Q: How do you see KLF evolving to serve future needs?

A: I would love to see a decrease in the number of clients we serve, but factors outside of our control continually cause the demand for our services to increase. We will continue to find ways to serve as many clients as possible as long as our services are needed.

Q: What has working in the Call Center taught you about hunger?

A: I have learned that hunger does not discriminate. People from all backgrounds and demographics utilize our services each week.



WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE

In January 2018, Kalamazoo County saw federal work requirements for able-bodied adults ages 18 to 49 without dependents go into effect. These able-bodied individuals can only receive food assistance benefits (like SNAP) for up to three months within a 36-month period without meeting certain work and/or volunteer requirements. These requirements aren't new. In fact, they have been in place for years, but until recently the state received a federal waiver due to Michigan's struggling economy and high unemployment rate.

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes provides backbone support and serves as the fiscal intermediary for the Kalamazoo County Hunger-Free Community Coalition. This group of over thirty local organizations works collectively on anti-hunger projects and has partnered with other agencies in town to help educate the community on what these changes mean for food security in our county. A number of pop-up workshops have taken place in key neighborhoods and information has been made available on multiple partner websites to help the estimated 5,000 affected individuals navigate the requirement change.

The new requirements mandate that able-bodied adults without dependants do one or more of more of the following to retain food assistance:

1. Work an average of 20 hours per week each month in unsubsidized, self or in-kind employment.
2. Participate 20 hours per week in an approved employment training program.
3. Participate in community service by volunteering at a nonprofit organization.

There are waivers for adults whose physical or mental condition prevent them from working or volunteering.

For more information on work requirements for food assistance, please visit kzoolf.org.

TRIBUTES

Generous donations made to KLF in someone's **HONOR**. Donations made 1/1/18 - 2/28/18.

HONOR

Albert Hoekstra Sr.

Gertrude Hoekstra

Gloria Terpstra's Birthday

Sidney & Robert Brush

Barb & Rick Baker's 60th Anniversary

Natalie Chiles

Gloria & Jack Shearer

Fr. Bob Cole

Art Cole & Sally Reames

Christine Siwik & Andrea Patka's Wedding

Kelle Frymire

Darlene McNabb

Jill Reynolds

Jim & Deb Dyke

Beverly Schmitt

Doug Hoopingarner

Doug & Sue Hoopingarner

Eleanor Pinkham

Paul Smithson

Eric & Charlotte Kemmer

Cindy Hook

Bill Kozar's Birthday

Sidney & Robert Brush

Guy and Maryhelen Shawkey

Art Cole & Sally Reames

Herb Boyer

Christine & Jim Flagler

Irene Booth

David & Karen Booth

Jan & Tom Tiderington

Ronald & Jane Kramer

Jeane Candido

Robert & Elizabeth Candido

Jochanan Stenesh's 90th Birthday

Elisabeth & Donald Thall

Our Anniversary

J. Dale & Cheryl Westbrook

Joyce Zwart's 80th Birthday

Robert & Mary Jo Deters

Karol Dill

Mr. Jeffrey Rostami

Lauralee Pierce

Jill Reynolds

Layla Jaboori

Elizabeth Dykhouse

Lee Accorso

Sam & Barb Accorso

Linda Fox

David & Nell Klien

Paul & Linda Wienir

Stuart & Tamara Ostrowsky

Margaret Rockwell

Paul Smithson

Ron & Nancy Crowell

Rita Stevens

Phyllis Hepp

Jon Riccio

Our 6 Children & (Soon to Be) 14

Grandchildren

Robert & Loree Bagley

Sandra Fortier

Betty Lujan-Roberts & Arthur Roberts

Susan Kavanaugh's Birthday

Sidney & Robert Brush

Tom & Jean Foghino

Liza Amos

Gina & Scott Puhalski

Harold Fitzgerald

William Fitzgerald

MEMORIAL

Jean Bright's Sister Loretta

Shirley & Allan Heavey

Florence Westra

Karl W. Westra

John Westra

Karl W. Westra

Barney Westra

Karl W. Westra

Bonnie Clark

Martha Vandelinde

C. James & Winona Swope

Paul & Diana Swope

Christopher Thompson

Penny Thompson

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Thelma J. Van Til

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Marjorie Sherwood

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Anonymous

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Diane Ossiff & Gerald Hansen

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Harold Stanley

Susan & James Kamman

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Dorothy & Ken Lawrence

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Amy Snow-Buckner & Michael Buckner

Shirley Walter

Kent & Anne Southworth

Sue Bos

Kent & Deborah Fisher

Tom Crooks

Martha Vandelinde

Vernon & Eileen Moerdyk

Daniel & Carie Gross

Linda Black

Her Family

William & Gladys Kozar

William & Ellen Kozar

Lewis Schaafsma

Esther Schaafsma



For corrections, mailing database updates or to receive our newsletter via email, please contact KLF's Development Assistant, Katie Munson-Pauwe, at 269.488.2617 ext. 206 or Katie@kzoolf.org.



Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

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

901 PORTAGE STREET
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49001-3005

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



CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF PANTRY SERVICE AT THE DOUGLASS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PANTRY HIGHLIGHTS

SINCE OPENING ITS DOORS IN APRIL OF 2017

- OPERATING TWO SHIFTS PER WEEK SERVING 30 HOUSEHOLDS PER SHIFT.
- PANTRY SHIFTS NOW REACH CAPACITY PROVIDING FOOD FOR AN UPWARDS OF 100 PEOPLE EACH WEEK.
- VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP RUN THE PANTRY MAKE UP OUR MOST DIVERSE PANTRY VOLUNTEER GROUP TO DATE.
- SURVEY BLURB

APRIL/MAY 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
Greta Faworski, Resource Development Director
Linda Fuhlbrugge Fox, Program Manager
Lizbeth Fuentes Rosas, Program Coordinator
Mireya Guzmán-Ortiz, Call Center Assistant
Joe Galaviz, Warehouse Coordinator

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217 Dave Hafer, Procurement & Transportation Coordinator
217 Kim Hinds-Lepsy, Melzer Pantry Coordinator
207 Phyllis Hepp, Organizational Development Director
222 Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director
208 Denise Koning, Human Resources Director
214 Ray Kuerth, Warehouse Assistant
307 Andrea Meinema, Volunteer Coordinator
304 Katie Munson-Paauwe, Development Assistant
211 Jackie Smith, Douglass Pantry Coordinator

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