

# FOOD FORTHOUGHT

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018

“We keep each other’s kids, hustle to fix meals, and catch rides to get to work just to stay afloat.”

## MEET KARRA

**KARRA WALKS THROUGH THE FRONT DOORS** of Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes with two little girls in tow. She quickly instructs her daughters to have a seat, keep their voices down, and not to touch anything. The girls fidget in their seats as their mom stands at the front desk to request to speak with someone in the Call Center.

No sooner than she takes a seat of her own does Karra’s cell phone ring. A friend is on the line frantically trying to find someone to keep an eye on her son before her work shift starts at 10 a.m. Her childcare for the day has fallen through, and she’s hoping Karra will lend a hand. She knows the busy mom of two will help if even if it means adding stress to her day.

Karra’s eyes flicker from her girls, to the clock on the wall just inside the next room, to the volunteer at the front desk. If she can make her appointment within the next ten minutes then she can pick up her friend’s son, drop her husband off at work, shop at a pantry, and then get the kids lunch at the Upjohn Park Meet Up & Eat Up site on the way home.

“Summertime is so hard,” Karra says aloud to anyone in the lobby who will listen. A woman seated next to her nods in agreement as she continues. “We keep each other’s kids, hustle to fix meals, and catch rides to get to work just to stay afloat.”

Karra’s husband works full time year-round while she works 20-25 hours each week during the school year. Childcare had proven too costly in the past to warrant hanging onto her minimum wage job June through August. They can usually stretch their budget to cover the bills, but when the girls lose access to school meal programs during summer months, the family feels the pinch.

Karra’s leg bounces nervously as she reminds her daughters to stay seated. When she’s welcomed into the Call Center to make her appointment, she bids farewell to the woman next to her.

“Get it done, mama,” the woman replies with an encouraging smile. Her words offer a bit of affirmation that, although at times her efforts may feel unseen, others notice Karra’s determination to provide a better life for those around her.

JOIN US!



### SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> ART HOP

See the *Shifting the Lens: Food Insecurity Through the Eyes of Kalamazoo County Youth Exhibit* at KVCC’s Center for New Media. This photo project is a partnership of Kalamazoo County Youth Cabinet and KLF.



\*Client’s name changed to protect anonymity.

## A NOTE FROM JEN

Perhaps it's fitting that, at the beginning of our 37th year of existence, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is going through an important transformation. When Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes was created, we designed our programs as a way to define and overcome hunger as a societal problem. It was a time of food banks, charitable



food distributions through churches and community centers and, ultimately, it was a way to keep pushing the problem around the table. We were the best band-aid in town.

Over the years, we've recognized that hunger isn't dissipating; that hunger isn't a problem but rather a symptom of something much larger. Mind you, the work we do — the emergency response to daily hunger — is needed and can be the literal difference between someone eating today or not. But we will never make headway unless we admit that, in order to truly solve hunger, we have to look more closely at the social injustice of it all.

We have to be aware of and participate in economic, social, and environmental solutions that will ensure all members of society have what they need. We have to advocate for the human right to adequate food and nutrition. We must challenge food systems that oppress, including our own. And we will not accept racism, classism or lack of inclusion.

Our mission states that *Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes will feed hungry people and engage the community in the fight to end hunger*. The fight is where we will be putting our effort in the weeks and months to come. We hope you will continue to be there with us on our journey.

  
Executive Director

## CONNECTION: FOOD PANTRIES & HEALTH



For those struggling to put food on the table, having consistent access to healthy grocery options can be a challenge. Limited budgets often keep people from filling their shopping carts with items that will keep their bodies in peak condition. Imagine trying to stretch a \$20 bill to cover a week's worth of groceries. Just a few items of fresh produce or protein would consume all of your funds.

Poor health and food insecurity often go hand in hand. With over 41 million Americans struggling with hunger, it's no surprise that the two leading causes of death in the US — heart disease and cancer — are food-related illnesses. Food pantries like Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes work hard to be a resource for food options that can combat the aforementioned statistics. Each week our 30 pantries are stocked with fresh dairy, protein, grains, and produce that allow clients to eat balanced meals.

Last fiscal year, KLF distributed over 110,000 pounds of fresh produce and over 460,000 pounds of canned and frozen produce through our Grocery Pantry Program. We work closely with local growers, food processors, and distributors to source healthy foods for no-to-low cost. The Kalamazoo County Hunger-Free Community Coalition, in which KLF plays a key role, also works with health providers to identify and combat food insecurity during pediatric visits to better connect families to quality food resources.

For KLF and hundreds of food pantries around the country, feeding hungry people has never been solely about providing a meal, but rather providing food that will allow people to eat today and thrive tomorrow.

---

## TIS THE SEASON



### PLAN NOW TO VOLUNTEER THIS UPCOMING HOLIDAY

We have many opportunities to get involved over the next few months, but space fills up quickly.

To sign up, contact KLF Volunteer Coordinator Andrea Meinema at 269.488.2617 or [Andrea@kzoolf.org](mailto:Andrea@kzoolf.org).

#### MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:  
**AUGUST**  
COUPON #178

Help kids start school on solid footing. Provide a meal this month.

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

Please send your contribution by August 17th.

Food Wish List: Dry Pasta

GIVING COUPON:  
**SEPTEMBER**  
COUPON #179

Celebrate the start of a new season with a donation to fight hunger.

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

Please send your contribution by September 21st.

Food Wish List: Canned Meat

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT | GREENLEAF HOSPITALITY



There's no doubt that Greenleaf Hospitality Group (GHG) has an impressive reputation. With a laundry list of acknowledgements, recognitions, and awards under its belt, it's clear that the people behind this brand are hard-working. However, getting caught up in the typical corporate rat race is not their style. Management has made it their personal mission to foster a family-like atmosphere of inclusion, growth, and personal connection. And those values extend beyond the doors of the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Wings Events Center.

Greenleaf Hospitality Group employees are encouraged to donate a minimum of eight hours per year to a local charity of their own choosing or to lend a hand at a company-sponsored volunteer opportunity. The organization supports dozens of local initiatives, and Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is lucky to be included on their list. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes has the pleasure of welcoming GHG employees into our warehouse multiple times each year to sort and repackage bulk food. We've even been the benefactor of their monthly 10% room rate donation.

"We strive to support initiatives that serve a critical need," said Derrick Ricca, Senior Sales Manager for Greenleaf Hospitality Group. "Our efforts are really rooted in good people wanting to do good things."

Ricca says that volunteering helps GHG employees gain perspective on living situations in Kalamazoo County which allows them to better serve their customers in a multitude of ways as well as better relate to co-workers who come from all walks of life.

Awards and recognitions aside, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is extremely proud to partner with GHG to fight local hunger. We applaud their commitment to playing an active role in shaping a brighter future for Kalamazoo County.



# A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

We wrapped up our 2017-2018 fiscal year on June 30th. Below is a snapshot of our service year.



**71+**

KLF distributed food at over 71 Kalamazoo County sites throughout the year.



**2 MILLION MEALS**

Nearly 2 million meals worth of groceries were distributed through the Grocery Pantry Program.



**OVER 3 MILLION**

KLF's five food programs collectively distributed over 3 million pounds of food.



**21,476**

KLF distributed 21,476 food packs to children through the Weekend Food Pack Program.



**165,425**

KLF filled over 165,000 four-day food orders through the Grocery Pantry Program.

---

## GIVING THROUGH DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS



One charitable giving option that has seen major gains in popularity over the past five years is Donor Advised Funds (DAF). These investment accounts are opened for the sole purpose of charitable giving. Cash, securities or other assets are deposited to DAFs, allowing assets to grow in value over time while also allowing the account holder to donate to any IRS-qualified public charity of their choice by making grants from the account.

There are multiple benefits to starting a DAF and they include:

1. **Consolidation:** Opening an DAF is an easy way to consolidate your charitable giving.
2. **Income Tax Deduction:** Possibly the biggest perk of supporting charities through a DAF is the often immediate tax deduction.
3. **Tax-Free Growth:** Your investment can grow in value tax-free.
4. **No Estate Tax:** You won't have to pay estate taxes on DAFs.
5. **No Capital Gains Tax:** Appreciated asset like real estate, securities, and other illiquid assets aren't subject to capital gains tax.
6. **Build a Legacy:** By naming successors to assume privileges over your DAF, you can leave a lasting legacy of giving to the causes you hold dear.

Donor Advised Funds are also a great way to take the guesswork out of turning assets, like appreciated stock, into cash for the purpose of supporting a cause you love. As with most investment accounts, there may be some fees associated with DAFs, but the tax benefits, distribution flexibility, and ability to efficiently support the charities of your choice make this an excellent avenue for philanthropic giving.

Have questions about supporting Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes through a DAF? We're here to help. Call Greta Faworski at 269.488.2617 ext. 208 or email her at [Greta@kzoolf.org](mailto:Greta@kzoolf.org).

---

# TRIBUTES

Generous donations made to KLF in someone's **HONOR** or **MEMORY**. Donations made 5/1/18 - 6/30/18.

## IN HONOR OF

### Lee Accorso

Sam & Barb Accorso

### Sue Beadling

Corinne Herschleb

### Sheila & Gary Bigelow's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Jean & Bob Christie

Berrianne Provost

Jane & Stan Smeed

Gail & David Thompson

### Herb Boyer

Christine & Jim Flagler

### Bob & Doree Boyle's Anniversary

Barbara G. Redmond

### Christine Castle

Marianne Andreach

### Art Cole

Jon Riccio

### Fr. Bob Cole

Art Cole & Sally Reames

### Dave & Beth Cook

Stuart & Mary Werner

### Vicky Crawford's Birthday

Jennifer & Thomas Stell

### Brook & Megan Cummins' High School Graduation

J. Dale & Cheryl Westbrook

### Harold Fitzgerald

William Fitzgerald

### Dr. Kevin Halgren

Jan & Melvin White

### Jim & Susan Hankey

Corinne Herschleb

### Msgr. Michael D. Hazard

Ms. Joyce K. Thran

### Keats Hofbauer's 90th Birthday

Friends & Family

### Jennifer Johnson

Jon Riccio

### Larry Jones

Nancy Jones

### Kalamazoo's Hungry People

J. Dale & Cheryl Westbrook

### Hildy & Howard Kerney's 60th Anniversary

Beverly Schmitt

### Bob & Trish Kittredge

James & Lois Richmond

### Anne Wend Lipsey

Susan & Nicholas Beute

Robert & Mary Doud

Vicky Kettner

Kathy Lake

### Maria Maki & Brian Smith

Patricia Pettinga & Bill Willging

### Keith Marotti

Rich Marotti

### Kristine Mauro

Joseph & Kristine Mauro

### Prudence McCabe

Betty Lujan-Roberts & Arthur Roberts

### Bill & Madeline Medonis

Ronald & Donna Holmes

### Char & Boyd Naylor

Abbie Pressley

### Ellen Nelson & Leonard Swanson's Wedding

Robert & Sally Morris

### Jackie Odza

Scott & Janet Nykaza

### Lia Gaggino

John & Sue Biermacher

Susan Borovich

Marisa Gaggino

Julia Parzyck

Tom Tigani

### Michael Rice

Millie Lambert

### Our 39th Wedding Anniversary

Howard & Robyn Robinson

### Jennie-Rose Schultz

Greg & Colleen Schultz

### Guy and Maryhelen Shawkey

Art Cole & Sally Reames

### Christine & Andrea Siwik's Wedding

Robert Boyle

### Dirk Vandiver, Diane Talo & Family

Kay Vermeulen

### The Stoppelberg Family

Kathleen Fleece

### Dick & Carol Van Antwerp's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Sally & Jim Gunderson

### Volunteers from Portage United Church of Christ

Phillip & Marilyn Buist

## IN MEMORY OF

### Bette Anderton

Carl & Virginia DeKleine

### Cindy Beachler

Charlotte Hubbard & Marshall Beachler

### Linda Black

Janet Kovach

### Anna Brown

Wilma Cooper

### Jeff Burkey

MerriKay A. Oleen-Burkey

### Karen B. Cernik

Joseph & Julie Cernik

### Moises & Laura Cillan

Lauretta Cillan-Chung, M.D.

### Bonnie Clark

Martha Vandelinde

### Jean Clarke

Anonymous

Dennis & Bonita Banghart

Amy Boyd

Edmond & Mary Buczkowski

Katie Droscha

Barbara & Robert Felkel

James & Bonnie Heffernan

Laurie La Parl

Sue Mater

Joyce K. McNally

William & Mary Miller

Sharon Scotese

### Patricia Coleman

Ms. Elizabeth G. Roelofs

### Stephen Comensoli

Pete & Wanita Comensoli

### Our Parents

Cheryl & Michael Conner

### Brad Conrad

Debra Ulmer

### Rev. Murray Cooper, Ph.D

Noel Mohberg

### Gloria Copeland

Brian & Carol Copeland

### Earl Cosby

Shirley Bumgardner

Sharon Dickey

### Tom Crooks

Martha Vandelinde

### Pastor & Verna Cupery

Patricia & Charles Willis

### Carolyn & Willard Curtis

Joan & David Smith

### Shirley DeVries

Kristi Koetje

### Garold & Evalyn DeForest

Phil & Kathleen Maneikis

### James Dillon

Ms. Colleen M. Berger

### Joseph Dillon

Ms. Colleen M. Berger

### Lucille Dillon

Ms. Colleen M. Berger

### Marshall Jacob Draper

Greg & Colleen Schultz

### George Elliot

Jennifer Lemkuil

Bernice & Glenn Shoup

Bethany Skinner

### Tucky Elliott

Chuck Elliott

### My Mother, Razia

Shirin Fattah & Niaz Mohammad

### Bert Fenwick's Sister

Shirley & Allan Heavey

### Dr. Jerald Finnegan

Judy Finnegan

### Art & Becky Flegel

Lawrence & Ardith McPhillips

### Judith A. Goodling

Norman Goodling

### Frances Graham

Wilma Cool

Richard & Jeanie MacPherson

Mary & Michael Neuman

Sandra Smokoska

### Susie Gray

Barbara Albanese

### John Gucoma

Mary Gucoma

### Juanita Harris

Chiquita Elmore-Barbee

### Richard Harris

Sidonie L. Shane

### Pat & Jim Hart

Elizabeth & Cal Vandenberg

## Jo Hastings

Karen Macklom

## Dorothy Hinckley

Gene & Penny Jennings

## Dave Hudson

Earl & Nancy Hyde

## Marcia Jackson

Harry & Carol Madison

## Stephen G. Jones

Phyllis Rappeport

## Frank Kalanj

Robert Lihosit & Pamela DePierre

## Rolene Klingman

Greg & Colleen Schultz

## Marguerite Kolb

Grant Kolb

## William & Gladys Kozar

William & Ellen Kozar

## Arthur Kubiak

Ken Kubiak

## Ed LaForge

Pat Sulier

## Lance Lambert

Martha Vandelinde

## Thelma Lanphear

Cheryl & Burton TenBrink

## Rueith Lewis

Linda & Phil Abernathy

Betty Bengston

Leonard & Nancy Biro

Sue & Robert Hardy

Marsha McKenzie

David & Eileen Rutten

Roger & Molly Williams

Kay Wisniewski

## Shirley Lundblad

Susan Pyke

## Linda Renauld Lutz

Robert & Norberta Renauld

## Larry MacPhee

Ted & Patricia Skartsiaris

## Colleen Magnan

Mr. James A. Magnan

## Donald Maki

Patricia Pettinga & Bill Willging

## Tom McCormick

A. Gregory & Mary Ann Laurell

## Fred Meagher

Nancy Hagen & Shawn Hagen

## Duane Mickelson

Mary Mickelson

## Max Mills

Wilma Mills

## Chette, Milly, Spek, Grace & Clementine

Nora Neill & Kelley Kronberg

## Jim & Betty Miyagawa

Johnell Cuddeback-Weintraub

## Kathy Mizeur

Gary Bischof & Karen Helmeke

Vincent H. Mizeur

## Carol Moore

Colleen & Edward Peters

## Ron Moore

Anonymous

Rose Jasiak

## My Mother

Anonymous

## Irene & Raymond Mueller

Janice Smith

## Juan & Mary Muniz

Patricia Pierce

## Jackie Nemedi

Ron Nemedi

## Egon Nithammer

Loretta M. Walsh

## Dora Olsen

Grant Kolb

## Liz Oorbeck

Jean A. Oorbeck

## Jaimie Oorbeck

Martha Vandelinde

## Frank Ossiff Jr.

Diane Ossiff & Gerald Hansen

## David Park

Diana & Betty Lukins

## Carol Passavant

Cherie Gibson

David Melotti

## Ann Perry

Greg Johnston

Carol & Brett Stanger

## Marjorie Plough

Benjamin & Cleo Boersma

Janet Hamilton

Vivian Kurtzman



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.KZOLF.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



### A TYPICAL DAY WITH KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES' PROGRAMS TEAM

**8AM** Program Manager connects with KLF pantry coordinators to address **food inventory, compliance, and client management needs.**

**9AM** Call Center staff and volunteers begin **fielding hundreds of phone calls** from clients and community members seeking grocery assistance and program information.

**11AM** Program staff members meet to assess KLF's five food programs to **improve quality, accessibility, and stewardship.**

**1PM** Program Director meets with a local group interested in starting a food program to serve those struggling with hunger. He **provides insight** into current community programs and the county's unique hunger needs and **offers suggestions** to bolster Kalamazoo's collective hunger-free network.

**3PM** The team connects with warehouse staff to conduct **inventory forecasting** to ensure pantries offer adequate food variety.

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 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  
Joe Galaviz, Warehouse Coordinator

EXT.  
201 Meg Gernaat, Marketing Coordinator  
217 Dave Hafer, Procurement & Transportation Coordinator  
217 Kim Hinds-Lepsy, Melzer Pantry Coordinator  
207 Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director  
222 Denise Koning, Human Resources Director  
208 Ray Kuerth, Warehouse Assistant  
214 Andrea Meinema, Volunteer Coordinator  
307 Katie Munson-Paaue, Development Assistant  
211 Jackie Smith, Douglass Pantry Coordinator

EXT.  
218  
212  
307  
213  
224  
217  
209  
206  
225