

FOODFOR^{THOUGHT}

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018

“It’s rare that we have to go, but the food really helps, and sometimes it’s better than what we can justify buying at the store.”

MEET DEREK



DEREK ISN'T THE TRADITIONAL COLLEGE STUDENT. At 25-years-old, he admits that he’s getting a late start compared to many of his peers. While he’s quick to make light of the fact that it has been a while since he has lugged textbooks around, he will correct anyone who assumes it’s due to post-high school floundering.

“I wasn’t set up to jump right into college after high school,” Derek shares. “I wanted to make sure my little brother made it through school before I could focus on a degree.”

Derek took on a father figure role for his younger brother after their dad passed away unexpectedly. Derek was only 14 — his brother was nine. His mother struggled to cope with the loss, and Derek eventually found himself working nights to pay for the things he and his brother needed. All the while maintaining his 3.6 high school GPA.

“I knew that Dustin needed me for support, for a sense of normalcy while he was getting through high school. I don’t regret waiting to get my degree if it means we’ll both have better futures. It’s what dad would have wanted.”

Student loans are necessary for Derek to pay for school, but he’s trying to do as much as he can on his own. He works two jobs, carries a full course load, and shares a room with his brother in a rental that’s also home to four other people.

“I’m not going to lie, it’s enticing to take more loan money than I need to pay for the things I’ve never had, like my own computer, but I won’t do it,” Derek explains. “I can use the computer lab. I only spend money on what I really need.”

From time to time Derek and his brother visit a Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes’ food pantry when their hard-earned dollars don’t cover all of their necessities.

“It’s rare that we have to go, but the food really helps, and sometimes it’s better than what we can justify buying at the store,” Derek says.

Though the past has presented unexpected challenges, Derek takes them in stride. “I’ve had a good life compared to a lot of folks, and one day I’ll pay my debts by helping someone in my shoes. I’ve just got to get this degree first.”



Enjoy a mix of live country, folk, bluegrass, classical, and celtic music at **Kzoo Folklife’s annual KLF Benefit Concert** on November 17th at Trinity Lutheran Church. Doors open at 6 p.m. Bring non-perishable food or a monetary donation for admission.

Find the full lineup at kzoofolklife.org.



LIVE MUSIC

*Client’s name changed to protect anonymity.

UPCOMING KLF SERVICE CHANGE: **JANUARY 2019**

Remaining mission-focused means asking ourselves; Are we using our resources to provide service to as many food insecure individuals as possible in Kalamazoo County? In 2016, our staff and Board of Directors embarked on a strategic plan to identify and address the changing face of hunger in our area. What we found further confirmed what we already knew; Our current service model doesn't work for everyone and there are food insecure people who are either not being served or are being underserved. Through our advocacy work, we also know that cuts to federal food assistance are proposed and there will likely be more people experiencing hunger.

It became clear that we needed to make changes to ensure we were providing food to as many people as possible.

Our current service model allows clients to schedule a pantry appointment once every 30 days with self-declaration of need. If further support is needed, a client can obtain a referral from a caseworker for extra visits. The practice of caseworker referrals began during the 2008 recession to help people withstand rough financial times. Our data shows that the number of households using our services more than 15 times per year has increased by 5% since that time. However, the amount of our total service capacity utilized by these households has increased by 15% in the same time period. In other words, we are concerned that the increase in consistent referrals is impeding access to food assistance for others who may need support on a situational basis or who are new to hunger. Most days, our pantries fill to capacity, and many people are not able to secure food because of it.

After a great deal of evaluation and discussion with key stakeholders, we are implementing a new service model that will begin on January 1, 2019. In the new model, clients will be able to schedule a pantry appointment once every calendar month and will receive three additional self-managed visits that can be used anytime throughout the year. We will no longer accept referrals from a caseworker or third party for extra pantry visits. In the new model, only 5% of our client base will see a reduction in service, and our staff have already met with caseworkers to discuss the upcoming changes and how we, as a community, can help these clients connect to resources that will supplement their Loaves & Fishes visits each month. We've hired a Human Services Coordinator to help clients navigate the change and access additional federal and community food resources if needed. We do anticipate, however, that the change will allow new people to access our services, maintain service levels for 95% of our clients, and will increase food assistance to those who have been underserved in the past. The new model will also allow us to explore non-traditional ways of providing food to those who can't currently access our system for a variety of reasons.

We understand that change can be difficult or confusing for everyone involved. However, we feel that these changes will allow us to use our resources in the most responsible way possible. This new model is our response to community need and aligns with our mission and founding principles of providing emergency food assistance. Clients have more flexibility to schedule extra visits without going through a caseworker. The new model is designed to be more equitable. **We will not be providing any less food to the community — we will be providing the same level of food, if not more, to a greater number of individuals.**

If you have questions regarding this change, please contact Program Director, Art Cole, at 269-488-2617 or art@kzoolf.org. For more information, visit our website at kzoolf.org or join us at one of our upcoming community information sessions.

SERVICE CHANGE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25TH
10 - 11:30 AM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH
4 - 5:30 PM

Join us at our location at 901 Portage Street in Kalamazoo to learn more about our upcoming service change.



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

ARE YOU A PFIZER EMPLOYEE OR RETIREE?
DO YOU VOLUNTEER AT KLF?

YOU CAN REQUEST A VOLUNTEER GRANT FROM
KLF BECAUSE OF YOUR SERVICE!

SEE INFO AT: WWW.PFIZERPLUS.COM

DEADLINE | NOV. 30TH

MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:

OCTOBER

COUPON #180

Give to someone in need.

Donate to fight hunger in
Kalamazoo County.

Donation Amount

\$

Please send your contribution by
October 19th.

Food Wish List: Soups/Stews

GIVING COUPON:

NOVEMBER

COUPON #181

Celebrate all that you're
thankful for by extending a
hand this season.

Donation Amount

\$

Please send your contribution
by November 16th.

Food Wish List: Canned Veggies

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: L.D.S. TRUCKING COMPANY



LDS, Inc. driver Ron Whitcomb and KLF Warehouse Coordinator Joe Galaviz with a recent KLF food delivery transported by LDS, Inc.

When you make a call to Lindsey Dedicated Services, Inc., you'll likely be greeted on the other end by the president of the company. Becky Moise started the business with her late husband Bradley Lindsey in 2001. Over the past 17 years the business has outgrown its basement office, one truck operation, and two-person team. Today, LDS Inc. employs a team of drivers and mechanics who handle regional trucking that, from time to time, also includes hauling food for Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

"I doubt that LDS, Inc. is different from any other trucking company," Moise humbly replies when asked if she feels her company's commitment to helping the community sets

it apart from the competition. "We just got lucky finding KLF and finding a niche to be of service. I am sure others would do the same if they found their niche."

Her business found this niche years ago through Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' Mobile Food Initiative (MFI). Not only did Moise's team volunteer to pick up food from Battle Creek on the mornings of the MFI, but her staff also volunteered on-site to distribute food to members of the community. It was at the MFIs that Moise had a chance to learn more about KLF's needs and decided that her company could do more to help.

"I have always loved what KLF does for our community," Moise shares. "Helping those who do so much for those in need does not put anyone out of their way. It is just the right thing to do."

Lindsey Dedicated Services, Inc. now handles all of the maintenance of KLF's trucks, only charging the organization for needed parts. They provided insight and guidance when KLF purchased two of its largest trucks, and Moise's staff frequently handles food pick-ups in Wayland, Michigan at no charge. Each year LDS, Inc. donates trucking assistance during the National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive and, recently, the company saved KLF over \$1,000 by handling a food pick-up in Illinois.

Moise is proud to have three generations of family on her staff and insists that employees who aren't related by blood are still considered family. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is grateful that her family sentiment goes beyond the bays of her building on Shakespeare Avenue and that it extends to those in our community who need it most.

- THE TOP 10 -

FOOD DRIVES MAY - AUGUST 2018

ROLLERWORLD

1472 POUNDS

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

797 POUNDS

THE CLEANING AUTHORITY

664 POUNDS

ALL SEASONS EXPRESS

577 POUNDS

KALAMAZOO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

494 POUNDS

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC LIBRARY

473 POUNDS

NORTH PARK REFORMED CHURCH

403 POUNDS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

385 POUNDS

KALAMAZOO ISLAMIC CENTER

375 POUNDS

PINE ISLAND CHURCH

368 POUNDS



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 about the IRA Charitable Rollover Provision, contact your tax advisor.

To see other ways to give to KLF, visit kzoolf.org/donate

- A NOTE FROM JEN - MEET KAREN MCPHAIL

While KLF's staff and day-to-day volunteers provide vital backbone support for our services, it's our Board of Directors and committee members who push us to approach fighting hunger from new angles. For this newsletter we sat down with Karen McPhail to learn what ignites her passion to fight hunger in our community.

- Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director

Q: You have been a KLF Board Member for six years as well as the chair of the Food Security Advocacy (FSA) committee. Why did you want to serve on this committee?

A: My initial interest in the FSA committee

was to learn more

about how legislation impacts access to food and how I could become more active in supporting causes and policies that feed people. During my time with KLF I've learned how varying public factors influence personal ones and how intertwined those factors are: the economy, environment, food, health, housing, transportation, politics — the list goes on! I continue to learn from fellow FSA members and feel compelled to fight harder for affordable, nutritious food for all.

Q: Why do you think it's important for an agency like KLF to educate others about how public policy affects food security?

A: KLF has the data and platform to share how food access impacts communities in a clear, non-partisan way. The more we know as individuals, the more we can do to change the conversation and influence policy as a collective. It's vital that KLF educate our community in addition to being a resource for needed food.

Q: What are some of KLF's advocacy initiatives that you are most proud of which you've most enjoyed?

A: I'm very proud of KLF's efforts in the formation of the Kalamazoo County Hunger-Free Community Coalition and our work alongside other participating agencies. The KLF FSA committee has also sponsored two photo exhibits, providing inspiring and very literal views of hunger.

Q: How can others who are interested in advocating for food security get involved?

A: A great place to start is the KLF website Advocacy page to learn more about current programs, statistics, and ways to get involved.



Karen McPhail, center, volunteering with Stryker co-workers in KLF's warehouse at 901 Portage Street in Kalamazoo.

TRIBUTES

Generous donations made to KLF in someone's HONOR or MEMORY. Donations made 7/1/18 - 8/31/18.

IN HONOR OF

Lee Accorso
Sam & Barb Accorso

Ben Barber
Susan Commissaris

Sheila & Gary Bigelow's 50th Anniversary
Ruth Caputo

Louella Bing
Kalamazoo Round Table

Herb Boyer
Christine & Jim Flagler

Mary Brown
Constance & Jim Bush

Shirley Bumgardner
Kari Wildner

My Birthday
Susan Caulfield

Jeanne & Mel Church's 30th Anniversary
Marcia & Charles Luken

Fr. Bob Cole
Art Cole & Sally Reames

Sharon Dickey
Kari Wildner

Dr. Phil Doyle
Jan & Melvin White

Harold Fitzgerald
William Fitzgerald

Jolene Jackson & Lonnie Hannaford's 15th Anniversary
Carol & Richard Van Antwerp

Phyllis Hepp
Jon Riccio

Marianne & Jim Houston's 50th Anniversary
Corky O'Rourke Thomas

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Dr. John Kavanaugh's Retirement
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Kalamazoo Round Table

Anne Wend-Lipsev
Rev. Linda & Dr. Frederick MacDonald

Kristine Mauro
Joseph Mauro

JoAn Mowery
Grace Hospice Foundation

Heike O'Boyle
Kalamazoo Round Table

Our Children & Grandchildren
Robert & Loree Bagley

Our Friends
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Bernie Rodee's 85th Birthday
Norman & Carol Braksick
Marlin Gerber & Jacqueline Wylie
Jack & Ellen Neal
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Eli Thomssen
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Betty Wells

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Pat Shiley
Jane & John Hoogerheide

Jon & Karen Taylor's Anniversary
Christine Willhite

Donald Thall
Kalamazoo Round Table

Elizabeth Thall
Kalamazoo Round Table

Robert Thall
Kalamazoo Round Table

Joyce Vandermay
Doug Bos

Max & Frieda Walter's 65th Anniversary
Joyce & Marshall Draper

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Vincent H. Mizeur

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Diane Ossiff & Gerald Hansen

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Parchment Garden Club

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Connie & Leon Puzevic

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For corrections, mailing database updates or to receive our newsletter via email, please contact KLF's Development and Communications Coordinator, Katie Munson-Paaauwe, at 269.488.2617 ext. 206 or Katie@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.KZOOOF.ORG

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
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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



SCHOOL-BASED PANTRIES

KLF's school-based pantries are highly effective at reaching students and families struggling with hunger. These pantries make it convenient for children, teens and families to access our services in a familiar neighborhood environment.

See school-based pantry stats below!

KLF operates **six full-service pantries** in local schools that provide four-day food orders to students and families.

KLF operates **four hybrid pantries** in local schools offering snacks and single meal items to kids and teens.

Full-service school pantries provided **3,242 four-day food orders** during the 2017-2018 school year.

KLF's school-based pantries distributed nearly **70,000 pounds** of food during the 2017-2018 school year.

School-based pantries are located in **elementary, middle and high schools**.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 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
Rebecca De Los Santos, Human Services Coordinator
Greta Faworski, Resource Development Director
Linda Fuhlbrugge Fox, Program Manager
Lizbeth Fuentes Rosas, Program Coordinator

EXT.
201 Joe Galaviz, Warehouse 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
TBD Ray Kuerth, Warehouse Assistant
208 Andrea Meinema, Volunteer Coordinator
214 Katie Munson-Paauwe, Dev. & Communications Coord.
307 Jackie Smith, Douglass Pantry Coordinator

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