

FOODFOR^{THOUGHT}

DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019

“It’s a blessing to be able to visit the pantry, especially when the kids are looking at you and there is nothing to feed them.”

MEET ROBIN



AS A SINGLE MOTHER OF THREE GIRLS, Robin is no stranger to an on-the-go lifestyle – and she really likes keeping busy. That is one of the reasons that Robin volunteers at a KLF pantry each week stocking shelves and helping others shop for their groceries. But in addition to volunteering, Robin has also turned to Loaves & Fishes when she and her family needed food assistance.

“When my kids were younger, we visited Loaves & Fishes sporadically – maybe just a few times a year. Their dad and I were still together, and it was easier to make ends meet,” Robin shares. “But as the girls grew and their father and I split up, times became more tough. We had less money coming into the house. And the older the kids got, the amount of food needed to keep them fed increased as well!”

Robin’s daughters, age 17 and 15-year-old twins, became more independent as they got older, allowing Robin the opportunity to give back to the organization that had given her so much over the years. At first, Robin volunteered in the warehouse, but soon found she enjoyed helping in the pantry most.

“I love working with people. Everyone is so nice here – the staff, other volunteers, and the clients,” Robin says, “It’s great to help others shop for what they need. Most people are so grateful when they visit the pantry and are usually surprised by the variety of food available.”

Robin appreciates the great variety at the pantry. Her oldest daughter is very active in sports and drinks a lot of milk to keep her energy up. “Our need for milk and other proteins like eggs can be very expensive, even when I look for sales at local stores,” Robin explains. “Although we don’t always need to visit the pantry, it’s great to have access to these essential items if our budget becomes stretched too thin and money is tight.”

For many years, KLF has meant so much to Robin and her family. “It’s a blessing to be able to visit the pantry, especially when the kids are looking at you and there is nothing to feed them.” Her volunteer experience has been equally valuable. “I’ve made new friends with other volunteers, and it’s so rewarding to know that I’m helping support KLF – a place that has always supported me when I needed it the most.”



Reserve your seats for the **February 14th Kalamazoo Wings’ Pink Ice Game!** A portion of ticket sales and the evening’s Chuck-A-Puck event will benefit KLF to fight hunger.

Call KLF for tickets at: **269.488.2617 ext. 209** or email Andrea@kzoolf.org.



*Client’s name changed to protect anonymity.

ON SALE NOW

- A NOTE FROM JEN -

MEET JOE GALAVIZ, KLF WAREHOUSE COORDINATOR

The community steps up to fight hunger in force during the holiday season. From large food drives to extra help from volunteers, KLF bears witness to an amazing outpouring of support in November and December. For this newsletter, we sat down with Joe Galaviz to see how our warehouse tackles the demands of the holiday season with festive cheer. - Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director

Q: What's the best thing about overseeing the warehouse during this season?

A: We have a tremendous amount of food drives happening during the holiday season, and it's amazing to see the love and support of our community come pouring into the warehouse.

Q: What's your strategy for getting everything accomplished during the holiday season?

A: We're grateful to have an incredible team of recurring volunteers as well as volunteer groups, but we see an influx of help during the holidays. Those extra volunteers make all the difference in getting things accomplished.

Q: How does demand change during the holiday season and how does the warehouse's work shift to meet those demands?

A: We see an increase in demand for our services due to multiple factors — children lose access to school meals during the holiday break, utility bills are often higher, etc. These factors put further financial strain on families already struggling to make ends meet. Because of this, we see an increase in pantry orders. We make sure we're utilizing the extra support we're given in November and December to the fullest extent to meet the needs of our clients.

Q: Does the warehouse atmosphere change during the holiday season? If so, how, and why do you think it's different than other times of the year?

A: We're known for being festive. We play holiday music and put up decorations. Everyone seems to smile a little bigger this time of year — it's infectious. I'd love to see that same ramped-up spirit throughout the entire year.

Q: Why is it important to you and your warehouse team to make your holiday volunteers' experience special?

A: The holidays evoke a sense of joy and giving. The people who choose to volunteer with us are donating one of their most precious resources — time. While it may be hard for volunteers to grasp the magnitude of their service while sorting cans or produce, they are truly making a difference for thousands in our community.



Joe Galaviz and warehouse volunteers hard at work repackaging bulk food items in KLF's Clean Room.



GLASS HALF FULL

The USDA recently started purchasing excess milk from dairy farmers struggling to keep their operations afloat due to a decline in demand. As part of the effort, extra gallons are being donated to local food banks now through March 2019. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is grateful to be a recipient of the initiative and, on top of our standard Milk Voucher Program, we're moving 432 gallons of milk each week through our 30 pantries. While these donations are always welcome and appreciated, it's an example of the volatility of the charitable food system as well as KLF's constant need to adapt to utilize our resources to the fullest extent (cooler space, weekly pantry deliveries, etc.). Clients will still be able to utilize KLF's Milk Voucher Program to "shop" for milk from local grocers; KLF then reimburses grocery stores for the vouchers redeemed. Ongoing community support is key in our ability to stock pantry shelves with nutrient-rich items that are not regularly available via the charitable food network - items like milk and other quality proteins.



SHARE THE NEWS

Help others learn about KLF's mission and services by passing this newsletter along to a friend or family member. Forward KLF's online edition to your email contacts. You'll play an instrumental role in helping KLF:

Welcome New Volunteers

Educate the Community About
Vital Food Services

Share Tips to Bolster Local Food
and Fund Drives

Keep People Informed About Important
Food-Related Legislation

And Much More!

MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:

DECEMBER

COUPON #182

Your change can change a
life this holiday season.

Thank you for giving.

Donation Amount

\$ _____

Please send your contribution by
December 21st.

Food Wish List: Cooking Oil

GIVING COUPON:

JANUARY

COUPON #183

Start the new year with a
donation to fight hunger.

Happy 2019!

Donation Amount

\$ _____

Please send your contribution
by January 18th.

Food Wish List: Beef Stew

HAPPY VOLUNTEER YEAR!

RESOLVE TO DONATE TIME IN 2019
WE MAKE GETTING INVOLVED SIMPLE AND FUN

You choose how often you want to help out.
Pitch in as often as a few time per week to once per year.

Visit kzoof.org to find orientation dates
and volunteer needs, or call 269.488.2617 ext. 209.

WARM WELCOMES + FAREWELLS

We've been fortunate to have some amazing people join our team over the past few months. **Rebecca De Los Santos** is our new Human Services Coordinator. In this position, Rebecca works closely with our clients to



Phalon Lewis, Kevin Janssen, Gina Nowling, Nadina Williams-Barrett, and Rebecca De Los Santos.

connect them to our food programs as well as other resources in the community. With a background in helping individuals from all walks of life, especially veterans, she is a great asset to KLF. **Gina Nowling** is now the Douglass Pantry Coordinator following the departure of long-time pantry coordinator **Jackie Smith**.

Although Jackie will be deeply missed, we are so pleased to have Gina on board. Gina has served as a volunteer at the Douglass Pantry since its inception. She will be a familiar face for those shopping at this location. **Nadina Williams-Barrett** joins us as the

Community Engagement and Advocacy Coordinator. In this position, Nadina will coordinate the activities of the Kalamazoo County Hunger-Free Community Coalition and will spearhead our food security advocacy initiatives.

Our Board of Directors also has several dynamic new members. **Phalon Lewis**, machinist and leader of committee initiatives at Flowserve Corporation, joins the Board after sharing his energy and new ideas as a member of KLF Resource Development Committee for the last six months. **Kevin Janssen**, Branch Manager of the Old National Bank in Milwood, served as a valuable member of the KLF Services Committee for over a year before joining the board in June. Unfortunately, we do have to say goodbye to a long-time board member, **Karen McPhail**, who is finishing up her final term with our organization. She has been a tremendous asset to our board and our food security advocacy work. Thank you for everything, Karen!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: NEWELL BRANDS DESIGN CENTER

Newell Brands Design Center (The DC) prides itself on creativity and innovation not only when it comes to their products and designs, but also when it comes to community involvement. Shortly after opening their 40,000 square foot state-of-the-art design center in Kalamazoo in 2014, Newell Brands' employees connected with Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes to see how they could help alleviate hunger in the community. Those initial conversations launched an ongoing partnership that includes volunteering and an annual food and fund drive that provides support to KLF.



Newell Brands' employees with donations from their annual annual Loaves & Fishes food and fund drive.

To keep things fun and to harness the spirit of giving, the Newell Brands Design Center sets internal donation goals for the office complete with rewards for meeting each goal. The ultimate goal for 2018, of course, is to surpass last year's total donation. If the employees raise the same amount of food and funds as last year, they will receive donuts for the entire office. But if they surpass last year and reach the 2018 goal, the Executive Vice President will dress up as a turkey and serve the entire office lunch! To maintain momentum during the drive, KLF sends frequent updates so the employees know how close they are to reaching their goal. "As much as we love one another, we love competing against one another even more! This year's drive is focused on providing support for our community with a whole lot of fun thrown in," comments Michelle Wong, Project Coordinator and Project Leader of the Design Center's Community Club.


Since the annual drive started, Newell Brands' employees have donated \$11,500 and over 2,000 pounds of food — the total equivalent of nearly 36,000 meals! Additionally, Newell Brands has frequently sent groups of volunteers to help in KLF's warehouse sorting and repacking food.

"When Newell Brands first opened in Kalamazoo, most of their employees had moved here from other locations," said Greta Faworski, KLF Resource Development Director, "They've made it a true priority to integrate into the community and help their new neighbors who may be struggling."

Thank you, Newell Brands, for joining us in the fight to end hunger in Kalamazoo County!

KALAMAZOO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS

KC FEEDS KZOO



DECEMBER 15

DONATE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AT:
Harding's Market
on West Main Street

Students will also be collecting donations door-to-door in select neighborhoods.



You have inspired others to give.
Jessica & Tanner Holmes
Made a Gift in Your Honor to
KALAMAZOO
LOAVES & FISHES
This gift will help provide food
to those who need it most.
Presented by Kalamazoo County Food Bank (KCFB) - Kalamazoo

The Perfect Gift

That person who has everything. Your neighbor or co-worker. The loved one you really miss this season. Making a donation in someone's honor or memory is the perfect gift. We will provide acknowledgement cards and will list the tribute gift in our next newsletter.

For more information, contact
Greta Faworski at 269-488-2617 x208

HOSTING A HOLIDAY PARTY?

We've made it easy to incorporate giving to KLF as part of your festive gathering. Visit our *Holiday Party Toolkit* at kzoolf.org for great ideas!

TRIBUTES

Generous donations made to KLF in someone's HONOR or MEMORY. Donations made 9/1/18 - 10/31/18.

IN HONOR OF

Lee Accorso
Sam & Barb Accorso

Linda Barnes' Birthday
Robert & Judith Shrimplin

Gloria Besbris' 90th Birthday
Marianna Zeman

Ron & Louise Bower's Marriage
KLF Call Center and Services Depart.
Suzanne Webster

Adelyn Boyce's Birthday
John & Diana Haskins

Herb Boyer
Christine & Jim Flagler

Bob & Jean Christie
Sue Beadling

Art Cole
Carol Powell

Fr. Bob Cole
Art Cole & Sally Reames

Marlene DePierre
Robert Lihosit & Pamela DePierre

Our Anniversary
Joyce & Marshall Draper

Cole, Noah & Sam Eshuis
Drake Road Orthodontics

Harold Fitzgerald
William Fitzgerald

Andy & Ed Fleece
Kathleen Fleece

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Steven Knowlton's Birthday
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Hollis & Gwen Vlietstra's Wedding
Marjorie & Duane Westrate

Cheryl Westbrook's Birthday
John & Diana Haskins

Bill & Greta Wilbur's 25th Anniversary
Joyce & Marshall Draper

Jody Wrathall, DDS
Joy & James Gardner

IN MEMORY OF

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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-Paauwe, at 269.488.2617 ext. 206 or Katie@kzoolf.org.



Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

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KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49001-3005

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


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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



TEACHING CHILDREN TO GIVE TO OTHERS

Instilling a sense of philanthropy in a child is simpler than it seems.
Kids are like sponges - they absorb what they see.

Try these easy tips to get a youngster into the giving spirit.

- **Make a gift** to a local charity in honor of their teacher, coach or babysitter.
- **Create a “giving basket”** and add an item (i.e. canned good, socks, pet toys) each day of the holiday season to donate to a local charity of their choice.
- **Write letters** or make cards for elderly friends or relatives who live alone.
- **Allow little ones to help** set and tackle charitable giving goals. Be sure to talk about how their help impacts others within the community.

DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019

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Linda Fuhlbrugge Fox, Program Manager
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