

PROMOTING A HUNGER-FREE COMMUNITY SINCE 1982

# KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES



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2018-2019  
ANNUAL REPORT

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...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.

- KLF VOLUNTEER & CLIENT

## 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERS

Nearly forty years ago, several community members came together to discuss a collaborative approach to addressing hunger in our community. And, thus, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes was born. Since that time, there has been a tremendous amount of change. Our organization has grown exponentially in the number of distribution sites and the amount of warehouse space required. Our capacity to provide food assistance has expanded and, now more than ever, we are uniquely positioned to address food insecurity within our county.

But despite all the change and growth over the years, some things haven't changed. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes believes that **the little things matter** in this work, and we remain true to our **homegrown, local approach** to supporting the basic needs of our friends and neighbors.

As always, **individuals self-declare their need for our services**. We don't believe in creating unnecessary barriers between people who are food insecure and the grocery assistance they need. There is no proof of income required. It doesn't matter where you come from, what you believe, or how you found yourself struggling to make ends meet. Food is a basic need for everyone.

**We are all in this together.** Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' ability to help so many people is directly related to the collaboration and generosity provided by the community. Volunteers play a role in nearly every aspect of our organization and allow us to have a wide reach. Generous monetary and food donations are imperative to keeping our shelves full. Partners provide us space to distribute groceries throughout the county and, consequently, play an important role in increasing accessibility.

Throughout the years, **we have remained flexible in order to be relevant** to those experiencing food insecurity. Changing and growing to meet evolving needs is critical. Providing assistance in different ways is essential to be equitable. While our pantries are a core component to our mission, not everyone can access them for a variety of reasons. Because of that, we must provide different avenues to food assistance. Mobile food initiatives, school-based pantries, and targeted outreach are some of the ways in which we meet people where they are in life.

Our founding principles guide our decisions as we move into the future. Yet we must change and grow in response to community need. These changes manifest in our size and physical footprint. They are present in how we procure and distribute food. New collaborations are always being formed while steadfast partnerships are strengthened. **But one thing remains the same — we are here to support our friends and neighbors in Kalamazoo County who are facing food insecurity.** And, as a community, we are all in this together.

Thank you for your partnership.

Jennifer Johnson, KLF Executive Director

Herb Boyer, KLF Board President

### OUR 2018-2019 TEAM

**Joan Atwell**  
Call Center Coordinator

**Katie Munson-Pauwee/Mandakini Brophy**  
Development & Communications Coordinator

**Alysse Breckenridge**  
Senior Program Director

**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

**Seth De Los Santos**  
Warehouse Assistant

**Greta Faworski**  
Resource Development Director

**Linda Fuhlbrugge Fox**  
Program Manager

**Lisbeth Fuentes Rosas**  
Program Coordinator

**Mireya Guzmán-Ortiz**  
Call Center Assistant

**Joe Galaviz**  
Warehouse Manager

**Dave Hafer**  
Procurement & Transportation Coordinator

**Kim Hinds-Lepsy**  
Melzer Pantry Coordinator

**Jennifer Johnson**  
Executive Director

**Denise Koning**  
Human Resources Director

**Andrea Macklin/Ray Kuerth**  
Volunteer Coordinator

**Nate Mattson**  
Financial Analyst

**Gina Nowling**  
Douglass Pantry Coordinator

**Maria Rivera-Ayers**  
Program Coordinator

**Nadina Williams-Barrett**  
Community Engagement & Advocacy Coordinator

*There was a time when I had to use Loaves & Fishes to get by. I have always been grateful for the program. I know that what it was able to do for me, it is also doing for many others every day.*

— KLF Donor &  
Former Client



Through all of our programs, we distributed food at **83 Kalamazoo County locations**.



We provided food to **28,568 unduplicated individuals** in our community.



**92.5% of contributions** went directly to our hunger-relief programs.



**It cost us \$2.70** to provide one individual with food for four full days.



For the fifth year in a row, **produce and fresh protein** were our largest distributed food categories.





## GROCERY PANTRY PROGRAM

The Grocery Pantry Program (GPP) is our largest and longest-running program. With 30 Kalamazoo County locations, the GPP connects individuals to fresh and non-perishable food items.

Four-Day Food Orders Filled: **146, 578**

Number of Pantries: **30**

New Households Served : **1,781**

Cost of Four-Day Food Orders: **\$2.70**

Number of Unduplicated Individuals Served: **28,568**



## WEEKEND FOOD PACK PROGRAM

In partnership with Communities in Schools and local school districts, we distributed packs to food to 650 students each week. The Weekend Food Pack Program is designed to help bridge the weekend food gap for students who rely on school meal programs for nutrition.

Packs Distributed: **19,064**

Number of Schools: **14**



## MOBILE FOOD INITIATIVE

This program provides supplemental grocery items at five Kalamazoo County sites each month. No referral or appointment is necessary to receive food at these regularly-scheduled distributions.

Number of Distributions: **75**

Total Recipients: **16,530**



## COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM

This program is designed to get additional groceries in the hands of low-income senior citizens. Food is delivered directly to local housing complexes and other easily accessible Kalamazoo County locations.

Registered Seniors: **657**

Number of Distribution Sites: **18**

Total Number of Boxes Distributed: **6,379**



## AGENCY SUPPORT PROGRAM

KLF works with local agencies who provide hot meals, emergency food packs, and/or operate their own individual pantry. Agency support includes providing organizations access to our food inventory as well as sharing perishable food items we have in bulk to avoid food waste.

Partners Receiving Food: **37**

Pounds of Food Distributed: **216, 873**

**TOTAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES: 83**



## OUR EXPANSION

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is committed to providing quality, nutritionally balanced food. To secure a wide variety of food at a reasonable price, it is essential to have targeted food procurement efforts and strong relationships with food wholesalers, farmers, and grocers. Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes staff members work hard building relationships that have opened doors to more fresh produce, quality protein options, and greater savings through bulk purchasing opportunities.

When we moved from our space on Alcott Street in 2012, it was felt that our freezer and cooler would provide the space necessary to meet food quality and quantity demand. However, through time, the existing cold storage created roadblocks to securing this much-needed inventory. In many cases, it has been necessary to decline opportunities for bulk purchasing of frozen food because there was not enough cold storage space. We found it was also difficult to maintain the useful life of fresh fruits and vegetables for the same reason.

After securing necessary funds from generous private donors and local foundations, KLF was able to expand its main warehouse freezer and cooler by 30 feet from the existing wall to create more cold storage. This expanded space has and will continue to greatly enhance our ability to purchase food from wholesalers at a low cost. This will also extend the usable life of food donations. The expansion was completed in October of 2019 and has already allowed us to explore new food procurement options.



## WHERE OUR FOOD CAME FROM

### 30%: PURCHASED FOOD

Because KLF is committed to nutritionally-balanced food options, we increasingly must turn to the wholesale market for cost-effective bulk purchases to keep our shelves stocked.

### 25%: CHARITABLE FOOD NETWORK

Our connection to the National Charitable Food Network via Feeding America allows us to access no-cost and pennies-on-the-pound food.

### 18%: FOOD RESCUE

We work with grocers to pick-up perfectly edible food items that are no longer on shelves because of "sell by" or "best by" dates.

### 11%: COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVES

Community food donations help us meet our service commitments and provide the grocery variety that our clients need and want.

### 9%: FARMERS & GROWERS

Local growers and farmers provide fresh-from-the-field produce that's essential for keeping our client's diets balanced and healthy.

### 7%: GOVERNMENT SOURCED

We receive food from the USDA to support low-income seniors through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. When available, we receive additional food items for our pantries.

## WHAT WE DISTRIBUTED

We feel that the hard work of our staff, volunteers and donors should be reflected by what our clients are able to put into their shopping carts. Proteins and produce once again topped the list of what we distributed last year — a combined total of 55.1%! Below are additional details about the foods we distributed via our programs.

20.4% Fresh Produce

18.4% Proteins

16.3% Canned/Frozen Produce

14.1% Bread/Bakery

9.7% Dairy

7.2% Mixed/Assorted

6.9% Miscellaneous

3.4% Cereal

3.5% Grains/Pasta/Rice

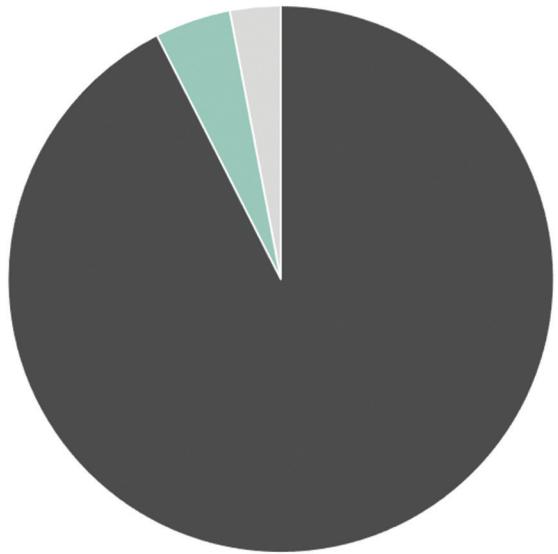
0.2% Baby Food/Formula

### Total Pounds Distributed

3,292,833

*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.*

— College Student  
& KLF Client



**REVENUE** **\$7,934,402**

CONTRIBUTIONS	93.5%
SPECIAL EVENTS	0.6%
GRANTS	4.8%
UNITED WAY	0.1%
INVESTMENT INCOME	0.6%
MISC. INCOME	0.2%

Note: \$669,699 in restricted revenue for freezer/cooler expansion is included in the revenue total, but not on the graph or percentages.

**EXPENSES** **\$7,365,717**

PROGRAM SERVICES	92.5%
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	4.5%
FUNDRAISING	3.0%

66

*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.*

— KLF Volunteer & Client

**VOLUNTEER TIME**  
WAS VALUED AT \$1,168,823

**FOOD DONATIONS**  
WAS VALUED AT \$4,149,823





## MEET SOME OF OUR CLIENTS

### DEREK

A college student who works two jobs to make ends meet for him and his younger brother. Derek lost his dad when he was 14 and found himself working nights in high school to support himself. He maintained his 3.6 GPA with hopes of going to college, but he waited to make sure his brother made it through high school. They now share a room in a rental, both attend college, and utilized KLF now and then when there's too little left over for groceries.

### SAMARAH

A refugee and married mother of three, she and her family fled their war-torn country in 2015 in hopes of escaping violence. Samarah and her husband both hold advanced Chemistry degrees and speak English, but they found that their degrees could not be credentialed in the United States. Although the high cost of living has made making ends meet difficult, Samarah is grateful that her husband was able to find work, and for the groceries she's able to receive from KLF when the budget is tight.

### FRANK

A retiree who went back to work as a nursing assistant and senior home caregiver in order to cover medical expenses for his ailing wife. Frank found that Social Security wasn't going to sustain his household, so he took on part-time work. When he needs a hand with groceries Frank visits a KLF pantry; the service keeps him from having to make the daunting decision between paying for prescriptions or eating regular meals.

### ROBIN

A single mom of three and a KLF volunteer, Robin is no stranger to an on-the-go lifestyle. Her teenage daughters are very independent and active in school sports. Robin sometimes finds that, after covering rent and utilities, there's little left for groceries that provide the nutrients her family needs. She's grateful that she can visit a KLF pantry for items like milk, fresh protein, and produce when she needs to.

### CHARLES

A homeless veteran who credits his military training for his resilience. When Charles visits a pantry he only takes what he can fit inside his backpack. He enjoys connecting with fellow clients while visiting KLF and is positive this season of his life will pass with a little grit and hard work.





KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES WILL FEED HUNGRY PEOPLE AND  
ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY IN THE FIGHT TO END HUNGER.

**FOOD REQUEST LINE: 269.343.3663**

901 PORTAGE STREET

KALAMAZOO, MI 49001

PHONE: 269.488.2617    FAX: 269.343.3669

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