

KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

FOOD for THOUGHT

Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

JAMES' STORY

James arrives twenty to thirty minutes after the pantry opens. His timing is intentional. He knows arriving early means he'll have first pick of what's on the shelves, but this isn't a place he wants to be. He's still struggling with his decision to seek help.



When he takes his seat to wait for his turn, he's one of three people still waiting for assistance. By now, most of the clients scheduled for this particular pantry shift have selected their groceries and have left. James sits, arms folded across his chest, trying not to make eye contact with anyone until the pantry volunteer calls him up to shop for himself.

After a few moments he begins to relax. The volunteer helping him has commented on the soccer emblem on his shirt, and they've struck up a casual conversation about the team's season.

James shares that he's working full time and taking a few college courses. He rents a room in a large house nearby that also houses a handful of other people his age. "Most months I'm good." James says to the volunteer, referring to his ability to purchase food from a local grocery store. "This month is different."

Low wages coupled with the cost of living and the purchase of this semester's textbooks have stretched his budget to the max. It's still a week until pay day, and his cupboards are empty.

"If this is what I have to do today to be in a better situation tomorrow, then it's what I have to do." James discontentedly states. "And I'm determined to improve my situation."

James leaves the pantry, three bags of groceries in hand, feeling a sense of relief. Asking for help wasn't easy, but he knows that it's because of KLF that he can focus on work and his studies this week rather than wondering where he will get his next meal. ■

Client name changed for anonymity

TOP 10 FOOD DRIVES

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

- 1 Kalamazoo Central High School, Stuff the Bus
4,786 Pounds
- 2 Kalamazoo Rocket Football
3,913 Pounds
- 3 Knights of the Columbus 6980
1,968 Pounds
- 4 Mann+Hummel USA, Inc.
1,841 Pounds
- 5 Kalamazoo Christian West Elementary
1,273 Pounds
- 6 Bethel Baptist Church
1,251 Pounds
- 7 Richland Fire Association
1,222 Pounds
- 8 WMU Residence Association
1,200 Pounds
- 9 Newell Rubbermaid
950 Pounds
- 10 Lawton Community Schools
840 Pounds

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HOSTED THE 60+ FOOD DRIVES FOR KLF DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON!



THANK YOU KALAMAZOO CANDLE CO!

50% of their **This & That** candle proceeds benefit KLF.

Retail Locations at:
kalamazoo Candle.com

A NOTE FROM JEN

The first months of a new year are often when we pause and reflect on what we've accomplished and goals for the months ahead. At KLF, we always strive to tailor our anti-hunger programs and organizational culture so they're best serving our client and volunteer needs, and that's why we spent some time in 2016 undergoing in-depth program assessments and organizational evaluations.

Our Weekend Food Pack program, a program that serves 800 students each week, was assessed to determine its strengths and weaknesses. We solicited feedback from parents and teachers and, as a result, have bolstered our partnership with Communities in Schools to improve the program going forward. We also evaluated how effective the Grocery Pantry Program serves the needs of those experiencing hunger, including pantry accessibility, food quality, and the effect of the pantry system on food security.

Our Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce worked with a local consultant to assess the organization's progress as it relates to diversity, equity and inclusion. We're striving to improve our volunteer and staff recruitment/hiring processes, effective communication with people who speak English as a second language, and make our pantries more uniform so clients know what to expect no matter where they shop for food. We want our facilities to



be welcoming to people of all religions, socioeconomic status, abilities, and ethnicities. We're also in the first phase of our 2017-2020 strategic

plan in which our Board of Directors and staff are heavily involved. It's our expectation that continuous evaluation of our programs, policies and procedures will allow us to be even better stewards of the funds and resources we receive each year.

We're excited to tackle the challenges the upcoming year has in store for us, and we're committed to making 2017 one of growth and improvement. Thank you for your support and for allowing us to continue to work towards ending hunger in Kalamazoo County. ■

Executive Director

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: STRYKER CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE



When Stryker Corporation's *Champions for Change* volunteers are hard at work at Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, the energy is electric. There's no denying that this group of like-minded coworkers is set on tackling local hunger, and their infectious spirit spills over to other volunteers and staff working alongside them in the warehouse or pantry on any given day.

Stryker's *Champions for Change* has been encouraging employees to adopt local organizations for five years. Today, twenty local organizations benefit from the program as a few hundred employees invest their time and talent to give back each year.

"A lot of our employees want to volunteer and play a role in affecting positive change in their community, but they may not know where to start or feel they have extra time to get involved," said Amy McClain, Community Relations Liaison for Stryker Corporation. "This program allows employees a starting point."

Kevin Packard, *Champions for Change* leader for the KLF group, has been pitching in to tackle local hunger since 2015. He says the best part of getting involved at KLF is that he gets the chance, multiple times throughout the year, to come together with a group of his colleagues to serve others. "I think that KLF is such a powerful resource for our community, and I feel so fortunate to be able to donate my time," says Packard.

We're so grateful for the support *all* Stryker employee groups give to KLF. Our organization is made stronger with their help. ■

2017 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION
VOLUNTEER
 Sign up with Volunteer Coordinator Cherise Buchanan at 269.488.2617 ext. 209 or Cherise@kzoolf.org



UPCOMING ORIENTATION DATES
 February 11th
 February 22nd
 March 11th
 March 15th

MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

<p>GIVING COUPON: FEBRUARY COUPON #160</p> <p>Give from the heart! Your generosity will have an immediate impact.</p> <p>Donation Amount \$ _____</p> <p>Please send your contribution by February 17th.</p> <p>Food Wish List: Rice (bag or box)</p>	<p>GIVING COUPON: MARCH COUPON #161</p> <p>Happy Spring! Celebrate by fighting local hunger with a donation.</p> <p>Donation Amount \$ _____</p> <p>Please send your contribution by March 17th.</p> <p>Food Wish List: Canned Fruit</p>
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AN ARRAY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO FIGHT HUNGER

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes utilizes approximately 450 volunteers each week to make our food programs possible. Our volunteer needs go beyond having a few extra hands to help here and there. We have an array of volunteer opportunities that work cohesively to fight local hunger each day.

If you're interested in volunteering on-site with KLF, chances are we have something that's perfect for you.

On-Site Volunteer Opportunities

Daily Operations: We have numerous weekday shifts for truck drivers, gleaners, pantry helpers, warehouse greeters, bulk food repackers, and more! Give us a call to see what's available.

Second Saturday: Pitch in on the second Saturday of each month for a few hours in our warehouse. Duties vary.

Special Events: Become a KLF special events volunteer and help us spread the word about our programs. This is great for people who want to volunteer during evening or weekend hours.

Volunteer Groups: Organize a day to help at KLF with a group of coworkers, friends or family. We can easily accommodate groups of 10 or less, but special arrangements can also be made for groups of 10 or more.

There are also ways to get involved with KLF without ever stepping foot in our facility (although we'd love to give you a tour if you have time).

Off-Site Volunteer Opportunities

Plant A Row: Have a green thumb? Harvest fruit, veggies or herbs and drop them off at KLF to provide fresh food to people in need.

Anti-Hunger Advocate: Stay connected to hunger legislations and local issues and advocate for those struggling with hunger.

Corporate Campaign: Host a food and/or fund drive at the office to help alleviate hunger in Kalamazoo County.

Young Philanthropists: Encourage young people to get involved in the fight to end hunger by hosting a food or fund drive, pitching in as a volunteer, donating spare change, or creating innovative anti-hunger programs within their schools. The sky's the limit!

If you want more information about volunteering with KLF, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Cherise Buchanan at 269.488.2617 ext. 209 or Cherise@kzoolf.org.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is excited to welcome four new Board members to the KLF team: **Herb Boyer**, Senior Financial Consultant for Western Michigan University's Homer Stryker, M.D. School of Medicine; **Chris Burns**, Fixed Income Analyst at Greenleaf Trust; **Melissa Intindola**, an Assistant Professor at Western Michigan University; and **Sara Fetke**, Assurance Senior Manager at BDO USA, LLP officially joined KLF's Board of Directors in December of 2016. Each new member brings a wealth of diverse experience to KLF's team and the fight to end local hunger. Existing board member **Kim Labadie**, Vice President for Operations for Mercantile Bank of Michigan, has stepped into the role of Board Secretary and **Sara Fetke** (who actually started her Board duties in mid-2016) has taken up KLF's Board Treasurer position. We're looking forward to another year of progress with help from KLF's Board of Directors. ■



A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Our holiday season was made that much more merry because of our amazingly supportive community. Over 50 groups pitched in at our Portage Street warehouse and dozens of food and fund drives were hosted on our behalf to help alleviate hunger. For helping us smoothly wrap up 2016 and for allowing us to kick off 2017 with renewed energy - thank you!



BEQUESTS

Bequests are gifts given to a charity after an individual's death as specified in their last will and testament. They are most often financial gifts, but may also be gifts of personal property or stock. What an amazing way to leave a legacy and continue helping others after your passing! Since a gift can be made in a specific dollar amount or as a percentage of your estate, there are ways to support multiple charities and to ensure your loved ones are cared for as well. **For more information about supporting KLF through a bequest, contact our Development Director, Greta Faworski, at 269-488-2617 ext. 208 or greta@kzoolf.org.**

HELP
WANTED



We're looking for bilingual volunteers to help in KLF's Call Center and pantries. If you speak Spanish, Arabic, French, or ASL, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Cherise Buchanan at 269.488.2617 ext. 209 or at Cherise@kzoolf.org.

empty BOWLS PROJECT

**PARTICIPATING
SCHOOLS INCLUDE:**
EDISON
PRAIRIE RIDGE
SPRING VALLEY

ENJOY A FREE CATERED MEAL, SUPPORT LOCAL STUDENTS,
AND HELP FIGHT HUNGER IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY.
VISIT KZOOOF.ORG FOR EVENT DATES AND LOCATIONS.



KLF'S WEEKEND FOOD PACKS

One of the five anti-hunger programs operated by Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes is the Weekend Food Pack Program. In partnership with Communities in Schools (CIS), KLF provides 800 food packs to supplement local elementary school student's food needs during weekend hours when other food sources may be scarce. Our partners at CIS and each individual school building help coordinate with teachers to ensure students most in need go home with food packs at the end of each school week.



Until late 2016, KLF was purchasing pre-made food packs from the Food Bank of South Central Michigan. We're now making the packs in-house to allow our volunteers more hands-on experience in helping local children and to also allow us more control over the types of foods being included in each pack. Food packs contain provisions to cover breakfast, lunch, and a snack or two during weekend hours, and the food included is carefully selected to ensure a child of elementary school age is able to prepare it for themselves in case parents or caregivers are not available to assist. We try, whenever possible, to make sure packs contain single-serve fruit cups, vegetables, whole grains, and milk. We also try to include a healthy snack like dried fruit or an oatmeal bar to help tide kids over between meals.

Keeping little ones fueled for success plays an important role in building Kalamazoo's future leaders. You can learn more about KLF's Weekend Food Pack Program and how to help sustain this vital resource at kzoolf.org. ■

KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



\$1 = 3 MEALS

**YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR NEIGHBORS.
YOUR IMPACT**

Because of your humbling generosity, we were able to reach our 2016 Annual Campaign goal. We are now better equipped to tackle food insecurity in Kalamazoo County, particularly during the late winter/early spring months when donations taper off, but demand is still high. Thank you for believing in our mission and helping your neighbors in need.

TRIBUTES Generous donations made to KLF in someone's **MEMORY**. Donations made 11/1/16 - 1/6/17.

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Jerry & Susan Miller
Rick & Mary Halpert

Mary Lou Moberg
Tom & Christine McNett

Carrie Morrow
Jon & Courtenay VanderMolen

Thom Myers
Jason & Kathleen Frink

Mike & Sue Nave
Rick & Mary Halpert

Bill & Helen Neff
Lisa Lynch

Terry & Gail Nelson
Rick & Mary Halpert

Sandy Newman
Rick & Mary Halpert

Steve & Constance Nitsch
Rick & Mary Halpert

Helen Norris
Mike & Charlotte Dennison

Father James O'Leary
Rosemary Barnum

Merri Kay Oleen-Burkey
Harold & Shirley Ray

Carl & Linda Orringer
Rick & Mary Halpert

Dr. Roy Olton
Bertrand Olton

Mark & Becky Osowski
Rosemary Barnum

Jeffrey & Megan Osowski
Rosemary Barnum

Susan Paul
Mark Paul

Betsy Penney
Louella Bradley

Heather Perkins
Bob & Jeri Bushouse

Melanie Perry & Jim Cousins
Arnie & Debby Johnston

Lauralee Pierce
Darlene & Scott McNabb

Margaret Pifer
Rebecca & Amy Hinze-Pifer

Steven Pifer & Janice Bedrosian

Tom & Mary Platte
Elizabeth Platte

Dan Pope
Barb & Dan Barber

Linda Poquette
Jamie Jeremy

Dr. & Mrs. Jai Prasad
Rick & Mary Halpert

Rich & Heather Provost
Rick & Mary Halpert

Susan Pyke's 75th Birthday
Patty La Mothe

Dylan Ramber-Jach
Rebecca Walker & Cynthia Black

Jordan Ramber-Jach
Rebecca Walker & Cynthia Black

Grandchildren of Judy & Bob Rapp
Judy & Bob Rapp

Steve & Kathy Rhodes
Rick & Mary Halpert

Bob & Carla Ritchie
Jeffery & Robin Huff

Karis Robbins
Nina Consolatti

Gerald & Elena Roberts
Christopher Roberts

Steve Rochow Family
Rosemary Barnum

Bernie and Helen Rodee's Anniversary
John & Kay Haas

Roberta Rogers
William & Mary Gephart

Mr. Jeff Rostami
Bettina Meyer

Scott & Bonnie Sawusch
Rick & Mary Halpert

Brian & Julie Schneeberger
Hans Anderson

Carol Schreiner
Amy Schreiner

Patricia Schrum
Emily Mainstone

Kathy Shultz
Jane & Jon Streeter

Patricia Scully & Yolande Crosby
Janet Marlatt

Norm & Anita Seiler
Scott & LeAnn Seiler

Jack & Gloria Shearer
Richard & Barbara Baker

Kathy Sheffield
Rosemary Barnum

Family of Patricia Shiley
Pat J. Shiley

Dave & Jill Sluyter
Rick & Mary Halpert

Roger Snow
Sally & Jim Gunderson

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Spruill
Ruth Thornton

Dr. & Mrs. James Stanley
Rick & Mary Halpert

St. Luke's Church
Joan Hartman

Lauren Summerville
Dana McClellan

Richard & Mary Sutton
Millie Lambert

Mike & Janet Sydlaske
Rick & Mary Halpert

William Sykes
Rodney Budka

Mrs. Margaret Tanner
Clyde & Mary Stevens

Chip Taylor
Kaye Collins

Marti Terpstra
Brian & Julie Schneeberger

The Good Lord
Judi & Jeff Gray

The Steinerts
Martha Compton

Todas Family
Mary Ross

Doug Thompson
Penny Thompson

Pastor David Thompson
Shirley Kloosterman

Marilyn Thornburg
Rosemary Barnum

Thursday Bridge Group
Shirley & Allan Heavey

Evan Tiderington
Tom & Jan Tiderington

John & Carol Trittschuh
Rick & Mary Halpert

Sister Marie Ursula
Rosemary Barnum

Sanjay Valvani
Shri & Swerun Valvani

Kay Van Dis
Michele C. McLaughlin

Sandy Vandenberg's Birthday
Carol Vandenberg

Jim & Monie Vandenberg
Staff of Maple Hill Auto Group

Gopalam Vanimisetti
Avinash Baktula & Hima Bindu Vanimisetti

Kaye VanTil
Louella Bradley

Laura VanVlack-Ailes
Bruce VanVlack

Donna Vogler
Caroline & Roger Summerfield

Volunteers Everywhere
Johnell Cuddeback-Weintraub

Bob Warner
Harold & Shirley Ray

Nira Watkins
Barbara Watkins

Jack & Marian Wattles
Linda Becker

Barbara Webber
Louella Bradley

Lucy Welch's Birthday
Jeff & Judy Smith

Lisa Welniak
Rick & Mary Halpert

Stuart & Mary Werner
Scott Werner

Steve & Debbie Weston
Rick & Mary Halpert

Westwood Neighbors
Ronald & Donna Holmes

Michael, Stephanie, Paul & Nicholas White
Richard & Barbara Baker

Mike & Sue Williams
Elisabeth Schauer

Frank & Bobbie Willis
Rick & Mary Halpert

Jeddy Wilson
Mitch & Sarah Wilson

Matt Wolf's Retirement
Karen & Curtis Finch

Natalie Wood
John Forbes

Mary Beth Wood
Dana Wood

Maggie Woodruff
Jim Woodruff

Lys Buck & Liz Yoon
Jan Yoon

Cristina Young
Joan Young

Amanda, Zac and Millie Zedricki
Mitch & Sarah Wilson

For corrections or mailing database updates, please contact
Laura Galaviz at
269.488.2617 ext. 206 or
Laura@kzoof.org.



KALAMAZOO
& LOAVES
& FISHES

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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



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017
THE FETZER CENTER | 6:30-8 P.M.
2350 BUSINESS COURT AT WMU, KALAMAZOO

COMPLIMENTARY PARKING IS AVAILABLE DIRECTLY ADJACENT
TO THE FETZER CENTER BUILDING IN PARKING LOT 72F

JOIN US FOR AN UPDATE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
DONOR AND VOLUNTEER AWARDS, HORS D'OEUVRES, AND MORE!
RSVP TO MEG AT 269.488.2617 EXT. 218 OR AT MEG@KZOOOLF.ORG

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

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Paul Bushek, Warehouse Assistant
Art Cole, Services Director
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Bob Dekker, Warehouse Assistant
Greta Faworski, Resource Development Director
Mary Foley-Wilson, Accounting Coordinator
Linda Fox, Call Center Coordinator
Joe Galaviz, Warehouse Assistant

EXT.
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209 Kathy Gernaat, Operations Director
217 Meg Gernaat, Marketing Coordinator
207 Dave Hafer, Warehouse Coordinator
222 Kim Hinds-Lepsy, Call Center Assistant
217 Phyllis Hepp, Organizational Development Director
208 Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director
222 Deb Josephson, Services Coordinator
201 Marvin King, Food Procurement Specialist
217 Jackie Smith, Melzer Pantry Coordinator

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212
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