

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

LATE FALL 2021/EARLY WINTER 2022



MEET GRACIE

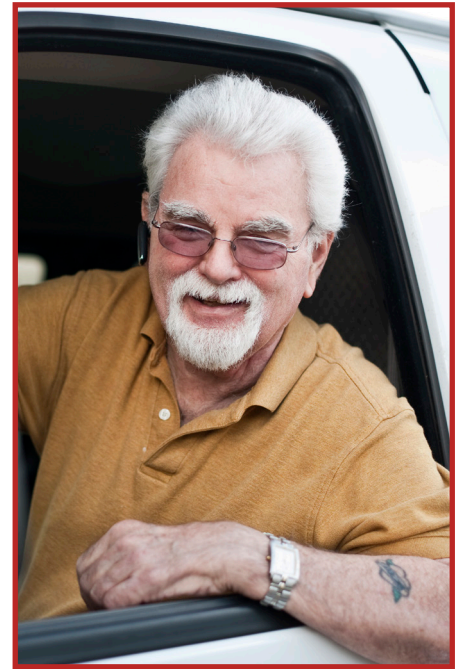
Gracie works the breakfast and lunch shifts at a local diner. She likes her job, but her schedule is demanding, and money is still too tight to afford a vehicle. Gracie lives at a long-term stay hotel near the diner so she can walk to work. When she first contacted KLF, she wasn't sure we could help because of her work schedule and lack of transportation. We scheduled her for a delivery and made sure she had items that would fit in her mini fridge. Gracie mentioned it was just she and her little dog, so KLF brought some dog treats that had been donated by the SPCA for occasions like this. The day after her first delivery, Gracie wrote "Thank you so much—you don't know how much help you have been to me."

We've had a rough six months with some unexpected medical bills and other expenses. I want to have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for my kids, but can barely afford everyday items right now.

**- Jade
Mother & KLF Client**

MEET CLIFF

Cliff waits in his car for KLF's monthly senior commodities distribution to begin. This joint effort between KLF and Milestone Senior Services is designed to help low-income seniors and is a supplement to other food assistance from KLF. When it's Cliff's turn to get his groceries, he rolls down his window to chat with the staff he has gotten to know through the program. "Hey you two!" Cliff says cheerfully. "How are my favorites today?" As the staff load his car with groceries, Cliff tells them about some of his minor health ailments and a movie he just watched. Cliff lost his wife a few years ago and lives alone, something he has shared with the staff at previous pickups. "Thanks for the goods—it helps a lot. Stay out of trouble—I'll see you next month!" Cliff waves and drives off.



MEET JADE

"I can't believe I am doing this—that I am to the point where I need to get help with food." Jade, a mother of three, states when she calls our Need Food line. She shares that she works in a social service agency and frequently has given to charity. "I'm usually the one helping people, not asking for help," she says. "We've had a rough six months with some unexpected medical bills and other expenses. I want to have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for my kids, but can barely afford everyday items right now." Jade is relieved to learn that KLF will give out turkeys and other holiday staples the week before Thanksgiving through its pantries and a large mobile food distribution. "This is wonderful," Jade exclaims, "I need to learn to accept help as difficult as it may be."



A NOTE FROM JEN

During the holiday season, it's natural to reflect on the year behind us as we approach the one ahead. In some ways, it feels like we've lived one VERY long year starting in March 2020. But with light flickering at the end of the COVID tunnel—or at least the need to move from reactive to proactive mode—we are looking forward and determining the best ways to continue meeting community needs. — Jennifer E. Johnson, Executive Director

2021 TAKEAWAYS

- **How people access food assistance has changed.** The curbside pickup model was required in nearly every aspect of life during the height of the pandemic. In a recent survey, we've found that over 65% of our clients really like this model and want it to remain in place. It is necessary to find ways to accommodate both those who want curbside pickup and those who want to shop in-person.
- **The food supply chain is more volatile than ever.** This has always been true, but more so in the wake of the pandemic. Every month, we face a different challenge in food supply. Cancelled orders, shipping delays, higher food costs—we've seen it all.
- **The 'great staff migration' is a real thing.** After any significant event, people review their lives and often decide to make changes. We've had staff members leave to pursue higher education, relocate to be closer to family or follow love, retire, and explore other fields. Saying goodbye can be difficult, but we've gained great new talent and fresh perspective.
- **We need community partners, donors, and volunteers.** These relationships remain the mighty force behind our mission.

2022 GOALS

- **Strengthen food supply partnerships.** KLF is dedicated to providing not only food assistance, but a wide variety of nutritionally balanced items. With the volatility of the food supply chain, it's important to have depth in our food sources so we can continue to secure the items we need.
- **Continue to engage our clients in program development.** KLF exists to serve the community. As we continue to formulate our post-pandemic model, the feedback from those we serve is vital.
- **Solidify measurement tools.** In July 2021, we launched a new customer database. Utilizing this data along with our inventory data, we are striving to establish new measurement tools to assist with inventory flow, food order size, and general warehouse efficiencies.
- **We must be okay with some uncertainty.** The pandemic changed everything, and the impact is still unfolding.



Jen and staff go over food order details prior to loading trucks for delivery.



HOLIDAY GRATITUDE

The **Maple Hill Holiday Parade** would not be possible without the generosity of Jim VandenBerg and his team. We're grateful for their ongoing support of our community's holiday traditions as well as their efforts to help KLF fight hunger in Kalamazoo County.




Stay tuned for details!




An example of what your monthly gift helps purchase for pantries!


GIVING MADE EASY

Monthly gifts make a difference year-round, and our **Sustainers Circle Program** is a fool-proof way to hit your giving goals without added to-dos. See some of the highlights of our program below!

 Convenient, yet very effective way to support the community.

 Give via credit card, direct debit, or check from your financial institution.

you It's easy to budget your charitable giving while providing KLF with a stable, continual source of support.

 You'll help people year-round, especially when donations are low but need is high.

To get started, please contact Greta Faworski by phone at 269.488.2617 ext. 208, by email at greta@kzoolf.org, or visit kzoolf.org.

MONTHLY GIVING COUPONS

GIVING COUPON:
DECEMBER
COUPON #214

'Tis the season to give.
Thank you for your
support this holiday.

Donation Amount
\$ _____

Please send your contribution
by December 10th.

Food Wish List: Cooking Oil

GIVING COUPON:
JANUARY
COUPON #215

Happy New Year!
Start 2022 with a gift
to help others.

Donation Amount
\$ _____

Please send your contribution
by January 14th.

Food Wish List: Beef Stew

WELCOME NEW STAFF

We would like to introduce new members of the KLF team! **Temilade Quadri** joins us as a Warehouse Assistant after his time in the United States Army. **Tiffany Douglas** is also a new Warehouse Assistant and brings a wealth of experience working with food banks and our inventory management system. Both Temilade and Tiffany work hard managing food inventory, making deliveries, and helping with mobile food distributions. **Myah Van Til** is our newest Program Assistant. Myah helped us as a temp employee last holiday season and is returning in a full-time capacity. She will assist walk-up clients as well as help in the Call Center and pantries.



VOLUNTEERS
THE MIGHTY FORCE BEHIND OUR MISSION
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO
FIGHTING HUNGER IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS
FOR ALL THE WAYS YOU HELP
MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it."

- Halford E. Luccock

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes was built on a foundation of partnership and collaboration.

We would like thank the many organizations who play a vital role in our food distribution efforts. The following serve as KLF pantries, mobile food distribution sites, partner pantries and meal sites, CSFP distribution sites, Weekend Food Pack Program school districts, and key referral agencies.

8th District Court Probation Department
Adult and Child Protective Services
African Christian Fellowship
Area Agency on Aging
Bethany Christian Services
Borgess Cancer Center
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo
Bridgeways
Canterbury House Apartments
Cedar Park Senior Apartments
Centerpoint Church
Chapel Hill United Methodist Church
Christian Neighbors
Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo
Comstock Community Center
Comstock Public Schools
COPE Network
Crosstown Parkway Apartments
Country Meadows Apartments
Dillon Hall
Douglass Community Association
Eagle's Nest
Eastside Neighborhood Association
Ecumenical Senior Center
El Concilio
Evergreen Apartments
Faith Life Church
Family and Children Services
First United Methodist Church
Galesburg United Methodist Church
Generous Hands
Healthy Babies, Healthy Start
Integrated Services of Kalamazoo
Interfaith Homes
Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety
Kalamazoo Drop-In Child Care Center
Kalamazoo Public Library
Kalamazoo Public Schools
KRESA

KVCC ValleyShare Program
Latter Rain Outreach
Lutheran Church of the Savior
Mattawan Area Food Pantry
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
Milestone Senior Services
Ministry with Community
New Village Park
Open Doors
Parchment Public Schools
Peace House
Portage Community Center
Portage Pines Senior Apartments
Portage Public Schools
Richland Presbyterian Church
River Manor Apartments
Saint Andrew Community Church
Samaritas
SDA Iglesia Hispana de Kalamazoo
South County Community Center
Spring Valley Crossing
St. Ambrose Catholic Church
St. Joseph Catholic Church
Stadium Drive Apartments
Stones Church
Sunnyside United Methodist Church
The Salvation Army
Trinity Lutheran Church
Twelve Baskets
Valley Family Church
Vicksburg United Methodist Church
Village of Sage Grove
Voyage Church
Westland Meadows
Westwood Neighborhood Food Pantry
Wings Event Center
WMU Invisible Need Project
Youth for Christ
YWCA

The above agencies, alongside our generous donors, volunteers, and food partners, help Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes alleviate food insecurity in our community.

Nobody does it alone. Quite simply, thank you!

TRIBUTES Generous donations made in someone's HONOR or MEMORY. Donations made 9/1/21 - 10/31/21.

IN HONOR

Sue Beadling
Corinne Herschleb

Fred Bierlein
Ben & Jessie Bierlein

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KLF Staff & Volunteers
Carol Hurley

Swamp Ladies Book Club Birthdays
Lumberlost Book Club "Swamp Ladies"

Kristine Mauro
Joseph Mauro

Helen Norris
David Norris

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Rachel Packer

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IN MEMORY

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DATABASE UPDATES?

For corrections, mailing updates, or to change how your newsletter is delivered (via USPS, email, or both), please contact Erin Lowe at 269.488.2617 ext. 206 or Erin@kzoolf.org.



KALAMAZOO
& LOAVES
& FISHES

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.KZOOLF.ORG

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE
DONATING TAKES SECONDS AT KZOOLF.ORG

LATE FALL 2021/EARLY WINTER 2022

CONNECT WITH US



KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES IS A



STAFF / BUSINESS OFFICE

269.488.2617
 Bill Brown, Delivery Coordinator & Program Float
 Jillian Bryant, Program Navigation Coordinator
 Carol Cormack, Office Coordinator
 Tiffany Douglas, Warehouse Assistant
 Greta Faworski, Associate Director
 Leonardo Fernandez, Bilingual Services Assistant
 Kristen Heggie, On-Call Program Coordinator
 Jeff Herman, Warehouse Analyst
 Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director
 Sara Johnson, Administrative & HR Coordinator

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