

FOODFOR**THOUGHT**

LATE FALL / EARLY WINTER 2022



MEET ANNA

Anna is pregnant with her second child. Due to complications with the pregnancy, she is on bed rest for several months. Because her employer did not offer any short-term disability benefits or FMLA, Anna had to quit her job. “Going from two incomes to one has been super hard,” Anna shared. “My husband’s job is pretty secure for now, but our budget was based on our combined salary.” Her health issues prevent her from driving, so Anna was very grateful for KLF’s delivery program. “We live in the country way outside of Kalamazoo and don’t qualify for a lot of programs. KLF has helped so much!”



MEET ARTHUR

When Arthur drives up and greets our staff, he’s ready with a list of the items he needs. “I don’t want to take anything that someone else can use,” Arthur insists. In his late 70s, Arthur still drives and lives on his own. His wife died five years ago, and Arthur has struggled since her passing. “We were married for over 40 years,” Arthur says with a sad smile. “She took care of everything — cooking, shopping, and paying bills. I never realized how much work went into running this household — it’s hard to keep it all straight.” Arthur shares that he has lived on a very limited income since retirement. Getting some food items from KLF each month is helpful. We provide Arthur with contact information for Milestone Senior Services to get additional support for other areas of his life.



MEET KEYSHA

Keysha is in her mid 20s and works as a sales associate at a national chain clothing store. She has worked there for over three years, currently making \$10.65 per hour. Even though Keysha really likes her job, loves clothes, and enjoys helping customers, she is having a difficult time making ends meet. “My apartment is only 720 square feet with no frills, but my rent has increased to \$1,100 per month,” Keysha shares. “How am I supposed to have anything left for food after that?!” Until the last few months, Keysha had only visited KLF once in 2016. “I’m looking for a part-time job to help bring in a little more cash. This food helps a lot while I am trying to find extra work.”



While the client stories featured above are true, their names and images have been changed for anonymity.

A NOTE FROM JEN

We typically feature a special guest in this article; however, it seemed like a fitting opportunity to chat with our Executive Director, Jennifer Johnson. As we quickly approach the holiday season and reflect on our 40th year of service, it is truly a special time at KLF. — Greta M. Faworski, Associate Director

Q: Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes started in 1982. When you think about 1982 compared to 2022, what is the same about KLF? What is different?

A: From the very start, KLF existed because volunteers, donors, community organizations and churches pooled resources to solve a complex issue. This is still very true today. Our founders believed in self-declaration of need, knowing that food insecurity can't always be determined through complicated income verifications and invasive questions. Everyone's story is different, and there are many families who earn above the poverty level, but still can't cover the basic cost of living in our area. What is quite different today is the scale to which we provide service. In 1982, KLF provided 6,000 food orders from the basement of a church. Last year, we provided over 100,000 food orders through a large warehouse and multiple trucks and vans. In 1982, our country was experiencing high inflation and facing a recession. Here we are again — the perfect storm brewing and reinforcing why an agency like KLF is so important in the community.

Q: What is next as KLF looks towards the future?

A: The most successful way to combat hunger is what we know as the food safety net. It's a combination of government programs, non-profit resources, and community support. Not one of these efforts, alone, will do it. We need to improve our child nutrition programs and remember how important daily access is for so many. We need to improve nutrition assistance for community members who are disabled or medically at-risk. We need to support legislation that incentivizes corporate and public giving. KLF must be at the front of the line to break down barriers and dismantle systems of oppression. Finally, as a non-profit, we can't stop thinking innovatively about ways to reduce and eliminate hunger.

Q: Any final thoughts?

A: I can't tell you how fortunate I feel working for KLF. This agency that puts people first and looks at individual needs. That distinguishes between the person and their challenge. That believes everyone has the right to healthy, nutritious food. That has never wavered from its original intent of a community working together and pooling resources to help others and address a complex issue.



Jennifer Johnson with Anne Lipsey, former KLF Executive Director, accepting a special legislative tribute honoring KLF's 40 years of service.



Welcome aboard!

We are excited to introduce the newest members of our KLF staff!



Bryant Strong and Heather Hageman



Allison Triplett



Elias Fernandez

Three new Program Assistants have joined our team. **Heather Hageman** (full-time), **Allison Triplett** (part-time), and **Elias Fernandez** (part-time) will support our hunger-relief programs by building food orders in the pantry, scheduling appointments in the Call Center, and supporting walk-in clients. **Bryant Strong** is our newest Warehouse Assistant which will keep him busy unloading

food orders, delivering inventory to our pantries and partners, and helping with mobile food distributions.

Together they bring a wealth of experience and dedication and will help us carry out our mission each day.



IMPACT of Food Insecurity



Experiencing food insecurity, even for a short period of time, can have a wide and long-lasting impact. While each individual circumstance is different and influenced by a variety of factors, here are some of the most common effects:



CHILDREN AND TEENS

- Delayed or stunted physical and mental development.
- Risk of chronic illnesses like asthma and anemia.
- Behavioral problems like hyperactivity, anxiety and aggression.
- Difficulty concentrating in school, which leads to poor performance and low self esteem.
- Life-long challenges that can result in lower productivity, fewer economic opportunities, and cyclical poverty.



ADULTS

- Need to make difficult decisions such as choosing between paying for food and heat, electricity, rent, and transportation.
- Increased chance of experiencing psychological issues ranging from stress, anxiety, and depression to more severe mental illness.
- Higher probability of chronic or acute health conditions resulting in higher healthcare expenses.
- Increased possibility of intimate partner violence due to stress and the psychological impact of food insecurity.



SENIORS

- Difficulty conducting daily activities such as personal hygiene, mobility, and living independently.
- Higher probability of chronic diseases including hypertension, coronary heart disease (CHD), hepatitis, stroke, cancer, asthma, diabetes, arthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and kidney disease.
- 60% higher chance of experiencing depression than seniors who are food secure.

Sources: Feeding America, National Council on Aging, Food Research & Action Center, Economic Research Service, National Library of Medicine, and American Academy of Pediatrics.

#224

NOVEMBER GIVING COUPON

Your contribution helps provide a feast to families right here in Kalamazoo County.

Donation Amount \$ _____

#225

DECEMBER GIVING COUPON

A gift to KLF helps spread holiday cheer.

Donation Amount \$ _____

DID YOU KNOW?

Over **92%** of your donation goes directly to Program Services.*





Community CELEBRATION



On September 22nd, we had the privilege of celebrating 40 years of service with many friends and community partners. The event was made possible by First National Bank of Michigan, hosted at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, and catered by Milestone Senior Service's Generations Catering. We had a lovely evening honoring those who make our work possible.

Executive Director Jennifer Johnson spoke on the past and present of KLF, followed by an awards ceremony led by Associate Director, Greta Faworski. Awards were presented to our instrumental partners and volunteers for their dedication in the past year. Due to cancellation of the 2020 event, those awards were also given. Thank you for your sincere commitment. Cheers to 40 years!



TOP ROW: Left, Regina Mays. Right, The DogFathers.
BOTTOM: Housing Department, Integrated Services of Kalamazoo with the award's namesake, Anne Wend Lipsey.

Marcia Jackson Hunger Advocacy Award

- 2020: Regina Mays
- 2022: Galesburg Mobile Food Initiative Volunteers

Food Industry Supply Hero (FISH)

- 2020: Mike Rupp, Town & Country Super Market
- 2022: Crisp Country Acres

Willie Webster Outstanding Volunteer Award

- 2020: Sharon Lamson
- 2022: Donald Whitney

Community Pillar Award

- 2020: The DogFathers, Kalamazoo Hot Dog Walk
- 2022: Lindsey Dedicated Services

Golden Loaf Individual Award

- 2020: David Rozelle
- 2022: Jim & Roxanne Frey

Anne Wend Lipsey Social Justice Award

- 2020: Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo
- 2022: Housing Department, Integrated Services of Kalamazoo

Golden Loaf Group Award

- 2020: KLF Front Desk Volunteers
- 2022: MRC Industries, Inc.

TRIBUTES

Generous donations made to KLF in someone's **HONOR** or **MEMORY**. Donations made 8/1/2022 through 9/30/2022.

IN HONOR

Lee Accorso
Sam & Barb Accorso

Ayse's Birthday
Anonymous

Pete & Nita Comensoli
Michael & Linda Bultema

Todd & Amy DeHaan
Kathy W. Neal

Sharon Garrison
Lyle Garrison

Joan & Tom Goddard
Lori Franklin

Tobi Hannah-Davies
Tom Hackley & Emily Bettencourt

Arnold F. Hentschl, DVM
Matthew Early & Mary Hentschl-Early

Kathy Jungreis
Jerome Pomeranz

KLF Volunteers
Jan Ryder

KLF Staff & Volunteers
Sara & Tim Nemeth

William Mann
Deborah Davis

Kristine Mauro
Joseph Mauro

Prudence D. McCabe
Betty Lujan-Roberts & Arthur Roberts

Carol McPherson
Diana Haskins

Carol Mitchell
Anne Fackler

**Tom & Jane Norton's 50th
Wedding Anniversary**
Donna Oberhill
Walter Kipp

Chuck & Lana Ocvirek
Rachel Packer

Oliver & Sam
Robin & Steve Pollens

Pat J. Shiley
Jane & John Hoogerheide

Jack & Roy Ann Smith
Donna Emerson

Lani Smits
David & Sandy Rozelle

Cheryl Westbrook
Diana Haskins

Judy Winarth
David & Sandy Rozelle

IN MEMORY

Gerald Agdanowski
Kathy W. Neal

Richard Anson
Paul & Joanie Rahn

Mike Barcelona
Michael & Linda Bultema

Kent Barnes
Karen Barnes
Kathleen Barnes

Cal Baxter
Katie Smith

Marshall Beachler
Ms. Charlotte Hubbard

Dacia Bridges
Donald & Lynn Somers

Irving & Anna Clauser
Rebecca Evans

Rod Coe
Marlita Walker

Patricia Coleman
Ms. Elizabeth G. Roelofs

Gloria Copeland
Brian & Carol Copeland

Jon Crabtree
Ellen Robinson
Ellen Tipton
Karen Peer

Rita Cook Damon
Lorene Cook

Thomas C. Deem
Barbara & Victor Ceru
Cheryl TenBrink
David & Eileen Rutten
Jacox Family

Brian Desmond
Lorene Cook

Carolyn Doornhaag
Jeff Buckingham Jr.

Puanani Fievet
Michael Ku

Ed Halcomb
Debra Stamp

Steven Michael Hanson
Mary Hanson

Nancy Hoffman
Dalyn Hoffman

Douglas Hoffmann
Leslie Hoffmann

Carol Howard
Pam Siwik

George & Ruth Kinas
Janie & Robert Kinas

Cathy King
Kevin King & Kathleen Robertson King

Marguerite Kolb
Grant Kolb

William & Gladys Kozar
William & Ellen Kozar

Kim Lathwell
David & Roxanne Linton

Maxine L. Loudon
Lori Klutts

Gloria Luscomb
Patricia VerMeulen

Linda Renauld Lutz
Robert & Norberta Renauld

Colleen Magnan
Mr. James A. Magnan

Chris Magnan Poliski
Mr. James A. Magnan

Leo & Vera Marcoux
John & Deborah Mellein

Ann Mark
Michael & Linda Bultema

Thor McMillen
Nicole McMillen

Rev. David McShane
Wayne Conner

Genevieve & Harold Mellein
John & Deborah Mellein

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Joe Krouse
Mary Bobinecz

Kathy Mizeur
Gale & Kathleen Newell

Donald Nakken
Gregory S. Nakken

Jo Ann Noteboom
Harry & Carol Madison

Anna Novak
Jochanan & Mabel Stenesh

Chavelo Olivarez
Rosa Linda Olivarez

Donald Overbeek
Jacqueline Chapin
Jeanne Kovanda
Nancy Haley
Susan Duchak

Gregory Plano
Ellen Kaufman

Rose Marie Prentice
J. Dale & Cheryl Westbrook

Tom Pyke
Susan Pyke

Delphine Rakowski
Cindy & Fred Bierlein

Arthur Redmond Jr.
Barbara G. Redmond

Alvina & Oswald Renauld
Robert & Norberta Renauld

Dee Wielenga Renauld
Robert & Norberta Renauld

Jessica Renauld
Robert & Norberta Renauld

Lena Renda
Carla Bresnahan
Claudette Filliputti
Ettore Filliputti
Kathleen & Daniele Filliputti
Malcom Moon
Ricky Melville
Sarah Baird

Bernard L. Robinson
Earl Habecker

Rosie
Janet West

Antonia H. Rostami
Mr. Jeffrey Rostami

Darrell M. Rostami
Mr. Jeffrey Rostami

Margaret & Charles Ryski
Mary & Mark Marshall

Martin & Emma Schmitt
Robert & Norberta Renauld

Joani Siwik
Christine & Andrea Siwik

Tom Sunday
Ms. Charlotte Hubbard

**Doug & Marie Renauld Stone
and Family**
Robert & Norberta Renauld

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Paul & Diana Swope

Florence A. Tiller
Paul & Diana Swope

H. Roger Tuinstra
David Bronson
Dawn Garza
John Everts
Marjorie & Duane Westrate
Susan Fluri

JoAnn Vrobel
Anonymous
Christine Moore

Ruth E. Wellington
Laurie Andrus
Venessa LaBelle

Florence & Barney Westra
Karl W. Westra

John Westra
Karl W. Westra

Shirley Westra
Karl W. Westra

Tom Williams
Sue Kingsley

Zack Wisniewski
Steven Patterson

Walt & Faye Zinter
Bob & Elizabeth Sangalli



Looking for a special gift to give this holiday season?

HONOR THE SPECIAL PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE WITH A GIFT TO KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES!

We can send a special tribute card to you or directly to your loved one.

For more information, contact Greta at greta@kzoolf.org or Erin at erin@kzoolf.org



Promoting a Hunger-Free Community Since 1982

901 PORTAGE STREET
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49001-3005

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P 269/488-2617 · F 269/343-3669
WWW.KZOOOLF.ORG

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US POSTAGE
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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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



KALAMAZOO LOAVES & FISHES
40 YEARS OF SERVICE

2022 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Your support makes all the difference.

DONATING TAKES SECONDS AT KZOOOLF.ORG

LATE FALL / 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
 Tiffany Douglas, Warehouse Coordinator
 Greta Faworski, Associate Director
 Elias Fernandez, Program Assistant
 Leonardo Fernandez, Bilingual Program Assistant
 Heather Hageman, Program Assistant
 Kristen Heggie, On-Call Program Coordinator
 Jeff Herman, Procurement & Inventory Manager
 Holly Hulfish, Office Manager
 Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director
 Larry Kelly, Program & Delivery Assistant

EXT.

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Ray Kuerth, Volunteer Coordinator
 Alisha Lewis, Program & Delivery Assistant
 Erin Lowe, Dev. & Communications Coordinator
 Nate Mattson, Financial Controller
 Humza Rahman, Lead Pantry Coordinator
 Suzi Secondi, Warehouse Manager
 Glenn Shumate, Warehouse Assistant
 Jay Steeb, Program & Delivery Assistant
 Bryant Strong, Warehouse Assistant
 Myah Van Til, Program Assistant
 Allison Triplett, Program Assistant
 Nadina Williams-Barrett, Program Manager

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