Employee Match Companies

The companies below match employee donations and/or volunteer donations to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. If you make a donation to the Food Bank and work for one of these companies, please let us know!

AAA
Allstate
American Express
Ameriprise Financial
Anthem (Insurance)
Bank of America
BP
Cargill
Consumer Energy
Costco
C. S. Mott Foundation
Dr. Pepper Snapple Group
Exxon Mobil
Gannett Foundation
H & R Block

Hallmark Cards Inc. and Subsidiaries
Home Depot
J.C. Penney
John Hancock
JP Morgan Chase
Kraft
Kohls
Levis Strauss Foundation
Macy's, Inc.
Marathon Oil Corporation
Masco Corporation
McDonalds
Nike
Pepsi
PNC Foundation

Sherwin Williams
Soros Fund Management
Sprint Nextel Corporation
Starbucks
The GAP Corporation
The Hillshire Brands Company
The Home Depot
Toys R Us
USAA
Verizon
W.W. Grainger, Inc.
Wells Fargo & Company
YUM Brand (Pizza Hut, KFC, Taco Bell)

Inspiring the Next Generation to Give Back

Four years ago, Davonte Coleman spent his first summer working at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan as part of the Flint & Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce’s Summer Youth Initiative (SYI) program. Coleman quickly realized the importance of work he and other teens were doing.

“You get to see the difference you are making and how you’re helping people in need,” Coleman said.

Coleman has learned many job skills from the assignments he’s had plus played a leadership role, assisting Food Bank staff in working with the more than 60 SYI students this summer.

Students like Coleman, who return to the Food Bank each summer, are invaluable in helping acclimate other students to the many jobs ranging from food sorting and repacking to grounds and maintenance to assisting with clerical tasks in the office.

“I help train people and am like a go-to guy for everything,” Coleman said. “I really like the responsibility.”

Coleman graduated from Atherton High School in June and plans to attend Mott Community College to study business.

An avid shoe collector, he hopes to one day combine that passion with his desire to give back to the community.

“I want to make shoes that people like, but also ones that kids can afford and sell them for lower prices,” he said.

The SYI program is open to teens through the Chamber who complete specific requirements and then are hired by nonprofits and businesses for summers. The Food Bank has hired SYI students for 16 years.

“SYI students make a tremendous impact on our organization,” said Kara Ross, Food Bank President and CEO. “It is amazing to see the job skills they develop, but even more rewarding to see them grasp the role they can play in serving their community and assisting those in need.”

School Spirit Challenge Kicks Off

Last year, 24 schools participated in the ABC 12 and Food Bank of Eastern Michigan School Spirit Challenge. Students at those schools collected more than 141,000 pounds of food — enough to over 118,000 meals! — throughout the school year.

With school back in session, ABC 12 and the Food Bank are once again partnering with local schools. ABC 12 does live broadcasts from a participating school each Friday, highlighting the students in energetic segments during the morning show.

The defending champions, Grand Blanc High School, are hoping to defend their win last year and hosted a live broadcast on October 4. The food collected during their drive goes to Grand Blanc F.I.S.H., one of the Food Bank’s more than 700 Hunger Relief Partners in our 22 counties.

Good luck and thanks to all of this year’s participating schools!
Provide Hope During the Holidays

Approximately 200,000 people in the 22 counties served by the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan struggle with hunger on a daily basis. More than 52,000 of those people are children. The burdens on working families and seniors are immense. As temperatures in Michigan cool, utility costs go up. Although average hourly wages have risen over the last 40 years, purchasing power has not — it is more expensive than ever to feed a family of four.

Healthcare costs continue to increase, and the onset of cold and flu season means more trips to the doctor or pharmacy. Add in the increased costs for families during the holiday season, and it is easy to empathize with how difficult it can be for families on limited budgets to ensure there is enough food on the table.

Thankfully, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and supporters like you have always stepped up to help our neighbors. Over the last 23 years, our annual Holiday Campaign has raised nearly $12 million, assisted more than 400,000 people, and eased the burden on families throughout our service area.

Last year, we distributed more than 5,000 holiday food boxes. Each holiday box includes enough food to fix an entire holiday meal — including fresh dairy, produce, and protein — as well as items to stock pantries for several days.

This year, we are once again asking for our supporters to help our neighbors in need. A donation of approximately $40 allows us to provide a holiday box for a family of six.

Any donation helps us fight hunger — for as little as $1, we can provide up to six meals for people in need. You can donate by filling out and returning the enclosed envelope or by visiting our website, www.FBEM.org, and clicking the ‘Donate’ button.

We are also always in need of volunteers, particularly during the holiday season, to sort food and get it ready for distribution. Our volunteer application is on our website and you can sign up for shifts Monday-Saturday.

Many employers partner with the Food Bank to match donations and volunteer hours from employees — see the list on the back of this newsletter to see if your company participates.

Thank you for all that you do to help us fight hunger. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely:

Kira Ron
President & CEO
Food Bank of Eastern Michigan

Our Record-Setting 2019 Empty Bowls!

THANK YOU to all of our supporters and friends who helped make the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan’s 2019 Empty Bowls event our biggest ever! This year, there were 1,068 guests between the lunch and dinner sessions — a new record for attendance! Thanks to all of you, we will be able to provide thousands of meals for families in need! We would also like to thank Guy Adamec and artisans at the Flint Institute of Arts for making and donating over 1,000 bowls each year for attendees to take home.

Hunger Relief Partner Impact

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan has more than 700 Hunger Relief Partners who help us in the fight against hunger. These include agencies, pantries, soup kitchens, schools, farms, retail grocers, and organizations. Here are a few recent ways our partners have impacted our mission, thanks to tremendous community support.

- **Detroit Tigers players** Niko Goodrum, Miguel Cabrera, Gordon Beckham, Matt Boyd, and Jody Mercer sponsored 3,000 cases of water to donate to Flint residents in August. Goodrum and Dave Clark volunteered to distribute water and food during a monthly distribution in Flint.

- **The Consumers Energy Foundation** presented the Food Bank with a check for $25,000 over the summer to provide fresh produce to Michigan families in need.

- **Detroit Lions** running back Kerryon Johnson helped the Food Bank during the October strike.

- **Kroger stores** throughout Michigan teamed up with first responders to host food drives in support of food banks in August. In the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan’s region, 12 Kroger stores participated, with shoppers donating nearly 5,000 pounds of food and more than $4,600 to fight hunger in eastern Michigan!

- **Eighty volunteers** from Dow's Legal Team did a food distribution in August at the West Midland Family Center. The Food Bank also partnered with Dow Bay Area Family YMCA, Hidden Harvest, and 211 of Northeastern Michigan, in partnership with the Bay County Food Connection, to launch the “Emergency Food Box Pilot Project.”

- **Stuart Wilson CPA**, in partnership with the Food Bank, PepsiCo, United Way of Saginaw County, and Cornerstone Fabricating and Construction, presented Operation Polar Drop at eight locations on October 19. The events provided families with food, winter hats and gloves, and other essentials. More than 160,000 pounds of food was distributed to more than 1,500 families in seven counties! PepsiCo drivers helped the Food Bank team move a semi full of food to each location.

- **Volunteers from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, the UAW, and the United Way of Genesee County** have teamed up to assemble more than 3,200 food boxes for displaced auto workers in our community during the October strike.

- **The first ever 'Beers 'N Bugs' cornhole tournament took place in Alpena on September 28. Proceeds from the event benefited the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Congrats to the winners!**

- **The Bay County Food Connection, to launch the Emergency Food Box Pilot Project.**

- **The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan’s region, 12 Kroger stores participated, with shoppers donating nearly 5,000 pounds of food and more than $4,600 to fight hunger in eastern Michigan!**

- **Congrats to the winners!**