

You can make a **DIFFERENCE.**
Scan the QR code to donate today!
\$1 = 6 Meals



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THE SOURCE NEWSLETTER

FOOD BANK NEWS FOR FALL 2022

Feeding Kids Is A Year-Round Priority

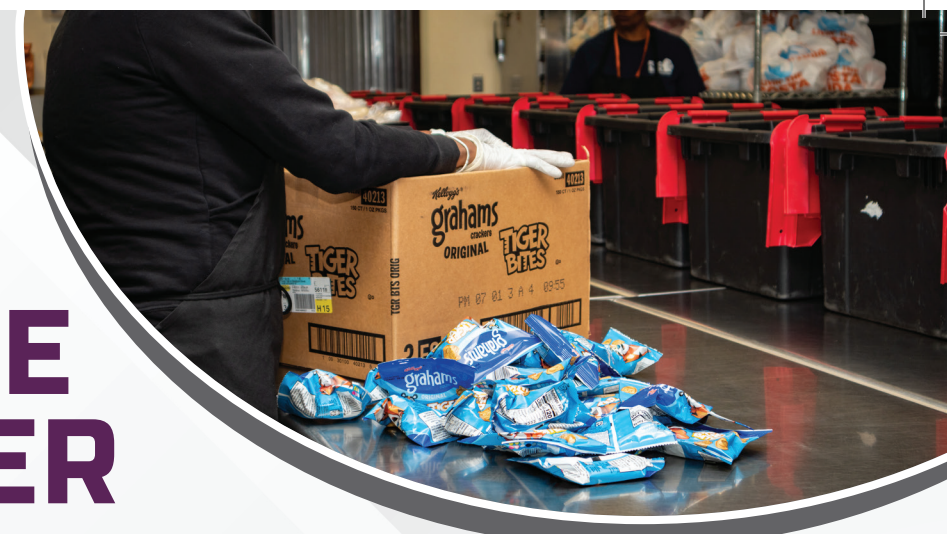
In eastern Michigan, nearly **57,000 children face hunger** on a regular basis. No one should have to go without food, especially children who are unable to provide for themselves. The Food Bank provides programming throughout the year to ensure that kids have access to the nutrition they need to learn, grow and thrive.

This past summer, the Food Bank provided nearly **50,000 meals to 39 sites** across our service area (including **13 mobile sites**). Our program staff delivers many meals directly into neighborhoods to ensure we reach as many children as possible. In addition to weekday meals, the mobile program provides nutrition bags on Fridays so kids have access to food on the weekends. Finally, the summer meal program allows families to offset their household food budget (especially those who typically rely on school lunch programs).

During the school year, the Food Bank partners with more than **200 schools** to offer **Weekend Backpack Programs**. These provide families with weekend meals for children who rely on school lunches as their only reliable source of nutrition. Subsequently, it helps families stretch their grocery budget by reliably providing kid friendly meals and snacks each week.

The Food Bank also collaborates with nearly **50 schools** that **host their own food pantries**. They stock shelf-stable foods for meals and snacks and many also offer personal care items for students. School pantries offer the same benefits as Backpack Programs, albeit with more of a focus on student comfort by letting them make their own selections.

The need for these meal programs continues to grow every day. Families are struggling in large part due to their income not covering necessary expenses. Unfortunately, the Food Bank is limited in the amount of food we can prepare and distribute due to insufficient space. As such, planning is well underway for a **kitchen expansion project that will nearly double our capacity**. Additional components of the project include a new 400 square-foot cooler that will store three times the fresh, nutritious food as we currently do. We will also be adding a larger dry storage area, a dedicated receiving dock, improved parking and office space.



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?



Feeding Kids Is A Year-Round Priority



Rising Costs Lead To A Rise In Need



Give The Gift Of Food This Holiday Season



Ways To Give

Visit **FBEM.org** for more information!



Interior of current kitchen



Renderings of proposed kitchen expansion (front and back)

Rising Costs Lead To A Rise In Need

Today, in eastern Michigan, more than **211,000 people** find themselves fighting hunger in their own homes. There has been little relief from the record-high inflation rates that have impacted our communities at the grocery stores, the fuel pumps and more. With **colder temps** approaching, utility costs will be **on the rise** again and those who were already struggling to make ends meet will find themselves even further behind.



According to Bureau of Labor Statistics 10/2022



Our **hunger relief partners** are working diligently to stretch their resources and feed more people. Many have seen their clientele nearly double as the **cost of living increases** but wages still remain stagnant.

Churches, food pantries and soup kitchens provide vital nutrition and assistance that bridges the gap, allowing low and moderate income families to divert their limited funds to other expenses.

Here at the Food Bank, we are also affected by inflation and have seen our **food and transportation expenses increase by more than 23%**. Resources and programming that were available to us during the pandemic are ending, but the number of hungry people in our service area is holding steady. We need your help to keep our trucks on the road, delivering food to more than **700 agencies and programs** offering hunger relief throughout our **22 country service area**.



As our neighbors in need face impossible choices about how best to stretch their income, we're asking you to **take up the fight against hunger** in your community! By supporting the Food Bank, you are also supporting community food assistance programs and the **people who rely on them**. Your contribution provides more than food, it also gives peace of mind to someone in need of hope and support.



A flurry of items to benefit the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan

NOVEMBER 11 at 8am
through
NOVEMBER 18 at 2pm

ONLINE BIDDING ONLY

pickup at
Hunger Solution Center
1939 Howard Ave
Flint, MI 48503

Questions?
kmcgloughlin@fbem.us

BECOME A HOLIDAY PARTNER!



E-mail Kaitlyn McLaughlin at
kmcgloughlin@fbem.us



Food is not a CHOICE

(SELECT ONLY ONE)

FOOD **RENT** **HEAT**

Give The Gift Of Food This Holiday Season

When you give to the Food Bank this holiday season, your contribution will provide food to those in your community who worry about having to go to bed hungry. **Make your donation with the enclosed envelope or by participating in holiday fundraising hosted by our partners!**

Double Your Gift

Genisys Credit Union: Each year the Tuesday after Thanksgiving is a national day of community support known as Giving Tuesday. This year, our friends at Genisys Credit Union have pledged a matching gift in recognition of day. Donations made on Tuesday, November 29th will provide more meals during the holiday season, to ease the burdens and brighten the lives of those struggling to make ends meet.



Big John Steak & Onion Foundation: Our long-time holiday partner, Big John Steak & Onion Foundation, has again pledged to match the first \$100,000 in donations made throughout the holiday season. Make your contribution at FBEM.org and double the impact of your gift. Your contribution will go further to stock our warehouses and fuel our trucks this winter when even more people will find themselves in need of additional resources.



Give While You Shop

Skaff Furniture Carpet One: During the "Save and Share" event from November 25th through November 28th Skaff will donate 15% of sales to select area non-profits, including the Food Bank. Simply choose the Food Bank as your charity of choice when making your purchase. It's a great way to add comfort to your home while giving back to your community.

VGs Grocery: VGs Grocery and SpartanNash stores are once again hosting their "Scan Away Hunger" campaign in partnership with local food banks and pantries. Shop your local VGs or SpartanNash store between October 26th and November 6th and make a donation the Food Bank at checkout. Your contribution will provide food for those in need throughout the holiday season.

Amazonsmile: When you shop through Amazon Smile, a percentage of your purchase can be donated to the Food Bank at no additional cost to you! Visit smile.amazon.com and log into your account. Then select Amazon Smile from the drop down menu under your name and search for the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Your Amazon shopping experience will not change, but you will be feeding our neighbors in need with every purchase!

