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**\$1 = 6 Meals**



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information!**

# THE SOURCE

FOOD BANK NEWS FOR SUMMER 2024

## Recognizing Partners In Our Northern Regions

Food insecurity is a familiar issue for Michigan residents, regardless of the county they reside in. The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan caters to a significant portion of these individuals, particularly in our Northern and North Central Regions. While our headquarters are based in Flint, we work diligently with partner agencies across 22 counties, spanning from St. Clair to Cheboygan.

One such agency, The Hillman Lions Club, has been actively enhancing their community service initiatives. Through grants and donations, they have expanded their equipment inventory, acquiring a new freezer and, notably, installing new doors for their distribution center.

Barb Durlinger, Treasurer and Chairperson of the Mobile Pantry Program, explains the necessity for the new garage doors: "We needed to replace our sliding doors, as they would often get blocked by accumulated snow during winter, causing delays in distributions." The new electronic doors resolve this issue by opening vertically, eliminating the need to clear a pathway.

Another valued partner, Styra Potato Farms, generously donates their misshapen and aesthetically imperfect produce to the Food Bank at no cost. Erwyn Styra, co-owner of the farm, along with his wife Carey, elaborates on their operations: "We grow, store, and process graded potatoes for 10 to 11 months annually, shipping them in retail and food service-sized containers nationwide."



PICTURED: Carey Styra displaying their product at Styra Potato Farms

When asked about their partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Carey attributes it to her mother-in-law, Yvonne. She explains, "[Yvonne] sought an outlet for our cosmetically challenged potatoes and eventually connected with Terry Nix, Vice President of Food Sourcing and Logistics for the Food Bank. Together, they devised a plan to package and distribute these potatoes to individuals and families in need."

The Food Bank team will also partner with Michigan State University on a new hunger study for 2024. In this project, MSU representatives will travel to various distribution sites to collect data on food insecurity. These visits are scheduled between late May and September of this year, with the MSU team conducting the survey. It's worth noting that some of our northern agencies, such as the Otsego County Food Pantry and the Roscommon County Food Pantry, will play a crucial role in the study and serve as capture/recapture sites.

Additionally, MyMichigan Health has established a new food pantry at their Alpena Family Medicine Clinic. They are also in the process of setting up a pantry at their West Branch site. During each visit, patients are asked to identify their Social Determinants of Health, including food insecurity. If anyone identifies as food insecure, they will receive a bag of supplemental, shelf-stable items, along with a list of other local food outreach resources.

The issue of food insecurity affects a significant portion of Michigan residents, prompting the vital intervention of organizations like the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Partnerships with agencies like The Hillman Lions Club and Styra Potato Farms highlight collaborative efforts to fight hunger, while MyMichigan Health's new and upcoming pantries and the hunger study with Michigan State University signifies an ongoing commitment to addressing food insecurity. Additionally, the dedication of our team members helps to underscore the importance of fostering strong relationships with communities in need. Ultimately, these collective efforts aim to improve access to nutritious food, marking significant progress in combating food insecurity throughout eastern Michigan.



PICTURED: Hillman Lions Club in Hillman, MI



## MAP THE MEAL GAP



Feeding America has released their annual Map the Meal Gap Study, revealing a significant increase in the financial need for food security over the past 20 years. The study highlights that as of 2022, there were a total of 222,070 people in eastern Michigan who suffered from food insecurity. This is 15.9% of our 22-county service area, up from 13.2% in 2021.

### Key findings from our regions include:

- An increase of food insecurity in 20 of our counties
- 37,022,285 pounds of food distributed (an increase of 18.97%)
- 58,870 food insecure children (20.5% in total)
- 30,851,904 meals provided by FBEM

Read the  
full report at:



[www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/overall-executive-summary](http://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/overall-executive-summary)

## TURNIP THE BEET

Each year, the Turnip the Beet Award is presented by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. The Turnip the Beet Award was created to showcase sponsors who are going above and beyond to ensure that children are receiving high-quality meals. This award recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors who work hard to offer high quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious.



The Food Bank has been a winner in previous years and was honored to receive a Silver Turnip the Beet Award for our 2023 Summer Feeding Program. This gives us the opportunity to help alleviate summertime food insecurity and positively impact children's growth and development by offering tasty, nutritious meals and encouraging children to develop healthy habits at a young age. This allows them to start off on the right foot when they return to school in the fall.



## FARM BUREAU TRAILER DONATION

In April, Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan (via their Agent Charitable Fund) generously donated a 53' refrigerated trailer filled with apples to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM). This contribution was coordinated with the support of the Food Bank Council of Michigan (FBCM) and FBEM. The trailer was purchased from All-Star Equipment (Byron Center), wrapped at Omega Electric (Alpena), and transported by Male Construction (Alpena) and Rock Ag Services (Merrill).

Thanks to the coordination and generosity of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA), Riveridge Produce (Sparta) and the Michigan Farm Bureau Family of Companies (MFBFoC), 12 pallets of apples were donated in-kind to "fill the trailer" and provide an even larger contribution for FBEM.

Representatives from the Farm Bureau also donated their time and spent the day sorting and packaging food at our Hunger Solution Center. We are incredibly grateful for this dedication to our cause and we thank everyone who helped make this wonderful gift possible!



## 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

### Annual Meeting Awardees

#### Community Leadership Award Winner: Huntington Bank

This award recognizes individuals or organizations that exhibit exceptional community engagement that promotes the well-being of the Food Bank, its mission, and programs throughout the communities we serve. Huntington Bank is well known for "rolling up their sleeves" and getting involved by volunteering in our warehouse, showcasing their dedication.

#### Partner Leadership Award Winners: The Market, Hillman Lions Club

This award recognizes organizations that expand or enhance the Food Bank's reach in the community to provide meaningful and impactful programs and services for the hungry. The Market offers services such as a summer "farmer's market" featuring fresh local produce and a thriving community garden. Hillman Lions Club started with a school backpack program and then grew into an agency that hosts bi-monthly mobile food distributions.

#### Fresh Leadership Award Winner: D'Amore Produce Solutions

This award recognizes true "hunger advocates" that embody the Food Bank's mission to provide healthy and nutritious food to those in need and take actions to "Change the Face of Hunger." D'Amore is committed to being a part of a community solution to feed the hungry by leveraging an abundance of products from a multitude of sources.

#### Philanthropic Leadership Award Winners: First Wesleyan Church, The State Bank, Dort Financial Credit Union

This award recognizes an organization, individual or group that has remained committed to our mission by giving of their time, talent or treasure. Flint First Wesleyan Church, The State Bank and Dort Financial Credit Union all impact our mission through volunteer work and focused sponsorships.

#### Edward A. Mitchell Million Pound Club Award Winner: Kroger Company of Michigan

This award is presented to an organization whose combined support level reaches the equivalent of one million pounds of food. Kroger works both with the Food Bank and with our partner agencies to reduce food waste and make more products available for those in need.

We would like to honor former Board Chair, **Julianne Princinsky**. Her dedication, leadership, and compassion have been pivotal in our mission to combat hunger in our community. Under her guidance, we've witnessed tremendous growth and impact.



### Giving Monthly Helps

# DAILY



Scan To Give

**It's easy!** Automate your gift using your bank account or credit card. Visit our website at [FBEM.org/donate](http://FBEM.org/donate)

**It's affordable!** Tailor your gift amount to what works best for you. Plus, you can change your donation amount at any time!

**It's sustainable!** Monthly gifts are extremely impactful. They sustain our day-to-day program operations. Your gifts will make a difference every day, all year long.

### YOUR IMPACT AS A MONTHLY DONOR

\$10/ month (33 cents per day)	\$25/ month (83 cents per day)	\$50/ month (\$1.67 per day)	\$100/ month (\$3.34 per day)
Sponsors one student in our weekend backpack program for an entire school year	Provides enough meals to feed a family of four for one month	Funds the cost of one Senior Box (a monthly delivery of food designed to help meet the dietary needs of older adults)	Supports keeping our shelves stocked and provide 600 meals to our neighbors

Presented By: **HAP CareSource**



# SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, September 19, 2024



Lunch:  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Dinner:  
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

