





# **MISSION**

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is the Food Source for people in need. Partnering with organizations to feed the hungry, we advocate and build a community solution to a community problem. By leveraging an abundance of product from a multitude of sources, we "Change the Face of Hunger."

# **VISION**

Through program expansion, advocacy, and innovative solutions to identifying food resources, the Food Bank and the community will develop a joint, universal response to ending hunger in eastern Michigan.

# **GROWING FOR THE GREATER GOOD**

In 2023, growth defined our year at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Through the support of our wonderful donors, we were able to expand not only our facilities, but also our reach and capacity to serve. With an expansion to our production kitchen, we are able to prepare more meals and our drivers are able to load their trucks in a garage, without braving the elements outside. Our annual Empty Bowls event witnessed further growth as we collaborated with three organizations for handmade pottery: The Flint Institute of Arts, The Midland Center for the Arts, and KB Studios of Port Huron.

This past year, as inflation drove the number of people in need up to levels we hadn't seen since the pandemic, our hunger relief network distributed over 30 million pounds of food, over half of which was fresh. We delivered over 1,522 mobile pantries directly into neighborhoods and provided nearly 66,000 meals for children through our summer meal program, including 9,408 weekend nutrition bags. Meanwhile, during the school year, our kitchen prepared an incredible 456,573 meals for children, while 3,000 meal boxes were delivered to elderly citizens.

As the Food Bank set its strategic plan, we took time to be informed by community, partners, team members, funders, and our board as we uplifted aspirational goals. These conversations motivate us to not only achieve goals on paper, but to be better with one another in how we do the work. Hunger is too big for any one organization or singular approach. How we decide to be present in our community with our efforts will bring hope to children, seniors, and families today as we continue to aspire with the changes we want to see for tomorrow.

More than **211,270 people** in our region face hunger and the list of factors can be overwhelming — chronic, generational poverty, unemployment, underemployment, and the rising cost of living. Yet hunger doesn't affect everyone equally. Many groups like children, seniors, and people of color face hunger at much higher rates.

Our network helps to bring resources closer to neighbors as we expand pop-up produce distributions, mobile pantries, health care partnerships, school pantries and non-traditional points of service to align with community. Hunger is a big problem, but together, we can solve it.

Your support has made an incredible difference and we can't thank you enough for prioritizing our mission in your charitable giving. As you will read in these program highlights, we are better when working together. With gratitude, inclusion and respect for one another, I strongly believe we can make a difference in the work still to be done.

Sincerely,

Kara Ross, President and CEO

# KITCHEN EXPANSION

# Provides More Capacity for Freshly Prepared Meals

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan has increased its nutritious meal capacity by remodeling and expanding the food preparation kitchen to over 4,800 square feet. The renovation and expansion included an additional room for food product storage, a 400 square foot walk-in cooler, office space and so much more. Other new features include covered truck bays which enable our drivers to safely transport meals while being protected from the elements. The new kitchen also allows our culinary team to produce meals more efficiently as we have experienced a 5% increase in meal distributions with our team currently preparing 6,000 meals a day.











#### IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS

# The State Bank

The State Bank is a financial institution whose main office is in Fenton. They serve as an independent community bank by offering the most flexible and comprehensive financial solutions. But just as important, their mission is to also work every day with the goal of helping families, businesses, and communities find their better state. The State Bank supports the Food Bank in several ways. At least four times a year, employee volunteers sort and pack food. In 2023, 141 State Bank employees volunteered 420 hours to help



support the Food Bank. In addition, in the past 20 years, through employee-led campaigns they have given \$475,000 in contributions to the Food Bank. "Our support of the Food Bank helps them fulfill their mission while helping us fulfill our mission as well. It is one of the best opportunities for team building. We are truly grateful to support the Food Bank and to help others, is reward enough," says Ron Justice, President & CEO, The State Bank.

#### IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS



# **Dort Financial Credit Union**

Dort Financial Credit Union chooses to work with the Food Bank because it's something that their employees really love. It's very hands on and they can see how they're really impacting the community. The team finds it rewarding to know what they are packing, who it's going to and how it's helping them. We get to see how many pounds of food we've packed and how many people that will help. Dort recently started an employee volunteer program that allows them to volunteer as a group at different events around the community. For every hour they serve they receive points and at the end of each month, quarter,

and year they receive prizes for their efforts. "Our volunteer program was just implemented last year, and our employees are really loving it. It's nice to see we have made an impact and we're helping our community flourish," says Katie Bitterman, Community Relations Coordinator, Dort Financial Credit Union.

# NOURISHING COMMUNITIES

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan's hunger relief network encompasses vital programs that provide sustenance to children, families and seniors. Through a diverse array of initiatives such as food pantries, soup kitchens, mobile distributions, and specialized programs for youth and senior citizens, the Food Bank continues to play a pivotal role in combating hunger across 22 eastern Michigan counties. This comprehensive network not only addresses immediate food insecurity but also fosters long-term community resilience by providing essential support and nourishment to those facing economic challenges.

# **Public Programs**



## **MOBILE DISTRIBUTIONS**

The Food Bank collaborates with hunger relief partners and local community organizations to bring food directly to underserved neighborhoods. Mobile food pantries are deployed in parking lots and community spaces, targeting areas where residents face challenges accessing affordable groceries. These mobile units offer a diverse array of products, ranging from fresh produce, meat, and dairy to traditional pantry staples. With each truck capable of feeding between 300 and 500 families, most of the food distribution occurs within a few hours, ensuring swift and efficient assistance to those in need.

# **PANTRIES & SOUP KITCHENS**

The backbone of the Food Bank's hunger relief efforts is comprised of food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters that serve the community directly. These compassionate partners welcome anyone in need, whether they require essential nutrition support or seek to stretch their limited budgets. For many, our hunger relief partners offer a sole source of sustenance, while for others, they provide crucial supplements to fixed incomes or tight grocery budgets. Whether you're seeking assistance or aiming to contribute to your community, the Agency Locator, located on our website, can connect you with the nearest Food Bank partner.



# D'Amore Produce Solutions



D'Amore Produce Solutions, LLC sells and distributes the freshest fruits and vegetables at a minimal cost to provide healthier and more sustainable futures, where everyone has access to nourishing food choices. The company, founded in 1906, was born out of a family tradition of selling fresh fruits and vegetables in the greater Saginaw area. Now in its fifth generation, D'Amore works with growers in Canada, Mexico and the United States to source the best produce, while taking great pride in providing excellent customer service.

"The Food Bank of
Eastern Michigan
and its mission to
give back and to help
people is part of what
I love to do."

Andy D'Amore, CEO & President

#### IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS

# Flint First Wesleyan Church

"For every hour that someone from my team volunteers, we receive five pounds of food for our pantry. What I like most about volunteering at the Food Bank is working with the special needs' groups. I also enjoy engaging with the staff at the Food Bank, they are awesome! Every Saturday of the month, our team gives away food to at least 50-75 people. What's most important is that people know there are resources available if they need food.

## Yvonne Honeysette,

Representative, Flint First Wesleyan Church





# FIGHTING HUNGER TOGETHER!

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan works with nearly 600 Hunger Relief Partners to distribute food throughout 22 counties. The Food Bank serves a hunger relief network that distributes over 30 million pounds of food each year. Together, this network works to assist more than 211,270 food insecure people across 22 eastern Michigan counties. **Every \$1 donated provides 6 meals for our neighbors!** 

# **Our Hunger Relief Network Includes:**



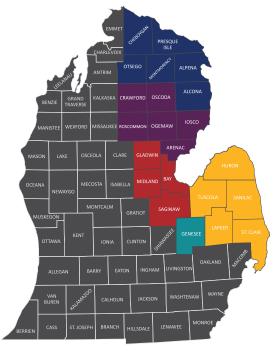








# **TOGETHER § SERVE**

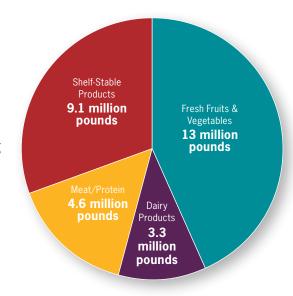


County	Population	Total Food Insecurity Rate	Food Insecure Population	Food Insecure Children	Senior Population	Food Insecure Seniors
Alcona	10,167	16.3%	1,690	270	3,670	261
Alpena	28,907	14.5%	4,110	780	6,909	491
Arenac	15,002	15.8%	2,370	500	3,871	275
Bay	103,856	14.6%	15,080	3,620	21,810	1,548
Cheboygan	25,579	16.7%	4,250	920	7,188	510
Crawford	12,988	16.2%	2,260	500	3,351	238
Genesee	406,211	16.1%	65,660	21,390	32,956	2,340
Gladwin	25,386	15.4%	3,900	840	6,880	488
Huron	31,407	13.2%	4,120	880	8,134	578
losco	25,237	16.0%	4,020	810	7,596	539
Lapeer	88,619	13.3%	11,710	2,750	16,749	1,189
Midland	83,494	11.4%	9,530	1,880	15,780	1,120
Montmorency	9,153	17.8%	1,650	330	3,002	213
Ogemaw	20,770	17.0%	3,560	790	5,463	388
Oscoda	8,219	16.2%	1,340	280	2,268	161
Otsego	25,091	14.5%	3,560	840	5,445	387
Presque Isle	12,982	15.0%	1,900	360	4,219	300
Roscommon	23,459	18.1%	4,320	870	7,812	555
Saginaw	190,124	14.9%	28,560	8,980	16,847	1,196
Sanilac	40,611	15.1%	6,210	1,540	8,975	637
St. Clair	160,383	14.9%	23,770	6,010	31,114	2,209
Tuscola	53,323	14.6%	7,700	1,690	11,091	787
TOTALS	1,400,968	15% Average	211,270	56,830	231,129	16,410

Source(s): Food Bank of Eastern Michigan | www.census.gov | https://map.feedingamerica.org. All data based on national 2020 census report (or most recent available).

here are more than **211,270 people struggling with** hunger in eastern Michigan. In 2023, the Food Bank distributed over **30 million pounds of food** and more than half of that was fresh!

- 13 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables including Michigan produce from more than a dozen farms
- 3.3 million pounds of dairy products
- 4.6 million pounds of meat and other proteins
- 9.1 million pounds of shelf-stable products



1,522
MOBILE PANTRIES

3,000
SENIOR BOXES
PER MONTH

6,997
HOLIDAY BOXES

# FEEDING KIDS ALL YEAR LONG

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is committed to ending hunger in the 22 counties it serves. The goal of our children's programs is simple; close the meal gap and allow every child access to nutritious food through innovative program options all year long.



# **BACKPACK PROGRAM**

The Backpack Program is a crucial step in combatting child hunger while also promoting nutritional education and healthy lifestyles. Tailored to support children who rely on free or reduced-price school lunches, the program offers a lifeline during weekends when school meals are inaccessible. Each backpack is carefully stocked with nutritious, easy-to-prepare foods, ensuring that children have sustenance even when school is out of session. Originating in 2004 with just 50 backpacks distributed across two elementary schools, the program has since expanded significantly. Presently, it extends its reach to 124 schools spanning 22 counties in eastern Michigan, symbolizing its vital role in addressing food insecurity among children and families in the region.

# AT RISK AFTER SCHOOL

The At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is an afterschool feeding program for children ages 18 and under. Since its inception in the 1990s, this initiative has provided not only nourishing meals but also a nurturing environment rich in cultural and educational activities. Through a collaboration with the Gensee Intermediate School District, the program extends its reach to Head Start students, offering breakfast, lunch, and snacks four days a week. Furthermore, meals are also distributed at various schools, churches, and community centers across three counties within the Food Bank's service area, ensuring that no child goes hungry after school hours. This approach not only addresses nutritional needs, but also fosters a sense of community and enrichment for the children the Food Bank serves.



# **SCHOOL PANTRY**

This program aims to combat child hunger by providing food to students directly at school. These pantries, situated on school grounds, offer easy access to food assistance through regular distributions. Whether permanently set up or operating through mobile rotations, these pantries relieve students of the stress of food insecurity, allowing them to focus on their education in a supportive environment. By alleviating the burden of financial responsibilities, the program empowers students to prioritize their academic pursuits and enjoy a normal childhood, free from concerns about basic needs.





Partnering with 70 sites in 2023, the Food Bank distributed nearly 66,000 meals and over 9,000 take home nutrition bags.

# **SUMMER FOOD SERVICE**

As the school year ends, many students lose access to free and reduced-price meals. The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan steps in to bridge this gap with its Summer Food Service Program across Genesee, Gladwin, Saginaw, and Lapeer counties. Supported by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Department of Education, this initiative aims to provide free, nutritious meals during the summer months when school is out. Despite millions of children relying on school meals, only a fraction benefit from summer programs. Partnering with 70 sites in 2023, the Food Bank distributed nearly 66,000 meals and over 9,000 take home nutrition bags. Take home nutrition bags are filled with healthy snacks like vegetables, fruit, granola bars, milk, and juice, ensuring children have nourishing options over the weekend. Since 2011, over 75,000 nutrition bags have been distributed, reflecting the Food Bank's commitment to combating summer hunger.

# SUPPORTING **PARTNERS**

# Michigan Farm Partnerships Power Fresh Provision of Produce



The Food Bank is committed to providing high quality, fresh nutrition for our neighbors. We work with several Michigan farms to distribute a wide variety of produce options throughout the year. These partnerships provide produce in-kind, or at a reduced rate, which helps reduce food waste and makes it more readily available to our network. When we work with Michigan farms, we have the added benefit of being able to provide locally grown produce with less shipping time and expense. We currently partner with more than 20 farms in Michigan and across the country. These partnerships provided nearly 7 million pounds of fresh produce in 2023, which accounted for 67% of the produce we distributed throughout the year! Additional fresh products are offered to our network through retail store donations and our partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture which also includes collaborations with Michigan farms and regional producers.

#### IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS

# The Market

"We allow people to come in and shop as though they are shopping in a grocery store. Although they don't have to pay and check out when they leave — there's no cost. We truly realized what we were being called to do and that's just to feed people out of love. We have so many people tell us you don't realize how much we've helped them."

Christine and Ken Neitzke, Co-Directors, The Market Nativity Lutheran Church LCMS



# **Pantry Staples Help Make Sure** There is Food on the Shelves

The food we distribute comes from a variety of sources, including retail stores, food vendors, farms and manufacturers. We also work with the federal government to source food from the United States Department of Agriculture food programs. The relationships we have with these groups provide dairy products, meats/ proteins, and pantry staples.



# WE PARTNER WITH OVER



237 **STORES** 

**CHAINS** 



#### IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS



# Hillman Lions Club

"The Hillman Lions Club is a small but mighty group of about 14 members, on a mission of distributing roughly 10,000 pounds of food twice a month. With the help of community volunteers, anyone can drive through their mobile food distribution pantry. The Club is active in their community and helps with scholarships, prescription eyewear, and medical expenses. The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan has been an amazing partner in this endeavor. Our Lions Club received a grant from the Food Bank for garage door improvements and a freezer to store food items for distribution."

Barb Durflinger, Treasurer/Chairperson, The Mobile Pantry Program, Hillman Lions Club

"DISTRIBUTING ROUGHLY 10,000 **POUNDS OF FOOD TWICE A MONTH"** 

# **A** GENEROUS **COMMUNITY DELIVERS**







he Food Bank operates as a 501(c)(3) organization, and a significant portion of our funding comes from the generosity of the community. Donors and other forms of support include corporations, foundations, civic organizations, small businesses, and many individuals who help the Food Bank fight hunger in eastern Michigan. In 2023, over 100 food and fund drives were hosted on behalf of the Food Bank. In total, they collected food for over 239,663 meals and more than \$85,098 in donations.

# **Volunteers Are Critical** to Our Mission

We can't do it alone! To sort through the millions of pounds of food we receive every year, the Food Bank must rely on the generosity of volunteers throughout our community. When you volunteer your time at the Food Bank, you are doing so much more than just sorting and boxing food for distribution. The food you prepare will

stock the shelves of a neighborhood pantry and eventually ease the worry of someone facing hunger in their home.

# The Impact of Volunteers

Volunteer experiences are available at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan year-round, Monday through Saturday. We accommodate everyone ranging from individuals to large groups or

businesses and community organizations interested in giving back to the community. In 2023, over 9,000 people volunteered at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. In just two hours, a single volunteer sorts enough food to provide meals for up to 700 families in need. For more information about how you can volunteer call our main number at (810) 239-4441.







### IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS

# **Huntington Bank**

"Well I think we all would agree that we wish there wasn't a need for the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. But the reality is that there is a need. We have neighbors who are hungry and might not have a meal tonight, we have children that sometimes the only good meal they will have will be at school. At Huntington Bank, our purpose is to make people's lives better, help our businesses thrive, and make our communities stronger. Our banking professionals have so much knowledge that they share in the community, we are working every day, wherever we can to help financially empower individuals and communities."

**Greg Viener,** Flint Market President for Huntington Bank



# GROWING E GOOD

n 2023, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan celebrated an exceptional year marked by unity and action in the fight against hunger. With the unwavering support of our dedicated volunteers, employees, agency partners and generous donors, we made significant strides in alleviating food insecurity across our expansive twenty-two-county service area. Here, we proudly present some of the standout moments from this impactful year.

# FEEDING FRENZY RADIOTHON



On March 1, 2023, the Food Bank hosted its annual Fox Feeding Frenzy Radiothon, marking the beginning of the March Against Hunger campaign. Over the course of 12 hours, the aim was to raise funds to combat food insecurity in our communities through online, phone, and in-person donations. Listeners engaged by tuning in to 103.9 The Fox and had the opportunity to contribute to the Food Bank. This year, an impressive \$61,912 was raised during the radiothon.

## CHIP IN TO END HUNGER

The annual "Chip In To End Hunger" golf outing is a treasured occasion, blending a day of enjoyment on the course with a significant contribution to combating hunger in eastern Michigan. This year's event proved to be a resounding success, thanks to the unwavering support of generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and enthusiastic golfers. Through their efforts, the Food Bank raised \$40,732 to support its mission. A heartfelt expression of gratitude is extended to Sugarbush

Golf Club for their generosity in both hosting and supporting "Chip In To End this meaningful event. Hunger" raised

# MARCH AGAINST HUNGER

Each March, the FBEM joins forces with businesses across the community in a united mission to fight hunger. Working together to bolster the Food Bank and its network of partner agencies and businesses collect donations, and adorn their storefronts with symbolic "boot prints" from March through April's end. In 2023, collective efforts resulted in raising \$506,000 to support this crucial cause.

# **EMPTY BOWLS**

During the Empty Bowls event, the Food Bank had the privilege of serving more than 1,000 satisfied guests, offering them a delightful experience from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. Each attendee was presented with a unique custom bowl crafted by skilled local potters, adding a touch of artistry to their visit. The Food Bank is thankful to the Flint Institute Arts, Midland Center for the Arts, and KB Studio for their generous contributions of these remarkable bowls. Their support played



a significant role in the event's success. Through their kindness and the support of our attendees, an impressive \$69,628.23 was raised, further fueling the Food Bank's mission of fighting hunger.

# SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER **ACTION MONTH**

Every September, food banks nationwide unite to raise awareness about food insecurity. In 2023, Kroger stepped up as a vital supporter,



helping to eliminate the impossible choices that hunger often creates. They facilitated donations through options like rounding up purchases or providing alternative donation methods at their stores, ensuring that 100% of the funds went directly to supporting local food banks based on zip codes. But the support didn't end there. The Food Bank's inaugural Hunger Action Partner, Health Alliance Plan (HAP), now HAP CareSource, agreed to match donations, resulting in a remarkable \$24,065 contribution by the campaign's end. With their combined support, the Food Bank was able to provide an astounding 144,390 meals to those in need.

## IMPACTFUL PARTNERSHIPS

# **Kroger Company of Michigan**

Through our retail store donation program, we partner with grocery stores such as, Kroger to help provide a variety of food including meats/proteins, and pantry staples to our neighbors. Additionally, Kroger supports FBEM through fundraising initiatives such as sponsorships and grants.

"Our company is striving to meet the goal of nobody going hungry and our partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is fantastic. Food insecurity is at our core, it's what we do. We launched our Zero Hunger, Zero Waste Foundation back in 2017 with the goal to give back to the communities where we live and serve.

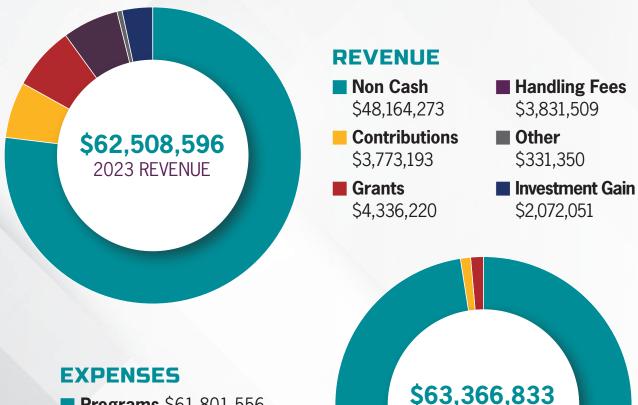


We made a 3 billion meal commitment to achieve by 2025. Fast forward ... it's 2024 and we already hit that goal, but it wouldn't be possible without great partners like the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. When you think about the fight against hunger, it's not going to be done alone, its takes communities, organizations, and individuals to make that impact in the State of Michigan. We know that we are helping people in the community, and we know that people appreciate the help that we're giving them and we're glad to give to the community."

Cam Barrett, Corporate Affairs Manager, Kroger Company of Michigan

# **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2023** 



- **Programs** \$61,801,556
- **Fundraising** \$701,745
- Administrative \$863,532

# \$63,366,833 2023 EXPENSES

# **KEY TERMS**

Non Cash: The combined value of food and in-kind donations received.\*

**Contributions:** Donations from individuals, companies and other organizations.

**Grants:** Funds that are received from charitable foundations and government agencies.

**Handling Fees:** A nominal fee paid by partners to offset redistribution costs.

\*Value based on an annual analysis done by Feeding America.

**Programs:** All expenses related to procurement, warehousing and distribution of food in the 22 counties we serve.

Fundraising: The cost of communication and fund development activities.

**Administrative:** Costs related to administrative activities, along with other expenses not directly connected to food distributions.

# Thank You for Your Unwavering Service and Insightful Guidance

Julianne Princinsky stepped down this year to become Past Chair as Alex Murray moves into her former role. Julianne has served the Food Bank with a creative solution builders' approach to leading the organization through exponential growth and unexpected challenges.



Her insight, commitment, and passion deserve a very special thanks from all of us at the Food Bank. Past Chair, Claude High says "Julianne believes in looking at the details, that's what I was always impressed with."

"The Matthew 25 gospel talks about feeding the hungry. There is so much you can do. The whole is greater than the sum of those parts. We need you, we need your continued support, and we need you to encourage others to care deeply and then to be actively supportive of those who are most in need."

**Julianne Princinsky,** Retiring Board Chair, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan

### **PARTNERS IN HUNGER ADVOCACY**

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan collaborates with the Food Bank Council of Michigan and Feeding America to advocate for hunger relief throughout the state.

For more information visit **fbem.org** 





# 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**OFFICERS** 

**Alex Murray**, Board Chair Retired, NALC, AFL-CIO

**Peggy Haw Jury,** Chair Elect CFO, Michigan Association of CPAs

**Antoine Burks,** Vice Chair *Director, Blue Hawk* 

**Greg Viener,** Treasurer Regional President for Mid-Michigan, Huntington Bank

**Leanne Panduren,** Secretary President & CEO, Rowe Professional Services Company

**Julianne Princinsky,** Past Chair Retired, President, Baker College of Flint

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

#### Dr. Nasir Ali

Founder & President, Advanced Urgent Care

## Judge F. Kay Behm

United States District Judge for the Eastern District

#### **Steve Dawes**

Director, UAW Region 1-D

#### **Melany Gavulic**

CEO, Hurley Medical Center

#### Elizabeth Latchana, Esq.

SVP, Director of Compliance, Lockton

## Dr. Rajagopal Shantaram

Retired, Math Instructor, Mott Community College

### **Dick Skaff**

President & Owner, Skaff Furniture Carpet One

## **Emilee Thornton**

Corporate Reporting, The Dow Chemical Company

#### **Jane Worthing**

President & CEO, Genesee Packaging, Inc.

#### **BOARD EMERITUS**

## Edward A. Mitchell

Retired, The Flint Journal



2300 Lapeer Road Flint, Michigan 48503 810.239.4441 • fbem.org

