We believe that in a land of plenty, no one should go hungry!

As the food rescue and food bank program serving Washtenaw County, Food Gatherers exists to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes in our community.

Who we serve

150 non-profit agencies and programs providing direct food assistance in the form of hot meals, nutritious snacks or emergency groceries to low-income adults, seniors and children in Washtenaw County.

Food Gatherers provides our agency partners with:
- Mostly free (70%) and low cost food
- Capacity building grants
- Training to register eligible clients for federal and state benefit programs
- Customized food safety training by licensed food safety professionals on our staff

Food Gatherers provides direct service through our Community Kitchen and Job Training Program located in the Robert J. Delonis Center in downtown Ann Arbor:
- 1,500 volunteers prepare and serve more than 100,000 meals to people in need each year
- Students of the Job Training and Internship program are chosen from at-risk youth (ages 17-24). They gain basic training in the culinary arts, and work to develop work ethics and life skills

Food sources

Food Gatherers rescues food that would otherwise go to waste from more than 300 local sources including food retailers, restaurants, and food wholesalers. As members of both the Food Bank Council of Michigan and Feeding America, we are connected to statewide and national corporate and government food donations. Our Growing Initiatives are dramatically increasing the amount of local vegetables available to our partners:
- Food Gatherers Gathering Farm – located at our warehouse, yields vegetables most requested by our partners
- Faith and Food – a coordinated campaign to encourage congregations to start a garden and donate a portion of their harvest
- Plant a Row for the Hungry – encourages local gardeners to grow a little extra to donate to food banks.
- Huron Valley Women’s Correctional Facility – their horticulture program provides tons of fresh produce
- Michigan Farm to Food Bank – we pay local farmers to grow tons of fruits and vegetables

We also purchase bulk food items! Then, there are people who donate to food drives or support our food program financially.

Connecting the dots between hunger and public health

Our neighbors living in poverty face a much higher likelihood of having high cholesterol, diabetes and other diet related ailments. Food Gatherers is focused on distributing not just more pounds of food but more nutritionally valuable food. In our last fiscal year, 55% of all food distributed was fresh fruits, vegetables or meat, eggs and other protein items! We even have a registered dietitian on staff empowering partner agencies and food assistance recipients to make healthier choices.
2012 Fast facts & figures – Food Gatherers:

- Distributed 5.6 million pounds of food - enough food for more than 15,000 meals a day
- 1 in 2 food pantries are distributing fresh produce, compared to 1 in 5 in 2008
- Engaged 6,000 different people in volunteer projects, accounting for 69,921 hours of time valued at $1,523,578
- Served 106,616 healthy meals to hungry people with the help of 1,500 volunteers at Food Gatherers Community Kitchen
- Twenty at-risk youth graduated from Food Gatherers Job Training Program at the Community Kitchen, bringing the total number of graduates to more than 120
- Supported four Summer Food Service Programs at local community centers, serving more than 4,500 nutritious meals to 200 children who might otherwise have gone hungry
- Gave $530,000 in the form of capacity building grants and food purchasing credits to our partner non-profit programs, in addition to the food and in-kind services they receive from Food Gatherers at no-cost
- Helped 186 eligible people apply for any of the five Federal and State benefit programs online: food stamps, Medicaid, child care, cash assistance, and state emergency relief

More beans for your buck!
We will use your tax-deductible donation effectively. An impressive 96% of our budget goes directly to support hunger relief efforts throughout the county. We are one of the 1% of charities rated by CharityNavigator.org, America’s premier independent charity evaluator, that has received 8 consecutive 4-Star ratings for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency!

Established 1988 - Michigan’s first food rescue program
Food Gatherers is not only Michigan’s first food rescue program, but the first program of its kind to be founded by a for-profit business, Zingerman’s Deli. Today, Food Gatherers is an independent 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization governed by a board of directors and operated by 24 staff people and more than 6,000 volunteers.

Join the fight against hunger
There is a role for everyone to play! You can donate food, money or your time to Food Gatherers. Host a food drive or fundraiser! Please feel free to contact us, ask questions or even take a tour of our warehouse.

visit: www.foodgatherers.org  email: info@foodgatherers.org  call: (734) 761-2796