

*Food rescue  
of Wayne,  
Oakland and  
Macomb  
counties*



**FORGOTTEN  
HARVEST**

## **Agenda**

- 1. Our Mission & Vision*
- 2. Founder Nancy Fishman's Story*
- 3. Food Waste and Sustainability*
- 4. Food Insecurity*
- 5. Hunger in Michigan and Metro-Detroit*
- 6. Cycle of Food Insecurity*
- 7. SNAP*
- 8. Overview: How We Do What We Do*
- 9. Community Impact*
- 10. Looking Ahead*
- 11. Forgotten Harvest Farms*
- 12. Volunteering*
- 13. How You Can Help*

## **Appendix**

- 1. Forgotten Harvest Agency Capacity Impact Report*



# FORGOTTEN HARVEST

## ***Our Mission***

*We are dedicated to relieving hunger in Metro Detroit and rescuing surplus, nutritious food.*

## ***Our Vision***

*We envision communities that work together to end hunger and increase individual, neighborhood, economic and environmental health.*

***“As Long As The Need Exists,  
We Will Be There.***

***No One Will Ever Be Forgotten.”***

- Dr. Nancy Fishman, Founder



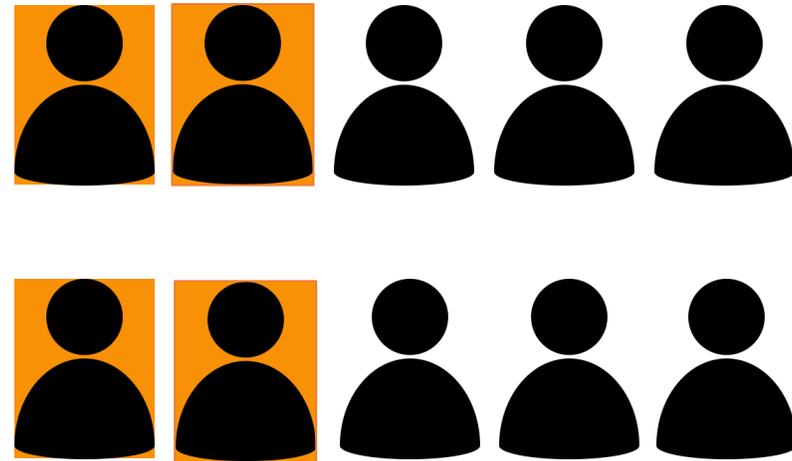
# Food Waste



# Food Insecurity

Estimated  
44  
million  
people experience  
food insecurity  
across the U.S. \*

“*Food insecurity*” is defined as an inability to obtain enough food for their households



Nearly 4 out of 10 Michigan households face hunger\*

\*Feeding America as of May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

\*United Way’s “ALICE: Asset Limited, Income, Constrained, Employed” study (2023 report)

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# Causes of Food Insecurity



**Bottom Line:  
Lack of financial  
resources**

- Simple answer: not having enough money
- Made worse by poor access to food: no transportation, lack of healthy affordable options nearby, mobility issues
- Unemployment, underemployment and low wages
- Low wealth/ intergenerational wealth
- Lack of education
- High housing, utility, medical and daycare costs
- Disability
- Poor mental health
- Substance use disorder
- Historical legacy of and current racism/  
discrimination

*\*Feeding America as of May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

*\*United Way's "ALICE: Asset Limited, Income, Constrained, Employed" study (2023 report)*

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# What Hunger Looks Like In Michigan

In Michigan, 1,423,000 people are facing hunger - and of them 378,040 are children.



People facing hunger in  
Michigan  
are estimated to report needing

**\$999,258,000**

more per year to meet their food needs.

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## A Conceptual Framework: Cycle of Food Insecurity & Chronic Disease



Adapted: Seligman HK, Schillinger D. N Engl J Med. 2010;363:6-9.

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# Forgotten Harvest Overview: How We Do What We Do



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## 2022-2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT

Thanks to your help & support we achieved great things last year.

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION FACTS

**40,319,190** LBS.

TOTAL POUNDS OF FOOD RESCUED & DISTRIBUTED JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

**33,559,328** MEALS

EQUIVALENT OF MEALS

**14,059,192** LBS.

FRESH PRODUCE RESCUED

### MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM

**82** SITES FEEDING ON AVERAGE PER MONTH

**250-750** HOUSEHOLDS PER DISTRIBUTION

**330,183** HOUSEHOLDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

**21,460,000** LBS. DISTRIBUTED

## Looking Ahead

**47  
million  
pounds  
rescued  
in FY  
2025**

- Forgotten Harvest new operational campus opened in 2022, focuses on a nutritious, equitable mix of food for the community
- Client Choice Market brick and mortar began in fall 2023 serving over 1 million pounds in the first year
- 2 Mobile Client Choice Markets operational as of April 2025 with the addition of 3 more from grants coming in the next year.



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# Forgotten Harvest Farms

600,000 pounds  
of nutritious  
food grown in  
2024 season!



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# Forgotten Harvest Volunteers



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# How You Can Help

**Attend a Forgotten Harvest Event**

**Volunteer. Volunteer. VOLUNTEER!**

**Donate via Seed to Feed**

**Create a Do-It-Yourself Campaign to Benefit Forgotten Harvest**

**'Like' us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/forgottenharvest](http://www.facebook.com/forgottenharvest)**

**Follow us on Instagram [@forgottenharvest](https://www.instagram.com/forgottenharvest)**

# How You Can Help

## Your Dollars Make a Huge Impact

*Every \$1 donated equals the equivalent of 3 meals or \$7 in groceries to a family in need*



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Thank You!

***What questions do you have?***

Get involved today:

**direct line**

248.298.3420

**website**

[www.forgottenharvest.org](http://www.forgottenharvest.org)

**email**

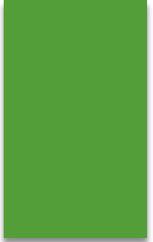
[alewis@forgottenharvest.org](mailto:alewis@forgottenharvest.org)

**address**

15000 West Eight Mile Rd.  
Oak Park, MI 48237

# ***Appendix***

## ***I. Forgotten Harvest Agency Capacity Impact Report***



# FORGOTTEN HARVEST

Capacity Grant Program

**IMPACT REPORT FEBRUARY 2025**

## Current Status of the Grant Program

- ▶ 107 grants awarded totaling \$3,799,262
- ▶ 54 projects completed
- ▶ 53 projects in process
- ▶ Applications for Round 6 (final round) due March 31





This report is based on the 54 completed projects, reporting on ten key impacts.

## 1. Critical Problems Solved

**41% of grantees report that the grant solved a problem that threatened their operations.**

Examples:

1. The leaking roof of the **Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries'** 100+ year building disabled the kitchen for this resident facility for homeless and disabled persons. For 2 months, DRMM had to bring in 3 meals a day for 300 residents. The roof is now fixed and the kitchen is once again serving nutritious meals on site.
- ▶ The walk-in refrigerator's compressor failed at **Cass Community Social Services**. Now the fridge runs smoothly, the convection steam cooks vegetables, the tilt skillet prepares soups and stews, all provided by the grant to renovate their kitchen.

## 2. Service, Dignity and Respect for Clients

**A primary goal of the grant program is to make clients feel welcomed and valued, to provide a sense of dignity and respect. 76% of grantees report that they have done so by:**

- ▶ Shorter wait times at mobile pantries
- ▶ Better appointment scheduling at client-choice pantries
- ▶ Shopping carts or re-usable bags to carry food
- ▶ More protein and fresh



### 3. Helping People to Heal

**For many grantees, food is the start of a journey of recovery for their clients.**

- ▶ **Turning Point** – a residence for victims of human trafficking and domestic violence. The simple act of being able to take food from the fridge and make a meal is one small but empowering step towards living a life free of control and violence.
- ▶ **United Community Family Services** – the mobile food pantry is a gateway program which has brought 353 new clients – and each one is an



## 4. Establishing new Programs to Distribute Food



**17% of grantees began or expanded home delivery**

**11% opened or improved a Client Choice Pantry**

**7% increased hours of food distribution or opened a new site**

**7% added a new food program**

Examples:

- ▶ **Gospel Tabernacle Church** restored an abandoned church and created a



## 5. Parking Lots

The pandemic placed enormous stress upon mobile pantries and community needs have only continued to grow. Many partner agencies have seen their parking lots fall apart from this wear and tear. Grants have paved 15 lots.

- ▶ **Haven of Hope Community Outreach** – the new paving provides a mud free, ditch free area where clients, staff and volunteers can easily enter without concern of getting stuck or walking in mud or snow.
- ▶ **Heartfelt Harvest** – Paving has given our volunteers a neater, safer place to turn their cars around and to park.

## 6. Enabling Volunteers

The food security network cannot function without dedicated, dependable volunteers. One of the greatest impacts of the grant program has been to encourage these critical workers by providing better conditions, making their work easier and safer.

74% of grantees report that the project improved their volunteer's experience, and 57% say their volunteers are more efficient as a result.

- ▶ Sowing Empowerment and Economic Development – The



## 7. Efficiency and Effectiveness

**79% of completed projects report that their food program is more efficient and effective. 50% report that volunteers and staff can do more in less time as a direct result of the grant-funded improvements.**

- ▶ **La Casa Amiga, Catholic Charities** – We streamlined workflows, allowing volunteers to spend more time with clients and less on administration, we



## 8. Unique Needs

**The Capacity Grant program has also shown us what our partners need to do their work and the challenges they face. Every grant reflects the particular circumstances of each partner agency.**

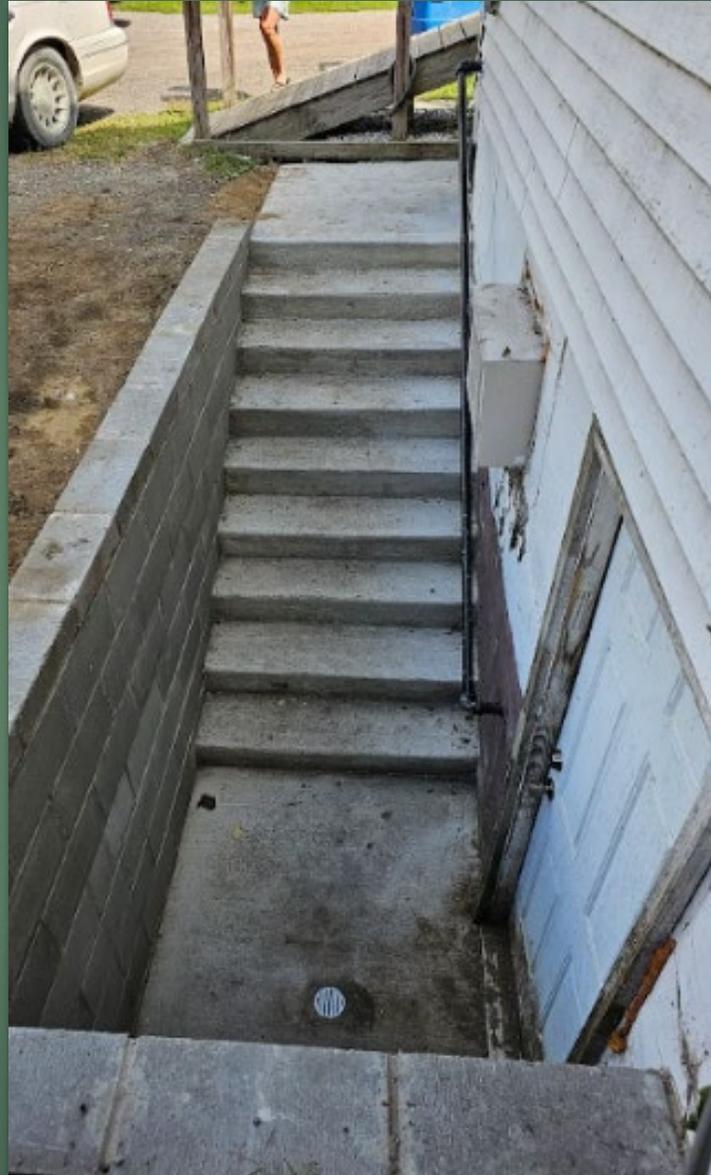
- ▶ **Bethesda Christian Church** – the new golf cart is such a blessing. Placing directional signage throughout our 90-acre complex greatly facilitates traffic flow. The time and physical energy expended by this Septuagenarian has been greatly reduced!
- ▶ **Hospitality House** – The pallet racking system has transformed our warehouse to allow for more capacity. The integrated scale eliminates the need to handle material multiple times and allows for ease of relocation within the warehouse.

## 9. Food Security is a Complicated System with Many Parts

**Many projects require a series of improvements that add up to a better and more sustainable food distribution operation.**

### **Church of God Belleville**

- ▶ Replaced the badly broken outside stairs
- ▶ Built a 12x24 climate-controlled garage to store food



## 9....A Complicated System with Many Parts

### Redford Interfaith Relief

You really can't put an amount of money into the true change within the Redford Interfaith Relief facilities because of the grant. Upgrades, streamlining, relationship building, and absolute culture change.

- ▶ Better client waiting area
- ▶ Upgraded refrigeration



## 10. Praise for the Grant Program

**Grantees consistently praise Forgotten Harvest for providing this rare funding opportunity.**

### **HAVEN**

- ▶ We consider Forgotten Harvest to be an ideal funder, as the funding dollars have a clearly defined purpose; Forgotten Harvest staff are in regular contact with our development team, and expectations are clear. We appreciate that Forgotten Harvest was able to give us grace when our timeline did not go as planned. It was also very helpful to be given feedback enabling us to revise and resubmit this grant and ultimately secure funding. To have all of these supportive elements met is rare in a funder.