



# HEARTSIDE GLEANNING INITIATIVE

2016  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



Heartside Gleanning Initiative.



OUR MISSION IS TO EMPOWER  
THE HEARTSIDE COMMUNITY TO  
BECOME HEALTHIER THROUGH  
INCREASED ACCESS TO HEALTHY  
FOODS AND NUTRITION  
EDUCATION.

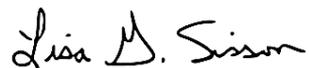
## FROM THE DIRECTOR

2016 was an amazing year for Heartside Gleaning Initiative. Our efforts to raise awareness of the need for healthy food faced by individuals in the Heartside and surrounding neighborhoods has led to increased understanding across the region about why access to healthy food is so important. Although as much as 40% of food in America is wasted, at Heartside Gleaning we are privileged to see local farmers, many of whom live on low incomes, generously donate their excess produce to improve the health of the less fortunate.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our last gleaning season successful through generous donations of time and resources, access to distribution locations, and opportunities for us to share our mission. Recipients of the produce consistently express their gratefulness for your generosity.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Lisa Sisson**, Director  
**Emily Evers**, Vice-Chair  
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**Melissa Harrington**, Treasurer  
**Bruce Barressi**  
**Andrew Bostwick**  
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**Amy VanFossen**  
**Tommie Wallace**



Lisa Sisson, Director

**With your support, we  
are fulfilling our  
motto of “Good Food,  
Cultivating Community.”**

# THE HEARTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



**The people living in this neighborhood are what makes it truly special.** Many of the residents are faced with adversity, such as a lack of stable housing, food access, and sustainable employment. This doesn't stop them from having a smile on their face.

During our gleaning months, residents line up to receive food from HGI. Rather than just grabbing the food and leaving, many of these individuals stop and talk.

**Through these conversations, the true “heart” of Heartside is shown.** It is an opportunity for residents and volunteers to talk and get to know each other.

Residents are inquisitive and want to know the best ways to cook produce they receive and health benefits that come from eating it. This keen interest in the produce portrays they not only want to learn, but they are excited to try new foods.

**These interactions are a vital part of improving the health of residents through access to healthy foods and nutrition education.**

## THE GLEANING PROCESS

LOCAL FARMERS ARE UNABLE TO SELL SOME OF THEIR CROPS OR OPT TO DONATE TO HGI



VOLUNTEERS COLLECT EXCESS PRODUCE FROM FARMERS



PRODUCE IS SORTED, WEIGHED, AND LOADED INTO A TRUCK



VOLUNTEERS DRIVE PRODUCE TO HEARTSIDE & SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS



NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS GAIN ACCESS TO HEALTHIER FOOD OPTIONS AS PRODUCE IS DISTRIBUTED TO KITCHENS, PANTRIES, OR DIRECTLY TO INDIVIDUALS OF HEARTSIDE

IN THE 2016 SEASON,  
HGI GLEANED OVER

**27,273** POUNDS

OF 60 TYPES OF FRESH  
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

FROM 40 LOCAL FARMERS

AT THE FULTON STREET FARMERS MARKET

## WHY WE GLEAN



### FOOD INSECURITY

**Accessing healthy food is a challenge** for many families, particularly individuals in low-income neighborhoods, communities of color, and rural areas.

### HEALTH

Increasing the intake of fresh fruits and vegetables by the homeless through improved quality of food at soup kitchens leads to an improvement in nutritional intake of vitamins, especially vitamin C **which is essential in maintaining immunity from illness.**

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

When food is disposed in a landfill, it rots and becomes a significant source of methane - a potent greenhouse gas with 21 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. **Landfills are a major source of human-related methane in the US, accounting for more than 20 percent of all methane emissions.**



"WE DONATE HEAVILY BECAUSE WE DON'T BELIEVE IN FOOD WASTE AT ALL. WE THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO HELP FEED THE LOCAL HUNGER IN GRAND RAPIDS"

- HAM FAMILY FARM

"I LIKE TO COOK WITH THE PRODUCE. I CAN ALSO SHARE IT WITH OTHERS AND IT HAS SAVED ME LOTS OF MONEY. MY FAVORITES ARE BELL PEPPERS, CORN AND POTATOES."

- GREG, RESIDENT



"HGI HAS HELPED US TO SERVE HEALTHIER, MORE WELL-ROUNDED MEALS. OUR PATRONS HAVE INCREASINGLY SHOWN INTEREST IN HEALTHIER MEALS, AND FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM HGI HAS HELPED US OFFER SALADS, SAUTÉED GREENS, VEGETABLE STIR FRY, AND OTHER DISHES WHERE FRESH PRODUCE WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN COST-PROHIBITIVE.

WE TRULY APPRECIATE WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING PROPER NUTRITION TO EVERYONE."

- CHRIS, CHEF AT DÉGAGÉ MINISTRIES

# OUR VOLUNTEERS



**1,600  
HOURS & 56  
INDIVIDUALS  
MADE GLEANING  
POSSIBLE IN 2016**

**SIX DEDICATED  
INDIVIDUALS  
VOLUNTEERED  
FOR AT LEAST  
15 OF 20  
SATURDAYS DURING  
THE GLEANING  
SEASON**

## WHY VOLUNTEER?

"My experience with [HGI] started out as a simple volunteering opportunity, but before long I had fallen in love with the other volunteers and the Heartside community. **I believe strongly that access to healthy food is a basic human right, and HGI provides that right to the citizens of Heartside.** Additionally, it cuts down on food waste!

My favorite part? Without a doubt, the conversations I had with people who reside in Heartside. There is an unfortunate stigma when it comes to low-income neighborhoods, but this can be cured quite easily: by participating in organizations such as HGI and realizing that these stigmas are predicated on ignorance."

- Jorgen, Volunteer  
*GVSU Student*

# SUPPORT HGI

## DONATE

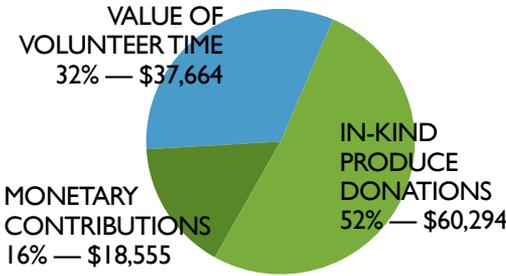
Donate to HGI by visiting [heartsidegleaning.org/donate](http://heartsidegleaning.org/donate) or mail your donation to 2921 Bird Ave. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

## VOLUNTEER

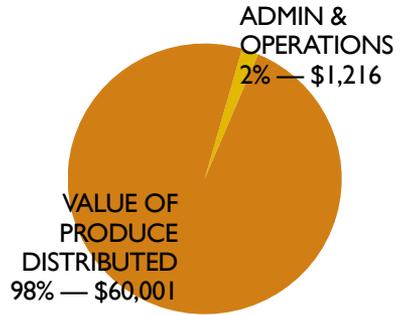
We rely on our volunteers to collect produce each week during the gleaning season. Sign up to volunteer at [heartsidegleaning.org/volunteer](http://heartsidegleaning.org/volunteer).

# 2016 FINANCIALS

## INCOME



## EXPENSE



**HGI is thrilled to report a 600% increase in monetary contributions over the past two years. We plan to leverage this funding to hire a part time employee who can grow our organization further in 2017.**

## THANK YOU

### ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Allison Adams-Bousson  
Charles Baker-Clark  
Andrew Bostwick  
Michelle Clancy  
St. Thomas the Apostle  
Rebecca Gersonde

Melissa Harrington  
John Lipford  
Debbie Lown  
Dan Owen  
Scott Rood  
Michael Scantlebury

Terri Shoemaker  
Lisa Sisson  
Patty Stephan  
Judy Tyner  
Gail Zemmol

### PRODUCE DONORS

Barry Patch  
Beth's Blooms  
Blackacre Farm Products  
Blandford Farm  
Bob Alt Farm  
Boetsma Produce  
Boo's Pantry  
Brickyard Farms  
Crane Dance Farm  
Cutlerville Days  
D & L Laughin Family Farm  
Dykstra Farms  
Earthkeeper Farm

Ellens' Acres  
Graham Farms  
Greenrock Farm  
Green Wagon Farm  
Goodell's  
Groundswell Farm  
Ham Family Farm  
Meza Farm  
Mud Lake Farm  
Nyblad Family Farms  
Paw Print Gardens  
Platte Family Farm  
Rainbow Farm

Tom Rasch  
Real Food Farm  
Shady Side Farm  
S & S Lamb, LLC  
Strick Greenhouses  
Turtle Island Farm  
The Urban Mushroom  
Visser Farms  
Wells Orchards  
Woodbridge Dairy Farm  
GR Marathon



## LEARN MORE

[HEARTSIDE4CLEANING.ORG](http://HEARTSIDE4CLEANING.ORG)

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 @HEARTSIDE4CLEANERS

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## CORPORATE DONORS

Bartertown Diner  
 Big Apple Bagels  
 Festida Foods  
 Forest Hills Foods  
 Meijer  
 Motman's Greenhouses  
 Tacos el Cunado  
 Start Garden 5x5 Night

## DISTRIBUTION SITES

Catholic Charities West Michigan  
 Dégagé Ministries  
 First Christian Reformed Church  
 SECOM Resource Center  
 Senior Neighbors  
 United Church Outreach Ministry (UCOM)