



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – MULTIPLE PROGRAMS

Heartside Gleaning's Mercy Good Food Box Program

In partnership with Mercy Health Saint Mary's, Heartside Gleaning is packing and distributing boxes of "Good Food", i.e. fresh produce, weekly, to families participating in nutrition education programs with The Hispanic Center of West Michigan and The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, as well as Roosevelt Park residents affected by COVID-19. Our vision is for a healthier community through increased access to healthy food.

What: Packing and distributing boxes of fresh produce

Where: THE POTTER'S HOUSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL at 810 VanRaalte Dr SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49509

When: Every Wednesday afternoon from approximately 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Packing and Distribution

Individuals will meet in the parking lot of the Potter's House School, then receive a nametag and brief orientation (for first time volunteers). They will then be assigned to tasks such as opening and unpacking boxes, repacking food into smaller bags, loading boxes into vehicles, or cleaning up after packing.

Saturday Gleaning at The Fulton Street Farmers Market

We empower Heartside and surrounding communities to become healthier through increased access to healthy food and nutrition education. Currently in our seventh year of operation, we do this by collecting excess produce from farmers' markets and transporting it to Heartside and surrounding communities for distribution to individuals, food pantries and free or low-cost meal programs.

What: Collecting and distributing leftover fresh produce from farmers at the market

Where: FULTON STREET FARMERS MARKET at 1145 Fulton St. E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and LAGRAVE CHURCH at 107 La Grave Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

When: Every Saturday afternoon from June 13th through October 17th at approximately 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Collecting and Distribution

Individuals will meet at the North end of the market near the restrooms, then receive a nametag and brief orientation (for first time volunteers). They will then be working together to retrieve produce crates and drop off specific quantities to the farmers. Later, they will return to retrieve the crates full of produce and bring them to our truck to be weighed and recorded. It is very important that our volunteers do not disrupt any sales the farmers are making. Once all the produce has been weighed and loaded into our truck, we all head out to our distribution site at LaGrave Church parking lot to distribute to members of the Heartside neighborhood.



Heartside Gleaning's Good Food Box Delivery Program

Heartside Gleaning has designed the delivery program of Good Food Boxes for individuals that face additional barriers in accessing fresh food. This program was designed to reach the elderly and individuals with decreased mobility. Our goal is to serve approximately 40 residents each week within 5 apartment complexes.

What: Packing and repacking boxes of fresh produce to be delivered to Heartside apartment residents

Where: 5 apartment complexes in downtown Grand Rapids

When: Every Wednesday afternoon through June 24th approximately between 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm

Packing and Delivery

Individuals will assist our Good Food Box Coordinator in distributing food boxes to the lobbies of each apartment building in a timely manner. This may include lifting up to 50 pounds, moving up and down flights of stairs, and contacting our volunteers who contact our residents.

COVID-19 Emergency Response for all Programs

Our mission is to empower communities to become healthier through increased access to healthy foods and nutrition education, and because a virus cannot and will not stop hunger, we are committed to continuing to pack and distribute nourishing food in a safe, healthy, and responsible way. With that being said, ***it is imperative that you let us know exactly which date you are attending and how many volunteers you will be bringing prior to that date.***

Do not show up without prior notice. We love volunteers, but we want to control our numbers as much as possible and can have no more than 10 people gathered at once.

Please email emily@heartsidegleaning.org prior to your volunteer date.

Additional Notes:

- Being on-time and being able to stay for a minimum of 2 hours is important to our success.
- Many of these tasks may involve moving and lifting heavy boxes, up to 50 pounds.
- Food safety and sanitation is a priority and safe food handling practices will be observed at all times.