



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: ROOSEVELT PARK MINISTRIES at 1530 Grandville Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

When: Every Wednesday afternoon from approximately 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Emily Brink (emily@heartsidegleaning.org)

Packing and Distribution

Individuals will meet at the front office of the Roosevelt Park Ministries. Here, they will sign in, fill out a covid waiver, and receive a temperature check. After this, first time volunteers will then receive a brief orientation. They will then be assigned to tasks such as opening and unpacking boxes, repacking food into smaller bags, loading boxes into vehicles, cleaning up after packing, and assisting in loading these food boxes into participants' cars.

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

When: Every Saturday afternoon between 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 or 2:00 p.m. depending on the week

Contact: Emily Rodriguez (coordinator@heartsidegleaning.org)

Collecting and Distribution

Individuals will meet at the North end of the market near the restrooms, then receive a brief orientation. 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 van 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 van, it is distributed to food pantries and members of the Heartside neighborhood. Every other Saturday, following gleaning will be a chance to help in packing "Good Food Boxes" which are boxes of gleaned and purchased produce to be delivered to 5 apartment complexes in the Heartside area.



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 the appropriate contact 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.