



Heartside
Gleaning
2019 Annual Report



HEARTSIDE GLEANNING

*Empowering the
Heartside community
to become healthier
through increased
access to healthy food
& nutrition education.*

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Dear friends,

When I go to the refrigerator to take out blueberries for my lunch, I know I am fortunate to be able to drive a mere one-half mile and shop from three large grocery stores, all with overflowing shelves of fresh fruits and vegetables. This is a reality for many today, but certainly not for all. In downtown Grand Rapids and the surrounding neighborhoods, there are few places that stock fresh, quality, affordable produce.

In low-income communities in particular, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) vendors are usually convenience stores or small grocers offering limited, if any, fresh produce. However, we are fortunate to have a number of meal programs and food pantries committed to increasing access to fresh produce in these neighborhoods. Heartside Gleaning is proud to be a part of this commitment by providing produce to programs that serve hundreds in our community.

Our community partners and the farmers at the Fulton Street Farmers Market made 2019 our best year ever. We increased our number of distribution sites, moved our weekly table distribution to Pekich Park in Heartside, and expanded our Good Food Box program to five apartment buildings. We held a successful, inaugural fundraising event, *GRatouille*. For all of this, I am humbled and grateful for the outpouring of support we received and look forward to having an even greater impact in 2020.

Sincerely,

Lisa Sisson, Chair — Board of Directors



*good food
matters*

What does this produce mean to you?

“It saves me on grocery bills and helps me eat healthy. I can’t speak enough about how it helps the community.”

Kenneth



What does this produce mean to you?

“For me and my family, it helps to save a lot of money [and helps us] to be able to eat fresh homegrown vegetables. We are very appreciative.”

Tisha



*gleaning
in action*

Gleaned Produce

**24,675
POUNDS**

**34,545
SERVINGS**

Produce Donors

Abuelo's
Berry Patch
Blandford Nature Center
Boetsma Produce
Boo's Pantry
Brickyard Farms LLC
D & L Laughlin Farm
Earthkeeper Farm
Grand Rapids Marathon,
Don Kern
Grand Shire Farm
Greenrock Farm
Green Wagon Farm
Groundswell Farm
Ham Family Farm
J. Dykstra Produce
Martin Sugarbush &
Produce
Melody Bee Farms
Meza Farm
Mostly Fruit
Nyblad Family Farms
Occupy Your Garden
Platte Family Farm
Rainbow Farms
Rakowski Family Farm
Rasch Orchards
Strick Farm
S & S Lamb, LLC
Turtle Island Farm
Visser Farms
Woodbridge Farms
Z Farm



Organizations Receiving Produce

God's Kitchen — Catholic Charities West Michigan
The Dream Center
United Church Outreach Ministry
Dégagé Ministries
The Other Way Ministries
First Church Christian Reformed Church
The Bridge of Arbor Circle
Spectrum Health Community Medicine Clinic

Participating Apartments for Good Food Boxes

Ransom Towers
Dwelling Place:
21 Weston
50 Weston
Verne Barry
Mount Mercy Apartments

Distribution Points

535 individuals came to **Pekich Park on 19 Saturdays**. Thanks to **Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.**, Downtown Ambassadors joined us to support distribution of produce.

60 families picked up fresh produce at weekly **Grand Rapids Dream Center** events. The Dream Center aims to build trusted relationships through authenticity and weekly consistency inside our communities.

Our **Good Food Boxes** are hand selected, high-quality, fresh produce for individuals facing additional barriers in accessing fresh food and were delivered to recipients every other week at no cost. **136 Good Food Boxes reached elderly individuals and individuals with limited mobility.**

10 families from the First Christian Reformed Church Food Assistance Neighbor Network (FAAN) were provided produce **eight times in 2019**. FANN addresses food sustainability challenges and provides space for neighbors to build community with each other.



Why partner with Heartside Gleaning?

“Healthy eating is one of the most important elements of maintaining a healthy lifestyle but a complicated one with significant barriers, especially for low income households... Improving access to healthy, fresh food is one important step towards improving healthy eating habits and resident health outcomes in communities across the county (Page 160 of our GR Forward Downtown Master Plan).

In 2019, the Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. Goal 2 Alliance was proud to support the Heartside Gleaning Initiative operating each week in Pekich Park. We are excited to collaborate to help activate Pekich Park with a positive activity like Heartside Gleaning.”

- Annamarie Buller, *Manager of Neighbor Experience for Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., Staff lead for the Goal 2 Alliance*



Why do you volunteer?

“From where I’ve been in the past, it’s important to help others and share. It takes me out of myself.”

Bruce P. (pictured right)

“Thank you again for welcoming us into your season, it was so amazing to be able to have fresh and local produce available for all of the patrons of our pantries. It was also very special to be able to see so many familiar faces in the community every Saturday that we made it to pick-up.”

Brittany Krenzke, Outreach Programs Coordinator — Spectrum Health Community Medicine Clinic

Gleaning Volunteers

35 dedicated individuals joined us as volunteers over the course of the season, for gleaning, special events, outreach, and board activities; serving a **total of 1,340 hours in 2019**. Value of time = \$34,076

Special thanks goes to Randall Eason, Holiday Gathungu, Bruce Pruitt, and Tammy Johnson, for volunteering over 15 gleaning days each last year.



financials

FY2019

Income

Value of Donated Food	\$54,285
Contributions	\$17,640
Events	\$1,905
Grants	\$3,080
Other In-Kind	\$2,976
Misc. Revenue	\$641
Total Income	\$80,527

Expense

Value of Distributed Food	\$54,285
Fundraising & Operations	\$4,737
Programming	\$6,397
Other In-Kind	\$2,976
Total Expense	\$68,395

thank you

Donor Highlight

In 2019, we were honored to be included in the Egan \$100k Community Giveaway. Since 1919, Andy J. Egan Co., Inc. has worked with the West Michigan community to help construct some of the region's most iconic buildings.

"We're thankful for the West Michigan community and the work that has kept us in business for a century. More than 200 nonprofits applied to receive one of 10, \$10,000 donations throughout 2019. [A] selection committee reviewed those applications and took a look at where \$10,000 could make a major impact. There is a significant amount of food insecurity within our community, and we noticed one organization that had a very unique approach to making sure our local food pantries are stocked with nutritious food and that our neighbors in need receive healthy meals."

- Chris Weaver, Andy J. Egan Co.

Thanks to this investment from Andy J. Egan Co, Heartside Gleaning employed a gleaning coordinator enabling us to partner with three additional organizations, increasing our ability to consistently deliver fresh produce to more people as well as support home delivery to individuals with limited mobility through our Good Food Box program.

2019 Community Partners

Buist Community Assistance Center
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.
Fulton Street Farmers Market
Grand Valley State University
Guiding Light

2019 Corporate Donors

Andy J. Egan Co.
Big Apple Bagels
Boxed Water
Bridge Street Market
Mercantile Bank
San Chez Bistro
Swift Printing

2019 Individual Donors

Chris & Julie Boetsma
Cathy & Marty Calvaneau
Sarah Cooley
Rita Cooper
Suzan Couzens
Jonathan DeHaan
Tammy Derrick
Rob & Kristen De Ward
Dana Eardley
Patricia Janes
Thomas & Patti Jasper
Lara Jaskiewicz
Beth Jester
Lesley Kraimer
Lynn Liberati
Debbie Lown
Kristen Mahoney
Kristie Matry
Carl & Ruth Meyering
Emily Evers & Chris Milostan
Michelle Mischley
Kristin Moretto
Jessica Moskalewski
Aaron Nelson
Eric & Sara Olson
Robert Robbins*
Michael & Olwen Scantlebury*
Lisa & Mark Sisson
Rori Weston
Gail Zemmol
Duane Zuber*

**via United Way*

Good Food.
Cultivating
Community.

