

Full Plate Press

Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank

Winter 2009

A quarterly publication of Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank which includes the Western Upper Peninsula Food Bank, Houghton; Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank, Ishpeming; Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank, Sault Ste. Marie; the Manna Project, Petoskey; Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank, Cadillac; Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank, Grand Rapids; and Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank, St. Joseph.

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"WE HAD NO IDEA!"

Grateful Plateful Picnic opens eyes, strengthens ties

It was a perfect September afternoon. Under a brilliant sky, bright balloons bobbed on a soft breeze – the same breeze that blew through the open doors of the Food Bank, from Receiving to loading docks.

Some 300 people floated through, too, most of them wide-eyed at the sheer size of the warehouse and the volume of reclaimed food. They were guests at the first annual Grateful Plateful Picnic, an educational celebration for Food Bank supporters.

Craning their necks, the donors, neighbors, clients and volunteers progressed past mountains of donated groceries, house-sized refrigeration units, half an acre of 15-foot-high shelving and literal tons of bulk food.

Even good friends were surprised

Even though the 300 guests were donors, neighbors and volunteers, few had seen the Food Bank quite so clearly before. Employees and signs led the guests, step-by-step, through the well-honed operation, helping

them grasp the enormous impact the Food Bank has on the region.

"We had no idea!" said guests Jean Sharp and her daughter, Marguerite

Moore. The two donors were so impressed by what they saw in the Food Bank that Saturday, they said they wanted to come back regularly as volunteers.

Great music, good food – and a giant cow

Of course, the day wasn't just about education. It was a celebration, too – sort of an early Thanksgiving for Food Bank supporters.

Guests of all ages mingled

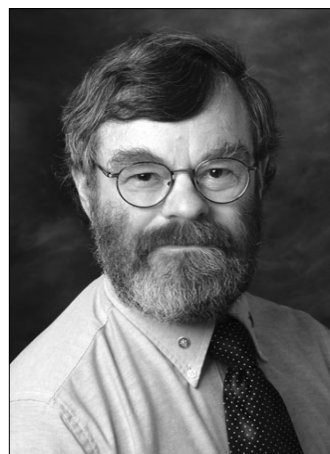
under a giant tent, tapped their feet to the tunes of the Full Chord Bluegrass band, and feasted on a smorgasbord of freshly prepared food, underwritten especially for the event.

Board members Ed Nieuwenhuis and Mike DeVriendt skewered brats and dogs over a massive grill. Kids danced with delight in

(see "picnic," page 10 & 11)



FROM THE DESK OF JOHN ARNOLD



As of the end of October, we have already distributed more food so far this year than we did in all of 2007. By year's end we expect to have distributed an all-time record 24.5 million pounds of product, a 2.5 million pound increase over 2008.

There still has been no word from the windmill people who are analyzing the data recorder we had up in the spring. It certainly seems windy enough here to make installing an electricity-generating windmill make sense. We hate to waste anything around here, even the wind!

By the time you read this the renovation of our Reclamation Department should be done, and we should be up and processing our backlog of frozen meat products. Thank you everyone who helped with that!

Work on expanding our big main cooler by 9,500 cubic feet should start very soon and should be completed by year's end. We really need that extra cooler space in order to be able to bump up the number of mobile pantry distributions we support from 8 per day to 10 per day. Requests for

distributions are coming in so fast we genuinely need to step up to that next level. In 2010 we expect our mobile pantry program will distribute over 10 million pounds of food. We could still use some help in paying for the cooler expansion, so if you have someone on your holiday gift list who already has "everything they need", how about buying them a couple cubic feet of Food Bank cooler space? Each of those 9,500 cubic feet costs about \$6.25, and will help us increase the amount of food we distribute to needy people in 2010 and ever after. It isn't like a brick we can write their name on, but we will know and you and they will know that your gift to them helped make our distributing that additional food possible.

So far we've raised only about \$6,000 of the \$57,000 needed to install an electric generator to keep us up and running when the power grid is down. \$5,000 of that was a surprise – a much-appreciated pledge from the Thomas and Geraldine Seyferth Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County.

You will probably be reading this a little after Thanksgiving, but I would like to still take a moment to thank everyone who has helped us provide so much more food aid to so many more needy people this year. Donors, Board members, staff, volunteers, Feeding America, the Food Bank Council of Michigan... It is the combined good will, hard work and resources of everyone who contributes any of those that makes what the Food Bank does possible. Thank you!

How People Can Spend Less and Do More to Fight Hunger

Estimates vary with the economy, but currently hunger in the United States shows a shortfall of approximately 12 billion pounds of food per year. Michigan's share of "food that was needed but wasn't there" is probably about 432 million pounds per year.

Historically, the most common way communities address the need for food is by organizing or participating in food drives. During the holiday season, our Food Bank alone receives as many as five phone calls per day from people who care about hunger and want to help, so they're organizing food drives at their workplaces, places of worship, or an event.

We very much appreciate their concern and their help. However, as swimming-against-the-tide as it might be, we would be remiss if we weren't honest about the economic realities of addressing the hunger problem.

Food given and collected in food drives is mostly purchased for that purpose. Generally, someone bought it at a store.

Store-purchased food normally costs between \$1.00 and \$2.25 per pound. If we

use \$1.50 as an average figure, it would cost \$648 million per year to address Michigan's hunger problem with purchased food. And since it is nearly impossible to document food gifts, people who give food in food drives rarely receive any tax benefits.

Meanwhile, it is estimated that as much as 40 to 50% of all food grown in or imported to the U.S. for the purposes of feeding people is ultimately wasted. That is as much as 180 billion pounds of annual waste.

Of that, the USDA has estimated that more than 30 billion pounds is recoverable. It is the holiday left-over, smudged-label, close-to-code-date sorts of products that Food Banks such as ours seek and distribute through the food pantries, shelters, kitchens, etc. we serve.

Food waste in Michigan has been estimated at approximately 3.9 billion pounds per year. If our recoverable percentage mirrors the national average, that means at least 650 million pounds of food per year is being wasted in Michigan. That can be diverted to addressing Michigan's annual need for 432 million pounds of food to end hunger.

Food Banks can reclaim and distribute that wasted food for far less than the \$648 million it would cost to buy more! At an estimated 20 cents per pound (far higher than it actually costs), we could recover enough surplus food to address Michigan's hunger problem – and route it through the charity distribution system – for only about \$86.4 million per year!

Furthermore, because monetary gifts used by agencies to acquire food from a food bank are tax-deductible, the after-tax cost of addressing Michigan's hunger problem with reclaimed surplus food could be as little as \$21.6 million per year.

Our choices are to spend as much as \$648 million or as little as \$21.6 million. The first figure is hopelessly out of reach. The other is likely less than is already being spent by people buying food for food drives!

No one doubts the sincerity behind food drives. But sincerity alone does not fill bellies. Only food does that. To provide enough food to meet that need, a shift from food drives to fund-raising would let us make optimal use of readily available food that otherwise will be wasted.

Spartan Food Show gives us 39,000 pounds of fresh food

The Spartan Food Show, held in August at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, was truly a feast for the senses. It turned into a feast for the Food Bank and the 1,300 agencies it serves, too.

After the show was over, Spartan and participating vendors donated almost 20 tons of high-quality deli meats, baked goods, dairy foods, frozen fish and fresh produce to Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank.

"It took 30 volunteers six hours to load two big trucks with all of that glorious food," says Donor Relations Manager Linda



Vanderbaan. "But what an amazing boon it was to the Food Bank."

With refrigerated trucks, a 55,000-square-foot warehouse and walk-in refrigeration units, the Food Bank is uniquely prepared to accept, store and distribute such large food gifts safely.

Within a few days, the food was shipped safely to food pantries and other agencies serving 500,000 people throughout the Food Bank's 40-county service area.

Herbruck's lays thousands of specially packed eggs on us

In one fell swoop, Herbruck's Poultry Ranch in Saranac found a way to package donated eggs in a way that saves time for the Food Bank and pantries – and to express its support and encouragement to communities it serves.

Over the years, the company has donated millions of eggs to the Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank, as well as to the Eastern Michigan and Chicago food banks. Like most donated eggs, Herbruck's came in 30-egg trays. But starting in September, the same number of donated eggs – about 48,000 per month – began arriving in family-friendly, familiar one-dozen cartons.

"The Food Bank tells us the 12-packs are easier and cheaper for them to store and distribute," says Lee Vandebunte of Herbruck's. "And we realized that we could print a short

message inside the carton, telling where the eggs came from."

The carton message provides rare name recognition for the company, whose products are sold at retail under the Meijer and Egglund's Best brands. The company also sells eggs to large food service accounts.

But, mostly, "We just wanted to say something to the communities we serve. After all, we've been part of these communities for 50 years. We want them to know we're here and we're on their side."

"Herbruck's generous egg donations are a vital source of protein for families in need," says Food Bank Executive Director John Arnold. "We're deeply grateful for the eggs and for the new, easy-to-handle packaging. And we're glad people will know a little more about their friends at Herbruck's."



Mobile, going global

In October, guests from Jordan, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the Global Food Banking Network visited the Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank to learn more about our mobile pantry program.

Mobile pantries, which take food to areas that lack pantry facilities, were created here in 1998, using former beer trucks. Since then, the concept has spread to 97 U.S. food pantries.

“Traditionally, food banks have worked through pantries and other agencies that have buildings and food-safe storage,” says John Arnold, Executive Director of the Food Bank, who has long championed the mobile pantry concept.

“Unfortunately, such buildings don’t exist in many areas that need food – especially in the world’s refugee camps, tent cities and slum cities. But a mobile pantry can deliver food safely anywhere there’s a viable road.”

According to the United Nations, one billion people worldwide live in slums, including the infamous slum cities of Mumbai, India and Soweto, South Africa. Another 7.4 million are currently estimated to inhabit refugee camps in Africa and the Middle East. These



International delegates visit West Michigan to learn more about mobile pantries.

numbers can rise suddenly in response to war, drought, floods or other disasters.

“Even considering where they can go and what they can do, the greatest beauty of mobile pantries may be how simple they are to implement,” says John Arnold.

“It’s not rocket science. All you need is surplus food and repurposed beverage trucks. It’s relatively easy for an established food charity, and it’s

even feasible for a start-up group of concerned citizens.”

In North America, mobile pantries already reach remote Appalachian mountain areas and desert Indian reservations. In the United Kingdom, the Church of England is implementing the concept to help parishes where small, centuries-old church buildings don’t accommodate permanent pantries.

“Once, a delegate from the Anglican church came here to learn about our program, and he got so excited he all but danced a jig in our parking lot,” John Arnold recalls. “He laughed and said, ‘If there’s one thing England has plenty of, it’s beer trucks!’”

To learn more about mobile pantries, contact Nancy Ullrey at (616) 784-3250 or nancyu@FeedingAmericaWestMichigan.org.

Meijer leads zombies in food donations

The zombies prowling Grand Rapids on Halloween may have been looking for food, but probably not the kind Meijer provided.

The giant West Michigan retailer donated 2,225 pounds of food for the living that night, as part of its sponsorship of the second annual Zombie Walk. Participants in the walk donated another 250 pounds.

“We are deeply grateful to Meijer for its tremendous support of the Food Bank, and also to those zombies who remembered us when they walked,” said Donor Relations Manager Linda Vanderbaan. “It’s a great thing when creativity can support a good cause.”



The 2009 Grand Rapids Zombie Walk brought in 2,225 pounds of food from Meijer and another 250 cans from individual participants.

GLEANNING GOES HALLOWEENING

Five-year-old Emma Van Bragt, the Food Bank’s youngest volunteer, went trick-or-treating as a “gleaner” this year.

Emma and her family show up regularly at scheduled gleanings, volunteering to pick surplus produce on area farms.

Volunteer coordinator Dena Rogers

says, “At an October apple picking, I jokingly suggested that the kids go as gleaners on Halloween. Emma took it seriously.”

Shown here with her brother Isaac (the dragon), Emma has her work gloves and plastic fruit in her harvest basket and candy in her plastic pumpkin.



LOVE IS ALL WE NEED

2nd annual Gala celebrates food – as love.

What do you think love tastes like? Home-baked cookies? Mom’s macaroni and cheese? Oysters on the half shell?

Some of Grand Rapids’ most talented chefs will answer that question at the second annual Full Plates Forever Gala at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel on February 5, 2010 (just in time for Valentine’s Day!) There guests can sample Grand Plaza chefs’ most loving creations as they support the Food Bank’s John Arnold Endowment Fund.

“Ever since early man risked life and limb to bring game home from the hunt, food has been humanity’s primary expression of love,” says Donor Relations Manager Linda Vanderbaan. “Our endowment fund’s goal is to keep our trucks running and our docks humming, making it possible for us to ‘bring food home’ in today’s world.”

“Demand for food relief in our region hit an all-time high this year, and is projected to grow by another 30% next year,” Linda says. “The endowment was created in the nick of time – and is already vital to continuing our success.”



Gala attendees will each receive a limited-edition print, lovingly created for the Gala by renowned artist Rick Beerhorst.

Here’s your chance to show your love.

A few high-profile underwriting opportunities for the Gala are still available, as are individual tickets and packages.

Sponsors will be recognized at the event, as well as in Gala-related mailings, press releases, the event program and the Food Bank’s web site and newsletter.

Top sponsors will also receive signed, limited-edition gicleé prints by Rick Beerhorst. All guests will receive limited-edition Beerhorst woodcuts created especially for the Gala.

For more information on sponsorship and tickets, contact Linda Vanderbaan at (616) 784-3250 or go online to lindav@FeedingAmericaWestMichigan.org.

Buist Food Pantry recognized as “Beacon of Light”

Buist Electric, Inc. in Byron Center isn’t your ordinary electrical contractor. This successful, well-respected, employee-owned firm contributes part of its profits to its own charitable foundation. Among the foundation’s good works is a food pantry, founded in early 2008 to help people in southern Kent County.

By the end of 2008, the Buist Food Pantry had already distributed 414,429 pounds of food, including 94,000 pounds through its mobile pantry outreach efforts. In 2009, they project they’ll distribute another 630,000 pounds.

At its 2009 Michigan Harvest Gathering, the Food Bank Council of Michigan recognized Buist Food Pantry in Byron Center with its “Beacon of Light” award.

Most of the Buist pantry’s food comes from the Feeding

America West Michigan Food Bank, which nominated the pantry for the award. “For a food pantry to go from zero to distributing over a million pounds of product in its first two years is simply unprecedented,” says John Arnold, executive director of the Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank. “And what a blessing to residents of Southern Kent County to have access to a food pantry that is so generous, is open days, evenings and weekends, and that allows clients to pick their own food – all practices we enthusiastically endorse.”

John continued, “Hats off to Buist Electric, Inc., the Buist Foundation, Larry and Judy Buist, Food Pantry Director Shirley TenHarmsel, and everyone else who helps make the Buist Community Assistance Center Food Pantry such a truly outstanding example of corporate good citizenship.”

Berrien, Cass Taco Bells are *angeles* to Food Bank



From now through December 23, Taco Bell restaurants in Cass and Berrien Counties will sponsor a holiday fund drive for the Food Bank.

For just \$1, participating Taco Bells will write a donor name on a paper angel, which they'll post to encourage others to join the cause.

Every dollar raised will go to area food banks, where it can secure several pounds of food.

"We're excited to help feed our community in the biggest possible sense," says Daryl Stinemetz of Landers & Partners, the advertising agency for Taco Bell restaurants in the area.

For information on creative ways your company can help the Food Bank, contact Linda Vanderbaan at (616) 784-3250 or lindav@FeedingAmericaWestMichigan.org.

GRASSROOTS GROW A TON OF FRESH PRODUCE

If you shopped at the Rockford Farmers' Market this past year, you may have seen Nathan O'Connell and other volunteers at a Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank table.

At the market, shoppers were encouraged to "buy a little extra for the Food Bank." Obliging, they contributed hundreds of pounds of fresh produce – boosting local farmers' sales at the same time.

"When a shy little kid hands you a bag of fresh raspberries, and you can see they're learning how good it feels to give, it's a great moment," Nathan says.

Farmers felt good about giving too. At the end of the day, grateful for the sales

boost, many donated their unsold goods. Nathan and company then delivered all the donations.

Nathan's volunteers participated at six markets this summer, bringing the Food Bank 2,565 pounds of much-needed fresh produce.

A committed community organizer who honed his skills in the 2008 presidential election, Nathan wants to expand Food Bank presence into farmers' markets throughout Kent, Ottawa and Montcalm counties in 2010.

To learn more about joining this grassroots effort, contact Nathan at (616) 827-7374 or at nathanoconnell@live.com.



Popular Pound-for-Pound Challenge is back



As the need for food assistance grows nationwide, more and more American companies are eager to make a difference. Those factors have led to the launch of a second year of the Pound-for-Pound Challenge. Announced during "The Biggest Loser" season finale on December 8 on NBC, the next Challenge will officially begin on January 5.

For every pound lost by participants, corporate sponsors (including General Mills and Subway restaurants) donate the cost of a pound of food to the Feeding America Food Bank that serves the participant's community.

JIM SIEWERTSEN HAS TO LEAVE US

After three years as a board member and one year as president of the Feeding America West Michigan board of directors, James (Jim) Siewertsen has accepted an Amway position as Vice President for Nutrilite Operations. From his new office in California, Jim will manage operations in Buena Park and Lakeview, as well as Farming Operations in Trout Lake, Wash., Petacal, Mexico, and Ubajara, Brazil.

Formerly, Jim was Vice President of Global Services for Access Business Group, LLC, a division of Amway.

He will be greatly missed.



Trinity Health financial workers fight hunger three ways

The 170 employees of West Michigan Finance Shared Services don't do anything halfway – or even a mere 100 percent. In fact, they seem to do everything many times more than most people.

The company handles accounting, payroll, customer service and financial records for not one, but six Trinity Health System hospitals. And when it comes to fighting hunger, they do it not one, but three ways:

The first way: Twice-weekly lunches, with a choice of hot soups and sandwich. Combos with brownies are also available. Proceeds benefit the Food Bank.

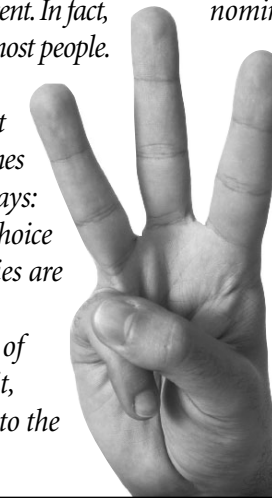
The second way: A snack cart at the front of their offices, generously stocked with fresh fruit, muffins and other goodies. Cart proceeds also go to the Food Bank.

The third way: A month of dress-down days, with a nominal charge for the privilege. Staff members pay \$1 per day, or \$5 for six days of the privilege. Managers pay \$3 for one day and \$15 for six.

Finally, to cap off the month of fund-raising, employees will gather for a pot luck lunch on December 16. (Okay, that's a fourth way of fighting hunger.)

According to Bobbie Smith of the company's fundraising committee, "Everyone here is really excited to help the Food Bank fight hunger where we live." From the list, it sounds like they'll have a lot of fun doing it.

For more ideas about fighting hunger where you work, contact Linda Vanderbaan at (616) 784-3250 or go online to lindav@FeedingAmericaWestMichigan.org.



FIFTH THIRD IS SECOND TO NONE

Bank foundation and employees make 10 mobile pantry distributions

The people at Fifth Third Bank wanted to do something to give back to communities where they have branches. They realized that one of the most important, immediate ways they could do that was through mobile pantry food distributions, taking direct action against hunger.

Working with Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank and local food pantries, the Fifth Third Foundation sponsored mobile pantry distributions in 10 communities. But they sent more than money. Some 50 Fifth Third employees also showed up to volunteer at the distributions.

"Our staff has been incredibly energized by working at these events," says Fifth Third spokesman Patrick Lonergan. "Many people have told me how much they appreciated the opportunity to help out at the distributions."

Patrick went on to say, "All of the people at the local partner agencies were very welcoming and nice to us. Best of all, at each event, 150 local families were able to choose 100 pounds of much-needed food. It was an incredibly rewarding experience."



Cindy Welton and Patrick Lonergan present John Arnold with a Fifth Third Foundation check to pay for 10 mobile pantry distributions.

This year's gleaning harvest more than triples!

Cooler-than-usual temperatures and heavy summer rains meant bumper crops of many kinds in Michigan this year. So, from June through October, Food Bank volunteers were able to swing into high gear picking, packing and transporting the delicious, fresh produce.

"Thanks to our volunteers and some very generous farmers, we were able to meet higher-than-ever demand this year," says Dena Rogers, the Food Bank's volunteer coordinator. "We collected a record harvest: 65,757 pounds of fresh berries, cherries, peaches, and apples, apples, apples!"

That figure is 317% of – more than triple – last year's gleaning total of 20,743 pounds.

She pointed out that Michigan produces the nation's third-largest apple crop and in high-yield years like 2009, farmers can't sell their full crops. Without volunteer gleaners,

many tons of apples would rot on the ground.

The Food Bank gratefully acknowledges contributing farmers, including Agsearch Company (cherries and peaches), B. Tubbs (apples), Country Basket (apples), Ed Dunneback & Girls Farm (strawberries and apples), Groundswell Farm

(organic lettuce, cabbage, carrots and more), Roger Willmore II (apples), Sandy Bottom Berries (blueberries), Warner Vanderheuel (apples), and Ridgeview Orchards (apples).



Crop gleaning would not be possible without dedicated volunteers like the VanBraght and Knister families.



Like the Knisters, Sharon and John Schuster-Craig show up season after season to pick and pack surplus crops for the Food Bank.

FIGHT HUNGER WITH YOUR HOLIDAY GIFTS

Is there someone on your gift list who already has everything? They have all the gadgets they want, you can't relate to their tastes, and they don't collect knickknacks. But you care and you want to give them something.

Why not give them a miracle?

A gift in their name to Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank makes an immediate change for the better in our area.

FEEDING AMERICA®
West Michigan Food Bank

Every dollar becomes many pounds of food for West Michigan families hit hard by the recent economy. And we'll tell the recipient how, in a handsome acknowledgement you can mail or wrap as you please.

For more information on this

local, high-impact, long-lasting gift, contact Linda Vanderbaan at (616) 784-3250 or visit Linda online at lindav@FeedingAmericaWestMichigan.org.

Heeren Brothers hits a hole-in-one against hunger

Heeren Brothers, a Grand Rapids-based wholesale produce distributor, raised \$6,660 dollars for the Feeding America West Michigan Bank at its September 22 golf outing at Scott Lake Country Club.

"We're thrilled at the turn-out we had, and especially at the generosity our players and sponsors displayed," says Megan Heeren, a company spokesperson. "This the second year we've given our golf outing proceeds to the Food Bank, and we more than tripled last year's total!"

In addition to the financial gift, Heeren Brothers also donated 993 pounds of fresh apples.



Heeren Brothers' Megan Heeren, left, and President Jim Heeren, right, present golf outing proceeds to Food Bank Donor Relations Manager Linda Vanderbaan.

Metallica makes heavy contribution

Heavy-metal super-group Metallica, the seventh-biggest selling act in American musical history, recently donated \$5,644.50 to the Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank. The gift was based on a percentage of ticket sales from the band's



November 9 concert in Grand Rapids.

"We are deeply grateful to Metallica for their support," says Assistant Director Teresa Pawl-Knapp. "We can turn that amount into many tons of food for West Michigan. That's literally a heavy blow against hunger."

Picnic *(continued from page 1)*

the parking lot, oohed and aahed at Ruthie the 20-foot Country Fresh cow, and milled around the ice cream cooler.

“We work so hard all year at the Food Bank, and our supporters give so much,” said Donor Relations Manager Linda Vanderbaan.

“We’re always thinking about urgent need. But, just like the Pilgrims and Indians taught us, it’s important to come together and celebrate the blessings we have.”

Special donations and underwriting made the first-time event

possible, so that the ongoing supply of food for the region wasn’t diminished or interrupted.

“This is like Mary Magdalene pouring perfume on Jesus’ feet,” said Paul Haagsman, outgoing board member and former director of the Grand Rapids non-profit organization, In the Image.

“Jesus knew how important it is that, as we help the poor, we also notice and care for each other. That’s what today is all about.”



Volunteers, donors and agency representatives came together at the Grateful Plateful Picnic to celebrate and encourage each other in feeding West Michigan.

Picnic *(continued)*

Did you know?

Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank supplies food to 1,300 pantries and other hunger relief agencies in a 40-county, 30,000-square-mile area.

With the help of 500 monthly volunteers, we sort, wash, label, and/or repack about 3 million pounds out of 24 million pounds of food annually.

The main warehouse also ships another 570,000 pounds monthly to our six remote warehouses serving counties from St. Joseph to the Upper Peninsula.

Our 10 Mobile Pantry trucks distribute 700,000 lbs. of food per month to areas that don't have food pantries.



Guests learned eye-opening facts about their Food Bank's scope, success and methods. (Food was donated especially for this event by picnic supporters.)



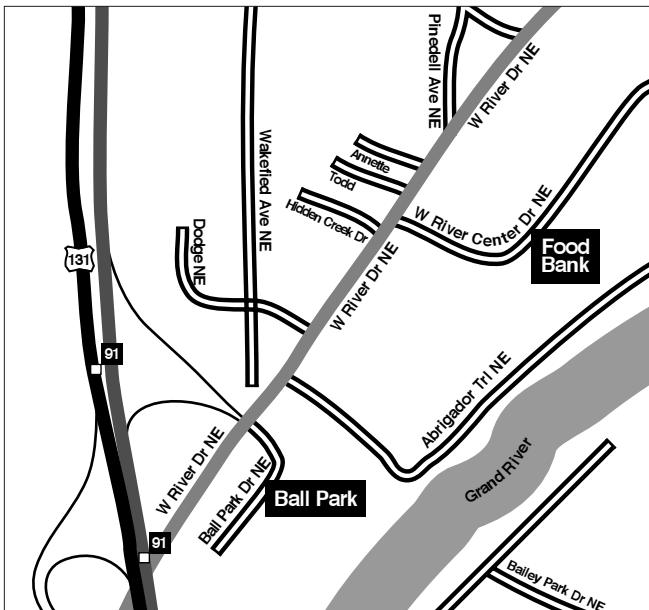
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**VISITING THE FOOD BANK?
We're easy to find.**

Take U.S. 131 to exit 91 (Comstock Park/West River Drive).
Turn left on West River Drive. Turn right at the stoplight at
West River Center Drive (Wendy's on corner). Our address is
864 West River Center Dr., Comstock Park, MI 49321-8955
Questions? Call us at 616.784.3250



Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank is a non-profit surplus food warehouse distributing about 1.8 million pounds of food monthly in cooperation with 1,300 charitable agencies. The food we handle helps needy families, the unemployed, senior citizens, at-risk children, pregnant teens, domestic violence victims, AIDS patients and others at risk of hunger in our difficult economy. Ultimately, our food aids an estimated 400,000 West Michigan and Upper Peninsula residents annually. Call us at 616-784-3250 or learn more at www.FeedingAmericaWestMichigan.org.

Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank is a member of Feeding America – The Nation’s Food Bank Network, The United Way, and The Food Bank Council of Michigan.

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