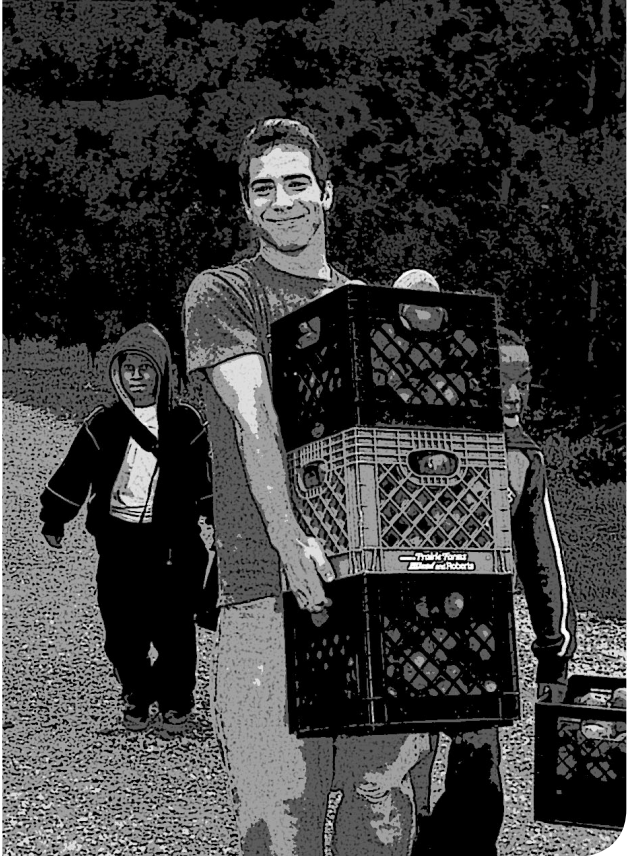


Food Banking 101

A food charity you can bank on.



Food Banking 101


**FEEDING
AMERICA**
West Michigan Food Bank

FEEDING AMERICA WEST MICHIGAN FOOD BANK: THE THINGS MOST PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW.

What is a food bank, exactly? How does it work? And why does our community need one?

“Without Feeding America West Michigan, we would not be able to continue our ministry to those in need.”

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
Muskegon

Even though the Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank (formerly Second Harvest Gleaners) has been here for more than 25 years, many people don't know what we do, why we're needed or who uses our services.

Even more people are astounded to learn how far we can stretch a buck – reclaiming, processing and distributing \$70 worth of food for just a dollar or even less.

This brochure tells it all, quickly. So you'll know where we fit in – to your community and maybe your life.

The most effective, efficient way to battle both hunger and waste.

Maybe you already know that families are facing hunger, right here in West Michigan. Maybe you know that the economy is making things worse. And that churches, food pantries and soup kitchens are working to meet the need.

But did you know that there's plenty of food—good, safe food—going to waste every day? That farmers, manufacturers, shippers and retailers are forced to throw food away—tons of it, everyday?

That's where we step in.

The Food Bank connects with growers and companies who have surplus food and other groceries. Maybe demand was over estimated, the package was misprinted, or a special promotion is over. Whatever the reason, the food is still of high quality. Nobody wants to see it go into a landfill.

Fortunately, the Food Bank has the trucks, facilities and expertise to reclaim the food, and the qualifications and equipment to process, package, store and distribute it expertly and safely.

Where the food goes.

The Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank provides safe, high-quality food for more than 1,300 food pantries, soup kitchens and other hunger relief agencies. We serve 40 counties from Benton Harbor to the Upper Peninsula—a territory of more than 30,000 square miles.



At left, \$10 worth of grocery store food. At right, what \$10 in processing fees typically gets at the food bank, thanks to our connections, fleet and facilities.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Food Bank does not charge for food! Like most organizations, we have to pay for transportation, space and some personnel. So we charge a nominal processing fee—about 12 cents per pound. This is less than a tenth of the actual value of the food.

Where the food comes from.

Sometimes a manufacturer calls us because they over-estimated demand. Or a retailer needs to clear shelf space. Or a restaurant baked too many muffins.

Sometimes our volunteers pick food fresh from a grower's orchard or field.

All of that good food—more than 25 million pounds a year!—comes to our well-equipped, expertly staffed warehouses. We inspect, store, and process it according to all government and food industry standards. Then our trucks or mobile pantries distribute it where it's needed.

Food bank. Food pantry. What's the difference?

A food pantry supplies food directly to individuals who can use it. Some users walk in, and others get pantry

deliveries. There are many wonderful food pantries here in West Michigan, run by churches, charities and social service agencies.

We *supply* food and grocery items to pantries (along with shelters and soup kitchens). Think of them as retail stores (that don't charge) and us as their warehouse, filling their orders.

How you can help.

- **Write a check.** Big or small. Remember, every dollar you give lets us reclaim and provide as much as \$70 worth of food. That can make 30 meals!
- **Roll your sleeves up.** Volunteer to work in our warehouse, at a harvest, or on a mobile pantry. Or organize a fund-raising event.
- **Tell others.** Include your friends, co-workers, clergy and public officials. The more people who support our vital fight against hunger, the more likely we are to win.

To learn more.

We want to be sure we answer your questions. If you represent a food pantry, charity or other hunger relief organization, contact Nancy Ullrey at nancyu@FeedingAmericaWestMichigan.org, Jude Smith at judes@FeedingAmericaWestMichigan.org or Nancy Watson at nancyw@FeedingAmericaWestMichigan.org

To volunteer, contact Dena Rogers at denar@FeedingAmericaWestMichigan.org.

To donate, contact Linda Vanderbaan at lindav@FeedingAmericaWestMichigan.org.

You can call any of these individuals at 616.784.3250.