



**Kids' Food
Basket**

Sack Supper Sentinel

vol. 10 • Issue 5 • March 2015

**"My Sack Suppers makes me feel full and stuffed. Thank you for people volunteer for all who schools. You are very special to us."
Miraylah**



Meet Some of the People that Bring Life to the Sack Supper



"My Grandma gave me money and challenged me to show others that people love them. I wanted to give it to kids who don't have food, so they could eat healthy. It makes me feel good. I know it makes kids happy." -Jackson, Donor



"Kids' Food Basket gives me the opportunity to help someone else. The Sack Supper is so special because it gives the kids a sense of knowing someone cares." -Evelyn, Muskegon Volunteer



"When I see little children that I think may be hungry, it brings tears to my eyes. I feel like it's something I have to do. This is my heart right here. I'm so glad I found this place." -Bernice, Sack Supper Volunteer Delivery Driver



"To me, the Sack Suppers mean that the lives of the kids that we serve do not have to revolve around food. It's a symbol of a community's ownership of its hunger problem and of accountability to it's youth." -Sergio, Lead Community School Coordinator, Sibley



"I'm so grateful for the meal my daughter receives each day. It provides me with so much relief to know when I work late I can count on my daughter having a healthy dinner. It is so great to be a part of this!" -Aracely, Sack Supper Parent

GO ORANGE DAY! MARCH 27, 2015

Join us in raising awareness for the 1 in 4 kids in West Michigan affected by hunger by getting involved in the week leading up to Go Orange Day on Friday, March 27. What can you do?

Wear Orange!

Dress in your best orange outfit on March 27, in support of Kids' Food Basket, and share on social media **#KFBGoOrange**. You can email us too! Email your favorite Go Orange pictures to socialmedia@kidsfoodbasket.org, and we will share with our Facebook friends or Instagram followers.

Spread the word

Gather your friends, family, neighbors or co-workers, and help us raise awareness for Kids' Food Basket Go Orange by sharing facts, stories and more highlighted on our social media.

Dine Out

Make an impact with dozens of West Michigan restaurants by dining out during the week of March 23-27. Participating restaurants will donate a portion of their proceeds back to Kids' Food Basket. Visit www.kidsfoodbasket.org/DineOut for a list a participating restaurants.

For more information about participating restaurants, how to volunteer, our current Wish List or to donate, visit www.kidsfoodbasket.org/GoOrange.

March Community Partner Challenge

Join Muskegon this March for a friendly competition by volunteering your time, hosting a Wish List drive, gathering donations and advocating for our mission. Learn more by visiting www.kidsfoodbasket.org/MarchChallenge.

Host a Kids' Food Basket Wish List Drive

Collect items from our Wish List at your work, faith community, birthday party or get together.

Donate

Your gift helps provide kids in our community with the nourishment they need to reach their full potential. \$1 = 1 Sack Supper.

Volunteer

Join the large amount of volunteers it takes each week day to pack and deliver Sack Suppers.



Community Partner Shout Out!

A caring, can-do community ensures that kids have the food they need to stay smart and healthy. Community partners like Herman Miller believe that today's kids are the future of Muskegon's tomorrow - and have been dedicated to making an impact in more ways than one!

Herman Miller's commitment to the Sack Supper program began with a generous donation through their foundation, Herman Miller CARES, helping Kids' Food Basket grow our service to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School.

It doesn't stop there! Quickly, the mission inspired employees to decorate, prepare and pack Sack Suppers, and serve in leadership roles on committees, ensuring there were always plenty of hands to help.

One of the most unique ways the Herman Miller team has made an impact was the design of an ergonomic packing table that accommodates product and increases efficiency. In combination with new standardized packing methods, we can now pack a Sack Supper in 7 seconds!

Their talented team of engineering experts has played a critical role on the Lean Team, helping us to better understand how to eliminate waste and optimize our systems to be the best stewards of your generosity and donated dollars. They make changing the world easy - and fun!

Wish List

As Kids' Food Basket continues to grow our services, our needs are constantly changing. You can make a lasting impact to help improve our operation methods and serve more daily meals.

- **AED Unit**
- **Walkie-Talkies**
- **Cargo Van**
- **Galvanized or Stainless Steel Food Prep Tables**
- **Conveyor System**
- **Flow rack for our First In-First Out System**
- **Office furniture and equipment**

Interested in learning more about how to give? Contact kris@kidsfoodbasket.org for more information.





KUDOS FROM BRIDGET

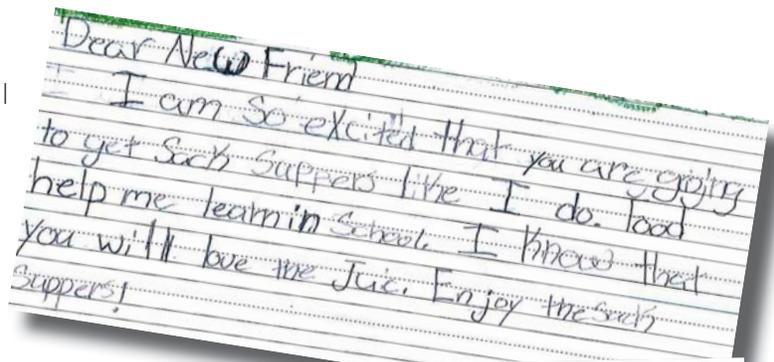
: Kids' Food Basket's ensures kids access to proper nutrition to learn and grow - this is a critical step for the future of West Michigan.

Statistically, in every Michigan classroom, 1 in 4 kids is not ready to learn. They are either experiencing hunger, or have experienced hunger previously, leaving them without the proper nutrition for the healthy development of their brain and body. Personally, this statistic is what drives me. **Childhood hunger is an issue of social justice.** When kids can't eat, they can't learn or develop alongside their peers, and that is devastatingly unfair. It's what gets me out of the bed in the morning and keeps me up at night. It is what has driven Kids' Food Basket to announce recently that this spring, we are expanding to the Holland community, where 8,374 Ottawa County kids might not know where, or if, they will receive their next dinner. In Holland, we plan to begin feeding 600 kids between two schools - at one West Ottawa and one Holland Public elementary school. As with our Grand Rapids location and Muskegon satellite, the Holland satellite will be fully supported and funded by the Holland community.

We're excited about this growth because we realize the impact Kids' Food Basket services make. We also recognize that there is always more work to be done. There are thousands of kids throughout West Michigan whose lives can be positively impacted by our services. **Like kids at Edgewood elementary, whose overall MEAP scores increased by 21% the first year they received Sack Suppers. The Principal, Mr. Shawn Hurt said, "Our school has had the highest academic growth, based on the MEAP test, [21% increase] within our school district. I am 110% sure that Kids' Food Basket played a significant role in making that happen."** With data and impact like that, we know it's our collective responsibility to grow. **Feeding our children isn't just the right thing to do; it's the smart thing to do. It is an investment in the future success of our region and our state.**

And thanks to you, our movement *is* spreading. **Every day, our team at Kids' Food Basket is in grateful awe of our community's unwavering and passionate support.** When we receive recognition from the community in the form of awards, like winning the 2014 MiBiz Award for West Michigan Best Managed Nonprofit in Excellence in Fundraising, or like being named a finalist for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce's Diversity Visionary Award, we are both humbled and inspired. We know these awards aren't just for our staff or board of directors - they're for every volunteer who has ever spent an hour making a Sack Supper, or collected Wish List items, delivered Sack Suppers, or simply helped spread the word. They are equally for everyone who has given \$1 or \$100,000. **Each and every one of you is strengthening the fabric of our community by preparing today's kids to be tomorrow's future leaders.**

In our newsletter this quarter, and on our blog this week, you'll find the perspectives of several of the diverse sets of hands that are a part of Kids' Food Basket. We interviewed some of our donors, volunteers, drivers, students we serve and their families, and members of our staff to get their take on childhood hunger - the effect it has on them personally, the effects they see in the community, and the actions they take to join Kids' Food Basket in the attack - are all shared. Read their stories. Be inspired, as I am.



Keep changing the world, Kids' Food Basket friends!

Peace,
Bridget

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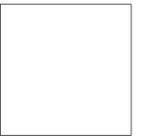
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Save the Date for Connect with Kids' Food Basket

**Wednesday, March 25th
6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Watermark Center
930 Washington Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49441**

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we invite you to attend a special event to connect with the mission of Kids' Food Basket.

- Learn more about how you can join the attack
- Enjoy dinner and dessert Kids' Food Basket style
- Engage in a service projects
- Participate in the silent auction

Presented by:



Whitehall Operations



Families welcome, jeans encouraged!

THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND. PLEASE RSVP BY MARCH 16 TO SUE@KIDSFOODBASKET.ORG OR CALL 231-577-6532.