

Sack Supper Sentinel

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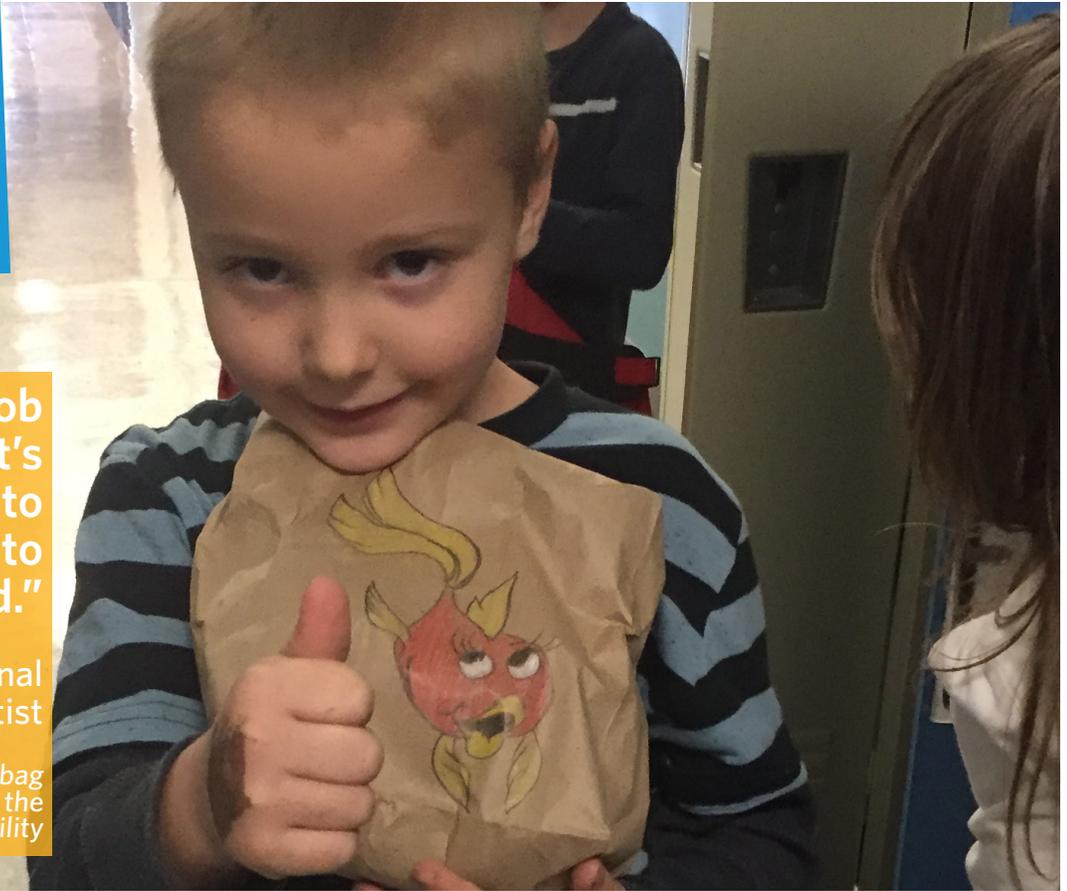


**Kids' Food
Basket**

**"They created a job
we love to do. It's
therapeutic. We get to
have this connection to
the real world."**

**- Muskegon Correctional
Facility Artist**

*Picture featuring Sack Supper bag
decorated by artist from the
Muskegon Correctional Facility*



A TOUCH OF LOVE

Inmates at Muskegon Correctional Facility Decorate Sack Suppers for Kids' Food Basket

Nearly 7,500 children in West Michigan receive a Sack Supper from Kids' Food Basket every weekday, ensuring that they have the brain food and healthy habits needed to learn and live well. We strive to have every bag decorated, providing an extra touch of love so that each child feels cared for.

"Decorating a bag means much more than you might think. The child who receives that decorated bag sees that someone loves them and cares about them, and that can make a world of difference in a child's life." Kids' Food Basket's founder, Mary K. Hoodhood, shares.

Since last October, artists from the Muskegon Correctional Facility have been sending decorated Sack Supper bags to Kids' Food Basket. It began as a small endeavor, and quickly grew to the facility launching a Wish List drive to collect 1,000 pudding and/or applesauce cups for Sack Suppers in addition to the bags.

Inmates and staff were able to supply Kids' Food Basket with the food and 850 decorated bags.

And not just any bags...these Sack Suppers were works of art! Kids' Food Basket and Muskegon Correctional Facility's relationship has deepened since then, and with inspiring results.

In November, staff and inmates decided to raise money to help provide nonperishable food items needed for Break Bags - an addition to Sack Suppers that Kids' Food Basket provides to students over holiday breaks. The facility was amazed when the inmates and staff contributed over \$1,300 to the project, especially because inmates make low wages, and many are sending those wages to their families.

"It's a privilege to give back," an artist shares with us. "It's a privilege to give back when I've taken so much."

The six artists now involved in Muskegon Correctional Facility's Sack Supper decorating group donate over 1,000 expertly decorated bags every week - enough to ensure that every child served in Muskegon gets a decorated bag each Monday!

To read more about this story and others, visit: www.kidsfoodbasket.org/blog

Dear Kids' Food Basket

Thank you for the sack suppers!
They help me run faster

Play happier and help me learn new

things. Also they are
nutritious for my body. And if they're
extras I grab one for my brother
and my little cousin Megan

Sincerely, Marquan

Thank you
Kids' Food Basket

Community Partner Challenge

Join the attack on childhood hunger this March with a friendly bracket-style competition! The March Community Partner Challenge runs throughout the month.

How many pounds of food can your team collect? Can you help spread the word about our mission? Can you raise \$100 or more to feed kids in need of critical nutrition?

Every way to engage has a point value. While there will be top winners by division and an overall prize, everyone wins when we ensure kids get the nutrition they need to succeed in school and life!

How? Sign up your company by division by contacting erik@kidsfoodbasket.org or calling 616-796-8471.

Learn more by visiting:

www.KidsFoodBasket.org/GoOrange

Wish List!

Join the attack on childhood hunger by donating an item on our Wish List. Providing nutritional Sack Suppers to local children allows them to reach their full potential in school and in life.

- **Cargo Van or Truck (High need item!)**
- Leadership volunteers to facilitate Sack Supper packing groups
- Snack size ziploc baggies
- Peanut butter

Additional Wish List items and drop off instructions can be found at www.kidsfoodbasket.org/wishlist.



COMMUNITY PARTNER SHOUT OUT!

West Michigan Community Bank recently joined the attack on childhood

hunger by making a \$5 donation for every checking account that was opened at their new location.

"It's hard to believe that so many kids are affected by hunger in our own community and is a thought that really hits home; especially when many of us have kids and grandkids of our own. We are fortunate that we have such a great local charity that is raising awareness and helping to provide well-balanced and nutritious meals to kids," Kristi Pelfrey, Marketing Coordinator at West Michigan Community Bank, shared.

We can't have a strong community without strong children. Thanks West Michigan Community Bank for ensuring that children in our community have the nutrition they need to thrive!



Growing and strengthening our critical programming at our Muskegon & Holland locations

Expanding our critical Sack Supper services in Kent County

Building strength and equity through intentional diversity & inclusion

Empowering and educating youth through our Kids Helping Kids Program

Developing an urban farming initiative

Creating a rural childhood hunger response

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Kudos from Bridget

Dear Kids' Food Basket friends,

It's an exciting and important time at Kids' Food Basket. We are wrapping up a three-year strategic plan that took us from 2012-2015, and inspired tremendous growth in our organization. **The can-do spirit of our West Michigan community enabled Kids' Food Basket to do incredible things in the past three years,** including:

- Growing to serve over 6,500 meals a day in Kent County, from approximately 4,000 in 2012
- Opening a satellite location in Muskegon, which serves three schools and nearly 1,000 kids every weekday, as well as a second satellite location in Holland, serving two schools and nearly 600 kids each day. **Both locations are fully funded and supported by their respective communities.**
- Creating a national network, Kids Supper Club, which empowers communities across the country to utilize Kids' Food Basket's model to attack childhood hunger
- Expanding our Kids Helping Kids program, and initiating new curriculum to further engage youth in the attack, as well as developing a Family Engagement Initiative to further engage the families we serve in our mission
- Developing and implementing an eight-point Diversity & Inclusion Strategy which included training for our staff and leadership volunteers, implementing organizational change; the introduction of a Diversity Committee, increasing knowledge and perspectives; and increasing communications, access and systems in all of our programming and vendors relations

As we celebrate these achievements, we also look forward. Our team is so passionate about the work to come. **With 21 schools on our immediate waiting list in West Michigan, we know we have a responsibility to not only grow, but grow strong,** and look at bold and innovative ways we can continue to empower communities to attack childhood hunger.

We're so proud to share our strategic focus for the next three years. Together, we can nourish children to be their best, in school and in life.

We hope you'll continue to join us in this important work.

Peace,

Bridget

Bridget Clark Whitney
Executive Director



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Anthony Payne

Vice President
Randy Osmun

Secretary
Danielle Williams

Treasurer
Paula Schuiteman-Bishop

KFB Founder
Mary K. Hoodhood

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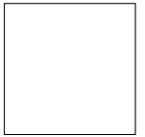
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Go Orange on March 24th

There is nothing fun about childhood hunger, but changing the world can be - so get engaged! Here are a few ways you can make an impact and change the world for our local children:

WEAR ORANGE! Join us on Thursday, March 24, by wearing orange, the color of hunger awareness, to attack childhood hunger in our community.

Spread the word! Use #KFBGoOrange to share your pictures and posts and why the issue of childhood hunger is important to you.

Dine out. Make an impact with dozens of West Michigan restaurants by dining out during March. Participating restaurants will donate a portion of their proceeds back to Kids' Food Basket.

Smile! We're asking you to make life just a little brighter with an orange smile. Place an orange or clementine wedge in your mouth to create an orange smile for a picture. Share your orange smile via facebook, twitter or Instagram to help us spread the word, using #KFBGoOrange. You can also email us your favorite pictures and we will share them for you. Send them to socialmedia@kidsfoodbasket.org.

For more ways to get involved with Kids' Food Basket Go Orange Day visit kidsfoodbasket.org/GoOrange.



Presented By:

