



**Kids' Food
Basket**

Sack Supper Sentinel

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"I am thankful for all the kids or adults making sack suppers because it keeps kids energized and helps the kids that don't have a lot of food or have no food. So thanks Kids' Food Basket for everything you did." Andrew



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 THAT IS AFFECTED BY HUNGER & GET 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.

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.

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

Community Partner Shout Out!

As Kids' Food Basket continues to grow our services, we understand that we benefit from diverse voices. Many community partners share their skills, knowledge and experiences to help improve our operations, community outreach and much more.

The talented Williams Group team has been instrumental in guiding us through the evolution of messaging and branding. Their goal has been simple - to help Kids' Food Basket connect with the community and deepen our reach to strengthen the attack on childhood hunger. Their dedication to the Grand Rapids community and marketing expertise is unmatched!

Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge also believes in the gift of meaningful work! As a supporter, they have dedicated countless hours in a wide range of general counsel support. Ranging from trademarks to expansions in Muskegon and Ottawa Counties, Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge has truly aided us in growth. They make changing the world easy -and legal!

LEAVE A LEGACY

Steve and LouAnne Davis have been two of our awesome volunteer facilitators (volunteer leaders supporting evening volunteer sessions) at Kids' Food Basket for the past eight years.

"The mission is so important to us. We got involved in Kids' Food Basket the year our oldest grandson was born. We hope he would never have a need for a service like this. But how can we put up with children going hungry? It's not rocket science. We have hungry kids, and we need to make sure they get a sandwich."

It is because of this passion for attacking childhood hunger that Steve and LouAnne have chosen to name Kids' Food Basket in their will. Because of this planned gift, their legacy will live on in the futures of the kids we serve.

You, too, can be a catalyst for change through a legacy gift - make both an immediate and long-term impact in the lives of local children by naming Kids' Food Basket in your estate or other financial plans. One in four Michigan children is affected by hunger. Through your legacy gift, you can provide daily access to nutritious Sack Suppers, ensuring each child can reach their full potential. Childhood hunger affects the whole community and a legacy gift is a part of the solution to building a stronger today - and tomorrow!

For more information on how you can leave a legacy gift with Kids' Food Basket, contact jenny@kidsfoodbasket.org or call 616-235-4532.



KUDOS FROM BRIDGET

KIDS' FOOD BASKET'S ENSURES KIDS ACCESS TO PROPER NUTRITION TO LEARN & GROW, 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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Cindi Welton

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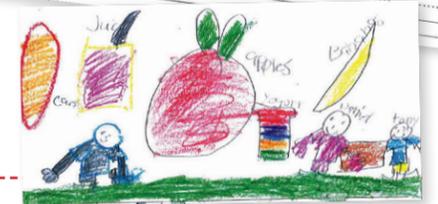
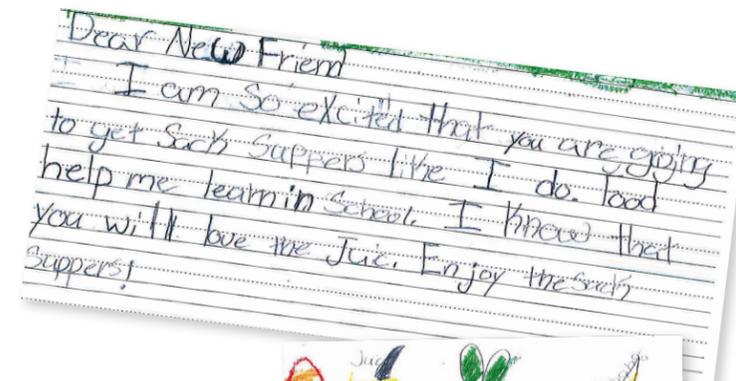
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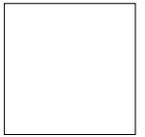
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DONOR AND VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10
more details to come!

FEAST FOR KIDS

MAY 5, 2015 • 5:30 P.M.

Presented by:



Join us for 13th Annual Feast for Kids, hosted by the American Culinary Federation of Greater Grand Rapids Chefs Association.

This event showcases the best work of the area's 2014 Chefs of the Year and local high school culinary arts students, working side-by-side to provide a decadent four-course meal to exercise your culinary palate, celebrate the flavors of Grand Rapids, and makes an impact on childhood hunger!

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS \$75

TABLE SPONSORSHIP \$750

For information regarding sponsorship, in-kind donations for the silent or live auctions, contact ashley@kisfoodbasket.org. Tickets available for purchase starting March 16, by visiting www.kidsfoodbasket.org/FeastforKids.

