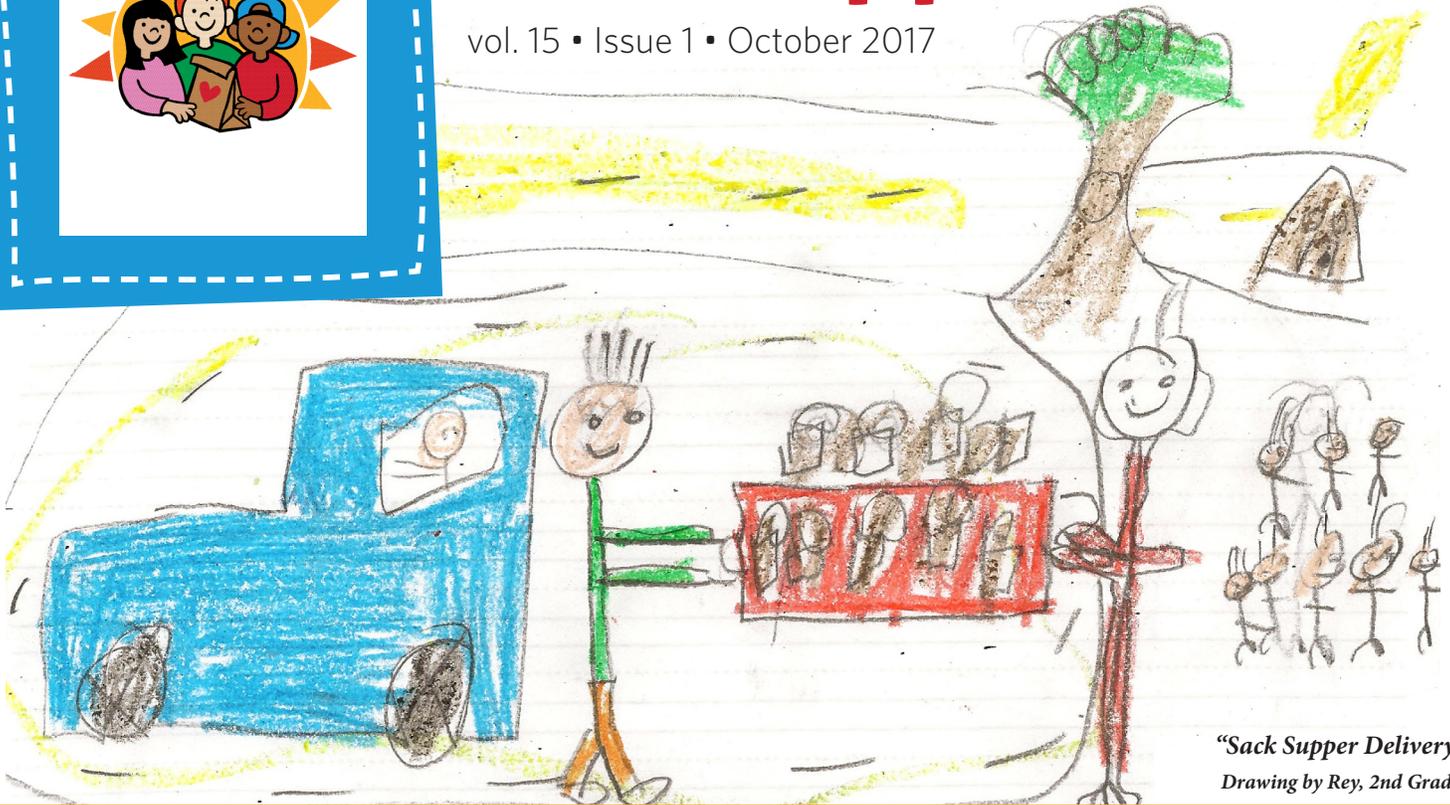


Sack Supper Sentinel

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"Sack Supper Delivery"
Drawing by Rey, 2nd Grade

Kudos From Bridget

Our children need Kids' Food Basket, and we need you.



When I joined Kids' Food Basket as a college intern 15 years ago, we were the first organization uniquely focused on childhood hunger in West Michigan. We set the groundwork by initially serving 125 children at two, then three schools in Grand Rapids. Since then, a holistic, beautiful community response has dramatically altered how West Michigan is attacking childhood hunger, and you all make this possible.

With our Sack Supper Program in full swing across Grand Rapids, Holland and Muskegon, we see our mission making an impact each and every day. **Because of you, nearly 7,500 children went home from school today with a nutritious, ready-to-eat evening meal.** Because of you, nearly 7,500 children will go home from school tomorrow with a nutritious, ready-to-eat evening meal- a consistent meal that nourishes them, helping them to be their best in school and in life. That is not only a commitment we have made to them, it's a commitment we have made to our future.

The Sack Supper remains our flagship program, and it has grown to become so much more than it was when we began. Even with growth, one thing that has never changed is the sheer impact these meals have, the stories of gratitude from teachers serving the meals, and the stories of hope, growth and consistency from the children receiving Sack Suppers. Again- you make this happen. Hopefully you've seen us in the media recently, and with good reason- our **Feeding Our Future Campaign** is the cornerstone of an exciting, wildly important time for this mission. **With this campaign, we are eager to meet**

the expansive need for our programming in Grand Rapids, Holland and Muskegon, giving kids and families throughout West Michigan tools for lasting success.

With the help of a generous community supporter, we acquired 14.25 acres of historic farmland - the largest remaining farm in Grand Rapids city limits. Our goal is to construct a new production and education facility, a dynamic space that will allow the organization to expand beyond current limitations, with room to grow in the future.

Kids' Food Basket will maintain the farm as an opportunity to educate youth and adults alike on the immense value of good nutrition through innovative programs and experiential learning. Working farmland will yield fruits and vegetables to supplement our Sack Suppers.

This expansion will make unprecedented community impact and serve more children on our waiting list. I'm immensely proud of our team and community for the hard work and passion they have shown, and see a future where critical service meets systemic change.

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ATTACKING CHILDHOOD HUNGER

The Sack Supper is far more **POWERFUL** than you might think.



We believe in taking **bold** steps in attacking childhood hunger- it would be irresponsible not to. Through creative and innovative programming, we engage all those who care about children reaching their full potential both in school and in life. We use four programs to attack childhood hunger through an innovative, multi-faceted approach.



SACK SUPPERS provide nutritious daily meals

A Sack Supper is a well-balanced evening meal delivered right to a child's classroom or summer site, filling a gap not being met. We feed thousands of children affected by hunger each weekday, in partnership with dozens of schools and summer sites, through our flagship Sack Supper Program.

Nearly 7,500 Sack Suppers are served each weekday at 42 sites in Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa counties.



KIDS HELPING KIDS nurtures young leaders and the habit of giving

Our programming leads and educates young people in civic engagement and volunteerism and empowers them to make a difference, while helping grow leadership skills and build the habit of giving. We provide opportunities for youth ages 5 to 18 to volunteer individually or through community organizations. Those affected by hunger and served by Kids' Food Basket are also part of the solution, working side by side with others who are introduced to this injustice.

33% of our volunteers are under age 18, including 3,000 students from our service schools.



VOLUNTEERS create meals and contribute to community initiatives

Each day, hundreds of volunteers come together to improve children's well-being. They are the engine that makes Kids' Food Basket work and help thousands of children affected by hunger thrive in school and life. Volunteer opportunities are available at every level of involvement—from the day-to-day work of creating Sack Suppers to leading community initiatives.

More than 250 volunteers give their time each day, including many partners from local businesses, faith communities and youth programs.



URBAN GROWING & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING increases healthy food access and education

Through our new working farm, we are introducing a new urban agriculture initiative. Through this unique learning platform, together we will grow veggies and fruits for our Sack Suppers, teach kids where food comes from, educate caregivers on affordable food resources and help people of all walks of life understand the challenges of hunger—so everyone can make a positive difference.

Together, as a community we will grow produce for our Sack Suppers and provide education for youth and families.

We cannot have a strong West Michigan without strong children



Community Partner Shoutout

For the past 5 years, Forest Hills Northern High School has been an avid supporter of our annual spirit campaign, Go Orange. Throughout the month of March, they plan events to not only

raise money for Kids' Food Basket but also to raise awareness about childhood hunger in their own community. Their campaign is capped with students participating in a day of famine followed by a hands-on service project to support our Sack Supper program. Several current and past members of our Youth Action Board have been integral in planning many of these projects, showing leadership in action. This year, their efforts raised over \$7,000 for Kids' Food Basket!

We know that while **1 in 5 kids are affected by hunger, 5 in 5 have the power to solve it.** Whether it is supporting Go Orange, planning other events or getting involved with our Youth Action Board, our Kids Helping Kids team has countless ways you can join the attack!

(continued from front)

We will continue updating you on the **Feeding Our Future Campaign** and expansion into our **Urban Growing and Experiential Learning** initiative, but it's equally important to me that we maintain our focus on all the programs that make Kids' Food Basket what it is today.

Every day at Kids' Food Basket is a massive, beautifully coordinated production and I never tire of seeing it all come together. Across three facilities, **we have 250 volunteers serving daily to make sure those 7,500 Sack Suppers are prepared, packaged and delivered with care.**

The Sack Suppers are so critically important, and for so many reasons. Our primary focus is doing everything we can to end childhood hunger, and over the years we have learned and seen that the Sack Supper means much more than that. We are building a happier, healthier future for West Michigan. **School teachers and support staff consistently share stories of increased test scores and attentiveness paired with decreased absenteeism and health issues once children begin receiving Sack Suppers.**

We are passionate about keeping Sack Suppers nutritional, and full of everything kids need to live and learn well. Educating our children on where their food comes from and making healthy eating choices now will help them make smart choices lifelong. Our staff was recently teaching a group of students about agriculture, and their presentation included a picture of a farmer harvesting carrots. A young girl raised her hand and asked a question that showed why this education is so critically important and needed-

"Why is the farmer pushing those carrots into the ground?"

She had never seen where or how carrots grow.

We believe that equal access to healthy, nourishing food is not only a human right, it is a critical need for a healthy, thriving community. **Feeding our children isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do. It's an investment in the future success of our region.** Solving childhood hunger is a multi-faceted, complex issue, but our Sack Suppers are proving to go a long way toward a solution.

I hope, no matter the form, you will continue to lead the attack on childhood hunger. We'll be right there with you.

With Immense Gratitude,

Bridget Clark Whitney
Kids' Food Basket Executive Director

P.S. Keep an eye on our social media- we will have a new website full of videos, photos and stories coming that we are really excited to share with you. Until then, you can see the new design displayed on our expansion page- kidsfoodbasket.org/FeedingOurFuture



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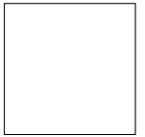
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Brown Bag Decorating Day

Help us reach a goal of 75,000 decorated bags by October 20!
75,000 bags = 10 days of Sack Suppers for every child we serve

Join us as we celebrate **Brown Bag Decorating Day** with the entire community! Our PopUP volunteer event will help us reach our goal of 75,000 bags by October 20th. We hope you will **join us to decorate bags at any of the three Kids' Food Basket locations on October 20th, from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.**

Decorated Sack Supper bags provide kids with an extra touch of love - the secret ingredient to success! Teachers and school staff tell us that kids can't wait to get their decorated Sack Suppers, and that to some children, that extra touch of love and caring makes all the difference.

You can get started and help make a difference today! Decorate the complimentary bag provided inside by Costco (28th Street) with an inspiring message or quote, a picture of your favorite cartoon, or a funny joke.

Make sure to deliver your decorated bags to any of our three Kids' Food Basket locations before 4:00 pm by Friday, October 20th, to have your bag counted towards the goal!

