

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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# HOW CHARITABLE FOOD DISTRIBUTION WORKS



## FOOD IN

As the food bank for 40 counties, Feeding America West Michigan gets food from three primary sources:



### DONATED

Retailers, distributors, farmers, and manufacturers donated 50.6% of the food we distributed in 2025.



### USDA

Government food allocations made up 28.2%



### PURCHASED

21.2% of food distributed was purchased with grants and donor funding.

## FOOD STORED & SORTED



Feeding America West Michigan is the hub where **34.4 million pounds of food** were warehoused and distributed in 2025.

# 1 MILLION+ HOUSEHOLDS nourished together

In 2025, Feeding America West Michigan served 40 counties in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. With the help and dedication of our 822 community partners, we supported neighbors across our service area with nourishing food.

## OUR VISION

All people in West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula have equitable access to nourishing food.

## OUR MISSION

Feeding America West Michigan provides nourishment and hunger-relief resources to our neighbors by amplifying the strength of community through collaboration.

## FOOD OUT

Food goes from our warehouse to 822 agency partners for programs in four main categories:



### FOOD PANTRIES

15.4 million lbs | 45%



### MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES

11.1 million lbs | 32%



### NON-PROFIT GROCERY STORES

4 million lbs | 12%



### YOUTH & OTHER PROGRAMS

3.9 million | 11%

## FOOD REACHES OUR NEIGHBORS THROUGH COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:



**340 PARTNER FOOD PANTRIES**

Organizations throughout our service area run neighborhood food pantries in their communities. These local pantries typically stock shelf-stable products. Some have coolers and freezers to stock fresh and frozen products from us.



**1,615 MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES**

Hosted by 179 community partners, mobile food pantries provide fresh produce, dairy, and protein to neighbors across our service area. Our drivers bring food directly to distribution sites, where local volunteers pass out the products.



**5 NON-PROFIT GROCERY STORES**

Non-profit grocery stores — often called food clubs — are membership-based, grocery store-style resources that provide community members with nutritious food and consumer choice. Memberships are based on household income.



**34 MEAL SITES**

Meal programs offer a space for people to gather over a nourishing meal. Meal program partners prepare congregate meals for seniors and other community members with food from Feeding America West Michigan.



**122 YOUTH PROGRAM SITES**

Youth programs help fill the meal gap many children face when they are not in school. We supply food to youth programs like summer camps, backpack programs, and the food bank's Gather 2 Grow program.



**139 OTHER PROGRAMS**

Other programs include home-delivered meals for seniors, holiday baskets, federal food boxes for seniors, baby pantries, and shelter programs.

# 2025 A YEAR OF CHALLENGES AND ACTION



**In one respect, 2025 was much like the previous three years. Persistently high demand for charitable food continued for a third year in a row.**

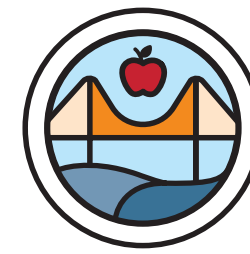
In other respects, the year was uniquely challenging. Severe weather in the winter of 2025 caused enough cancellations to drive down annual attendance numbers.

And more significantly, the food bank was buffeted by three waves of federal actions. First, food banks throughout the United States scrambled for food after the United States Department of Agriculture canceled large numbers of shipments. Feeding America West Michigan lost 32 truckloads of nutrient-dense foods, such as meat, dairy, and other proteins valued at \$1.1 million. As a result, the distribution of meat at mobile food pantries was down significantly in 2025. In addition, the federal government ended a program that gave food banks funds to buy food from local farmers.

The second challenge came in July, when Congress passed the massive budget reconciliation bill. Charitable food organizations anticipate increased demand in the years ahead because of policy changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid. Our internal projections indicate the changes will prompt 50,000 more people in our service area to seek charitable food support in 2026.

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Last, the longest federal government shutdown in history led to a 10-day pause in the release of SNAP benefits in early November. Agency partners reported higher attendance and a heightened level of anxiety during this time. Community members responded by donating more than 36,000 pounds of nutrient-dense food to ensure everyone in our community had access to nourishment.



## BRIDGE THE GAP

### Donor sparks AMBITIOUS DRIVE TO RAISE \$1.5MIL

**Judy K., a longtime food bank supporter, was deeply troubled by the early 2025 cuts to federal funds that helped the food bank buy food from Michigan farmers.**

In response, she stepped up with a challenge: She would donate \$300,000 to buy Michigan-grown food if the food bank would enlist other supporters to match her gift.

From Judy's spark, the Bridge the Gap campaign took off. Feeding America West Michigan staff launched Bridge the Gap in August 2025 with an ambitious goal to raise \$1.5 million to support three goals:

1. Continue to purchase locally grown food.
2. Replace lost USDA food shipments with purchased food.
3. Prepare for a projected uptick in demand.

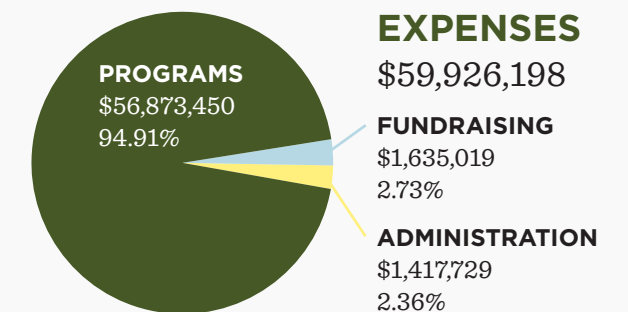
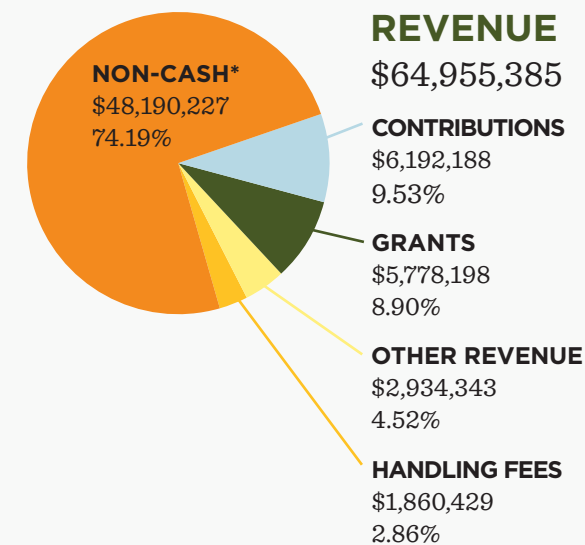
“Fresh, nutritious food for families and an expanded customer base for local family farmers were the intertwined results of the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program. Despite its success connecting food bank visitors with the bounty of local farms, LFPA was canceled by the federal government in early 2025,” Judy said. “I was delighted to contribute to the fundraising drive to help the food bank continue this vital program. Supporting our neighbors while supporting our family farms – this is how successful communities are built and kept.”

Thanks to Judy, 1,943 donors were inspired to support Bridge the Gap, contributing a total of \$1.43 million.

The funds will enable the food bank to purchase more than \$1 million in food from farmers in our service area in 2026. The funds will also provide \$226,280 for capacity-building grants for our agency partners, and \$113,140 will support food bank operations.

**Read more about Bridge the Gap impact on pages 7 and 10.**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2025



**NET ASSETS \$34,568,059**

*\*Value based on an annual analysis done by the Feeding America National Organization and by an independent auditor, RSM US, LLP. The full auditor report is available upon request by calling our office.*

**34.3 MILLION = 28.7 MILLION**  
**POUNDS OF FOOD = MEALS**

Working with our community partners, Feeding America West Michigan distributed the equivalent of 28.7 million meals to more than 1 million households.



*A volunteer in Coopersville prepares to hand out potatoes at a mobile food distribution.*

### While we do everything we can to support our neighbors, harsh weather in winter 2025 created insurmountable challenges.

Harsh weather in the Upper Peninsula in early 2025 forced the cancellation of several large mobile food distributions. The cancellations created a measurable drop in the number of households we served. Agency pantries filled in to a degree, as shown by the increased attendance at agency pantries.

### ATTENDANCE CHANGES FROM 2024 TO 2025

Fixed-site pantries	+4.2%
Mobile pantries	-8.3%
<b>OVERALL ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>

*\*Served in partnership with our redistribution organizations and/or affiliate food banks.*

*Note: Due to gaps in agency-partner reporting, the true number of individuals served is higher than the number listed.*

COUNTY	INDIVIDUALS	AGENCIES
Alger	12,527	6
Allegan*	92,185	23
Antrim*	77,091	13
Baraga	9,506	3
Benzie*	28,321	8
Berrien	131,395	52
Cass	44,618	17
Charlevoix*	37,318	19
Chippewa	16,769	12
Delta	36,634	13
Dickinson	24,537	11
Emmet*	73,685	21
Gogebic	10,440	5
Grand Traverse*	116,187	41
Houghton	19,224	10
Ionia	64,888	22
Iron	13,749	6
Kalkaska	25,654	5
Kent	828,188	208
Keweenaw	405	1
Lake	51,986	14
Leelanau*	28,265	5
Luce	11,042	3
Mackinac	17,087	5
Manistee	23,672	15
Marquette	72,077	21
Mason*	49,042	11
Mecosta	79,697	18
Menominee	17,014	5
Missaukee	39,498	10
Montcalm	48,831	14
Muskegon	130,197	44
Newaygo	143,091	21
Oceana	69,971	10
Ontonagon	4,194	4
Osceola	32,342	16
Ottawa*	195,760	71
Schoolcraft	9,876	4
Van Buren*	101,312	19
Wexford	61,229	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,849,504</b>	<b>822</b>



*Volunteers prepare the TrueNorth Community Services Pantry for visitors.*

## Agency partners PROVIDE CRITICAL LINK

**We are deeply grateful for the 822 agency partners who work with us to get food into the hands of our neighbors throughout our service area.**

Several of the agencies on our top 10 list have a deep level of engagement in addressing food insecurity. Among them, Manna Food Project in Harbor Springs is an affiliate food bank serving three counties at the tip of the Lower Peninsula. As an affiliate, Manna performs the same functions as Feeding America West Michigan, such as handling food donations and delivering food to pantries in three counties.

Also among our top 10 are three of our regional distribution organizations (RDOs). RDOs collect food donations in their communities, sort them, and get the food directly into pantries close by. This means that food donations in those communities don't have to be trucked into our Kentwood warehouse to be sorted and redistributed. All of that work happens in the community where the food is donated.

Partnerships with RDOs have been central to closing the meal gap. Their work enables Feeding America West Michigan to direct resources to harder-to-reach communities.

Our partner RDOs are Food Rescue of Northwest Michigan (a Project of Goodwill of Northwest Michigan), Lakeshore Regional Food Club in Ludington, Love in Action Tri Cities in Grand Haven, Community Action House in Holland, and Buist Community Assistance Center in Byron Center.



## FUNDS TO INCREASE AGENCY CAPACITY

When donors stepped up to support the Bridge the Gap campaign in 2025, their gifts helped the food bank create a capacity-building grant program for our agency partners. Feeding America West Michigan will award a total of \$226,280 in grants to agency partners throughout the last half of 2026.

Funding will support improvements like storage, facility improvements, and program expansions that allow agencies to reach more people experiencing food insecurity. Examples of fundable projects include shelving, coolers, equipment, handicap accessibility improvements, and vehicles.

### TOP 10 AGENCY PARTNERS

AGENCY	CITY	MEALS
Community Action House	Holland	1,975,830
Buist Community Assistance Center	Byron Center	1,047,690
Community Food Club	Grand Rapids	1,047,157
TrueNorth Community Services Pantry	Fremont	471,345
Manna Food Project Pantry	Harbor Springs	405,641
Family Network	Wyoming	318,982
Lakeshore Food Club	Ludington	317,492
Streams of Hope Food Center	Grand Rapids	310,530
Escanaba SDA Food Pantry	Escanaba	268,998
Good Samaritan Family Services	Ellsworth	247,175



Mobile food distributions rely on teams of volunteers to put boxes and bags of food into vehicles.

## Mobile distributions BRING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Feeding America West Michigan Mobile Food Pantries are incredible opportunities to break down stereotypes and build understanding of the importance of charitable food in our community.

Michell Hampton, former coordinator of mobile food distributions at the Greater Marinette-Menominee YMCA, said volunteering at mobile food distributions is a huge learning opportunity for herself and community volunteers.

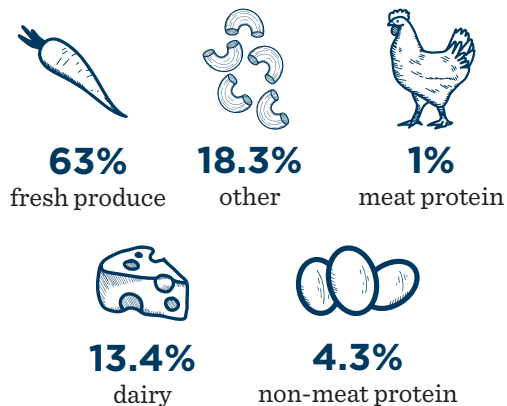
“Volunteers are often shocked by the need,” she said. “They’re just like, ‘Michell, I cannot believe the amount of cars. I cannot believe the amount of people,’” she said. “It’s eye-opening when we get to educate people on how helpful this is while keeping in mind that we do not know why they are in line.”

Michell said volunteering opens people’s eyes to the factors that cause our neighbors to struggle. Volunteers also see that they have the power to help. They realize that nutritious food is a bridge that helps people get through a challenging situation.

## TOP MOBILE FOOD PANTRY PARTNERS

AGENCY	CITY	MEALS
I AM Academy	Holland	460,177
Silver Creek Thrift Store Mobile Pantry	Harvey	180,083
TrueNorth Community Services	Fremont	169,423
Love in Action - GH Mobile Pantry	Grand Haven	167,078
Calvary CRC	Wyoming	164,954
Tahquamenon Area Schools Mobile Pantry	Newberry	136,327
Salvation Army - Escanaba Mobile Pantry	Escanaba	113,166
Salvation Army Marquette - Alger Co. Mobile Pantry	Marquette	110,109
Marquette Rotary Fund	Marquette	106,159
Sault Tribe Mobile Pantry	Sault Ste Marie	102,965

## PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED



The cancellation of 32 shipments of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) food in 2025 reduced the amount of meat we could distribute through mobile food distributions. The food bank relies on USDA shipments of meat because meat products are costly for the food bank to purchase relative to other sources of non-meat proteins.

## Summertime lunch PROGRAM CONTINUES TO FLOURISH IN 2025

**Gather 2 Grow is Feeding America West Michigan’s summer lunch program, serving youth at 57 local libraries in 2025.**

From early June through August, any children (18 and under) and developmentally delayed adults up to age 26 can receive nourishing meals at participating libraries at no cost through our partnership with libraries across our service area.

In 2025, the program expanded to several new locations in Northwest Michigan and the Upper Peninsula, including Drummond Island. Because of these partnerships and the hard work of volunteers, more than 64,000 meals were distributed. This is over 20,000 more meals than the previous year.



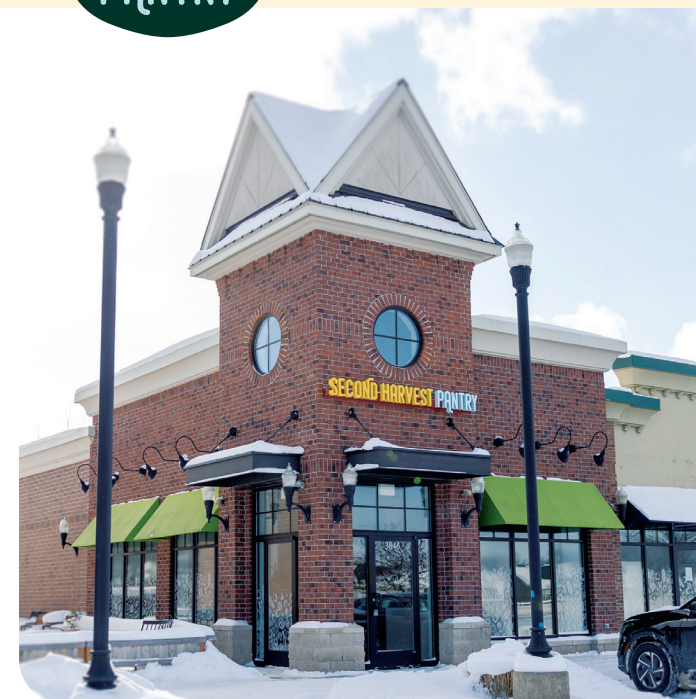
Lindsay Rosso, Circulation Desk Librarian at White Cloud Community Library, prepares to distribute Gather 2 Grow meals.

Lauren Perkins, library director at Big Rapids Community Library, emphasized the importance of resources like Gather 2 Grow at safe spaces like libraries.

“If a space like the Big Rapids Community Library can make local neighbors feel safe enough to seek out the resources they may need, then it’s a great avenue to get those resources out there,” she said.



## Commitment to our Kentwood neighbors DRIVES CREATION OF SECOND HARVEST PANTRY



**2025 saw the development of Feeding America West Michigan’s first-ever fixed pantry site, Second Harvest Pantry, which is now serving neighbors in Kentwood.**

The pantry was born from our commitment to improve food access for our immediate neighbors. As we prepared to move into the Kentwood warehouse in 2024, we realized that our new ZIP Code was underserved by charitable food resources. So staff put together a plan to address the shortage. The pantry opened January 26, 2026. In the first two months of operation, the pantry was serving nearly 300 households a week.

We’re grateful for the support of our community, which helped us transform a vacant storefront into a valuable source of nutritious food.



Brandon Bassett, CEO of Tolman's Meats, works with Feeding America West Michigan to provide high-quality proteins to the food bank. The Bridge the Gap campaign provided funds to continue working with Tolman's and other Michigan agribusinesses.

## Partnerships with local producers SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Feeding America West Michigan's partnership with Tolman's Meats opened a pathway for the Grand Rapids meat processor to double its staff and quintuple its output.**

Brandon Bassett, Tolman's Meats CEO, was looking for opportunities to work on consumer-packaged products but recognized the industry was highly competitive. He knew that approaching retailers with a product prototype would put Tolman's at a disadvantage. During that same time, Tolman's began working with the food bank, which was willing to work with them as they perfected their consumer-packaged processes. From that experience, Tolman's ultimately gained business from retailers, pushing Tolman's output of one million pounds of meat in 2024 to five million in 2025.

"Feeding America West Michigan gave us the chance when we needed an opportunity to continue to grow," Brandon said. "We've grown many, many times since then because of that opportunity."



## Partnerships with farmers continue **THANKS TO BRIDGE THE GAP FUNDS**

**Michigan farmers and food processors have been vital food bank partners for decades as food donors and sources of purchased food.**

Our valuable partnerships with Michigan farmers were put at risk with the end of a federal program that funded purchases of locally grown and processed products.

Through the Bridge the Gap campaign, generous donors provided \$1 million so Feeding America West Michigan can continue to buy products from farmers and food processors in our service area through 2026 and beyond.

We are grateful for our partnership with farmers and local food processors. We are proud to support them to ensure a strong local food economy.

### TOP 10 FOOD DONORS

ORGANIZATION	LBS. DONATED
Sam's Wholesale Club	2,535,804
Walmart Stores, Inc.	1,448,928
Aldi Inc.	1,195,347
Fresh Solution Farms	902,425
Costco Wholesale Corporation	840,955
General Mills, Inc.	839,953
Meijer	814,642
Target	668,409
Purely Elizabeth	552,640
SYSCO Corporation	350,225

## RECLAMATION VOLUNTEERS



2025 VOLUNTEERING AT A GLANCE	
Total Volunteer Hours	22,239
Total Pounds Processed	3,238,856
Total Individual Volunteers (unique)	543
Total Group Volunteers (non-unique)	3,357
FTE	10.7

### We thank our **MOBILE AND AGENCY VOLUNTEERS**

In addition to the volunteers at our Kentwood warehouse, we are deeply grateful for the hundreds of volunteers throughout our service area. Volunteers are the final link in the charitable food distribution network, getting food directly into the hands of neighbors who turn to them for support.

We have no way of tallying the thousands of hours given by volunteers who serve in several capacities throughout our service area:

- Community pantry coordinators
- Community pantry volunteers who stock shelves and serve people when they visit a food pantry
- Drivers who come to our warehouses to pick up food orders
- Drivers who go to depot stops in the Upper Peninsula to pick up food orders
- Mobile Food Pantry coordinators
- Mobile Food Pantry volunteers — it takes 15-25 people for each mobile distribution

### TOP VOLUNTEER GROUPS

GROUP	HOURS
Ready For Life	846
MOKA	651
Amway	585
Kent ISD	475
HUB	348
Meijer	274
Immaculate Conception of TC	262
Aldersgate	171
West Catholic High School	168
Neland Church	161

### TOP CORPORATE DONORS

ORGANIZATION	MEALS
Meijer	830,000
Amway	203,750
DTE Energy Foundation	200,000
Bank of America	162,000
Idex Foundation/Gast Manufacturing	120,000
Shape Corp	80,000
Mitten Brewing Company	80,000
Kawasaki Motors Corp	56,404
Whirlpool Foundation	52,136
Behler-Young Company	50,000



Sue Willming, of Gast Manufacturing, stands with Diane Young, the Mobile Food Pantry coordinator at the Michigan Works! Service Center in Benton Harbor. Gast supports Mobile Food Pantries in Benton Harbor with financial gifts and teams of volunteers.

**"Hunger in the community is a big thing for us at Gast Manufacturing. We want to make sure we're helping alleviate hunger."**

Food insecurity has grown immensely, especially over the last five years. There are so many people locally who are food insecure. They're employed, but their basic needs still aren't met, and something has to give.

A lot of times, it is food. And when you're food insecure, a lot of other things go downhill with your health and well-being, especially with children, especially with the elderly.

We have decided here at Gast that food insecurity is one of the areas we want to focus on and try to improve for our community."

- Sue Willming, Gast Manufacturing Senior System Support Specialist



Serving local families in need since 1981, Feeding America West Michigan reclaims millions of meals' worth of safe, surplus food from various sources. With the help of countless volunteers, the food bank sorts, stores and distributes food through a network of hundreds of hunger-relief partners to fill neighbors' plates instead of landfills. The food banks' service area consists of 40 of Michigan's 83 counties, stretching from the Indiana border north through the Upper Peninsula.

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3070 Shaffer Ave SE

Kentwood, MI 49512

FeedWM.org | 616.784.3250

Feeding America West Michigan is a member of Feeding America, United Way, and the Food Bank Council of Michigan. The food bank also maintains a four-star rating from Charity Navigator.



# THANK YOU

for working with us to end hunger



I am pleased to share the 2025 impact report, the final impact report of my 15-year tenure as President & CEO of Feeding America West Michigan. By the time you receive this report, my successor, Pattijean McCahill, will be working in my place.

Feeding America West Michigan provided the most rewarding and challenging work of my long career. I cannot express how much it has meant to me to be part of an organization that works tirelessly to ensure our neighbors have access to nutritious food. I have always understood that our organization's success is only possible with great staff, team leaders, board members, volunteers, supporters, and agency partners. It is amazing to see how these groups come together around a shared cause.

You have my deepest gratitude for your support. Thank you for entrusting us with your gifts of time and treasure over the last 15 years. Thank you for sharing my belief that we have the power to change lives when we work together to end hunger.

My wife and I will continue to support the food bank because it has been a central part of our lives for many years. I encourage you to continue to support the food bank, too, in this new chapter of possibilities.

## CONSIDER A GIFT OF TIME

We invite you to join our volunteers who make the charitable food network possible.



**To volunteer in our warehouse,** visit [FeedWM.org/volunteer](https://FeedWM.org/volunteer).



**To find volunteer opportunities throughout our service area,** enter your city or ZIP Code into our Find Food Tool. Then contact the agencies near you to find out more. The Find Food Tool is located at [FeedWM.org/findfood](https://FeedWM.org/findfood).