



SOUTH MICHIGAN
FOOD BANK
CLEAN ROOM

SOUTH MICHIGAN FOOD BANK

ANNUAL REPORT / 2021



OUR MISSION

TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE
FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH HUNGER
IN SOUTH MICHIGAN





PETER VOGEL
CEO



JIM STOCKMAN
Board Chair



Dear friends,

In 2021, South Michigan Food Bank received significant support from people like you helping their neighbors fill their tables. It is an honor and privilege to serve this powerful community as CEO and Board Chair of South Michigan Food Bank.

Because of you – our partners, volunteers, donors, and staff – South Michigan Food Bank:

- Reached 33,000 people every day.
- Distributed 11.6 million meals to South Michigan families.
- Served 14,900 families every month through our Fresh Food Distributions.
- Impacted the lives of 89,000 children through our childhood feeding programs.

We all want to know that we are building brighter futures for our neighbors. You – as a community member, a philanthropist, a partner – are doing just that. We're excited to share how your support impacted the lives of our neighbors in 2021.

Thank you for standing with us in the fight against hunger and for enabling a fulfilling year of hope, generosity, and, of course, delicious food.

With love for South Michigan,

Peter Vogel, CEO

Jim Stockman, Board Chair

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMING

2021 marked South Michigan Food Bank's 39th year. Throughout this time, we have honed our approach to supporting our community through partnerships, strategic initiatives, and programs. Food has a transformative power to support the physical, emotional, and psychological health of our whole community. Through our holistic strategy, we can ensure that all our neighbors have the nutrition and food they need to thrive.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Through our growing network of 335 trusted neighborhood nonprofits who operate our programs like food pantries and Fresh Food Distributions, we shared nearly 14 million pounds of food! Across our eight counties, we partnered with 30 new organizations for our Fresh Food Distributions — bringing our total up to 97 sites that are solely dedicated to providing access to fresh food.

FRESH FOOD PHARMACY

In 2021, we began partnering with Grace Health, a local healthcare nonprofit. Together, we're launching a new program that's dedicated to helping our community manage chronic illnesses through fresh, home-delivered meal kits and complimentary health coaching. So far, this program has impacted over 300 patients.

CHILDHOOD HUNGER

When a child is hungry, it's often because the entire family is hungry. To make sure that every child is well-fed, we have 78 food sites throughout our eight counties that are focused on children, providing snacks and ready-to-eat meals. We have also placed additional Fresh Food Distribution sites throughout our community in places that are accessible to families: schools. Open year-round, this gives us the opportunity to feed children and families throughout the summer, even when school is not in session.

DATA-DRIVEN PROGRAMMING

With a new, data-driven approach, we are meeting the needs of our neighbors and eliminating the hunger gap by looking at the whole picture: like how far our clients are driving to food sites and who, specifically, is in need.

2021 OVERVIEW

Total pounds distributed

13,870,459

Number of people with
access to balanced meals

3,861,111

Number of food sites funded

335

New food sites opened

44

Total miles driven to bring food
to our communities

199,896

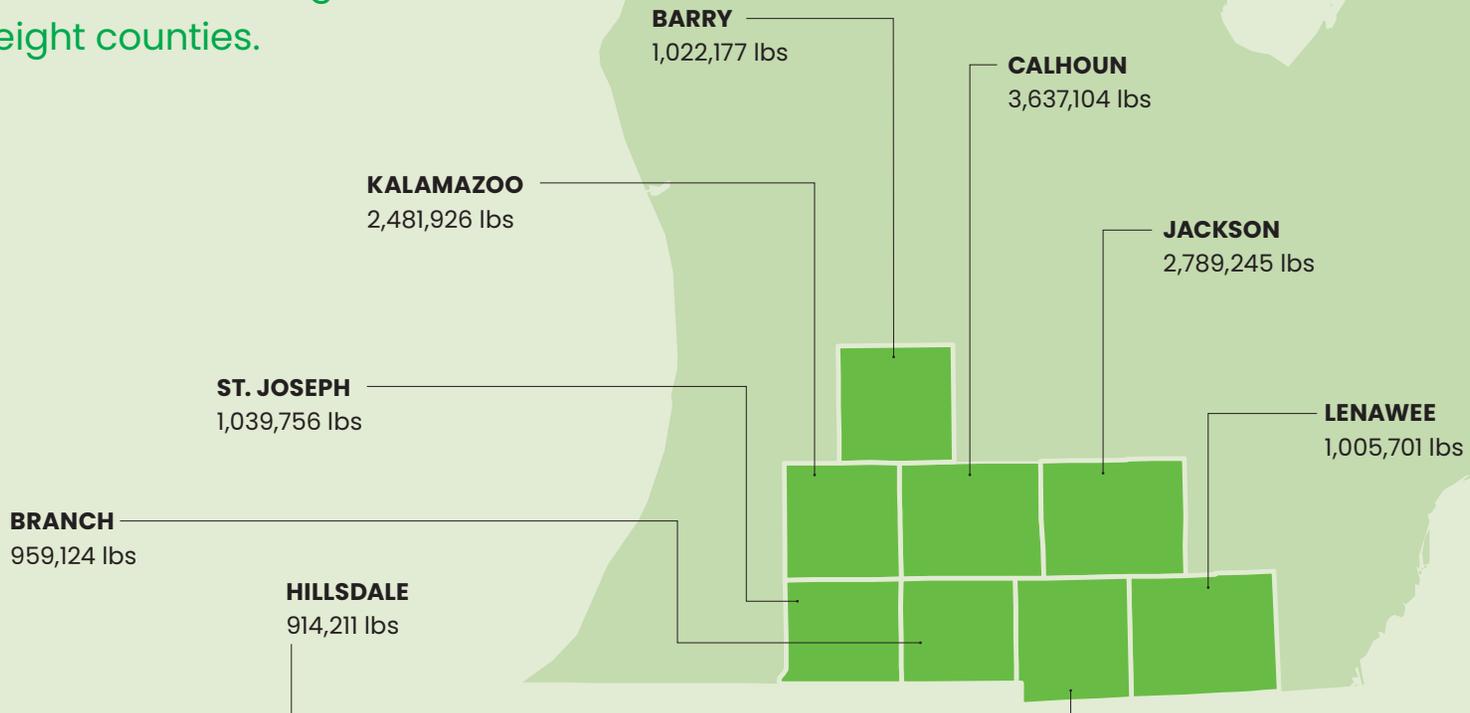
Total amount raised to meet the need

\$3,047,843.31



SERVICE AREA

In 2021, we partnered with 335 community organizations to distribute nearly **13.9 million pounds of food** throughout our eight counties.



THE LIFE & LEGACY OF OUR FOUNDER, BOB RANDELS (1949-2021)

Bob knew that hunger was intolerable. He began fighting hunger by finding creative ways to source food for those who were hungry in the community, like picking up excess food from grocery stores. In 1982, Bob founded South Michigan Food Bank — then called the Food Bank of South Central Michigan. It started out in a small shop in downtown Battle Creek, with the food brought in by hand because there were no loading docks. Within the next few years, Bob had expanded this vision into our 33,000 square foot warehouse, serving eight counties across Michigan.

Bob made the mission come to life when he founded the movement to end hunger in South Michigan — the movement that began with one man’s vision and grew to feed thousands upon thousands of people every year. In the local community and in hunger-relief circles across the country, we remember Bob as a patient & kind, yet passionate force who created a cherished resource in South Michigan and taught us all to serve others above ourselves. As our team walks in to work each day, we are honored to carry on Bob’s legacy of vibrant compassion and the purpose of building a community where no one is hungry. We are so thankful for Bob’s hard work & commitment and strive to make him proud as we ensure everyone in South Michigan has a full table.

FROM GINGER HENTZ *(Bob’s wife)*

“Bob was unapologetic about his calling to speak up for people in need. Food banking was his calling,” Ginger remembers, thinking of his tender kindness, visionary creativity, and radiant passion for the work he did. “He was a servant leader and believed very deeply in the mission of food banking and alleviating hunger.”

“He had this feeling about food: it brings people together — you sit around a table, you cook together, you feed people. It’s a common piece in all of our lives. He had a knack for getting everyone involved — from donors and volunteers to farmers to small businesses to

other organizations — and they had so much fun. He’d find a way to look into someone’s heart to understand how they would want to join this mission. He made everybody feel special.”

FROM DAVID RANDELS *(Bob’s son)*

“Dad saw himself as the opener of doors that people already wanted to go through. He was simply giving people the opportunity to be the good they desperately needed. My hope is that we will be reminded—and remind each other—how important it is to walk through those doors that lead us to the better versions of ourselves and the better versions of our communities.”

BOB’S CELEBRATION OF LIFE: MAY 1, 2022, 1:30PM

Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center: 6225 N 39th St, Augusta, MI 49012



“PEOPLE HAVE A DESIRE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER AND
SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER. I’VE NEVER BACKED OFF FROM
USING THE WORD ‘LOVE’ ABOUT WHAT WE DO. IT’S AN
INVITATION FOR PEOPLE TO LOVE AND TO THINK ABOUT
OTHERS. IT’S THE VERY NOTION OF COMMUNITY.”

BOB RANDELS, 1949–2021



CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS, NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE

Our clients are at the heart of our mission. In 2021, South Michigan Food Bank provided food to 33,000 people every day. From all walks of life, we always strive to meet the various health and dietary needs of the people we serve. South Michigan Food Bank knows that food is not only vital for everyday health, but the center of connection and celebration.

80-year-old Samantha lives on a fixed income and stopped driving this past year. That's when James, a volunteer at Kalamazoo Haven Church, began delivering food to her. James says that Samantha opens her box "like a kid attacks a Christmas present," always thrilled to discover the fresh produce and delicious foods that he delivers. She lives alone, so she shares any surplus she has with those around her and has become closer to several neighbors, including a single mother with a new baby. Both women often check in on each other, sharing not just food, but also friendship.





PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY, PARTNERS IN CARE

We collaborate with 335 organizations like churches, schools, and other nonprofits to run programs like food pantries, Fresh Food Distributions, and soup kitchens. As the main resource for food in our community, we will continue partnering with more local organizations to make sure that all our neighbors have full tables.



The Tekonsha Fresh Food Distribution began in January 2021. Throughout the year, they distributed over 1,200 South Michigan Food Bank boxes to their community. Pat, Site Manager, shared,

“Before the Fresh Food Distribution, the closest thing we had to fresh food in Tekonsha was the local Subway. Aside from fast food joints and diners, the only store in our town is Dollar General, which doesn’t sell fresh food or produce.”

“Here is an example of what great community members we have,” Pat said. “One man comes to every distribution early and walks to get his food because that’s his only method of transportation. He doesn’t just wait for food; he helps us set up for everyone else in line. He epitomizes what Tekonsha’s little town with the big heart is all about.”



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Volunteers are vital to the work of South Michigan Food Bank. In 2021, nearly 4,500 volunteers — like community members, local nonprofits, and even employees from the largest corporations in our area — stepped up to organize, package, and deliver food to those who needed it. We are so grateful for our community of volunteers who make our work possible each and every day.

6-year-old Alex and her mom Elizabeth started spending Friday afternoons with us in the fall. From packing fresh food boxes to repackaging cereal, Alex loves feeding her community and showing us her light-up shoes!





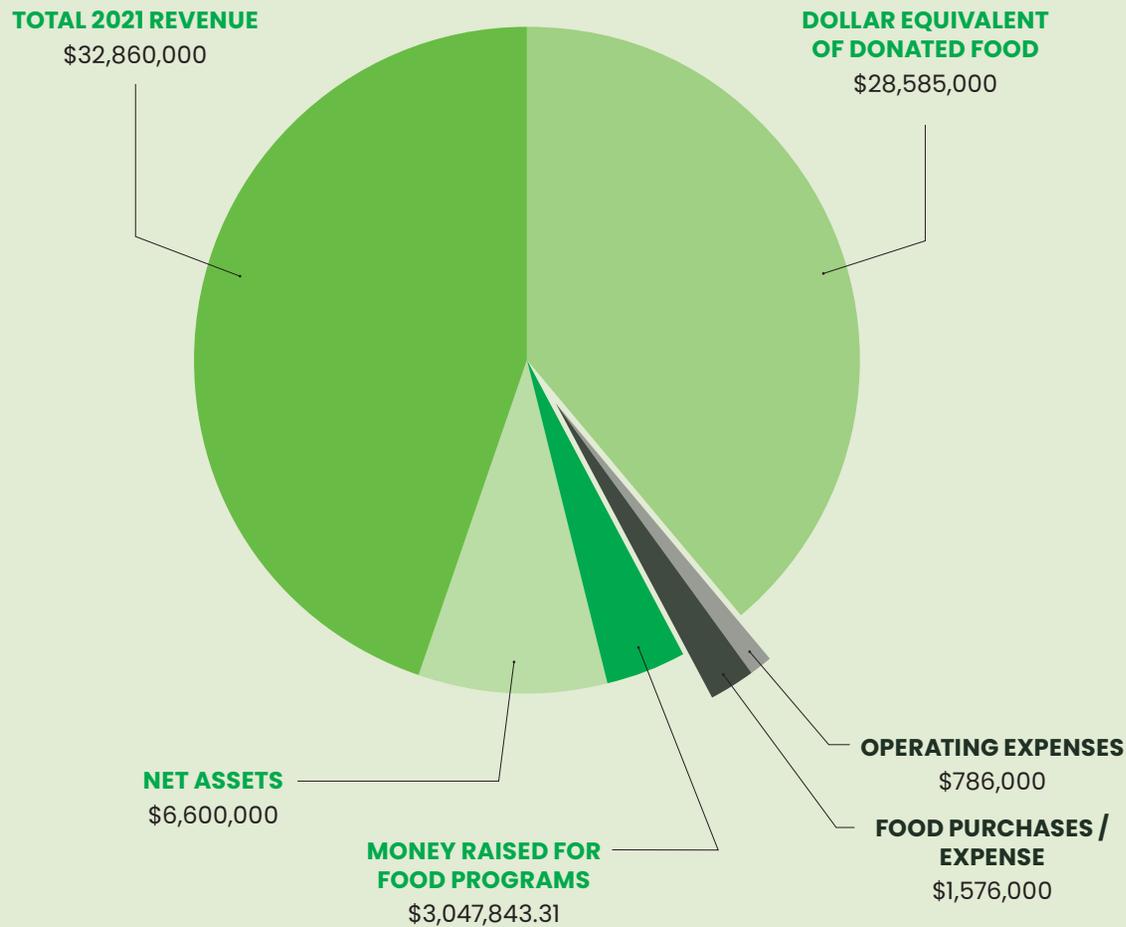
VOLUNTEER IMPACT

In 2021, our **4,451 VOLUNTEERS**

packed **148,792 BOXES** of fresh food and

gave **11,417 HOURS** of their time.

2021 FINANCIALS



OUR BOARD

JIM STOCKMAN, Board Chair
Kellogg Company

TAMI PITALE, Board Vice Chair
Old National Bank

MARK CLISE, Secretary & Treasurer
Kellogg Company (retired)

MICHAEL MCFARLEN, Board Member
Angel of the Winds Casino Resort

AARON (TY) HAKMAN, Board Member
Post Foods

VICTORIA REESE, Board Member
Consultant

CHRIS KALLGREN, Board Member
Post Foods (retired)





FOR MORE ON THE MOVEMENT
TO END HUNGER IN SOUTH MICHIGAN, VISIT

[SMFOODBANK.ORG](https://smfoodbank.org)

