Access OF WEST MICHIGAN

Cultivating Solutions to Poverty

2023 | MID 2024 REPORT

collaboration - health & wellness - accountability - community power - integrity - anti racism - systems impact - social justice

What's new at Access?

We've been hard at work collaborating with our wonderful Good Food partners + developing relationships with local congregations and businesses to provide poverty education and support to families in need. Keep reading below to learn more about what we've been up to.

POVERTY EDUCATION & CONGREGATION COLLABORATION

Since the start of 2023, we have had over 600 local students, professionals, city officials, and more attend our Poverty Education workshops. Over 90% of those participants have reported an increase in their understanding of the root causes of poverty. Our Congregation Connections team has continued to build relationships and facilitate casework for neighbors in need with 80+ local congregations. In the rest of 2024, we are placing an emphasis on continuing to build collaboration and further cultivate our partnerships to make a greater impact on poverty in West Michigan.

GOOD FOOD PROJECTS & IMPACT

3 in 10 individuals in Kent County meet the USDA criteria for food insecurity - *Kent County Community Food Survey, 2019*

In addition to completing our three-year fresh market partnership with health agencies, Good Food has launched several new multi-year initiatives. These projects include an anti racism training grant funded by the W. K. Kellogg foundation and a collaborative partnership with New City Neighbors and Plainsong Farm focused on improving access to fresh produce in rural areas of Kent County.

12
Food justice trainings facilitated

33k
Invested in local farm and food economy

52
Participants in produce prescription program

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OF WEST MICHIGAN

VISIONING A
COMMUNITY ROOTED
IN EQUITABLE SYSTEMS

ACCESS WALK — for — GOOD FOOD RECAP

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to those who joined us for our Walk for Good Food kickoff on May 5th and have continued to raise funds for a more equitable food system in our community. This year's event supported **eight** local organizations and was filled with a wonderful time of discussion, refreshments, children's activities, and our one mile and 5k route around Richmond Park.

While we have hope that the momentum created by the Walk each year will shift the culture of our food system, **there is still a large need for your support.** A donation for the Walk impacts Access as well as our Good Food partners doing great work in our area to fight food insecurity.

THANK YOU TO OUR WFGF 2024 SPONSORS

Office of Special Events
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

Corewell Health

Eastbrook HOMES

SpartanNash
THE FOOD SOLUTIONS COMPANY

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Center for Regional Food Systems

HEAL Taskforce Bloom Credit Union KCI Solace Energy GR Food Coop

ACCESS MADE A MOVE IN FEBRUARY 2024 TO THE BAXTER COMMUNITY CENTER!

If you haven't heard the news, the start of 2024 brought an extremely busy season of packing and cleaning to relocate from our previous office in the CRCNA building to the Baxter Community Center! We have been so grateful during this time, both to the CRCNA for over a decade of time in their space, and to the team at Baxter for their shared values and welcome hearts.

Follow Access on social media, check out our website, and subscribe to our newsletter for more information about our initiatives and how you can get involved.

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