



HEARTSIDE GLEANNING

2022 & 2023
Annual Report



Our Mission

To empower Heartside and surrounding communities to become healthier through increased access to healthy food and nutrition education.

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Dear Friends,

Heartside Gleaning has experienced a period of rapid growth and change over the recent years. As the pandemic worsened and highlighted the disparities in our community, food insecurity accelerated. Just as the pandemic began, we were excited to provide free produce to families attending nutrition education classes in partnership with Hispanic Center of Western Michigan and the National Kidney Foundation.

As a dietitian, I have experienced the frustration of educating individuals on the benefits of including produce in their diets to prevent and improve chronic disease outcomes while knowing they did not have the means or access to this produce. In our first year, 100 families in the Roosevelt Park Community received a Good Food Box every 2 weeks containing 20 pounds of produce to help with food insecurity and increase access to healthy foods.

Over the past three years, our partnerships have increased and we now assist 200 families — 900 individuals! Our Good Food Box program evolved into a Fresh Food Fair to allow families to self-select 20 pounds of produce. As our time and commitment to the Fresh Food Fair increased, we decided to permanently move away from seasonal gleaning at the Fulton Street Farmers Market (FSFM). The FSFM now manages gleaning directly for their farmers.

This biannual report reflects our new collaborations which enable us to reach these 200 families from our community. **What has not changed is our dedication to our mission to empower the Grand Rapids communities to become healthier through increased access to healthy food and nutrition education.**

As one of our dedicated volunteers has said, **“Food insecurity should not exist”** — Let’s work toward this goal together. Thank you for your support.

Debbie Lown, R.D., Ph.D.
Chair, Heartside Gleaning



Our Impact

In 2022 and 2023:

173,046

**pounds distributed
at Fresh Food Fairs**

8,174
households

39,325
individuals

"Thanks for the vegetables and fruit. **I can prepare excellent healthy food for my family.** Thank you."

- Recipient

Newest Program: Lean Protein

When we held a focus group in early 2022 with Puertas Abiertas families, we asked: "What else would you like to see at our Fresh Food Fair?" The resounding answer was, "Beans!" "Eggs!" — So, when the Greater Wyoming Community Resource Alliance asked, "What do you need funding for?" We answered, "Lean protein!" — and we are now providing lean, high-quality protein. Through donations, we provide families with 2 pounds of beans and one dozen eggs every month.



Powered by Volunteers

We rely on our volunteers to set up, break down and assist our participants at the the Fresh Food Fair.

	2022	2023
Volunteer Hours	1,482	1,338
Volunteers	80	41

"I really enjoy the people — both the volunteers and the people who come to the Fresh Food Fair."

- Myrna, Volunteer

"No one should be food insecure. The Fresh Food Fair provides such healthy and high quality produce."

- Susan, Volunteer



Sign up to volunteer at heartsidegleaning.org/volunteer

Community Partners

Our partners are crucial to expanding our outreach and fostering collaborative solutions. Thank you to:

Community Food Club
FarmLink
Fulton Street Farmers Market
Hispanic Center of West Michigan
National Kidney Foundation
of Michigan
The Potter's House
Puertas Abiertas



Community Spotlight: The Potter's House

The Potter's House began in 1981 with 12 students and two volunteer teachers. The Potter's House now enrolls more than 620 students, representing a kaleidoscope of backgrounds and cultures, including over 30 countries of origin, and many students are provided support for the cost of tuition.

The Potter's House strives to open its doors to all. Since 2020, they have provided space for us to distribute Good Food Boxes and now provide space for weekly Fresh Food Fairs. The Potter's House has welcomed us and gone above and beyond to meet our needs.

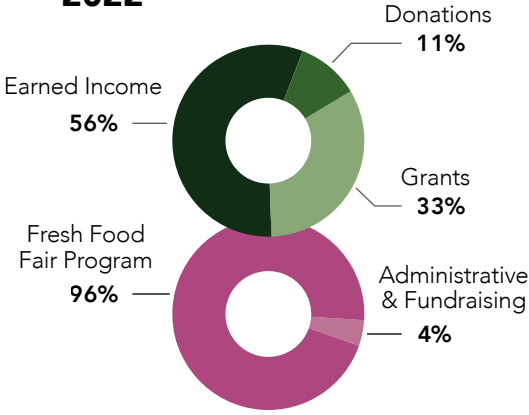


"One of our 5 strategic goals is to work in collaboration with neighborhood churches, organizations, non-profits, and individuals to promote neighborhood flourishing. **We are thrilled to partner with Heartside Gleaning in their mission to alleviate food insecurity in Roosevelt Park.**"

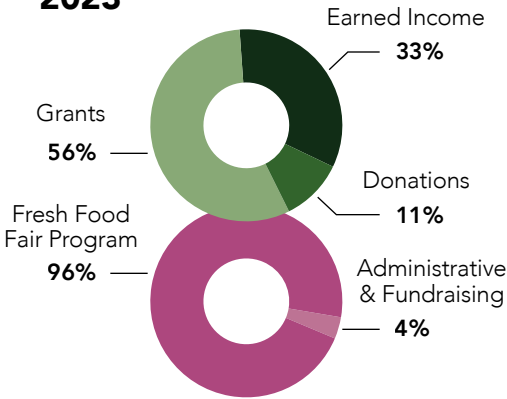
- John Booy, The Potter's House,
Superintendent

Financials & Supporters

2022



2023



2022 & 2023 Annual Fund Donors

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2022 & 2023 Community Donors



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