

# MINISTRY WITH COMMUNITY

rebuilding lives

April 2021

## Meal Service Doesn't Skip A Beat

“Providing meals is one of the most important things we do,” says Kelly Henderson, Executive Director. “We serve two meals a day, 365 days a year, and that stability is crucial to our members. If you’re worried about where you’re going to stay that night, if you’re carrying everything you own with you, if you’re afraid that you can’t pay your rent, at least you know that you can come here and have a meal.”

Ministry with Community provides breakfast and lunch daily, to anyone who walks through our doors. Before the pandemic, we would welcome our members into the dining room twice a day for hot, family-style meals. For now, that simply isn't safe.

“We never anticipated that we would have to completely shift the way we provide our most basic service, but when the pandemic hit, we managed it as smoothly and gracefully as we could, and we didn't skip a beat,” says Kelly.

In March 2020, when we first closed our dining room, we switched to handing out sack meals, but that didn't last long. Soon, we were serving hot breakfasts and lunches to-go for nearly every meal.



Pat, Kitchen Assistant, prepares lunch.

More than a year later, we're still serving meals to-go to allow for safe distancing, but the food looks almost identical to what we served pre-pandemic.

“We only serve two cold lunches each week at most, but we make some of the best sandwiches. We pack them with 6 ounces of meat or protein, and a good serving of fresh spinach,” says Michael Albanese, Kitchen Manager. “We make sure everyone gets a decent meal that will satisfy them.”

Nutrition is something that Michael takes seriously. “We're limiting sugary items and increasing the amount of protein and produce we serve. Obviously, that makes it more expensive. We work with other local organizations like Loaves & Fishes, Hungry for Christ, and

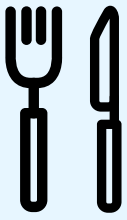
the Southwest Michigan Food Bank to keep our costs down.”

Even with the challenges of the pandemic, we served 114,670 meals in 2020, or approximately 313 per day. “With packaging things to go, there are extra steps,” says Michael. “But we have a process and we just have to stay organized. My job is to serve a meal that is nutritious, protein-packed, tasty, and good looking, and our members tell us that they appreciate it.”



To-go meals ready for members.

The mission of Ministry with Community is to empower people to make positive life changes.



## Ministry with Community Against Hunger April 1 - April 30, 2021

To support Ministry with Community's meals program.

### **Chefs Against Hunger won't be held in 2021, but we are still fighting hunger!**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ministry with Community will not hold Chefs Against Hunger in 2021.

While this comes as no surprise, we are still saddened to announce it. For the second year in a row, we won't get to gather with you, fill up on delicious hors d'oeuvres, and watch our friends and favorite local chefs compete to create the best dish. It's also disheartening to know that those same great chefs are experiencing the pandemic's effect on the restaurant industry, first-hand.

In lieu of the event, and to give the chefs a break this year, we will hold Ministry with Community Against Hunger in April. This campaign will support our meals program.

Throughout the month of April, Ministry with Community and our amazing Board members will be reaching out in the community to raise funds and awareness.

For more information, visit our website at [ministrywithcommunity.org](http://ministrywithcommunity.org).



### **COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic a Success!**

The Family Health Center's mobile clinic made a very special stop in our parking lot on March 16th!

In partnership with the Health and Community Services Department of Kalamazoo County, they set up a COVID-19 vaccine clinic for those experiencing homelessness.



Sixty-five people were vaccinated that day, and more clinics are planned throughout the Kalamazoo area!

## Young Supporters Get Creative to Fight Hunger

Maggie Westra is the CEO of Westra's Wonders, which she runs with her sister Marley Westra, the company's CFO. They repurpose old furniture and sell their creations. They're also generous donors to Ministry with Community.

Did we mention that Maggie is 15 and Marley is 9?

Using their company's profits, Maggie and Marley recently sponsored a meal at Ministry with Community. A sponsored meal covers everything we need to serve a freshly prepared, nutritious breakfast or lunch to hundreds of our members.

We were so inspired by their generosity that we wanted to learn more about what motivates them.

Head to our blog at [ministrywithcommunity.org/mwcblog](http://ministrywithcommunity.org/mwcblog) to read the full interview with Maggie Westra!

**"I've been given so much, so I should probably be able to give back. I like helping out with the community."**

**— Maggie Westra**



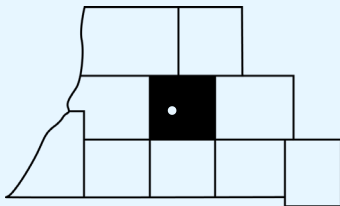
# Meals at Ministry with Community

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Ministry with Community has remained open and continues to provide breakfast and lunch daily.

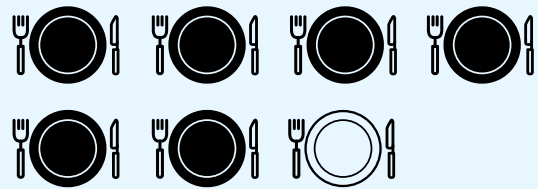
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## In our community:

Kalamazoo ranks **65** out of **83** counties in Michigan for access to reliable and healthy food sources.\*



**1** out of **7** of our neighbors in Kalamazoo County is experiencing food insecurity.\*



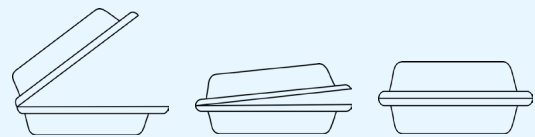
\*2020 County Health Rankings

## What we do:

**114,670** meals were served in 2020. That's **9,556** meals per month, or **313** per day!



On average, our meals cost **\$2.00** to create. Our generous donors provide funding for our meals, and we keep our costs down by working with other organizations like the Southwest Michigan Food Bank and Loaves & Fishes.



During the pandemic, we have switched to providing our meals to go. This makes meals more available to those outside our building and keeps everyone safe by allowing physical distancing.



We've harvested over **2,500 lbs.** of fresh vegetables and fruit since we first started our garden in 2018! This keeps our budget lower and our members healthier.

**"I come down here when I'm out of food at the end of the month. It helps me stay on track with my health because I'm diabetic. They give me a variety of good food. It gives me that get up and go!"**

**— R., Mwc Member**

## In Memory Of:

### Lois Alberti

Robert Schellenberg  
**Margaret Ann Al-Oboudi**  
Amy Louise Anderson  
**Patricia Anthony**  
Amy Louise Anderson  
**Sr. Mary Bader, CSJ**  
Anonymous  
**Helen Bartley**  
Lynwood and Chris Bartley  
**Noel Boyle**  
Eileen Boyle Chlebana  
**Betty E. Brown**  
Robert and Judy Rapp  
**Janet Buchtrup**  
Charles and Kathy Buchtrup  
Gail K. Hummell  
**Jack Bulger**  
Robert and Candis Warner  
**Alva Burleigh**  
Faith Burleigh  
**Barbara M. Chmiel**  
John Chmiel  
**Janet Christianson**  
Charles Christianson  
**Maurie Coady**  
Don and Ellen Frisinger  
**Dr. Bill Combs**  
Joe and Rosalie Novara  
**William A. Decker**  
Greta Decker  
**Bryan Dewey**  
Richard and Elen Fox  
**Jack and Margaret DeZeeuw**  
Rupert and Bonnie Benson  
**Peggy G. Drew**  
Jeanne Marie Greenen  
**Joseph F. Ebenhoeh, Jr.**  
Dorothy and Guy Ebenhoeh  
**Nancy Ellin**  
Jane Ellin-Dela Paz  
**Russell H. Engbers**  
Fred and Ann Arnoldink  
**James Nicholas Fett**  
Edgar and June Marlett  
**Harold L. J. Grenke**  
Lenore J. Lorion  
**Sistina J. Grenke**  
Lenore J. Lorion  
**Herbert and Pauline Hannon**  
Betty and Yoshi Yagi  
**Harold "Bud" Hanselman**  
Susan Hanselman  
**Robert Hegel**  
Carol L. Hodges  
R. Thomas and Linda Powell  
**Sheila Hood**  
Alma and Walter Jones  
**Walter and Mary Isabell**  
Bev and Alton Pollard  
**Janet Johnson**  
Laurel E. Hazel  
**Don Juchartz**  
Doris Juchartz  
**Mort Judd**  
Dick and Jane Easton  
**Thomas Kasdorf**  
Amy Louise Anderson  
**Dr. Pliny M. Keep**  
Georgia Joan Keep  
**Jim and Colleen Koestner**  
Larry and Laura Huggett  
**Michael Kraska**  
Dirk and Susan Dragt  
**Dr. Michael Kudlas**  
Mary T. Meagher  
**Judith Lawson**  
Kenneth Lawson

### Dean Lewis

Jeanene Lewis  
**Peter Livingston**  
Bruce and Cheryl Briney  
**Floyd and Ann Luginbill**  
James and Julie Luginbill  
**Bud and Phyllis Marantette**  
Ann Marantette Riley  
**John Marantette**  
Ann Marantette Riley  
**Dorothy Markusse**  
Pamela and Martin Obed  
**Fran Mason**  
Jean and Robert Cox  
**Linda Mason**  
Sheila and Gary Bigelow  
Paul and Christine Simon  
**Louise B. McCarry**  
Robert and Ann Kilkuskie  
**Duane Mickelson**  
Mary Mickelson  
**Arlen "Shando" Miller**  
David and Marilyn Balcom  
John and Donna Bargo  
Encore Club  
Barbara and Kenneth Helbling  
Dale and Michele Holder  
Howard and Hildy Kerney  
David and Amy Lehr  
George and Linda Macleod  
John Mason  
Richard Arlen and  
Eleanor Miller  
Thomas Hagadone and  
Pam Miller  
Wilma Mills  
MwC Staff  
Clarideth Jeanne Plott  
David and Larie Person  
Fay H. Woolrich  
**Jack Miller**  
Wilma Mills  
**Max Miller**  
Wilma Mills  
**James R. Mosby, Jr.**  
Sue A. Schiller  
**Margaret Mary Mosher**  
Kristine Pioch  
**Donald Nakken**  
Gregory Nakken  
**Jackie Nemedi**  
Ron Nemedi  
**Carla Noe-Emig**  
Kalamazoo Area Women's  
Club GFWC  
**Diana L. Obed-Harris**  
Pamela and Martin Obed  
**Ella May O'Connell**  
Anonymous  
**Our Parents**  
Kevin and Ginnie Doerfler  
**Robin Joel Peterson**  
Judy and Paul Paget  
**Herbert and Margaret Pifer**  
James and Elizabeth Pifer  
**Rev. Robert "Bob" Rasmussen**  
Grace and Mark Cook  
Alexander and Anne Lipsey  
**Ron Refior**  
MwC Staff  
**Retah**  
Loree A. Bagley  
**Jennifer Sanders**  
Susan and James Sanders  
**Ken Sarkozy**  
Tom and Lauri Holmes  
MwC Staff  
Beverly J. Schmitt  
Chris and Richard Thomas  
William J. Venema  
D. Terry and Sharon Williams

### Butch Schascheck

Patricia Schascheck  
**Geraldine Schma**  
James and Mary Grace  
Thomas Owen  
**Susan Sefton**  
Susan C. Gilmore  
**Sara Elizabeth Sevilla**  
Kevin Robertson and  
Kathleen Robertson King  
**Patti Shirley**  
Dinah Eisenberg  
**Irma Shull**  
Anonymous  
Christopher F. Dick  
Patricia Dolan  
Janet L. Graffis  
Debra Lam  
Prudence McCabe  
MwC Staff  
Martha Terpstra  
Bob and Marion Tracy  
**A. W. Sinha**  
Elizabeth Roelofs  
**Mary Skinner**  
Carol Anne Beckius  
**Daniel Smith**  
Mary Marquardt  
Judy Smith  
**Francis and Dolores Smith**  
Judy and Jeffrey Smith  
**Jeffrey Smith**  
Thomas and Donna Lambert  
Mary Marquardt  
Judy Smith  
**Francis (Frank) Somers**  
Caroline Ham  
Jerry and Barbara James  
The Steenhausen Family  
**Chester Taylor**  
Carol Gray  
**Jeanne Tindall**  
Penny Jennings  
Marilyn Weichhand  
John Wilks  
**Winship Todd**  
Allan and Shirley Heavey  
**Dennis Toussaint**  
Patricia Kozminske  
**Dale E. Van Antwerp**  
Leona Van Antwerp  
**Joan Van Zoeren**  
Jane Schley  
**Joyce Vliet**  
Ted Vliet  
**Faith Joy Werdin**  
Nathan Drummond  
**Florence, Barney, and John Westra**  
Karl Westra  
**Richard Guy Wilcox**  
Edwin and Michaelyn Page  
**Chuck and Jedy Wilson**  
Earl and Nancy Hyde  
**Sherry Yeats**  
William and Martie Schinzer

## In Honor Of:

**The Alexander Family**  
Anonymous  
**The Hans and Rebecca**  
**Anderson Family**  
Brian and Julie Schneeberger  
**All Essential Workers**  
Linda Stieve  
**Greg and Lexi Andrews**  
Karen Keene  
**Rob and Maya Andrews**  
Karen Keene  
**John and Agnes Bennink**  
Penny and Philip Bennink

### Jessie, Ben, Evie, and Lizzie Bierlein

Angela Taylor  
**Phil Boothroyd**  
John and Debbie Mellein  
Wilma Tays  
**Dr. Susan Caulfield**  
Ronald and Jane Kramer  
**Ethlynn Dewitt**  
Pam Fenno  
**Mary Budde and**  
**Raymond Diffenderffer**  
Linda DeYoung and Tim Finton  
**Walt Bunce**  
Shirley Rouse  
**Sue Kovats-Bell**  
Julie Rogers and Edward Orloff  
**Phyllis Curtis**  
Patricia Curtis  
**Ben Damerow**  
Julie Rogers and Edward Orloff  
**Norma Dearborn**  
Pam and Kip Schumm  
Jeff Juday  
**Jean DenOttler**  
James W. Stafford  
**Mikka Dryer**  
Anonymous  
**Dr. David and Joan Dyke**  
Ruth Ann and William Uggem  
**Karen and Ed Dzialowski**  
Melanie J. Perry  
**William Dzobel**  
Mark and Karen Krinock  
**Peter M. Fallon**  
Timothy and Carla Fallon  
**Beverly and John Folz**  
Rita J. Stevens  
**Dorothy Goeddeke**  
Rosalind and Bernard Stutz  
**Megan Hayden**  
David and Rhonda Newman  
**Kelly Henderson**  
William and Nancy Richardson  
**Kelly Henderson and**  
**the staff at MwC**  
Tyler Little Family Foundation  
**Bobby Hopewell**  
David and Janet Snyder  
**Patti Huiskamp**  
Elizabeth Upjohn Mason  
**Dan and Nan Janecke**  
Donald and Linda Hunt  
**Treby Johnson**  
Arline Johnson  
**Don Jones**  
Michael and Julie Cartier  
**Jeffery and Debbie Juday**  
Norma Dearborn  
**Timothy and Brandy Juday**  
Norma Dearborn  
**Janet Karpus**  
Margaret Bayless and  
Frederick Hall  
Thomas Owen  
Katherine Houston  
**Hildy and Howard Kerney**  
Michael and Sherry Kerney  
**Rob and Donna Keller**  
Melanie J. Perry  
**Alice Kemerling**  
William and Nancy Richardson  
**Kate Kirk-Greenberg**  
Lee Kirk  
**Marlena Kirton**  
Dennis and Pamela Hjelmquist  
**Gwen Lanier**  
The Andrews Family  
**Denise Lisiecki**  
Barbara Scott  
**Loyal friends of Lulu and Jean**  
Anonymous

**Prudence McCabe**

Christopher and Laura Latiolais

**Mike McCaw**

Florence and Joel Orosz

**Cliff Mulder**

Carla and Tom Obringer

**MwC staff, volunteers,  
and members**

David and Joan Wendling

**Robert and Kay O'Boyle**

C. Robert and Marcia Cowell

**Captain Andrew Orosz**

Elizabeth Upjohn Mason

**Barbara Rider and Fred Sammons**

Richard and Barbara Baker

**Joe Schmitt**

Robert and Ann Kilkuskie

**Bruce Shurtz**

Jenny Sanderson

**Joellen Silberman**

Thomas Van Der Linden and

Jean Silberman

**Buffy Silverman**

Rosebeth Marcou

**Sheryl and Doug Stapert**

Nancy Ausema

**Celeste Statler**

Erica J. Krol

**Joe and Elaine Stockoski**

Leanna and Peter Stockoski

**Nancy Homan Stroupe**

Robin Davis-McNabb

**Scott and Jamie Taylor**

Bobbi Taylor

**Leona Van Antwerp**

Zion Lutheran Church Bible Study Group

**Ron Van Meter**

Megan Gernaat

**Rich VanSlambrouck and Family**

Colleen and Patrick VanSlambrouck

**Loyce and Dick Wenzel**

Rosalind and Bernard Stutz

**Governor Gretchen Whitmer**

Sandy Kristen

**Gary Willoughby**

Donna Willoughby

**Matt and Gretchen Yokom**

Margaret Guthaus

**In Celebration Of:****Marlena Kirton's birthday**

Dennis and Pamela Hjelmquist

**Merry Christmas to Anita Latulippe**

Lisa Yanski

**Merry Christmas to Mary L. Tyler**

The Tyler Kids

**My 102nd birthday**

Agnes Bennink

**Bob Poel's 80th birthday**

Robert and Mary Poel

Please note: Memorials and Honorees listed here were received November 20, 2020 through March 9, 2021.

Memorials and Honorees received after March 9, 2021 will appear in the next newsletter.

To correct any errors, please contact Laura Perron at 269.343.6073 x132 or at office@ministrywithcommunity.org.

# Sponsor a Meal

**November 26:** Breakfast & Lunch: North Park Reformed Church – Happy Thanksgiving!

**November 27:** Idris, Hammed, and Labib Daranijoh in honor of their birthdays

**December 3:** Breakfast & Lunch: Friday Night Friends

**December 5:** Cheetah Run Group

**December 9:** Breakfast & Lunch: Infinity Advisory Group in celebration of all their wonderful clients

**December 12:** Breakfast & Lunch: Westminster Presbyterian Church Men's Breakfast Group in honor of Bill Neff

**December 14:** Breakfast & Lunch: Betty Upjohn Mason in celebration of Captain Andrew Orosz's birthday

**December 15:** June Marlett in memory of James Nicholas Fett

**December 19:** Society of Muslim Women

**December 20:** Sue Beadling in memory of Virginia Gilbertson Aschenbeck

**December 31 and January 1:** Breakfast & Lunch: The Tyler Kids in honor of Mary L. Tyler

**January 3:** Breakfast & Lunch: The Heartfelt Foundation in loving memory of Jake and Everyone

**January 6:** Breakfast & Lunch: The Knight Family

**January 8:** Harold Ballen in celebration of his birthday

**January 11:** Breakfast & Lunch: Infinity Advisory Group in celebration of all their wonderful clients

**January 14:** The Tocco, Lealofi, and Gardiner Families

**January 18:** Breakfast & Lunch: Ann Marantette Riley in memory of Bud and Phyllis Marantette and John Marantette

**January 20:** Breakfast & Lunch: Maggie Westra and Marley Westra of Westra's Wonders

**January 23:** Breakfast & Lunch: Judi and Ron Berridge, Joanna and Jim McIntyre in celebration of Jeanne Hartenstein's 95 years of living (and still going!)

**January 24:** Breakfast & Lunch: In honor of Marcia Sizer

**January 26:** Breakfast & Lunch: Philoptochos Society at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

**February 4:** In memory of Ruth Diephuis

**February 7:** Breakfast & Lunch: The Behrens Family in honor of Russ and Richard Behrens's birthdays – you are missed!

**February 8 and February 11:** Breakfast & Lunch: Mary Powell in memory of her beloved husband, James H. Powell

**February 13:** Kalamazoo Area Women's Club in memory of Carla Noe-Emig

**February 16:** Gayle Stephenson in memory of Winship A. Todd

**February 17:** Breakfast & Lunch: In honor of Lynne Wathen's birthday

**February 20:** Breakfast & Lunch: James Smolinski in memory of Phyllis Smolinski

**February 23:** Kellogg Community Credit Union

**February 27:** Portage United Church of Christ

**March 1:** Breakfast & Lunch: Joan and Dave Wendling

**March 3:** The Kilkuskie Family in memory of Louise McCarry

**March 5:** Breakfast & Lunch: Anonymous

**March 8:** The Brazilian Oven Team including John, Silvana, Kristen, Lucas, Lyseang, and Kim

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Sponsor-a-Meal program!

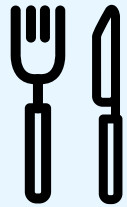
If you're looking for a way to thank someone, celebrate a milestone, or remember a loved one, consider sponsoring a meal at Ministry with Community.

A gift of \$350 provides a 3 course meal for 300 people. A gift of \$500 provides both breakfast and lunch for 300 people.

On the day your meal is served you and your honoree will be recognized on Facebook, Twitter, and by mail.

Please contact Matt Claus, Development Director, at 269.343.6073 x131 or via email at mclaus@ministrywithcommunity.org to sponsor a meal!





# 114,670 meals served in 2020

Vist [ministrywithcommunity.org/mwcagainsthunger](http://ministrywithcommunity.org/mwcagainsthunger) for more info.

Check out our wish list at [ministrywithcommunity.org/wishlist](http://ministrywithcommunity.org/wishlist).

Follow us on social media at:



[facebook.com/KzooMwC](https://facebook.com/KzooMwC)



[@KzooMwC](https://twitter.com/KzooMwC)



Ministry with Community | 500 N. Edwards St. | Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3600

Phone: 269.343.6073 | [www.ministrywithcommunity.org](http://www.ministrywithcommunity.org)



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**Vice President and Secretary**, Dr. Susan Caulfield, Ph.D.

**Treasurer**, Jim Luginbill

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United Way of the  
Battle Creek and  
Kalamazoo Region  
[changethestory.org](http://changethestory.org)