



**Kids' Food Basket**

# Sack Supper Sentinel

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## OUR JOURNEY

Look at what YOU have accomplished so far, West Michigan!



**2002**

Kids' Food Basket began serving 125 meals at three schools in Grand Rapids in response to an unmet need. The organization was founded to provide a direct service - nutritious, ready-to-eat meals - to the 1 in 5 local children affected by hunger.

**2005**



Kids' Food Basket made its first major move from Monroe Ave to Butterworth Street, and, with a larger space, began serving more children.

**2009**

**1900%**

With the help of LEAN experts and many passionate community members, Kids' Food Basket grew to serve over 2,500 students a day, a 1900% increase from 2002!

**2012**

Kids' Food Basket's Muskegon program launches! Our Muskegon program has grown to serve over 900 children at three schools!



**2010**

What a big year! Kids' Food Basket moved its headquarters to its current home at 2055 Oak Industrial Drive, met President Obama to accept an award for our founder, Mary K. Hoodhood, and won the Governor's Service Award for Volunteer Program of the Year!

**2014**

Thanks to our community, Kids' Food Basket won two big awards: Grand Rapids' Area Chamber of Commerce EPIC Award for Nonprofit of the Year and MiBiz's Best Managed Nonprofit Award for Excellence in Fundraising.

Learn more about the tremendous impact YOU have made on page 3!

**2015**

Kids' Food Basket's Holland program launches and begins serving 600 children at two schools!

**1,000,000 MEALS!**

**2016**

We announced our new strategic plan ([www.KidsFoodBasket.org/StrategicPlan](http://www.KidsFoodBasket.org/StrategicPlan)) and celebrated the milestone of serving over 1,000,000 meals **in one school year** in West Michigan!

# HELP A CHILD LIVE AND LEARN WELL JOIN THE SACK SUPPER CLUB

What can one dollar do? Just one dollar each weekday (**\$20 a month**) allows you to sponsor a local child affected by hunger for an entire year. Together we can ensure lunch is not the last meal of the day for kids in our community.

Each Sack Supper contains **brain food**, healthy food from the five food groups which helps kids concentrate and stay on track in school. These well-balanced meals teach **healthy habits**, instilling smart food choices to support good health lifelong. Each Sack Supper is made with **a touch of love** by people like YOU whose involvement and dedication help kids thrive.

**Join the Sack Supper Club in August or September, and your year-long commitment of \$240 will be matched by a generous donor.** Visit [kidsfoodbasket.org/SackSupperClub](http://kidsfoodbasket.org/SackSupperClub) for more information on how you can nourish kids in the year ahead.



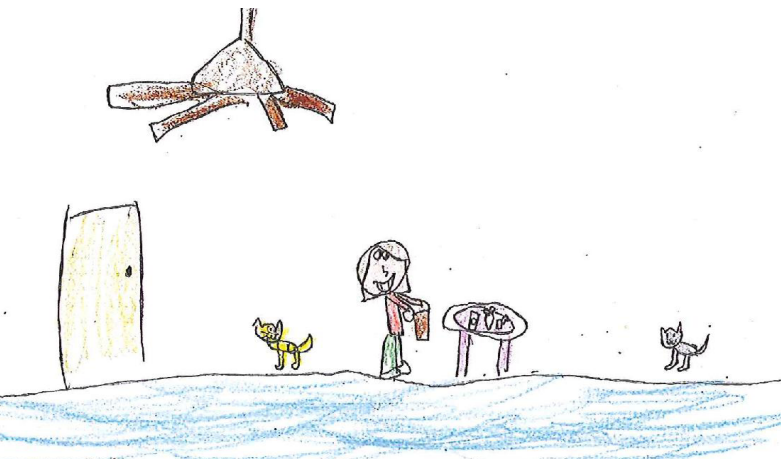
"THANK YOU FOR THE AMAZING SACK SUPPERS. THEY HELP ME HAVE A FRESH MIND!" -HANNAH



## Community Partner Shout Out!

Brewery Vivant is all about keeping their impact local which is why they decided two years ago to team up with Kids' Food Basket. For every kids meal purchased, Brewery Vivant donates a portion of proceeds to provide Sack Suppers to a local elementary school in their neighborhood.

They continue to attack childhood hunger by generously giving of their time and talents to prepare food, pack Sack Suppers, and deliver the meals in addition to being fierce advocates for our mission (see staff above participating in Go Orange Day!). Thank you, Brewery Vivant, for your dedication to helping ensure lunch isn't the last meal of the day for our local children!



Dear KFB,  
Thank you for the sack suppers.  
It is yome! Mmmmm! I  
Love The sandwich. It is Sof Sandwich.  
I wish all kids can have sack suppers!  
Love Maria

## NEW AND UNIQUE

## Holiday Cards



Get a head start on your holiday gifts this year! Each holiday card you purchase provides at least 5 Sack Suppers to Grand Rapids children. Featuring a spectacular new design by Jawon, a young scholar at Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Elementary, and a new modern design perfect for businesses, these cards make a great gift for colleagues, clients, or friends!



Visit [kidsfoodbasket.org/HolidayCards](http://kidsfoodbasket.org/HolidayCards) or call 616-235-4532 for more information and to get a head start on special orders!





## Kudos from **BRIDGET**

I'm amazed when I look back on our journey. It's inspiring to see where we've been and where we're going! As many of you know, I began my journey with Kids' Food Basket as an intern for my senior capstone project at Aquinas College. My advisor at the time, George Heartwell (who would go on to be Grand Rapids' Mayor!), recommended me to his friend Mary K. Hoodhood, who was starting a feeding program for kids, and had \$3,000 in funding.

Our journey has been challenging, but successful because of your support. The numbers of local children living in poverty has continued to rise through our years of service, and we have grown to respond to the need. We've also continued to grow because of the significant impact we've made together. **For nearly 15 years, we've served nutritious, ready-to-eat Sack Suppers directly to children, ensuring they have the nutrition they need to learn and live well.** That's such an important achievement. We've learned that consistent access to good nutrition makes a tremendous difference for teachers and schools. Matt Houseman is the Dean of Students & Safety Advocate at Nelson Elementary School, where we began serving last fall. Matt recently shared the incredible impact that Sack Suppers have made in his school:

*In 2015 we had 197 referrals, which is a formal write-up, and 91 suspensions, the majority of which were happening in the last two hours of the school day. In those last two hours, students' behavior just dissolved. We couldn't figure it out.*

*Fast forward to now. We're at the end of the school year, and we've only had 70 write-ups and 13 suspensions. **That's a 64% decrease in referrals, and an 86% decrease in suspensions.** And it's largely because of the Sack Suppers. These kids have so many things to worry about. Knowing that a Sack Supper is coming gives them a sense of security, and for many of our kids, that means everything.*

**We know that our Sack Supper program makes a direct, immediate, and lasting impact.** Over the years, we've also learned that it's important to look at and address childhood hunger holistically. **We serve thousands of children, and there are thousands of reasons why.** We've developed innovative programming - like our Kids Helping Kids civic engagement education series and our urban farming initiatives - to attack childhood hunger more deeply, so that young people have the best chance at succeeding in school and in life.

**We also know that we couldn't do this work without each and every one of YOU!** Childhood hunger is an issue that weakens our whole community. Ending it is only possible when the effort includes our entire community as well. As a community-driven, 100% charitably-funded organization, we are endlessly grateful for the hundreds of community members who come together each day to ensure that children in West Michigan have what they need to thrive. You are the chief heroes in this critical work. We are honored to host you.

Peace,  
*Bridget*  
Bridget Clark Whitney  
Executive Director

P.S. We hope you'll join us for Brown Bag Decorating Day on Saturday, October 22! Every decorated bag is a gift to a child we serve. Learn more:

[www.KidsFoodBasket.org/BrownBagDay](http://www.KidsFoodBasket.org/BrownBagDay)

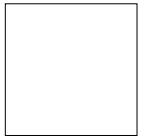


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Kids' Food Basket  
2055 Oak Industrial Drive NE, Suite C  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505



**Decorate bag inside!**



# Brown Bag Decorating Day



**Help us reach a goal of 75,000 decorated bags by October 22!**

Decorated Sack Supper bags provide kids with an extra touch of love - the secret ingredient to success! Teachers and school staff tell us that kids can't wait to get their decorated Sack Suppers, and that to some children, that extra touch of love and caring makes all the difference. **Use the complimentary bag provided inside this newsletter to get started!** Decorate it with an inspiring message or quote, a picture of your favorite cartoon, or a funny joke. Together, we can reach our goal!

**Make sure to deliver your decorated bags on Saturday, October 22 from 10:00-1:00 at any of our three Kids' Food Basket locations!** Learn more by visiting [www.KidsFoodBasket.org/BrownBagDay](http://www.KidsFoodBasket.org/BrownBagDay) or calling 616.235.4532.