



NEWSLETTER

Volume 30 No. 2

October/November 2018

People in community feeding the hungry

THE MISSION: of The Gathering is to provide meals and associated services or programs to those who would otherwise go hungry or without. **WE RESPECT** the dignity and values of every individual we serve and value our volunteers who allow us to serve the community. **WE ACT** directly and in concert with others to alleviate hunger and to address the root causes and related problems associated with hunger. **OUR SUCCESS** will be demonstrated by providing quality services to our guests and remaining a viable volunteer-driven organization.

VISION: We are a community of guests, volunteers and staff united by a common goal: to feed the hungry in body, mind and spirit.

IN COMMUNITY

By Ginny Schrag, Executive Director

People in community feeding the hungry has been The Gathering's tag line – its motto – for decades. Those six words outline our purpose – *feeding the hungry*, identify who will do the feeding – *people*, and describe how that work will be done – *in community*. That “*in community*” piece defines The Gathering's methodology, how we put our programs into action, how we serve our meals, how we relate to our guests, how we interact with the world around us. It places an emphasis on interconnectedness, on teamwork, and on building relationships. “In community” provides the foundation for raising up meal guests as volunteers, and for our unrelenting focus on creating a hospitable and welcoming space where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

caring
generous respect
motivated
loving trust
community
welcoming acceptance
selfless available
giving service
dedicated

Just as “it takes a village to raise a child”, it takes an amazing number of individuals, groups and organizations to make certain our guests are served hot, nutritious meals daily – 78,142 meals last year: 149 serving groups; 120 tons (yes, you read that right – TONS) of donated food; vendors who take care of equipment repairs & pest control; half a million dollars donated annually; 98 leadership volunteers providing work otherwise done by paid staff; 4 host sites; onsite collaborative mental health, medical, legal, veterans, housing and food assistance programming. All guided by 3 fulltime and 6 part-time staff.

“In community” means that whether guest, volunteer, donor, vendor, collaborator or staff you are known - often by name, almost always by face. You are trusted to play the role you play with kindness and compassion, and you trust The Gathering to do the same. We are invested in each other over the long haul through good times and difficult ones. Read this newsletter with the words “in community” in mind and you will begin to recognize this work more and more as a conversation and not a onetime event. Thank you for the part you play.



The Spice Girls, our newest Saturday Lunch Cook Team



Three generations of Thickeners' volunteers (from left to right, Sawyer, dad Rich, grandpa Rick, Logan)

THE GATHERING NEEDS

Ground Coffee; Cold weather outerwear for adults (*warm socks, gloves, hats, scarves, gently used winter coats*); Blankets, sleeping bags; Toiletries (*deodorant, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, razors*).
Call The Gathering office at (414) 272-4122 for drop-off information.

DONOR PROFILE

By Natalee Kashou, Communications Manager/Breakfast Coordinator at The Gathering

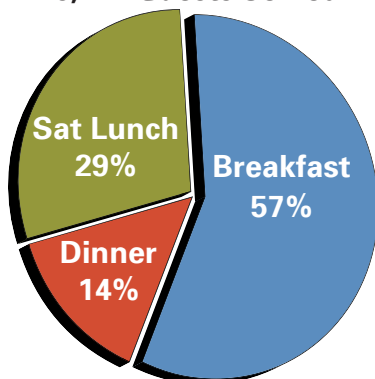


Jacob Slocum grew up as a member of St. James Episcopal Church, a Gathering volunteer and an aspiring musician. Twice he faced food and housing insecurities that tested him as an individual. "I had to rely on the love and generosity of others to get out of a hairy situation", explained Jacob, "but neither time was long because God moved through the love of those around me." As a teenager, he found refuge at St. James where he was first introduced to The Gathering's meal program. He was an active volunteer and felt close to The Gathering's mission. In his twenties Jacob moved to Chicago to pursue his music career. His first album was just released and he chose The Gathering to be one of the recipients of a portion of the proceeds. At just 29 years old, Jacob confidently shares, "I am who I want to be." The Gathering is proud and thankful to be a part of Jacob's journey.

PROGRAM STATISTICS FOR FY2017/2018

July 1 - June 30

78,142 Guests Served:



16,270 Saturday Dinner-to-Go Bags
prepared by 25 different groups

Guests Served

Breakfast - 44,555
Dinner - 10,939
Saturday Lunch - 22,648

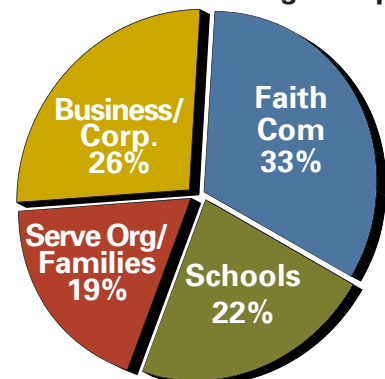
Serving Groups

Business/Corporations - 38
Schools - 33
Faith Communities - 49
Service Org/Families - 29

Donated Food: 240,040 pounds

(120.02 tons) valued at \$269,193
(Hunger Task Force, Feeding America, Starbucks, McDonalds, grocers, bakeries, restaurants, serving groups, food drives, individuals)

149 Volunteer Serving Groups:



98 Leadership Volunteers

provided 4,355 hours of service
valued at \$99,381

REFLECTION

Ginny Schrag, Executive Director

I grew up on a small farm in central Kansas, the only child of parents who both had numerous siblings. It was relatively quiet except when holidays came round and then there could be as many as 20-30 people crammed around tables - lots of laughter and conversation. It was around that table that I learned to sing the doxology in four part harmony, to suffer quietly through my missionary uncles' very long prayers of thankfulness, to pitch a dinner roll from one end of the table to the other - thank you, dad. It was around that table where I learned about crazy great uncle John, and about my parent's childhood

foibles; and it was around that table where I learned who I am. It was lovely.

The Gathering provides such a table. It is around The Gathering table where we get to know names and stories; where we learn that being blessed has very little to do with what we have. It is around The Gathering table where relationships are built and barriers of gender, race and economic status are broken down. It is where we break bread together; it is where we learn who we are. And it is lovely.

Help us continue to provide The Gathering table through a monetary donation: Use the enclosed envelope (*check, cc, cash*); give online at www.thegatheringwis.org; text "gathering" to 501-55 on your mobile device; shop AmazonSmile for the holidays selecting The Gathering as your charity of choice; increase your donation through a Matching Gift (*check with your employer*); and/or host your own fundraiser (*call 414-272-4122 for ideas*). And thank you in advance.

2018 GATHERING GOLF CLASSIC

The 2018 GATHERING GOLF CLASSIC was held on Monday, June 18 at Evergreen Country Club in Elkhorn. Sixty-nine golfers teed off at 1:00 p.m., but unfortunately had to leave the course early due to storms. Thanks to our golfers and event sponsors (listed below) we cleared \$11,900 for our Community Meal Programs. Next year's event is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2019.

GOLD SPONSORS (\$2,500)

KOMATSU



MIKE & GINNY MCBRIDE



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HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSOR



Boucher Hyundai of Waukesha



Golf Registration



Volunteers Amy, Renee and Donna with Gathering Staff, Angela



Joe Graf preparing to head out on the course

OUR DONORS

THE GATHERING BOARD OF DIRECTORS THANKS THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS SUPPORTERS GIVING \$250 OR MORE BETWEEN MAY 1 AND OCTOBER 15, 2018

*We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of all donor names.
If we have missed you or spelled your name incorrectly, please let us know.*

\$25,000 - \$40,000

Emergency Food and Shelter
Program Phase 35
Nicholas Family Foundation

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Gerald and Elaine Mainman

\$10,000 - \$14,999

One Anonymous Donor
Dr. Bronner's Family Foundation
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$250 - \$499

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PUBLICATION INFORMATION

The Gathering Newsletter is a publication of The Gathering, an interfaith meal program carried out by individuals and church, business and civic groups. Its principle mission is to feed the hungry and homeless. The editor welcomes any comments on the content of the newsletter.

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