

UNITED WAY AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY



JOE AND MELISSA

Parents Joe and Melissa work extremely hard to provide food for their two children. In these tough times, it is nearly impossible for them to afford fresh produce to increase the nutritional value of any meal, which has the potential to put their children at a disadvantage when it comes to brain development and physical growth. After learning that fresh produce is available through their neighborhood food pantry thanks to Food Gatherers, Joe and Melissa have been able to promote healthy living and teach their children the benefits of good nutrition.

Stories like this occur every day at one of Food Gatherer's 150+ community programs where local food is distributed.

The recent Food Security Plan created for Washtenaw County identified an alarming gap and need for more fresh produce at local food distribution locations. Only 13% of survey respondents at pantries were eating the recommended daily servings of fruits and vegetables and they cited that access to these foods was limited because of cost.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Food Gatherers, with United Way support, launched a number of initiatives with community gardeners, farmers markets, and their on-site farm to address this gap immediately. The results speak for themselves. Availability of locally grown garden fresh produce has increased 685% since 2008!

Demand for food is increasing, distribution of food is increasing, and United Way support for food needs in the community is a focus.

United
Way



United Way
of Washtenaw County