



Providing Local Fresh Food to People in Need.

A Great Harvest in '08!

The Fresh Food Partnership is connecting pantries with farms to help increase the flow of fresh healthy produce to those in need. Since 2003, we have purchased locally grown food and supplied that food to more than 30 pantries, community meal programs and shelters in Northern Michigan.

Giving fresh food: 60,000+ lbs donated

Even with the cool spring temperatures, this year's harvest turned out to be a plentiful one. We began purchasing the Norconk's delicious asparagus in May and soon saw strawberries from Well's Family Farm and Tom Korson's Picked Today Freshness. Throughout the growing season, we worked with a variety of farmers to purchase a healthy mix of fruits and vegetables.



Several groups, including Oryana, Cherry Capital Foods, the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Station, and the Pugsley Correctional Facility also donated produce. By late fall, our volunteers had delivered more than 60,000 pounds of produce, a record breaker!

Serving those in need: 34 pantries benefit

This growing season, the Fresh Food Partnership donated locally grown produce to 34 pantries in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau Counties. An employee at the Women's Resource Center said, "With the economy the way it is, our money allotted for food doesn't go as far as it used to; the fresh food we have received has helped us with keeping our food costs down while providing a better variety and quality of food in our shelter." We're delighted to help. Everyone needs to eat high quality, fresh foods to support healthy living, regardless of circumstances.

Investing in our local economy: \$25,000 to area farmers

Part of our mission is to support local agriculture. By purchasing locally grown foods, the Fresh Food Partnership invests in the area's agricultural economy. During the 2008 growing season, we purchased food from 18 farms. For example, produce from Sweeter Song Farm in Cedar was purchased for the Empire Food Pantry and Traverse City's Immaculate Conception. The Leelanau Christian Neighbors Food Pantry,

with pantries in Suttons Bay and Northport, received food from Meadowlark Farm. The weekly cornucopia was a blessing to these pantries. Even better, both farms generously donated additional produce to make sure the pantry shelves remained stocked with healthy foods.

Volunteers go the extra mile: Over 80 people donate their time



With the help of our dedicated volunteers, we were able to pick-up food directly from farms and distribute produce throughout the five-county area. In addition, Empty Bowls volunteers helped raise nearly \$11,000. Several great photographers also donated their time and talent. We are very pleased to work with such generous and thoughtful volunteers.

A Community of Generosity– Thank you to all of our supporters!

Youth group digs to donate



A cheerful group gathered on a warm but rainy September day at the Community Gardens in the Grand Traverse Commons. The youth group from the Congregation Ahavat Shalom saved \$300 to donate to a charitable cause. The group organized a you pick activity in conjunction with Little Artshram. Farmer Lou helped the group harvest kale, dig potatoes and pull beets. After collecting over 160 lbs of produce, the group took the freshly picked veggies to the Women's Resource Center, just down the street. It was a wonderful way to connect youth to local farming and hunger in the region. Thank you to all those who contributed to make the day a success!

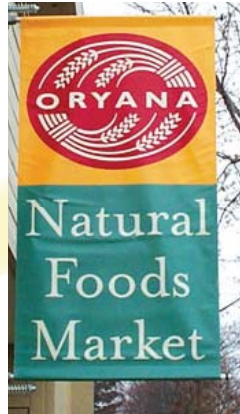
Radish's tips to gifts

The employees of the cozy café, Radish have donated their tips, matched 100% by the owners, to the Fresh Food Partnership. Since their opening this spring, Radish has contributed over \$1,500 to help fight hunger in our region. Radish is making great fresh food available to customers as well as fighting hunger through their contributions.

We greatly appreciated their generosity and creative thinking. Radish is located at 208 S. Union in Traverse City.

Good food for all

The Fresh Food Partnership teamed up with the folks at Oryana to help raise funds and promote awareness of hunger in the region. Our volunteers set up an informational table in the café to let people know about the program. By donating



10% of all sales on that Saturday, August 30th, Oryana contributed \$2,500 to help us purchase local foods. If you stopped in that day, thank you for

supporting your local coop and the Fresh Food Partnership!

Food coalition farm market

The Northwest Food Coalition includes members from pantries, community meal programs, soup kitchens and shelters in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau and Wexford counties. Monthly meetings are held to



coordinate resources, discuss pantry concerns and review hunger issues. These meetings bring pantry workers and volunteers together to discuss how best to meet a regional challenge.

Each month during the growing season, the Fresh Food Partnership organized a “farmers market” for coalition representatives at these meetings. Participants simply take food back to their pantries, meal programs and shelters after each meeting. The farmers saw the joy their produce brought people as well. It was a great way to bring farmers and pantries together and to get fresh food flowing throughout our community.

Join us

Please consider joining us to fight hunger in our region and invest in local agriculture. Financial contributions are a great way to show your support. Additionally, we welcome new volunteers to help us transport food or plan and organize events. Please contact us at (231) 929-3696 or visit us on the web to learn how you can get involved.



www.freshfoodpartnership.org