



MATCHAN MENU

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Gleaners / Kroger

Zero Hunger Zero Waste initiative

The **Kroger Co.** of Michigan, in collaboration with **Gleaners Community Food Bank** of Southeastern Michigan, extended a heartfelt invitation to Kroger customers to contribute and make a difference in nourishing neighbors in need within our communities. **Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste** is a plan to end hunger in local communities and eliminate waste across the company by 2025. As part of their program, during the month of January, customers in 80 Kroger store were asked to contribute non-perishable food items or make a monetary donation to a canister as they depart the store.

Gleaners invited Matchan to be part of this initiative. On the weekend of January 20-21, Kroger shoppers in Orion were greeted on behalf of Matchan by



volunteer students from **Everest Collegiate School**, with a Gleaner's list of needed nutritious foods and personal items to be donated. They collected customer donations on both Saturday and Sunday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Gleaners asked customers to donate items in boxes, cans or plastic containers to prevent breakage during transport.

Gleaner's request list contained nutritious food items and personal care items, including canned meats and fish, canned fruits and vegetables, hearty soups, dried whole grain pasta and rice, baby foods and formula, cereal, oatmeal and granola bars, peanut



butter and/or jelly, pancake and baking mixes, Ensure and other nutritional supplement drinks, toothpaste and toothbrushes, diapers, soap and shampoo, disposable razors and other personal care items. The

donates food was loaded directly into the Matchan van. As the picture shows, the van was filled to the roof. We estimated the collection of food

to be about 3000 pounds, the largest single food collection that Matchan has ever received. It took four men over four hours



to separate and store the food in our small pantry. The picture on the above shows the food waiting on tables to be sorted before it is stored.

The money that was collected went to Gleaners; however, Matchan received an equal amount in Gleaner's credit to be used when purchasing food from Gleaners in the future. As mentioned in Matchan's September 2023 Newsletter, Gleaners is a great source for meat and canned and frozen goods. It collects donated food that agencies can purchase for 18¢ per pound, no matter what the food item is. This is their cost for handling these products. So you can see that having a credit line with Gleaners is a valuable resource.

Matchan is very grateful to both Kroger and Gleaners and proud for being asked to partake in Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste initiative. As **Cam Barrett, Corporate Affairs Manager for The Kroger Co. of Michigan** says, "The effort to overcome food insecurity cannot be won alone—it requires the collective strength of communities and organizations coming together. Together, we're making a difference, one meal at a time, as we strive for a future where no family goes to bed hungry."

We also thank those volunteer students from Everest Collegiate Catholic High School and Academy in Clarkston for giving up their time on Saturday and Sunday (and the first half of the Lion's playoff game) to collect the food at Kroger's.

Bridget and the Lion Hat

Bridget O'Brien Bealin belongs to the **Ladies of Charity** (LOC). If you have followed the Matchan Newsletters for any length of time, you know the LOC have been a major Matchan supporter from almost day one. Bridget guides a group of LOC seamstresses and knitters. Recently she donated a



Lion's hat that was among several hats on which she had worked. The workmanship caught my eye. It was if she were making it for a family member. She,



like many of our volunteers, considers the people we serve as close friends. They aren't the poor and needy, but neighbors. When you visit Matchan, you will see how the dignity of our neighbors is preserved by our volunteers.

During the coronavirus pandemic in April 2020, Bridget Bealin offered to head a committee that produced masks. She began with not just generic masks, but children's masks, which were unavailable at the time. The sewing group grew from 3 members to 10. Some members cut cloth, some sewed, and some did both from their homes. Some of the children's masks were given to our neighbors at Matchan and others to the Great Lakes Academy located in back of Matchan. The first year, over 1300 adult and children's masks were made.

Bridget did not stop there. As the need for masks diminished, her group made hats and scarfs for our neighbors at Matchan. The Lion's hat was in this year's yield. Bridget said more will come. Matchan salutes Bridget for her creative problem solving, and her group at the LOC for their dedication to our neighbor's needs.

Word of Mouth Activity



Kathy Reese, owner of K&K Crafting in Waterford, has a friend, Sabrina Siple. Sabrina works for Comerica and has participated in Comerica's outreach program, in which employees receive paid time off to work for a charity. Matchan is part of Comerica's outreach program, and Sabrina volunteered here last August.

She talked to Kathy about her experiences at Matchan and what she had seen there. Kathy became interested and purchased a car full of toys for the kids who come to Matchan. We at Matchan are very grateful for the donations that come to us. Without

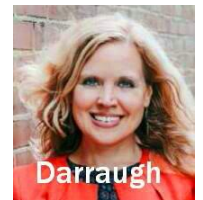
them and our volunteers, we would have no mission. What is more exciting, is that 54% of our donations come from the public—these donations are not coming from St. Vincent de Paul Society connections, the government or foundations. Most of these donations come through word of mouth. We are proud that these people have seen what Matchan does and are convinced that what we do is worthy of their support. To those who support Matchan, thank you.

Food Rescue US

When Iris Rosen came to Matchan Thursday, her car was loaded with 700 pounds of fresh fruits, vegetables and other more stable foods. Terri Faison came on another Thursday with 200 pounds of food. Both are volunteers for Food Rescue US, a nationwide organization founded



in 2011. Darraugh Collins founded the Detroit site in June 2019. Food Rescue's mission is to eliminating hunger and food waste. The organization tracks the number of equivalent meals they provide and the number of tons of CO2 or greenhouse gases that are reduced by keeping the food they collect out of landfills, an interesting byproduct or result that most of us have never thought about. We think about the people we help but not the environment that we are saving.



They connect volunteers and food donors through their proprietary app, to directly transfer nutritious surplus food to Matchan and other social service agencies serving those in need. It is an interesting concept—volunteers choose where they collect the food, to what agency they want to deliver the food, and the date and time that fits their schedule. For example, the volunteer may arrange their pick-up after receiving an email like this:

The following rescue(s) are currently still available for tomorrow:

- ***Whole Foods West Bloomfield to Matchan Nutrition Center (9:00am - 10:00pm)***
- ***Rescue Size: SUV***
- ***Pickup Address: 7350 Orchard Lake Rd, West Bloomfield, MI***
- ***Drop-off Address: 171 W Pike St, Pontiac, MI***

Food Rescue US is a uniquely valuable source of fruits and vegetables. Quite often Matchan has to purchase produce because of a lack of donations. We certainly appreciate people like Iris, Terri and Darraugh who are involved with Food Recue US and have chosen Matchan as one of their agencies. Thank you and see you next Thursday.

Metro Food Rescue



Since 2020, **Metro Food Rescue**, under the direction of **Chad Techner**, has been working hard to combat food waste and to make a positive impact on our community. It “started at **Yad Ezra** and

literally went from Detroit to Pontiac and everywhere in-between,” Chad said in a CBS-TV interview about food-waste. “They had non-perishables that were not kosher,” Techner explained, “so we picked that up and went down to the **Seward Sharing Table**.”* The Seward Sharing Table is a tent in Detroit’s New Center neighborhood where the community can drop off food for people in need.

Our Matchan’s September Newsletter talked about **Gleaner’s** Catholic roots—they were founded by Gene Gonya, a former Catholic Jesuit Brother. I think it is interesting that we see Metro Food Rescue having Jewish roots, having been founded by Chad Techner, who worked at the **Ira Kaufman Chapel** and serves on the Geshar Human Services executive board.

Metro Food Rescue started with a simple idea: **WASTE LESS. FEED MORE.** They currently have 2 trucks on the road 6 days a week, picking up food from 27 locations and dropping food off at more than 50 partner food banks.

Matchan is one of their stops. It is nice to know that each week we can depend on Metro Food Rescue to deliver over 300 loaves of bakery products, such as different whole grains **Brownberry** breads, **Rustik** Oven artisan breads (these are \$5 a loaf at your



Kroger store) and **Thomas** products like various bagels, **Swirl Cinnamon Raisin bread** and all types of **English muffins**. There are also soft sliced breads that our neighbor with unhealthy

teeth can chew.

The book of **Deuteronomy 8:3** and the book of **Matthew 4:4** say, “Man does not live on bread alone...” but it sure tastes good to our neighbors smothered with peanut butter and jelly. Matchan thanks Metro Food Rescue and their dedicated volunteers for their unfailing deliveries come rain or shine.

* **The Jewish News**, 6/22/23

Beverly School Children

Now that we’ve talked about Matchan’s largest ever food drive, let’s talk about a smaller food drive that is just as important. Back in 2020, **Mrs. Hausman**, a teacher at **Beverly School** in Beverly Hills, Michigan, contacted Matchan. She said that the kindergartner students were holding their annual food drive and would like to donate the food to Matchan that year.

She was hoping that we would be able to come some morning to talk with the Kindergarten students. She wanted to share how some people need help buying groceries and how Matchan helps them.

It went something like this. Matchan is like a restaurant—we cook dinners for people, but it doesn’t cost them any money. We are like a grocery store—but the food is free. How many students had eaten breakfast today? Where did the food come from? Do you think it was free or did your Mom have to buy it? What if you had no money? Some people are like that. We talked about how they would be helping people who didn’t have what they have, with their food drive. Although kindergartners don’t have a long attention span, they seemed to be very interested.

Last year, Matchan made a video thanking the kids for their help and showing them where their food went and how it helped people in need.

Matchan certainly can use the food, but our relationship with the community is more rewarding to us. We’re hoping to give these school children some understanding of what they have and how they can share with others. Maybe parents will be interested and empathetic when their children come home from school and ask for a can of food so they can help some other children who may be hungry.

We thank **Erin Gottesman**, Community School Organizer, this year and the teachers at Beverly School for continuing this worthy project and thinking of Matchan as the benefactor. We hope the children took home something for the whole family to ponder.

Matchan Nutrition Center
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
P.O.Box 430954
Pontiac, MI 48343

Return Service
Requested



He is not here; He has risen, just as He said.

Save The Date:

Easter Ham Drive

14th Annual Easter Ham Drive sponsored by the **Ladies of Charity (LOC)** for the Matchan Nutrition Center is coming up on March 25th. The LOC and **Our Lady Queen of Martyrs (OLQM)** parishioners drop off hams in the OLQM parking lot (in Beverly Hills) from 9 AM until 11AM. **All are invited.**

The First Easter Sunday



The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where he lay. He has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." (Matthew 28:5-6)

The Matchan Nutrition Center

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization sponsored by Oakland County District of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Take a look at the Matchan website at <http://www.matchannutritioncenter.org/>. It is a story book about the Matchan Nutrition Center.

Find out how you can help with your time and talents.

If you are able and we have convinced you that what we do is worthy of your support, you can help financially by making a donation on line or mail it to: **Matchan Nutrition Center, PO Box 430954, Pontiac, MI 48343.**

Send comments to: matchan.svd@gmail.com