



November 1, 2020

Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for your generous support of My Father's Business! You may not realize it, but you – your time, effort, thoughtfulness, generosity, love and encouragement – are what sustain us. You evidence God's blessings on his work here and allow us to continue to share those blessings with others.

At the beginning of this year, we operated as a relationally-focused, client-choice pantry serving an average of 85-90 individuals and their families each month. Our enrollees were able to select their own food and personal items, and we were able to spend time with each person building relationships of trust, respect and genuine affection. We were privileged to cry with, pray for, and celebrate life events together. We all, clients and volunteers alike, could feel and see God's Spirit move in every part of our time together.

Then, in March of this year, we had to change how we operate and needed to do so quickly. It is a testament to the faithfulness and ingenuity of our volunteers that it got done in less than 2 weeks time allowing us to continue serving without interruption. It is a testament to the importance of the contributions we receive that we've been able to source and provide good products to distribute with no decrease in quantity or quality. It is a testament to our God, who knew exactly what we'd need and provided it ahead of time ~ and it is our praise and joy that He continues to do so week in and week out!

Of the 80+ choice-pantries that were operating in SE Michigan at the start of the year, COVID-related lack of resources, limited volunteer support, and/or unavailable space for safe distancing meant that nearly 70% were unable to continue serving their community. God moving hearts like yours to give into and pray over us is how we have been able to provide for our MFB families, those coming from now-closed pantries, and to those needing help for the first time.

From that first outdoor drive-up distribution, we have refined our process to be able to provide pre-packed and fresh food for up to 95+ families each 2nd and 4th Saturday. This is done safely and efficiently, and still allows our volunteers to provide distanced encouragement and prayer when needed. 😊 That is what God can do!!

Following this letter you'll find some information about how we've moved through this year and how far your donations are reaching. I wish we could also share the cards, letters, air-hugs, and heartfelt expression of gratitude we've received. We may have gotten to open the card or letter or heard their appreciation, but they were written and said to those who make all of MFB possible. We join them in saying Thank You!!

MFB has committed to maintaining our distanced distribution model through December, with the strong likelihood of continuing into 2021. Please keep us in your prayers – for discernment, continued provision, and protection of health, heart and spirit – as we pray the same for you.

In His love,

Christina Gaitley
Director, My Father's Business

MFB - COVID Response 2020 Timeline

- March 14 First outdoor distribution – many clients thought we would be closed due to COVID. We began serving at 9:00am and by 11:30 closing had provided to 48 households, the majority of whom were senior citizen in our regular service area.
- April 25, 2020 Refined distribution process in place and over 70 households served, representing 170+ people receiving much needed food and personal provisions. In the very brief registration process, we found nearly half were new to MFB and many of those were attending a food pantry for the first time.
- June 7, 2020 First Drive-Thru Food Drive – Car after car of beautiful Grace and community donors came to safely drop off hundreds of bags of food to restock the MFB shelves and prepare for the coming months!!
- June 26, 2020 Small group of volunteers meet (as they do every Friday before an open pantry date) to pre-pack non-perishable food, personal & cleaning items. Decision made to increase number of prepared allocations to 90... “just in case”.
- June 27, 2020 Highest attendance this summer with 89 families/274 people provided for – and nearly 50 of those coming to MFB for the first time. Who knew?!? God did!
- July 25, 2020 At the end of July, MFB had been able to bless over 280 different households; some coming just one time due to a short-term emergency, some needing more consistent help, and others helping elderly/quarantined family or neighbors.
- September 26, 2020 Just two months later our impact has increased to over 350 households! That’s more than 850 men, women and children blessed by your generosity and reminded of God’s love.

Throughout these months we’ve been sustained by the dedication, organization, hours and prayers of our remarkable volunteers, been recognized for excellence in our process by Gleaners Community Food Bank of SE Michigan, and had the ongoing support of our Grace leadership and church family (yup, that’s you).

With your help we’ve placed 6+ bags of groceries, personal/cleaning products, fresh produce and community resources information into the trunks and back seats of cars over 900 times. That’s nearly 6,100 pre-packed bags and boxes of provisions containing more than 30,000 items... No matter how you add it up, we could not have done it without our God’s grace and the blessing of every one of you.

Thank you for believing with us in the business of our Father and contributing to the ongoing mission to:

Show Love ~ Share Truth ~ Feed Lives
