



FOOD ACCESS

HEALTHFUL FOOD FOR ALL

Northwest Michigan is an agricultural wonderland full of enough healthful food to fill the plates of everyone in our community. However, existing barriers and lack of awareness of these barriers make it difficult for many of our neighbors to access this cornucopia. With our region's dedicated farming community and innovative food programs, we can work together to overcome these barriers and secure healthful food for all.

DIRECT FROM FARMERS TO PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES

In 2014, 528,767 visits were made to 70 pantries and meal sites throughout Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, and Wexford counties serving families in need. In 2014, the Benzie Sunrise Rotary Club conducted a study on food insecurity in northwest Michigan and found that 14% of pantries and meal sites received donations of fresh produce directly from farmers. This increased to 56% in 2015 in large part due to increased awareness of hunger, increased efforts by Food Rescue and area pantries as well as the creation of gleaning programs such as Healthy Harvest, which partners with Food Rescue, local Rotary clubs and area farmers to gather produce that would otherwise go to waste. The amount of produce food pantries and meal sites purchased from local farms also increased from 17% in 2014 to 40% in 2015.

Source: Northwest Food Coalition, Food Security Study

GETTING LOCAL PRODUCE ONTO THE PLATES OF OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

