

ANNUAL REPORT



ALLEN
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

2020

2019 At-a-Glance in Num-

- 255 volunteer contributed 1,200 hours of time!
- 60,000 pounds of produce and bread products were distributed at Breadbasket Food Pantry.
- 420 youth, ages 5 -17, participated in our Youth Programs.
- 331 neighbors were enrolled in health coverage, food assistance, & basic needs.
- Hunter Park GardenHouse held 11 workshops attended by 189 neighbors.
- The Allen Farmers Market drew 18,057 patrons in 2020.
- 40 food entrepreneurs have started their business in the ANC Kitchens in the last 5 years.
- The Exchange Food Hub had gross sales of \$631,014, of which 85% went to local farmers and producers.
- 98 Market Walk participants walked 2,715 miles during the summer.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission.....	4
Letter from Director and Board President	5
Board Members.....	6 & 7
Outreach	8 & 9
Farmers Market.....	10
Breadbasket.....	11
Allen Market Place	12
Exchange.....	13
Hunter Park GardenHouse	14
Youth Programs	15
Friendraising.....	16
Funds.....	17
Donors	18-21
Allen Place.....	22-23

MISSION

Allen Neighborhood Center is a place-based, non-profit organization that serves as a hub for neighborhood revitalization and for activities that promote the health and well-being of Lansing's Eastside community and other stakeholders.

For over 20 years, ANC has pioneered successful programs in health education and outreach, food security and nutrition education, youth development, commercial corridor revitalization, and social capital building— all with the generous support of an engaged and lively Eastside Neighborhood.



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

2020 was unprecedented and sobering. Like neighborhoods nearly everywhere, the Eastside struggled with COVID-related hardships: illness, suffering, lay-offs, job uncertainty, and small business losses. Further, these and other events dramatically underscored the persistent, systemic racial, economic and health disparities in our community. On top of all of this, we spent much of the year in a construction zone, making steady progress on our Allen Place development. Here are highlights of our response to the challenges of 2020.

Programming in 2020: Given our focus on 'essential services', we opted to remain open almost all year. We are grateful to the dedicated staff and volunteers who persevered so that we could continue to offer our Breadbasket Pantry, health enrollment services, Allen Farmers Market (on MI Ave. all summer and fall!), our Incubator Kitchen Program, and the Veggie Box Program (a 30-farm CSA). We were able to continue linking neighbors with housing and utilities resources, often over the phone, and to help them complete unemployment applications. Not surprisingly, the programs that took the hardest hit were our youth programs, senior program, and rental of our event space for larger gatherings. In the pages of this Report, you can read details about all of our program offerings.

Creating Allen Place: Last summer, we closed on our financing for the \$11M Allen Place development and shortly thereafter began serious construction. We took down a couple of buildings on the east end of the complex and did interior deconstruction of the 2nd floor of the current building. Before the end of 2020, we made good progress on building an Accelerator Kitchen (opening March '21) for four graduates of our Incubator program and laid foundations for a new Wash-Pack Kitchen to accommodate the growing number of Veggie Box subscribers. The final touch will be the construction of a new 3-story, 10, 000 square foot building featuring 21 age-friendly and mixed income apartments and several more health and food-related entities on the ground floor. Grand opening of the entire complex is projected to take place in fall of 2021. We are so very grateful for our co-development partner, Cinnaire Solutions, and for the many generous funders and donors, listed in this report, who have invested in this transformative project.

The Next Five Years: ANC's board and staff crafted our **2021-2025 Strategic Plan** to reflect the fairly profound changes brought about by the Allen Place development and to create specific diversity, equity and inclusion strategies within each one of our programs. A short version of the plan is on our website; with full length version available upon request.

In the coming months, we look forward to integrating new residents and businesses into the lively milieu that is our block, and to the Eastside in general. We are so very grateful for the support of our generous community; and we look forward to working with our neighbors, partners, and stakeholders as we work to create a resilient, equitable, and welcoming Eastside!

Warm regards,

Jonathan Lum

President, Board of Directors
Allen Neighborhood Center

Joan Nelson

Executive Director
Allen Neighborhood Center

ANC BOARD MEMBERS



Jonathan Lum
President



Janet Kincaid



Rebecca Bahar-Cook
Secretary



Andy Draheim
Treasurer



Rick Kibbey
Founding Member



Sarah Schillio
Member



Jennie Gies
Member



Abby Harper
Member



Kristina Sankar
Member

ANC BOARD MEMBERS



Mary Miner
Member



Joan Nelson
Staff to Board



Yvette Collins



Greg Farhat
Member

ANCSTAFF

Joan Nelson, Executive Director
Joseph Enerson, Finance & Business Manager
Denise Paquette, Outreach Director
Egypt Krohn, GardenHouse Director
Ashley Bellant, Volunteer & Youth Programs Coordinator
Julia Kramer, Farmers Market & Breadbasket Manager
Kat Logan, Exchange Manager
Matt Jones, Kitchen and Facilities Manager
AmeriCorps Members: Kristen Warner, Dinah George



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

COVID-19 closed the Outreach and Engagement Office for a short time, and also had fewer appointments due to the pandemic. Throughout the year the O&E team continued to provide health enrollment services to neighbors (Medicaid, Ingham Health Plan, IHP -Dental, Affordable Care Act), assistance in connecting with a medical home, and links to a wide range of public health, housing, and human services, through telephone and zoom meetings. Our Senior Discovery Group chose to suspend meetings until most have been vaccinated. SDG members receive a weekly newsletter to help stay connected.

In 2020 we began a grant with MSHDA to help homeowners with health, safety and façade improvements. To date we have helped local homeowners with porch, plumbing, and sewer repairs. We are thankful to bring these resources to our neighbors in partnership with MSHDA.

Our Outreach and Engagement team manages ANC's communications:

- Active Neighboring News, a weekly e-bulletin, sent to over 2,900 people.
- The Eastside Neighbor, our print newsletter, delivered to 3,500 households.
- Our richly-detailed website, www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org.
- Multiple Facebook pages and Instagram accounts.

ANC's Outreach
team
neighbors enrolled

331

neighbors in health
coverage, food
assistance, and
State Emergency
Relief.



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

2,715

miles walked by
Market Walk
participants
between June and
September by

98

walkers

Market Walk adapted to include an individual walking session as well as the twice weekly facilitated sessions. Hunter Park hosted the Tuesday and Thursday evening sessions and walkers used a phone app to track miles over the weekend. Market Walkers even clean up the Park as they walk!

In 2020 we hosted our Hot Chocolate Stroll. We had over 50 walkers on a bright February day, including parents with children in strollers.

THANK YOU to Blue Cross Blue Shield for generous support of Market Walk.



The **Senior Discovery Group** meets every Wednesday morning for “pretty good coffee and great conversation.” In 2020, meetings were suspended due to COVID-19 concerns. We stayed connected through weekly newsletters and emails. We all look forward to once again meeting in-person. This lively group is open to anyone over 50 or to guests interested in a specific topic.



ALLEN FARMERS MARKET



We had already planned to temporarily change locations in 2020 due to construction beginning on our new Allen Place development, and then the pandemic disrupted all our lives and created even more opportunities for adaptation.

The outdoor market season had the highest attendance in recent history. There are a number of factors contributing to this helpful trend:

1. Highly visible location at 2100 E Michigan Avenue (big thanks to Spadafore Distributing for use of their lot);
2. People receiving the maximum amount of SNAP/EBT benefits as pandemic relief (total sales \$15,371);
3. Elimination of the cap on how much Double Up Food Bucks folks can earn at farmers markets (total sales \$13936);
4. Increased interest in and media coverage of local food access due to disruptions in our food system caused by the pandemic.

Total Market attendance

18,057

Total Outdoor Market attendance

14,000

an increase of 1,500 people

Total market tokens and vouchers redeemed
May—Nov with vendors in
2020:

\$76,000

A 55% increase from 2019
Note: This does not include cash transactions



BREADBASKET FOOD PANTRY



Breadbasket Food Pantry has been assisting vulnerable neighbors with access to emergency food since early 2000. We distributed nearly 60,000 pounds of fresh produce, baked goods, and various food items donated from the Greater Lansing Food Bank, Panera, Fresh Thyme, and Bake N Cakes. We adapted this program to continue to offer a choice pantry with new public safety guidelines to protect our neighbors, volunteers, and staff from COVID-19.

60,000

pounds of food, valued at \$1.92/lb, or \$115,200, was distributed to 355 unique neighbors, who visited Breadbasket 2,700 times.



ALLEN MARKET PLACE

The AMP features three Shared-Use Commercial Kitchens. The fully equipped Cooking Kitchen supports food entrepreneurship, nutrition education, culinary job skill training, and cooking classes that celebrate the diverse foodways and cuisine of the Eastside. The Wash-Pack Kitchen offers cold and dry storage for use by producers, farmers, and food truck operators. Our Kitchen Incubator Program uses these to provide affordable hourly rental and business development support for entrepreneurs. And the Next-Step Accelerator Kitchen was constructed in 2020. It is set up for four graduates of our Kitchen Incubator Program to take up residence with access to personal dedicated prep space, storage space, and a brand new storefront on our block. It is an intermediate step between the Kitchen Incubator Program and owning/operating one's own establishment,



In 7 years,
Entrepreneurs
have been
comprised of
52%

women-owned
businesses and

43%

minority-
owned businesses



The Kitchen Incubator Program has seen 56 entry-level food entrepreneurs

use our kitchens. 26% have graduated and opened their own establishments or moved to a large-scale packing facility. Several others have joined restaurants as executive chefs. Even with the challenge of Covid-19, the kitchens still saw an increase in their hourly usage as makers adapted.

FOOD HUB

The AMP facility also supports our robust Food Hub, providing aggregation and distribution for mid-Michigan farmers and food producers (including the growing number of small urban farmers in Lansing).

The most prominent aspect of the Food Hub is the Veggie Box program, a multi-farm CSA that offers complimentary worksite delivery. CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture, and this model helps to keep sustainable farming a viable way of life for small-scale family farms that are increasingly threatened by large-scale agribusiness. Our model is a multi-farm CSA that unites several growers to feed a common community. It provides the advantages of a traditional CSA, but also highlights crop diversity, minimizes risks and burden, and offers a more cooperative feel. In 2020 we supplied fresh, nutritionally-dense produce to 605 members over the span of 40 weeks; we distributed over 60,000 pounds, 30 tons, of local food to Metro Lansing.



Gross sales to date:
\$631,014
of which 85% goes to
local farmers/
producers/suppliers.



The Food Hub saw an increase in sales between 2019 and 2020, yielding a yearly revenue of nearly \$200,000. Veggie Box membership has grown by over 2500% since

HUNTER PARK GARDENHOUSE

The **Hunter Park GardenHouse** is a hub for year-round farm & garden education, where neighbors volunteer to grow food, flowers, and community. The GardenHouse empowers neighbors to grow, prepare, and eat healthy food to better their health and connect with the community. We are open 5 days a week and offer a wide assortment of programs and services.

Like everyone, we found ourselves adapting to meet the unique challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We canceled several workshops, and moved others online. We closed to volunteers for much of the year, working with a small crew of staff and interns to keep the farm running and continue providing direct food relief to our neighbors through Edible Park. We re-envisioned programs and events to safely serve our neighbors. We even managed to forge some exciting new relationships!

Wildflower Garden

In May of 2020 we installed a 2,338 square foot native flower garden, with funding from the Wildflower Association of Michigan and the City of Lansing Neighborhoods In Bloom Program.

This garden features 21 species of native plants and flowers, and will serve as an educational and demonstration garden for years to come.



We enrolled 31
Urban
Gardeners in
our training
program in
2020

189

people
attended
different
GardenHouse
workshops,

We grew thousands of food for sale to Veggie Box, and maintained a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables available for free direct harvest in Edible Park! We estimate production of at least 5,000 pounds of food.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Grow-A-Row

In our search for socially distanced service opportunities, we launched a new Global Youth Service Day project in 2020: the Grow-A-Row commitment drive! Grow-A-Row is a people-helping-people program spearheaded by the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Home gardeners commit to donate a portion of their harvest to local food pantries and soup kitchens. The GardenHouse ran a commitment drive, urging neighbors to sign up for the program. We distributed free garden plant kits to all who registered. We had 41 families register, including 46 youth gardening volunteers, and distributed 53 plant kits in 2020.



Allen Neighborhood Center has worked to empower Eastside youth since its inception in 1999. Following a few months of adjustment and focus on securing neighbors' most basic needs during this unforeseen health and economic crisis, ANC staff were ready to innovate and continue offering services to our youngest Eastsiders.

In lieu of its Take Root Garden Club and Youth Service Corps programs, ANC began offering one-hour outdoor youth sessions at Hunter Park. ANC weatherized its outdoor classroom at Hunter Park in order to offer educational programming to self-determined "pods" in an open-air, well-ventilated setting, with mask-wearing and hand-washing. Youth learn age-appropriate botany, naturalist, and art skills while observing CDC and MDHHS best practices in minimizing virus transmission risks.



FRIENDRAISING



In this tough year, Allen Neighborhood Center has been so well served by its dedicated interns and volunteers. Stepping up to ensure continued operation of ANC's essential programs, volunteers donned masks and gloves while maintaining their distance to distribute food, disseminate vital public health information, and continue safely building community. We missed our large volunteer groups and can't wait to reconnect when it is safe to do so.

In 2020,
225
individuals
volunteered with
ANC, contributing
more than
1,200
hours of service.



FUNDS

Sources of Funds 2019

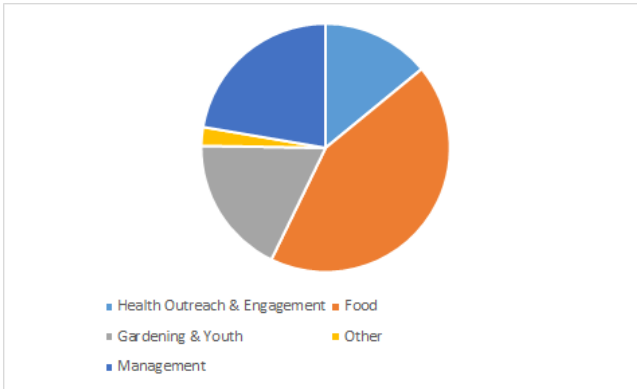
(Audit took place April 2020)

Source	Amount (\$)
Grant Income	\$321,543
Program Income	\$298,609
Contributions and Fundraising	\$ 85,789
Other	\$ 545
TOTAL	\$706,486

Operating Costs 2019

(Audit took place April 2020)

Source	Amount (\$)
Housing, Health, Family, & Community Building Services	\$521,088
Management and General	\$153,720
Fundraising	\$ 16,761
TOTAL	\$691,569



Estimated Costs & Sources of Funding for 2019:

Jan. 1, 2019– Dec. 31, 2019

\$1,055,102

Thanks to our generous

Louise Alderson & Tom Hoisington	Iris & David Horner
Brain Baer	Richard Jeeter
Dick Baker	Douglas & Katharine Johnson
David Baur	Dorothy Joseph
Gannon Burgett	Robert Joseph
Sheryl Childs	Douglas & Katharine Johnson
James Clift & Wendi Tildon	Andy & Kathryn Kilpatrick
Sherry Crank	Corbin Livingston & Erik Neiser
Laura & Doug Delind	Viki Lorraine
Debbie Diesen	Sugandha Lowhim
Andy & Shanna Draheim	Jon Lum
Steve Esquith & Christine Worland	Mary Jo Lum
Catherine Ferguson	Elizabeth Lyons
Hi Fitzgerald	Tim Makinen
Mary Fletcher	Mike Marhanka
Nancy Fontus	Joe Marutiak and Annemarie
Sean Forner & Karrin Hanshaw	Vanderwaerden
Kali Fox	Deborah McMartin-Finkel
Ann Francis	Ron and Suzanne Miel-Uken
Marilyn Frye	Melissa Moorehead
Kelly Funk & Cynthia Lockington	Ben Mosher
Kristin Gaumer	Dave and Carrie Muylle
Catherine Grosso	Debra Nolan
Tom & Mary Heideman	Katherine O'Neill
Iris & David Horner	Robert Peña

Individual Supporters!

Bill Perrone

Paul Pratt & Denise Chrysler

Cat and Paul Rathbun

Lynette Rhodes

Michael Rhodes

Diane Ross

Sarah Schillio & John Lindenmayer

Andy Schor

John Shaski

Mary Ellen Sheets

Susan Slovinski

Patricia Spitzley

Mark & Ellen Sullivan

Bob & Renee Swanson

David & Pam Thelan

Paul & Diane Thomson

Elin Thorlund

Sheila Troxel

Rhea Van Atta

Dave & Bev Wiener

John & Carolyn Willoughby

Tom & Anne Woiwode

Ron & Winalee Zeeb

Anonymous donors

Thanks to our

Funders & Sponsors

American Heart Association	Ingham County Land Bank
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Ingham County Treasurer
Blue Cross Complete	IBEW, Local 352 and 665
BWL	Junior League
Capital Area United Way	LAFCU
Capital Area Transportation Authority	Lake Trust Credit Union
Capital Region Community Foundation	Lansing Art Glass
CASE Credit Union	LEAP
City of Lansing	Loomis Attorneys at Law
Consumers Energy	McLaren Health Plan
David Grimshaw	MEDC
Dykema	Michigan Community Resources
Dean Transportation	Michigan Community Service Commission
Exit Realty	Michigan Good Food Fund
Foresight Group	MSUFCU
Gabriels Community Credit Union	Neogen
Gannett Foundation	Joe D. Pentecost Foundation
The Gillespie Group	PNC
Granger Foundation Fund	Preuss Pets
Greater Lansing Regional Incubation Network	Power of We Consortium
Green Dot Stables	R.E. Olds Foundation
Greenstone Farm Credit Services	Sisters of Mercy
Hammond Farms	Strange Matter Coffee Company
Ingham County Health Department	Sparrow Health System
	Two Men and a Truck
	USDA
	Van Atta's Greenhouse and

Generous Supporters!

Lansing Eastside Giving Society

LEGS members are a category of donors who value neighborhood-driven, transformative change and seek to provide predictable and steadfast support for its continuation through multi-year pledges.

Steve Boehm & Janet
Kincaid
Jack & Sue Davis
Gabriels Community Credit
Union
Jennie Gies
The Gillespie Company
Grau Interpersonal
Communication
Leonard & the late Carole
Grau
Stephanie & Jon Heller
Jeremy Herliczek
Bob & Mary Hutchins
Peter Jones
The Kak Network
Paul & Rebecca Kennedy
Nancy McCrohan
MSUFCU
Neogen
Joann Neuroth & Carolyn
Lejuste
Jim Noble
Joe D. Pentecost Foundation
R.E. Olds Foundation

Kristina & Pratap Sankar
Abby Schwartz
Sparrow Health System
Barbara Starling
Urban Systems
Jody Washington

ALLEN PLACE



The Allen Place project envisions the conversion of the current complex into Allen Place, a comprehensive community space that will provide 21 units of age-friendly, mixed-income housing along with health and food focused commercial space, integrative services, and programming.

ALLEN PLACE

Development Partners



Funding Partners





ALLEN
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

1611 E. Kalamazoo St.

Lansing, MI 48912

517.367.2468

www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org

Facebook.com/AllenNeighborhoodCenter/

Instagram: [allenneighborhoodcenter](https://www.instagram.com/allenneighborhoodcenter)