

ANNUAL REPORT



ALLEN

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

2021

2021 by the Numbers!

- 206 volunteer contributed 5,886 hours of time!
- 63,791 pounds of produce and bread products were distributed at Breadbasket Food Pantry.
- 331 neighbors were enrolled in health coverage, food assistance, & basic needs.
- Hunter Park GardenHouse held 9 workshops attended by 117 neighbors.
- The Allen Farmers Market drew 18,000 patrons in 2021.
- 69 food entrepreneurs have started their business in the ANC Kitchens in the last 6 years.
- The Rathbun Accelerator launched with 4 food entrepreneurs sharing restaurant space.
- The Food Hub had gross sales of \$830,553 since 2015, of which 85% went to local farmers and producers.
- 128 Market Walk participants walked 2,644 miles during the summer.

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MISSION

Allen Neighborhood Center (ANC) serves as a dynamic hub where Lansing Eastside neighbors can access resources to improve their health and well-being; expand their capacity to seize job and entrepreneurial opportunities; create a strong sense of place, belonging, and community pride; and build a safe, sustainable, and thriving neighborhood.

Before



After



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

In 2021, we made substantial progress on the development of Allen Place and, after nearly 3 years, construction is almost complete!

- The **Rathbun Accelerator Kitchen** opened in March '21 with four graduates of our Incubator Kitchen Program;
- The **Prep and Pack Kitchen, Nourished by AF Group** opened in July '21 to provide a home to our rapidly growing Veggie Box Program. (30 farms/ vendors and 600 members in a COVID year!)
- The **Apartments at Allen Place** opened in mid-November and are now completely full.
- Still left to complete are **ELFCO Food Co-op and Consignment Grocery**, opening in August '22 and an **Ingham Health Centers Clinic and Pharmacy**, opening in July.

We so appreciate your patience, support, and participation in our programs despite the twin challenges of COVID and Construction for a second long year. Allen Neighborhood Center (ANC) stayed open throughout the pandemic, offering our 'essential' food and health-related programs, albeit with stringent safety protocols. Interestingly, involvement in many of our programs- Farmers Market, Veggie Box, Health Enrollment, Market Walk – grew substantially in both 2020 and 2021.

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. Our hope is that Allen Place, with its co-location of housing, grocery store, clinic, eateries, pharmacy, Market, entrepreneurial support, and classes will provide many new opportunities to bring neighbors together.

Warm regards,

Jonathan Lum

President, Board of Directors
Allen Neighborhood Center

Joan Nelson

Executive Director
Allen Neighborhood Center

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President



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Vice President



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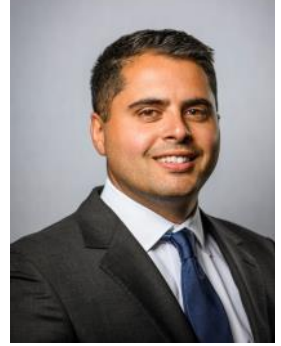
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Member



Yvette Collins
Member



Greg Farhat
Member



Andi Crawford
Member



Joan Nelson
Staff to Board

ANCSTAFF

Joan Nelson, Executive Director
Joseph Enerson, Finance & Business Manager
Denise Paquette, Outreach Director
Egypt Krohn, GardenHouse Director
Zack Whaley, Volunteer & Communications Manager
Julia Kramer, Farmers Market & Breadbasket Manager
Kat Logan, Food Hub Manager
Matt Jones, Kitchen and Facilities Manager
Kelsi Smith, Gardening Educator & Youth Program Manager
AmeriCorps Members: Rachel Redpath, James Rawson
Tom Martin, GardenHouse Assistant Manager



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Throughout 2021, our **Outreach and Engagement** team provided 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, unemployment claims, and human services. Other programs include Senior Discovery Group and Market Walk (our integrated food and fitness initiative in which participants earn tokens to our Farmers Market).

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 so pleased 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 3,000 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, housing
assistance, State
Emergency Relief,
and unemployment
claims.



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

2,644

miles walked by
Market Walk
participants
between June and
August by

128

walkers

Market Walk included two weekly in-person sessions as well as virtual sessions this year. Ten walkers walked over 100 miles and 14 youth walked at least 15 miles. Market Walkers even clean up the Park as they walk!

In the Fall, we offered Market Moves. An hour long weekly exercise class, with an average of 12 attendees who wanted to keep moving as the weather cooled.

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



The **Senior Discovery Group** began meeting in August 2021 after a 17 month break due to the COVID pandemic. They meet every Wednesday morning for “pretty good coffee and great conversation.” We continue to stay connected with weekly SDG e-newsletter, especially for those who can’t make meetings. This lively group is open to anyone over 50 or to guests interested in a specific topic.



ALLEN FARMERS MARKET



We were off site again this year due to construction at Allen Neighborhood Center at a highly visible location at 2100 E Michigan Avenue. Big thank you to Spadafore Distributing for offering to let us use their lot!

The market drew nearly **18,000 people throughout the whole year** with an average of 160 shoppers visiting

during the indoor season and 520 shoppers visiting during the outdoor season. We continued to offer a safe and stable venue throughout continued construction and the pandemic, which helped keep our attendance stable two years in a row.

Between all of the varied forms of currency accepted at our Market Bank, including credit cards, SNAP/EBT (plus Double Up Food Bucks), Senior and WIC Market FRESH coupons, and Market Walk incentive vouchers, the total documentable **sales for the year was \$93,365 (an increase of about \$5,000)**! This does not include cash transactions.



Total market tokens and vouchers redeemed with vendors in 2021:

\$93,365

A 19.5% increase from 2020

Note: This does not include cash transactions which we believed accounts for 75% of money spent in our market.



BREADBASKET FOOD PANTRY



Breadbasket Food Pantry 229 unique individuals visited over 2784 times, averaging between 50-60 people each week. We distributed nearly 63,791 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 continued to adapt this program to offer a choice pantry while maintaining new public safety guidelines to protect our neighbors, volunteers, and staff from COVID-19.

63,791

pounds of food, valued at \$1.92/lb, or \$122,480, was distributed to 229 unique families, who visited Breadbasket 2,784 times.



SHARED USE KITCHENS

Our facilities house multiple Shared-Use Kitchens for different parts of the Kitchen Incubator Program. The fully equipped **Maker Kitchen, Powered by Lake Trust** 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 food entrepreneurs.



In 2021, we opened the **Rathbun Accelerator Kitchen**. It is set up for four graduates of the Maker Kitchen 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 66 entry-level food entrepreneurs use our kitchens since opening in 2014. 25% have graduated and opened their own establishments or moved to a large-scale packing facility. Several others have joined restaurants as executive chefs. Our Kitchens saw the most activity to date in 2021.

FOOD HUB

The AMP facility also supports our robust Food Hub, providing aggregation and distribution for mid-Michigan farmers and food producers out of the **Prep and Pack Kitchen, Nourished by AF Group.**

The most prominent aspect of the Food Hub is the Veggie Box program, a multi-farm CSA that unites dozens of suppliers to feed a common community. The goal of Veggie Box is to create a more holistic and resilient community that prioritizes supporting local. We strive to have significant long-term impacts on mid-Michigan's food system: substantial economic benefits for local farmers and food producers, and hundreds of people who have access to nutritionally-dense, local food. But even more than this, we hope to nurture a sense of place and belonging between both members and suppliers.

In 2021 we supplied fresh, nutritionally-dense produce to 630 members over the span of 40 weeks. We strongly believe that everyone should have access to nutritionally dense, local food, especially those who experience poverty and food insecurity. That's why in 2021 we offered: 60 free shares to refugee families in partnership with the Refugee Development Center, 38 subsidized shares for folks who were experiencing hardship, and 16 shares for folks who wanted to pay using SNAP benefits.



Gross sales since
2015:

\$830,553.45

of which 85% goes to
local farmers,
producers, suppliers.



Donors in 2021 included AF Group, Emergent BioSolutions, Sparrow Health System, and Magna Dexsys. Plus dozens of individual Veggie Box Members who donated back to the Subsidized Veggie Box Program.

HUNTER PARK GARDENHOUSE

The **Hunter Park GardenHouse** is a hub for year-round farm & garden education, with the mission of improving community food sovereignty through education and engagement. We seek to help neighbors grow food and community!

Seed Library

We launched our Free Native Seed Library in 2021. This project involves collecting seed from our native flower gardens in the park, cleaning and packaging the seed, and distributing it for free to neighbors along with growing instructions and supplies. We started the library with 599 seed packets featuring 19 different native plant species. All seeds were distributed within a matter of weeks!

Anishinaabemowin Language Project

The GardenHouse has been working to expand collaborations with our neighbors, Giitigan, an Anishinaabe community garden and cultural center. We began an Anishinaabemowin language project featuring the traditional Anishinaabe names of many of the plants featured in Edible Park and the Wildflower Demonstration Garden.

Plant Sales

HPGH sold 2,175 HPGH grown plants and 275 Giitigan grown plants in Spring Plant Sale. We sold 2318 native plants in our fall plant sale, and donated over 800 plants to neighbors and organizations.



We harvested 5,675 pounds of food in 2021. 2,542 pounds of that went directly to neighbors free of charge, and the rest was distributed through Veggie Box. We also maintained a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables available for free direct harvest in Edible Park!

The HPGH hosted 6 online workshops and 3 in-person workshops in 2021, with 117 total participants

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.



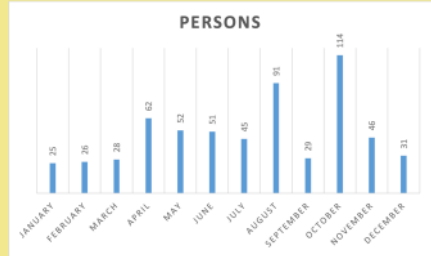
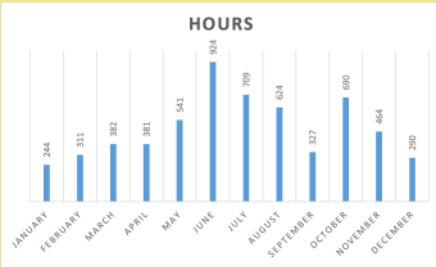
Allen Neighborhood Center has worked to empower Eastside youth since its inception in 1999. Following a few months of adjustment and focus on securing neighbors' most basic needs during this unforeseen health and economic crisis, ANC staff were ready to innovate and continue offering services to our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



Despite the continued COVID pandemic, the spirit of volunteerism and mutual aid is stronger than ever at ANC! Showing up in the hundreds to support their neighbors, our volunteers sorted seeds, spread mulch, landscaped our beautiful and ever-growing Allen Place, corralled kiddos, distributed emergency food, helped EBT recipients Double Up on fresh produce, and enriched the lives of every single one of the thousands touched by ANC's programming in 2021. We've been thrilled, although unsurprised, by the way Eastsiders take care of one another and we look forward to spending another year facilitating that meaningful work!



In 2021,
206
individuals
volunteered with
ANC, contributing
more than
5,886
hours of service.

FUNDS

Sources of Funds 2021

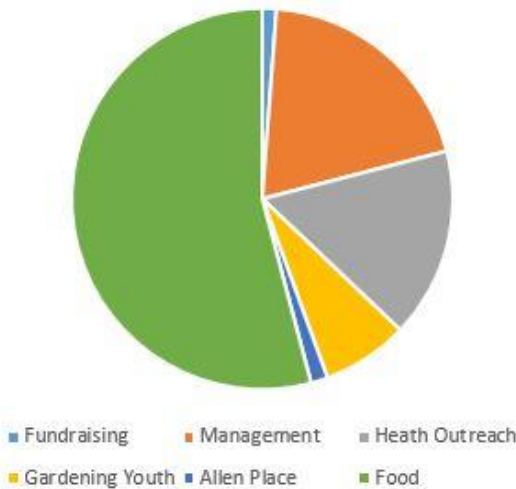
(Audit took place April 2022)

Source	Amount (\$)
Grant Income	\$611,402
Program Income	\$397,142
Contributions and Fundraising	\$149,048
Other	\$ 8,998
TOTAL	\$1,166,590

Operating Costs 2021

(Audit took place April 2022)

Source	Amount (\$)
Housing, Health, Family, & Community Building Services	\$887,129
Management and General	\$210,694
Fundraising	\$ 11,089
TOTAL	\$1,108,912



Estimated Costs & Sources of Funding for 2022:

Jan. 1, 2022– Dec. 31, 2022

\$1,015,026

Thanks to our generous

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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.

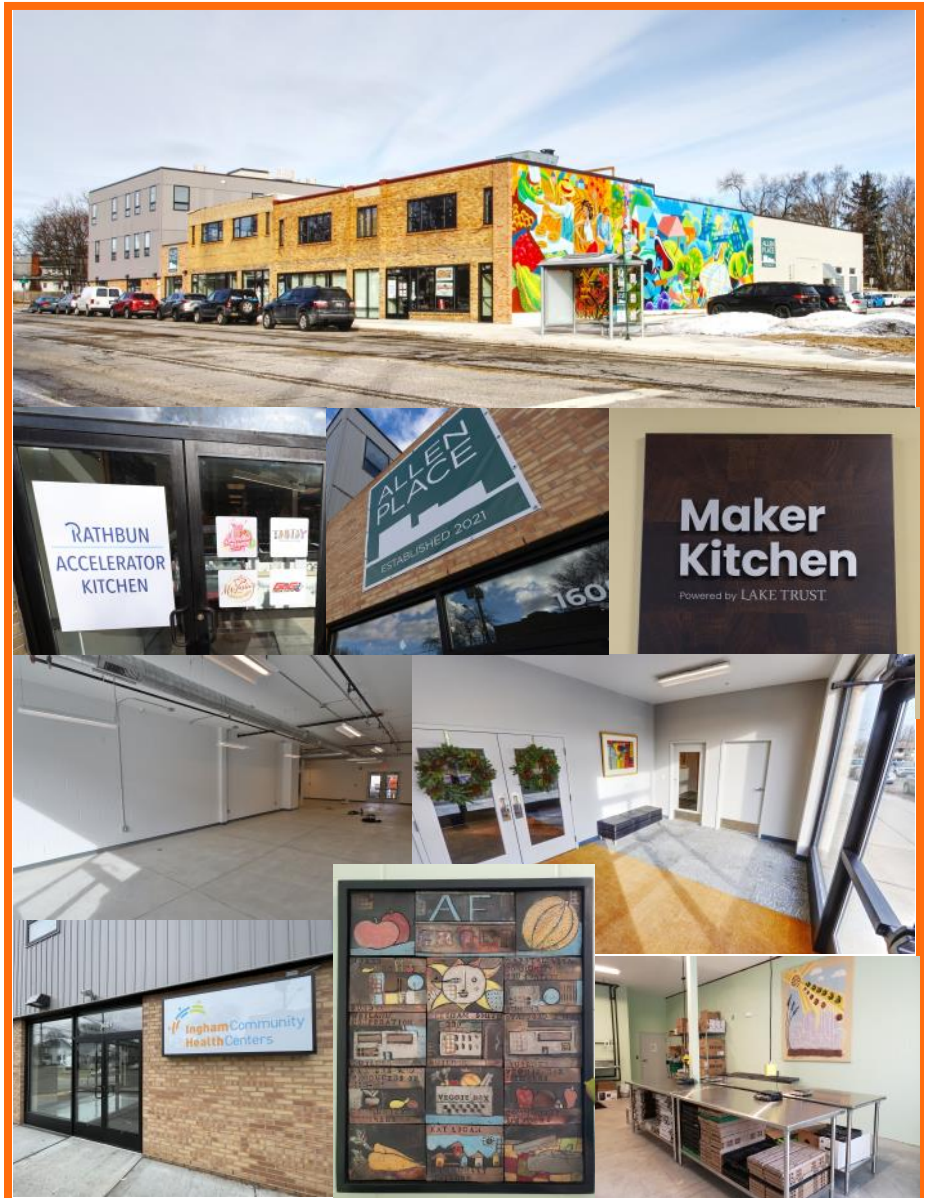
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Sustaining Neighbors

Sustaining Neighbors seeks to engage Eastside Neighbors in monthly pledges, which support our health-focused programs. Contribution levels are flexible to reflect our neighborhood's diverse incomes, ranging from \$5 to \$83 a month (or \$60 to \$999 annually).

Richard Baker	David Jones
Steven Collins	Philippe & Sarah Laurens
Yvette Collins	Kristina & Pratap Sankar
Wanda Dobson	Mary & Dave Swanson
Suzanne Fischer	Renee & Bob Swanson
Jennie Gies	Pamela Weil
Kevin Jezuit	

ALLEN PLACE



ALLEN PLACE

Development Partners



Funding Partners





ALLEN
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

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