

A Community Solution to a Community Problem

**THE FOOD BANK'S RESPONSE
TO THE FLINT WATER CRISIS**



The Food Bank's Response to the Flint Water Crisis

- The Flint water system serves 30,841 active water subscribers; of these, 28,048 are residential parcels and have been engaged in response efforts.
 - ⇒ Residents on the Flint water system have been advised to avoid using unfiltered water for drinking or cooking. Experts disagree about whether or not the water is safe for bathing.
 - ⇒ **The Food Bank distributed over 46,288,658 pounds of water between October 1, 2015 and October 23, 2017 (the equivalent of 44,508,325 bottles).**
 - The State of Michigan awarded the Food Bank funds to distribute water and lead-mitigating foods in Flint through a variety of programs and a network of partner agencies. The awards were: \$1,047,000 in FY 2016; \$2,417,516 in FY 2017; and \$1,426,000 is designated for FY 2018.
 - Certain nutrients have lead-mitigating properties. Individuals exposed to lead, especially children ages 0 - 6, should eat a diet rich in Calcium, Iron, and Vitamin C.
 - ⇒ **Since February 2016, the Food Bank has delivered 288 Mobile Nutrition Distribution trucks throughout the City of Flint.** Each distribution provides 250 - 300 families with foods rich in lead-mitigating nutrients. As of September 30, 2017 **nearly 4.5 million pounds of lead-mitigating foods** have been distributed.
 - ⇒ In direct response to the need for added nutrition, the Food Bank enhanced the Summer Feeding Program in 2016. **Thirty seven of the Food Bank's 2016 Summer Feeding sites were located in Flint.** Five of these sites operated using a new Mobile Meal program model which allowed sites that would typically be unable to participate in the Summer Feeding Program to provide meals for children.
 - ⇒ **In 2017, the Food Bank provided meals to 52 Summer Feeding Sites in Flint.** Twenty-one of these were mobile sites at locations such as housing complexes, churches, schools, and libraries. These mobile sites take food into neighborhoods where children may not have access to other community programs that offer lunches when school is out.
 - **Three Community Help Centers were opened in the City of Flint.** These Help Centers are open 4 days a week and have provided lead-mitigating foods, water, as well as dental screenings, physical and mental health services to Flint residents. **Since opening, over 281,000 people have received assistance from the Community Help Centers.**
 - **The Food Bank hosted 193 community meetings related to the water response and served as the meeting place for the Flint Community Resource Recovery Group** which coordinated community objectives, activities, and success criteria to help the community to recover from the water crisis. This group included representatives from a variety of federal, state and local organizations and government agencies.
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Creating Solutions

Like many local organizations, the Food Bank has had extensive involvement in creating solutions for the Flint Water Crisis. While there is no quick or easy fix, it is clear that the best results are brought about through community participation and cooperation.



In total, the Food Bank has distributed over 46,288,658 pounds of water between October 1, 2015 and October 23, 2017.

The equivalent of approximately 44,508,325 bottles, or approximately 5,550,198 gallons.

With a well-organized and fully operational warehousing and distribution process already in place, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan was uniquely positioned to help distribute water quickly and efficiently.

Due to the additional water distribution in FY 2016, the Food Bank's total distribution through September 30, 2016 was 53,414,051 pounds. This outstanding number includes 26,667,945 pounds of water and 26,746,106 pounds of food, and indicates an overall food distribution increase of 1,636,206 pounds of food from the same time period the year before. In FY 2017, food distribution rose to over 28 million pounds. Additionally in FY 2017, the Food Bank distributed over 14 million pounds of water.

When it was announced that certain nutrients could help mitigate the effects of lead in the human body, attentions quickly turned to nutrition as a way to fight lead, and once again the Food Bank was the first choice to lead the next phase of recovery.

LEAD-FIGHTING NUTRIENTS

CALCIUM

Calcium keeps your bones strong and the lead out! Calcium-rich foods include:

- Milk and milk products, like cheese and yogurt
- Green leafy vegetables, such as spinach, kale, and collard greens
- Calcium-enriched orange juice
- Tofu
- Canned salmon and sardines (both with the bones in)

IRON

Iron keeps too much lead from getting into your body. Foods high in iron include:

- Lean red meats, fish (tuna and salmon) and chicken
- Green leafy vegetables, such as spinach, kale and collard greens
- Iron-fortified cereal, bread and pasta
- Dried fruit, such as raisins and prunes
- Beans

VITAMIN C

Vitamin C works with iron to keep too much lead from getting into your body. Good sources of vitamin C include:

- Citrus fruits, like oranges and grapefruit and their juices
- Tomatoes and tomato juice
- Peppers
- Other fruits like kiwi, strawberries and melons



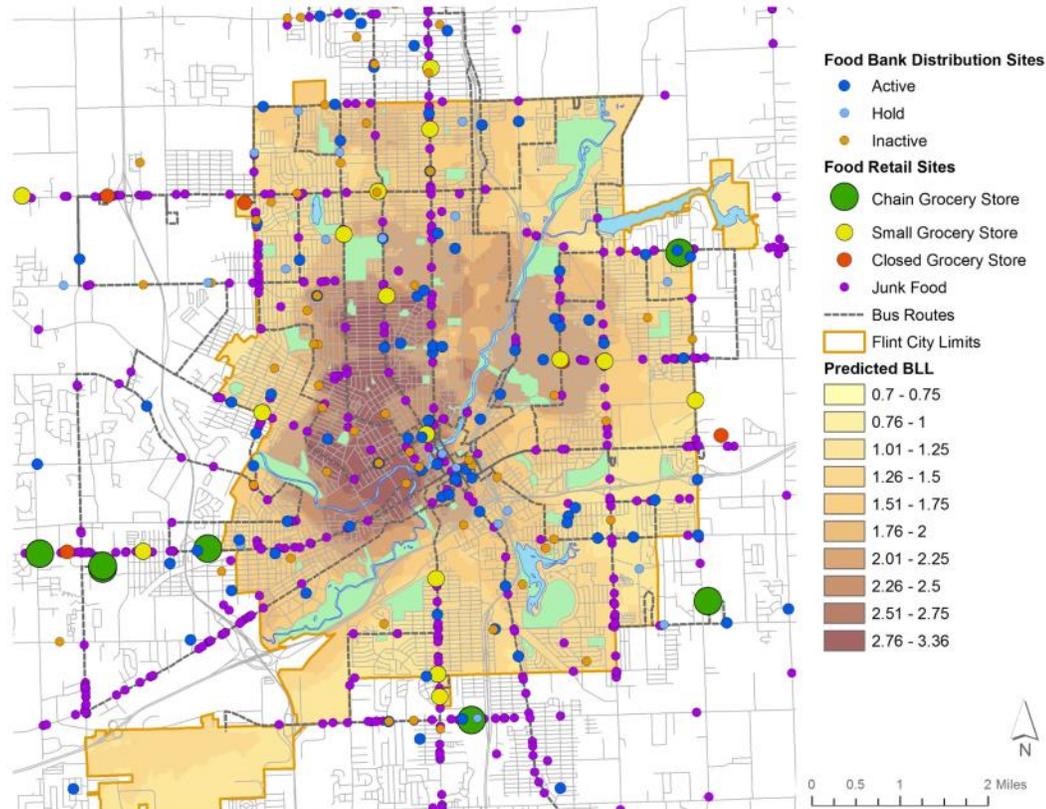
LEAD FACTS

Lead isn't good for anyone's health and is especially bad for small children. Keep your family lead-safe by avoiding contact with it. If you live in the city of Flint, or get water from the city's water system, be sure to use an NSF-certified filter for drinking, cooking and mixing baby formula. Make sure to change the filter cartridge by the date printed on the package. Remember that you and your children can also be exposed to lead from old paint, dust, dirt, pottery, make-up, toys and some home remedies.

If you have any concerns about lead or your child's diet, talk with your doctor.

Community Nutrition

Many residents of the City of Flint do not have convenient access to sources of nutritious foods, which are essential not only for overall health but to help mitigate the effects of lead in the drinking water.



The Food Bank has a network of established partner agencies in Flint and works to secure even more sites that could accept and distribute mobile nutrition trucks. These trucks are filled with foods rich in lead-mitigating nutrients and provide food for 400 families. **As of September 30, 2017 over 215,300 people** (84,703 children and 33,595 seniors) **have been helped by the Mobile Nutrition Distributions which have distributed nearly 4.5 million pounds of lead-fighting foods** throughout the City of Flint.

Each household receives a supply of food similar to the following:

- * 3 cans of Tuna
- * 3 cans of Baked Beans
- * 3 cans Mandarin Oranges
- * 3 cans Diced Tomatoes
- * 3 cans each of Fruits & Vegetables
- * 1 box of Iron-Fortified Cereal
- * 1 10-lb bag of potatoes
- * 1 5-lb bag of Apples
- * 2 lbs of Fresh Peppers/Tomatoes



Fighting Lead with Summer Feeding



In 2015, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan opened the Hunger Solution Center with a state-of-the-art production kitchen, primarily used for preparing meals for children's feeding programs. **Now preparing nearly 4 million meals per year, the Culinary Department provides kid-friendly meals that focus on nutrition and exceed USDA requirements.** In addition to exceeding USDA nutritional requirements, the meals prepared by the Food Bank include the essential, lead-mitigating nutrients identified by Hurley Children's Hospital and MSU Extension.

Summer Feeding 2016

- More than **67,000 meals** prepared
- Meals served at a total of **61 sites**
- **37 Summer Feeding sites** were open within the City of Flint
- New **Mobile Meal distribution** model was introduced at **5 sites in Flint**
- Distributed over **6,200 Nutrition bags** for children to take home

Summer Feeding 2017

- Meal Preparation increased to over **75,000 meals**
- Summer Feeding Program served more than **70 sites**
- **52 sites were located within Flint**
- **21 of the Flint sites were Mobile Sites**
- More than **17,000 nutrition bags** were distributed to children



In addition to an expanded Summer Feeding Program, **the Food Bank's 2017 Backpack program grew to include over 13,000 children.** Five thousand kids living in Flint were able to receive a Backpack on the weekends thanks to a grant provided by the Michigan Department of Education. While all the backpacks contain self-stable, kid-friendly foods, **the backpacks given out in Flint schools included extra meals and snacks and focused on providing lead-mitigating nutrition.**



Community Help Centers

Almost immediately after the discovery of lead in Flint's drinking water, local organizations and community leaders began working on solutions and the Flint Community Recovery Group was established. The group was comprised of the following organizations: FEMA; STATE EOC; County EOC; MIDHHS; EPA; City of Flint; Food Bank of Eastern Michigan; United Way of Genesee County; Red Cross and Catholic Charities as well as leaders from the healthcare community and disability networks. Together they focused on six "Points of Recovery" essential to helping residents of the City of Flint deal with the short and long-term effects of lead-tainted water. These "Points of Recovery" were: Resources; Education; Communication; Coordination; Physical Health; and Mental Health.



A primary goal for the Flint Community Resource Recovery Group was to provide urgent health related necessities and services to the impacted Flint community members by establishing Help Centers within the city. **These Help Centers are resource hubs, bringing several wellness services together in one convenient place.** A true collaborative effort, the Help Centers promote healthy physical and mental development and help to protect and improve the quality of life for individuals and families.

On October 24, 2016, the first of three Community Help Centers opened in Flint. **Since they opened, they have served over 281,000 people.** The Help Centers have been established at faithbased church locations which provide ample space and parking in easily-accessible neighborhoods.

Asbury United Methodist Church; 1653 Davison Rd; Flint, MI 48506

Bethel United Methodist Church; 1309 N. Ballenger Hwy; Flint, MI 48504

Greater Holy Temple COGIC; 6702 N. Dort Hwy; Flint, MI 48505

They are open four days a week with the following schedule:

Days: Monday thru Thursday

Hours: 10am to 4:30pm

Resources and services included:

Lead-Mitigating Foods

Fresh Produce

Bottled Water

Dental Screenings

Physical & Mental Health Services



2018: Recovery Continues in Flint

In 2018, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan assumed responsibility for the inventory, warehousing, and delivery of bottled water, filters and cartridges to the Flint community. The State of Michigan will provide funds for these services to continue through March, 2018.

In FY 2018, the Food Bank has committed to provide the following services:

- ⇒ Water Delivery to community sites
- ⇒ Mobile Nutrition Distributions
- ⇒ Three Community Help Centers
- ⇒ 4 CPODS, one in each quadrant of the city
- ⇒ Filter Storage and distribution to CORE teams and community partners



Funding Recovery Efforts

With an existing warehousing and distribution model in place, including partnerships with over 100 agencies in Flint, the Food Bank was uniquely positioned to begin delivering water immediately. Throughout the water recovery efforts, the Food Bank has demonstrated a commitment to the Flint community while remaining focused on the core mission of distributing food to people in need. **Donor dollars intended to be used for food distribution have never been used to supply or distribute water to Flint residents.** Funding from the state and grants from several national, state and local organizations was used to fully fund the water distribution and to increase the amount of lead-mitigating foods available to Flint residents.

A Nation Responds

The response and support from concerned individuals and organizations from all over the United States was amazing. The generosity of so many during this crisis has been a driving force that refuels positive attitudes and keeps hope alive in the City.

Volunteers arrived from across the country including:

- AbbVie
- Coca-Cola
- General Motors
- Detroit Lions
- Islamic Relief USA
- Pepsi Corps.



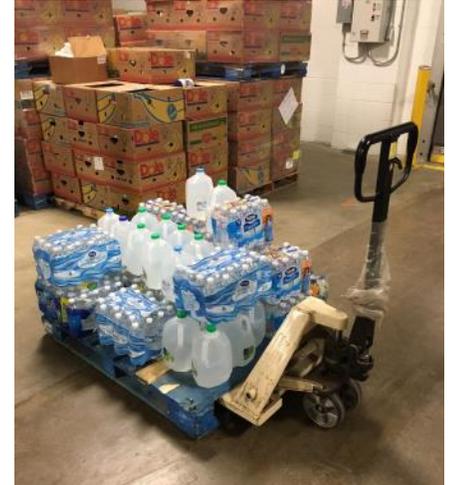
Donations of money, water, milk and other products have arrived from several companies, including:

- AHEPA
- Akron Canton Food Bank
- Discovery Channel
- Feeding America West Michigan
- General Electric
- Michigan Milk Producers
- United Food and Commercial Workers International Union



Several companies loaned or donated equipment from pallet jacks to semi-trucks:

- Andersen Material Handling
- Detroit Free Press/Lansing State Journal
- Frazalift
- Grainger
- Meijer
- Meridian
- PepsiCo
- UAW



Celebrities got involved too and sent truck-loads of water or funds for Flint, including:



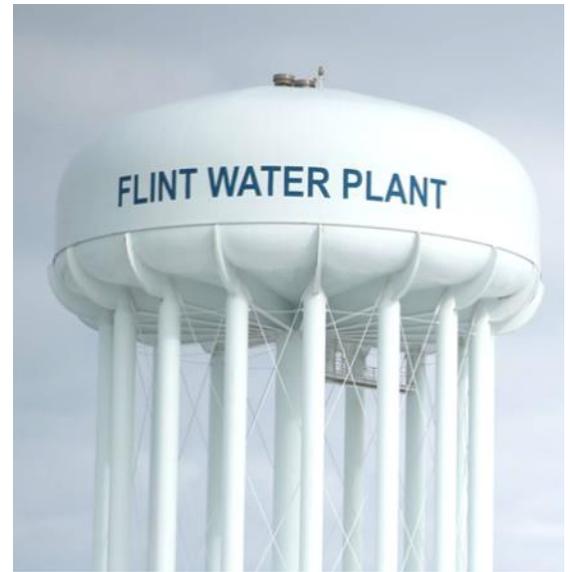
- Anthony Sims Jr (boxer)
- Cher
- Mateen Cleaves (MSU basketball)
- Jon Connor (rapper)
- Meek Mill (rapper)
- Pearl Jam
- Rasheed Wallace (Pistons basketball)
- Rihanna
- Tommaso Ciampa (wrestler)

Each and every donation of time, money, and product has brought the City of Flint a little closer to recovery. The efforts have not stopped. Community leaders and organizations continue to work toward a viable, lasting solution. This is a true testament to the strength and pride that exists, and will not be extinguished, throughout the City of Flint.



Timeline of Flint Water Crisis

- **April 2014** - The City of Flint switches from the Detroit water system and starts receiving it's municipal water from the Flint River. Almost immediately residents complain about the taste, smell and color of the new water.
- **October 2014** - General Motors announces that the water is too corrosive for manufacturing at its engine plant in Flint. The Department of Health and Human Services becomes concerned about a potential connection between Flint water and an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease.
- **January 2015** - Flint residents are notified that the water contains elevated levels of total trihalomethanes (TTHM).
- **February 2015** - The EPA is notified about high lead levels in the water by concerned residents.
- **July 2015** - The American Civil Liberties Union publishes a report about the possibility of lead in Flint's water. High levels of lead continue to be reported by households in Flint.
- **September 2015** - Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha of Hurley Medical Center urges the city to stop using Flint River water after discovering high levels of lead in blood samples from Flint children.
- **October 2015** - State officials publicly announce that there is lead in Flint's drinking water. The City reconnects to the Detroit water system but the corrosive water has degraded the pipes in the City's water system and residents are advised not to use unfiltered tap water for drinking, cooking or bathing.
- **December 14 2015 - January 16, 2016** – The City of Flint, the State of Michigan, and the Federal Government all declare a state of emergency for Flint.



Community-Wide Effects



HOMES

The Flint water system serves:

- 30,841 water subscribers
- 28,048 residential customers

Of the residential water customers:

- 25,595 homes are confirmed to have some form of water filter
- 13,258 have volunteered for water testing



PEOPLE

In October 2015:

- 25,426 individuals were tested for blood lead levels
- 5,711 were children younger than six

Those with elevated blood lead levels:

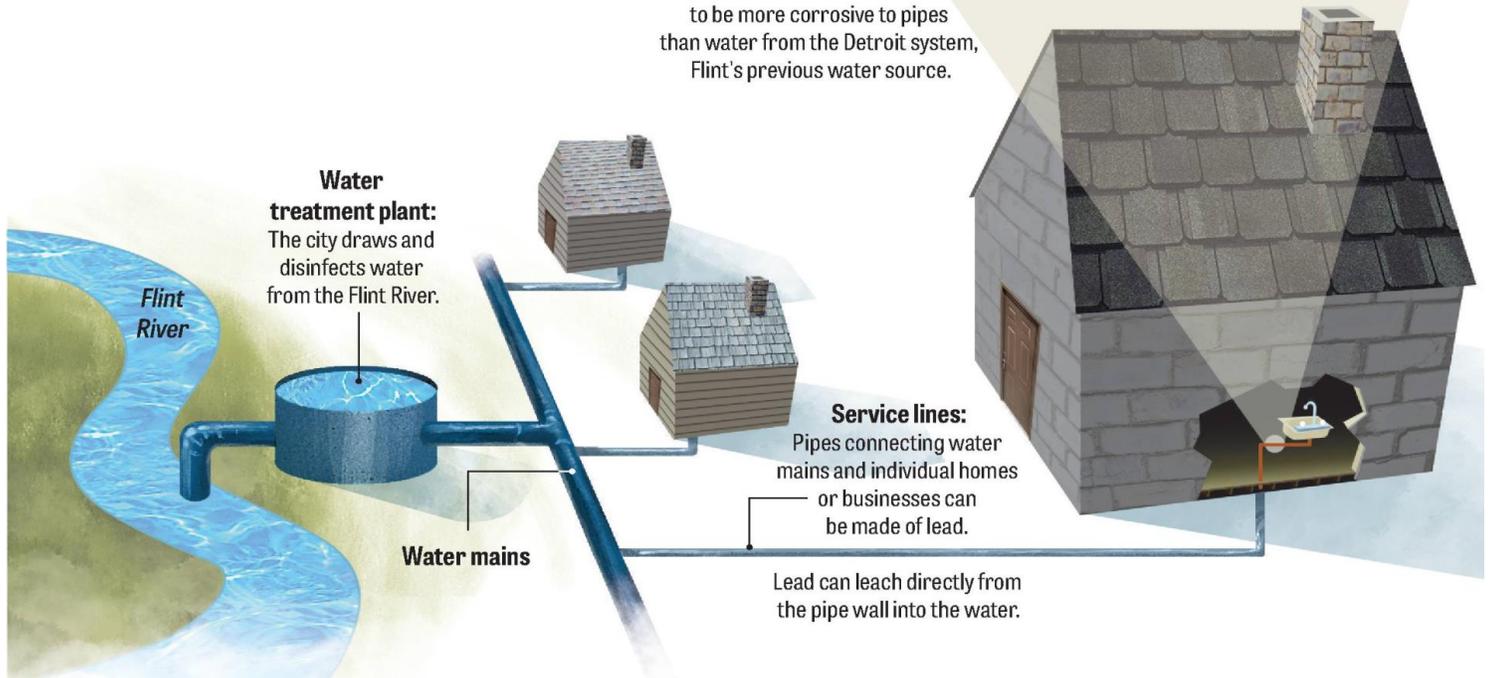
- 377 adults
- 129 children younger than six

FLINT

GETTING THE LEAD IN

Tests show toxic lead is leaching into Flint's tap water. Here's how.

*Courtesy of Flint Journal/MLive



A Brief History of the Food Bank



The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM) was established in 1981, under the name Genesee Food Bank, to provide grocery items to the needy. With an increased need for its services, FBEM became a United Way agency in 1985 and moved to a 90' X 100' donated warehouse. In 1987 FBEM joined Feeding America and expanded its service area to 22 counties.

Outgrowing its location, FBEM moved to the warehouse on Lapeer Road in 1990. Over time, the warehouse was increased to 42,000 square feet to meet distribution needs. In 2002, Feeding America recognized FBEM as the number one food bank in the nation, with the Excellence in Food Banking Award.



In 2008 the warehouse was renovated, creating the Thomas Landaal Food Recovery Center, complete with freezer, cooler, and dock additions to aid in the Perishable Food Recovery Program with grocery chains. Today, the Store Pick-Up Program provides frozen meats, fresh produce and bakery items from more than 70 retail partners.

Unable to accept desperately needed fresh produce, FBEM purchased a semi-adjacent facility in March of 2011. Raising \$5.2 Million, FBEM renovated the space and opened the Hunger Solution Center (HSC), in March 2015. With an additional 62,000 square feet of warehouse capacity and 10 truck loading docks, the HSC has:

increased distribution of fresh produce to 11 Million pounds; increased volunteer engagement for over 8,500 volunteers annually; provided a Demonstration Kitchen & Community Rooms to engage the community in nutrition education; provided a Production Kitchen that now prepares over 4,300 meals daily for children's feeding programs; and increased community outreach by providing fresh produce mobile distributions, cooking demonstrations & taste tests.



Today, FBEM provides over 28 million pounds of food each year to those in need. Working with 417 Partner Agencies, consisting of local soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and food pantries, the FBEM network reaches 331,500 food insecure people in Eastern Michigan.

Focused on the Mission

OUR MISSION: The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is the Food Source for people in need. Partnering with organizations to feed the hungry, we advocate and build a community solution to a community problem. By leveraging an abundance of product from a multitude of sources, we “Change the Face of Hunger.”

Since the beginning of the Flint Water Crisis and throughout the recovery efforts, the Food Bank has maintained its commitment to the main mission of distributing food to people in need within the 22-county service area.

The Food Bank is dedicated to providing our more than 415 partner agencies with nutritious foods and quality service so that they may continue to assist the people that count on them.

Each year, for the past five years, the Food Bank has distributed more pounds of food than the year before. In FY 2018, our goal for food distribution is 30 million pounds.



Total Pounds of Food Distributed

