

Kids Food Basket

The Kids Food Basket is a force for attacking childhood hunger. They began over eight years ago by serving 125 kids each school day through our sack supper program and now serve over 3,100 kids each day. Sack suppers are evening meals that provide 1000 calories and five food groups—nutrition that's critical to the development of kids' brains and bodies.

The mission of Kids' Food Basket is critical because:

- **More kids are experiencing poverty.** Between 2000 and 2006, children ages 5 to 17 living in poverty increased from 9% to 16% in Kent County. Today, 30,000 children in Kent County live in poverty. From 2000 to 2008, Grand Rapids had the largest spike in poverty among any US city at 8.9%, meaning that more children are at risk of becoming food insecure.
- **Nutrition is the basis of brain development.** The kids we serve today will lead our community tomorrow. We provide them with an important tool—a nutritious meal—to ensure they become healthy, self-sufficient adults.
- **Childhood hunger is a national priority that must be addressed at the grassroots.** President Obama has pledged to end childhood hunger by 2015. Through Kids' Food Basket, we can be aggressive in making this a reality for children in Kent County.

Last year we took donations at several of our General Membership Meetings. This year we are doing something different. We will be collecting the ingredients needed to make Trail Mix...and then arranging a time to go to the Kids' Food Basket facility and putting together the Trail Mix.