



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

August 2017

As the Legislature has not been in session in August, I've chosen to share the following message from Brian Peters in this update. We will be participating in the Harvest Gathering again this year. Please remember to bring your donations, either cash or non-perishable food products, to the MAHA Fall Conference in Frankenmuth. Our contributions make a difference!

[A Special Message from MHA CEO Brian Peters: Participate in Michigan Harvest Gathering](#)

Hunger knows no boundaries. It affects every community across our state and people from every walk of life. It forces families to choose between putting food on the table, filling needed prescriptions, or paying the rent. It impacts children's ability to learn and thrive. It is the root cause of preventable chronic diseases that have reached epidemic levels in our state and nation.

At the MHA, our mission is to advance the health of individuals and communities. A fundamental part of that is helping our neighbors in need get access to healthy, nutritious foods. That's why we are a proud member and sponsor of the [Root Cause Coalition](#), and why, for the last 20 years, we and our members have been a primary sponsor of the Michigan Harvest Gathering (MHG) — a statewide campaign that raises food and funds for Michigan's emergency food response. Our support of the Food Bank Council of Michigan (FBCM) campaign is vital in feeding the nearly 1.5 million people who are hungry across the state, and we're asking for your participation again this year.

This year's campaign kicks off at 10 a.m. Sept. 27 on the steps of the state Capitol in Lansing. MHA members who wish to participate should start planning now to conduct their drives before the campaign ends Nov. 30. **MHA-member organizations are urged to designate project leaders to coordinate on-site food and fund drives and notify the MHA regarding their participation as soon as possible.** [Project team leader designation forms](#) are available on the [MHA's MHG webpage](#), which is dedicated to assisting its members in [conducting successful campaigns](#). [Complimentary promotional materials](#), such as posters and table tents, are also available online.

Food banks continue to serve record numbers of local residents, some of whom have had to [rely on these organizations](#) as a part of their households' long-term strategies to supplement monthly shortfalls in food. I hope you will join the MHA and our members in helping fight hunger in Michigan. For more information, about the 2017 Michigan Harvest Gathering, [contact Andrea Duguay](#) at the MHA.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Peters".

Brian Peters

Michigan Health & Hospital Association