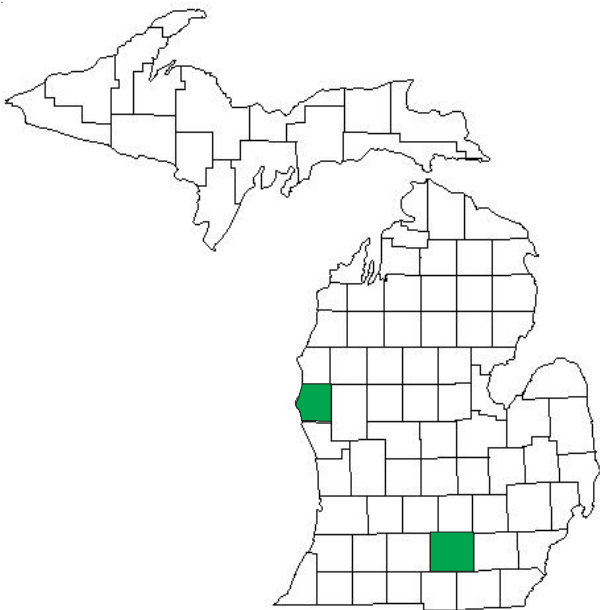


June - July 2007

# The Michigan mini-grant messenger

Reporting the events and findings of the most unique food safety education mini-grant program in the United States. Conducted by Michigan State University. Funded by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Find out more about this program at [www.fooddomain.msu.edu](http://www.fooddomain.msu.edu)

## MDA Consumer Food Safety Education 2007 Mini-Grants: *Updates*



Starting with this second issue of *The Michigan Mini-Grant Messenger*, we will be featuring each of the 2007 MDA Consumer Food Safety Education Mini-grant recipients, and the progress of their projects. The projects featured in this issue both involve food safety trainings.

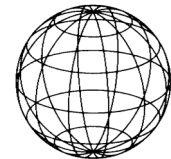
### "ServeSafe Training for Food Gatherers Meal Sites" by Food Gatherers

Food Gatherers (FG) is Michigan's first food rescue program, and the first program of its kind to be founded by a for-profit business, Zingerman's Delicatessen. It is now an independent not-for-profit organization, the primary distributor of food in Washtenaw County, and also responsible for the county food bank.

FG provides more than 5,800 meals a day at their various meal sites in Ypsilanti, Michigan. They supply the food, and the sites provide the Health Department Approved Kitchen, dining area and trained staffing. FG is dedicated to providing food safety training to the volunteers and staff of their programs to ensure safe food handling, and ultimately, the safety and health of the recipients. They also offer job training in the food service industry to those at risk of homelessness.

Food Gatherers' goal for the MDA Mini-Grant project is to provide the National

The organizations spearheading the 2007 Consumer Food Safety Education Mini-Grants



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<http://www.michigan.gov/mda>

Visit [www.fooddomain.msu.edu](http://www.fooddomain.msu.edu)

Restaurant Association's accredited *ServSafe* 16 hour training/certification to the meal sites.

## Update ...

FG has already conducted the *Servsafe* training with 6 sites attending, and a total of 9 participants. The classes were 4 hours each, over 4 consecutive Thursdays. Most students passed with flying colors. They will also be conducting a review session for those who need to retake the exam. They are expanding the access to the class, so they anticipate an additional 10 - 15 sites to attend the next class.

FG is very excited to be able to offer this class to partner agencies, and are encouraging them to include volunteers (low-income in need of jobs) to attend this class as well. FG covers the costs of the additional students. They look at it as a way to get the training to people who need it to enhance their skills and employability.

For more information about FG's various programs and activities, visit their website:

<http://www.foodgatherers.org/>

**"Safe Food, Safe You" Program  
for Seniors by District Health  
Department #10**

District Health Department #10 (DHD # 10) is a local public health jurisdiction which services 10 counties including Crawford, Kalkaska, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta,

Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana and Wexford. It is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote and enhance the health of all individuals through education, prevention, intervention and protection of the environment.

Its "*Safe Food, Safe You*" project is designed to target the over 60 age group at local Senior Centers in Crawford, Kalkaska, Missaukee and Wexford. The training by health educators working for the Health Promotion division of DHD #10 will consist of a combination of lecture, handouts, videos and interactive demonstrations.

## Update ...

The "*Safe Food, Safe You*" food safety educational program for seniors is up and running! The goal of this project is to reduce the rate of foodborne illness among the senior population through increased knowledge of foodborne illness and how it is spread. As of June 26, 2007, the DHD #10 has facilitated this program to 22 seniors in the Manton area. Topics included how to purchase, prepare and store food safely. Participants were engaged and took the opportunity to ask questions. The overall feedback was in support of this program, and demonstrated a need for food safety education for this particular population. In addition, DHD #10 was also able to put up a booth at the Senior Expo. Brochures and information were distributed to approximately 50 seniors,

along with a brief presentation regarding food safety.

The "*Safe Food, Safe You*" program is scheduled for Cadillac and Grayling during the month of July, and they are hoping to reach an additional 50 seniors within these two cities.

DHD # 10 is grateful for the opportunity to provide food safety education to the senior population under the 2007 MDA Consumer Food Safety Education Mini-Grant. It hopes to be able to continue these efforts in the future.

For more information and to contact DHD #10, visit

[www.malph.org/page.cfm/79/](http://www.malph.org/page.cfm/79/)

