



groundwork
CENTER FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

FALL 2015

Protect. Strengthen. Build.

We take our mission very seriously here at Groundwork: to protect the environment, strengthen the economy, and build community. But I want to make sure you know how we put that mission into action.



PROTECT. We work to protect the environment by advocating for our natural resources. That means when we learned about a threat to our precious Great Lakes in the form of two 63-year-old oil pipelines running under the Mackinac Straits, we jumped into action, raised awareness around the state, and put pressure on our elected officials to act. That means we push for alternatives to fossil fuels. Our new community solar project here in northern Michigan seeks to get more panels on more rooftops. And that also means we push for a strong local food system to keep both our beautiful agricultural landscapes and proud farming heritage safe for generations to come.

STRENGTHEN. We firmly believe that Michigan's economic strength stems from our thriving villages, towns, and cities. Downtown development is more than an environmental issue; it's about our ability to compete in a fast-changing new economy. College graduates are choosing dynamic places where they can live downtown without a car, walk to work, enjoy a thriving cultural scene, and access recreation. We advocate for walkable streets, affordable housing, and a strong public transit system to make it easier for people to live, work, and spend money locally. Our food

and farming program helps people identify food grown and produced locally, keeping those dollars in our own economy rather than sending them out of state, or out of country. And transportation alternatives like revived passenger rail service between Traverse City and Ann Arbor will not only bring more people and dollars to our local economy, but also to downtowns of other cities across the state.

BUILD. We work to build communities in everything we do—by engaging in dialogues with diverse groups that allow us to deliver real-life, common-sense solutions. By community, I mean a sense of citizenship, belonging, empowerment—that every person counts—and that there is power in including all voices. As we work toward resilience in our communities, a long-term goal for sure, it will take all of us to get there. In fact, our work is only as good as the people we work with, and we're truly thankful for the thousands of supporters like you who make it all possible. Just look at our Harvest@theCommons event last month. It was an incredible night—with amazing food sourced locally, a chance to honor Senator Carl Levin with the Milliken Distinguished Leadership Award, and throughout it all, a real sense of community. It was a true pleasure to sit down with 600 of our friends and neighbors to enjoy such a special evening.

Protect. Strengthen. Build. That's what we've been doing for 20 years, and what we'll be doing for another 20 to come. I thank you for being a part of it.

Hans Voss

Groundwork Executive Director

FARMS, FOOD & HEALTH

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For health practitioners, hospitals, employers, schools, farmers, and more.
Friday, January 29, 2016
Grand Traverse Resort & Spa
Visit groundworkcenter.org/ffh

FARMLAND 5K

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About '10 Cents a Meal for School Kids & Farms'

"10 Cents a Meal for School Kids and Farms" is a pilot project that provides match funding for schools to buy from neighbor farms, invest in local economies, and put Michigan-grown food on children's plates. It's good for kids, schools, and for the agricultural economy. It:

- Creates a world in which schools can more easily buy locally grown fruits, vegetables, and legumes from neighbor farms.
- Breaks down financial barriers to this common-sense market for local agriculture.
- Helps kids know where food comes from—a farm, not a store.
- Lets kids appreciate the great flavors that their state grows.

The timing is right for the program to expand in Michigan, and state legislators are currently exploring ways to do just that. Schools are newly required under federal nutrition



"From the local school standpoint, the local food service directors tell us the kids really like and eat the farm fresh produce we provide and it helps them meet their healthy meals goals. From our farm standpoint, it helps us market our produce locally and is a significant part of our business."

~Jim Bardenhagen, co-owner
Bardenhagen Farms

standards to serve more, and a greater variety, of fruits, vegetables, and legumes—precisely what Michigan farmers grow. A 2015 poll from Pew Charitable Trusts shows that in Michigan nearly 98% of voting public-school parents believe that serving nutritious food in schools is important, and a 2015 national poll from W.K. Kellogg Foundation found 88% of Americans support increased

government funding to expand farm to school programs.

State Sen. Darwin Booher is exploring whether the "10 Cents" pilot could be expanded in Michigan.

"The 10 cents a Meal" program is good for the community, our schools, the students and area farmers," said Booher, R-Evart. "It is a great way to help our children eat healthy food while at the same time supporting farmers by providing another local market for their produce."

What We've Learned in Northwest MI

Groundwork and the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District launched a pilot project in northwest Lower Michigan in the 2013 school year, with grant funds and business donations.

10 Cents clearly benefited farms. In the year prior to "10 Cents," the three school districts that launched the project spent \$30,731 on local fruits and vegetables. In the two years since the introduction of the program, those three districts have purchased nearly \$150,000 in local fruits and vegetables—an average increase of 142% each year.

Four other districts have also joined the program, and the seven districts together purchased 25 different fruits and vegetables grown by 36 area farms in the 2014-15 year alone.

To learn more, visit groundworkcenter.org/ffh

Other News from Groundwork



Sen. Carl Levin and Gov. William Milliken at the 2015 Milliken Reception.

Sen. Carl Levin receives Milliken Distinguished Leadership Award

Groundwork honored longtime U.S. Senator Carl Levin with the annual Milliken Distinguished Leadership Award at the Milliken reception prior to this year's Harvest@theCommons.

The award recognizes leaders who embody the legacy of Governor William Milliken and the late Helen Milliken, and the belief that a clean, healthy environment is necessary for a prosperous economy.

The northwest Michigan region has been incredibly fortunate to have Sen.

Levin as an advocate operating on the national level for nearly four decades.

Among his accomplishments: Sen. Levin sponsored legislation that preserved more than 32,000 acres of our treasured Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore as wilderness. He secured funding for the Boardman River Dams Removal Project, and he played an instrumental role in the creation of the Grand Vision.

Welcome to new staff members Dani, Meghan, and Dan

We're happy to welcome three new staff members at Groundwork.

Dani Knoph joins us as our new Public Outreach Coordinator. Dani will be working closely with donors and developing marketing strategies, content, and event logistics to raise support for our mission.

Meghan McDermott is our new food and farming policy specialist—though she's not entirely new to the organization. For the past two years, she worked with Groundwork as a FoodCorps service member. In her new position, she'll be working closely on our Farm to School program.

Dan Worth is the newest member of our Clean Energy team. He will be working with

homeowners, businesses, colleges, schools, nonprofits, elected officials, installers, and the state's utilities to find cost-effective solutions for putting new solar panels on rooftops, roadsides—anywhere the sun is shining.

'Line 5 Pipeline: A Closer Look' on Nov. 23 at State Theatre

You've certainly heard about the 62-year-old pipelines in the Mackinac Straits—now find out what's really at stake, and what Groundwork and our partner FLOW are doing about it.

We hope you'll join us at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 23 at the State Theatre in Traverse City to learn about the threat, and what we can do to stop the flow of oil in the Great Lakes. For more information, visit groundworkcenter.org/StatePipeUp



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| Kristi Jackson | Rosanne McKinley | Doug Roberts and Sara Boys | Elizabeth Treutel | |
| John and Carol Jansson | Mike McManus and Sue | Michael and Libby Robold | Maria Tucker | |
| Joe and Judith Jarecki | Brightheart | Lawrence and Elaine Rochon | Kathy Tuckerman | |
| Greg and Linda Jaris | Bob and Judy McQuilkin | Ann Rogers | Tom Twigg | |
| | Jon and Kay Boyne Mead | John and Debbie Rohe | Carole Underwood | |
| | Mark and Pamela Meadows | Fred and Mary Rohn | Brad Van Dommelen | |

MEMORIAL GIFTS
Gifts were given in memory of names in bold

- Bob Russell**
Mac McClelland
Denis and Martha Pierce
Martin Schneider
Jo Anne Schneider
Pete Seeger
Jolynn Paige
Gerald Westbrook
Carol Mattoon

HONORARIUM GIFTS
Gifts were given in honor of names in bold

- John Bercini**
Pete and Rebecca Hartman
Richard and Jill Claybour
Jack Carpenter and Elizabeth Vallance
Helen Milliken
Kent and Nancy Walton

We strive to make our list as accurate and complete as possible; if you find an error or omission, please contact Amy MacKay at amy@groundworkcenter.org, or 231-941-6584, ext. 704.