



# BUCKETS OF RAIN

Growing Hope, Feeding Lives

## END OF THE YEAR NEWSLETTER

### 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

\*\*84,000 servings to homeless shelters and the hungry in Detroit/Highland Park and Northern Michigan



\*\*3200 volunteer hours. Churches, Corporate, Schools, families and friends



\*\*Provided significant material assistance to 4 other Detroit/Highland Park Community Gardens



\*\* Extended our world record to 75 continuous hours of “This Land is Your Land” in our “Song For Hope” Marathon



\*\*Our first community BBQ 300 meals!

\*\*Featured in stories and interviews by Detroit Electronic Quarterly, TV 9&10, TV 7&4, and A&E



\*\*New sign for Big Glen Garden



\*\* We’ve achieved our Gold Rating on Guidestar. Go to [Guidestar](http://www.guidestar.org) for the most in depth and up to date information on Buckets of Rain

\*\*Song For Hope has its own [website](http://www.songforhope.com) and [FaceBook](https://www.facebook.com/songforhope) page now. Our main fundraiser will be undergoing some fun revisions and improvements for 2017 Stay Tuned (no pun intended)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The good folks (Bruce and Susan) at the **Acoustic Mead Taproom** in Traverse City are hosting a concert series



with proceeds going to Buckets of Rain. It will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, beginning in December, from 4pm until 6. Featuring our area's most entertaining singers and songwriters. Tickets/donations are ten dollars and the Taproom only

seats 30. Keep an eye on our websites:

[songforhope.org](http://songforhope.org) and [bucketsofrain.org](http://bucketsofrain.org) as we hope to make tickets available online soon. Otherwise, get 'em at the door.

**Louan Lechler gets things off to a great start this December 11**

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The **Homestead Resort** in Glen Arbor will be hosting "Super Soups" on National Homemade Soup Day Saturday, February 4. Tentative details: Local restaurants are invited to participate by making their favorite homemade soup recipe. Soup stations will be set up outside through the Village plaza around Beppi's. It's \$10/person; \$5 seniors and children under 12 years. Admission includes unlimited (4 oz) samples of soup. Vote for your favorite soup and prizes awarded at the end of the day.

All proceeds from the cost of admission would go to [Buckets of Rain](http://Buckets of Rain). The Homestead points of sale would be open for other food & beverages.

## NEEDS AND GOALS FOR 2017

Our primary goal is **always** to increase the amount of food we make available to the homeless and hungry. Every harvest *has* to be better than the one before, because the problem gets bigger every year. The neighborhoods of Detroit/Highland Park are still in a deadly state of decline-- downtown Detroit is just great, but that is a tiny part of "Detroit".

But our **other goals** are to reduce urban blight and give the remaining residents of the destroyed

neighborhoods a glimmer of hope- our gardens are how we attempt to do that.

If we are to make permanent change we need to own the land we are growing on. Major grants, the kind we need in order to achieve our ultimate goal of one million servings, are not available to projects that do not have land security. Vacant land is abundant and affordable in Detroit, but still requires cash for the details and paperwork and taxes and most importantly, a connection to the city water system in the most likely event that we cannot capture rain (the lots are, after all, abandoned).

The more land we are growing on, the more trash strewn lots we clean up, the more we have to become like a landscaping company, keeping things clean, mowed, safe, and under control.

Your donations to Buckets of Rain for 2017 will not only go to the creation of nearly 100,000 servings of free fresh vegetables but also to the acquisition of growing space, the equipment to maintain it, and wages for the local (and probably currently unemployed) garden managers/helpers necessary. Volunteers are great, and we use hundreds of them, but eventually, we will become job creators- yes!



You are the engine of change with your volunteering and support.

This Holiday Season, if you'd like to make a donation in lieu of a traditional gift, we'll send a nice Gwen Frostic card to acknowledge your kindness to the person you are choosing to honor in this way.

You can [donate here](#), then give us the address of where you'd like a card sent [here](#)

Happy Holidays from Buckets of Rain!!!!