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## Forgotten Harvest takes \$17 million campaign to fund new Oak Park site public

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- Campaign launched in 2018
- Has raised over \$12 million
- New site broke ground in November, to be completed in spring 2022

Forgotten Harvest

Forgotten Harvest has launched work on its new, 77,000-square-foot headquarters not far from its current home in Oak Park.

Forgotten Harvest has taken its \$17 million campaign to fund a new Oak Park headquarters public after raising more than \$12 million.

[Launched in 2018](#), the now \$17 million campaign will fund capital costs, furnishings and equipment and create a \$1 million fund to help cover facility operation and maintenance costs for the first several years.

Lead gifts in the campaign have included an anonymous \$3 million challenge grant along with \$1 million each from the National Food Group Zee Zees, Pathways Foundation, The Kroger Company Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation and Plastipak Holdings.

A long list of area foundations and companies are also supporting the campaign.

When nonprofit campaigns first launch, nonprofits consider it to be in the "quiet" phase as they go to lead donors to secure large gifts that will provide the bulk of what they are trying to raise. Once they've been successful attracting those gifts, nonprofits make the campaigns public, asking the public for multiyear pledges, support to place a brick paver at the new site and other contributions.

Forgotten Harvest [broke ground on the 77,000-square-foot site](#) on Eight Mile Road between Coolidge Highway and Greenfield Road in November and expects to complete it in spring

2022.

The new building will enable it to consolidate its staff from three locations and to shift from just-in-time distribution of much of the food it rescues to bringing all of it back to its warehouse to be mixed before sending it back out in more balanced fashion. It will also provide space to socially distance volunteers.

Forgotten Harvest will be able to increase its capacity to rescue and distribution food from nearly 50 million pounds of food last year to 90 million pounds annually, Forgotten Harvest President and CEO Kirk Mayes said in a news release.

"The project will create better health and quality of life annually outcomes for the 400,000+ children, families, and seniors we serve throughout southeastern Michigan, helping those who reside in urban areas such as the City of Detroit and Pontiac, as well as many suburban and rural communities."

Located on 10 acres, the distribution facility will include 15 truck bays, refrigerated and freezer food storage, food processing and repack areas, administrative offices, parking for a fleet of 36 large trucks and parking spaces for 200 volunteers and staff.

Forgotten Harvest rescued over 47 million pounds of food last year by collecting surplus prepared and perishable food from over 800 locations, including grocery stores, fruit and vegetable markets, restaurants, caterers, dairies, farmers, wholesale food distributors and other sources. The donated food, which would otherwise go to waste, is delivered free-of-charge to over 180 emergency food providers in the metro Detroit area.

Inline Play

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