Let’s put those leftovers to use!

Following University of Michigan home football games at the Big House, volunteers from First Pres collect and repurpose high-quality, attractive, nutritious food that remains after the players and fans have gone home. Working with the many concession stands in the stadium, as well as with the catering group that feeds the many college athletic teams that visit Ann Arbor, First Pres teams collect food that has been prepared in large quantity – trays and pans – and flash freeze the pizza, macaroni and cheese, barbeque, brats, fish, meat, pasta and hotdogs for safe distribution the following day. Last fall approximately 12,000 pounds of food was redirected to feed hungry people locally and in Detroit.

The first home football game is September 9. It will kick off our seventh season of redistributing the food and taking it to two organizations in Detroit: Cass Community Social Services in Midtown and Second Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church on Van Dyke Avenue. Locally, some of this quality food goes to two feeding ministries in Ypsilanti. In six years we have collected and redistributed about 75,000 lbs. of food.

The kitchen at Cass serves about one million meals annually to hungry people. This Stadium Food Rescue program benefits Cass in three ways. First, it reduces their food costs about $15,000 - $20,000 per year. Second, it gives their clients a much greater variety of nutritious food such as salmon, steak and ravioli. Finally, it reduces the time required to prepare meals.

There are six home games this year and we need your help!

- Six volunteers are needed for each Saturday game. In addition, one person is needed mid-week to distribute the collection tubs.
- One or two people are needed to learn the game day leadership role. Those people will lead the collection for one game plus shadow another game.

If you can help please contact Don Redding, Stadium Food Rescue Coordinator, at dredding58@yahoo.com or 276-8426. To sign up for the food collection go to www.firstpresbyterian.org.