

2018

Annual Report



GLUTEN
INTOLERANCE
GROUP

The Gluten Intolerance Group

gluten.org

Our Mission: The Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG) empowers the gluten-free community through consumer support, advocacy, and education.

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LEADERSHIP

CLOSING

Message From the CEO



In 2018, GIG accomplished exciting milestones. Our first Generation GF Teen Summit was held in Orlando FL, where teens and their families from across the country and Singapore came to learn, grow, and form lasting friendships. The event supercharged these teens to get involved in educating their communities about living gluten-free. Some started Generation GF support groups in their own communities. We look forward to the 2020 Teen Summit!

The School Nurse education program began this year. We connected with school nurses across the nation to education them and provide them resources they can use when advocating for their gluten-free students. Parents and others got involved in helping to make connections for their children. We are excited to watch this program continue to grow in the coming years.

GIG's Gluten-Free Certification Organization (GFCO) hit a new milestone. At year-end, GFCO certified over 50,000 product in 46 countries. As part of our food safety research projects in 2018, GIG published the following papers: The Use of Visual Examination for Determining the Presence of Gluten-Containing Grains in Gluten Free Oats and Other Grains, Seeds, Beans, Pulses, and Legumes in the Journal of AOAC International; Definition of the Purity Protocol: for Producing Gluten-Free Oats in C Cereal Chemistry journal, part of AACC International Inc., and collaborated with other scientists on the Stakeholders' Guidance Document for Consumer Analytical Devices with a focus on Gluten and Food Allergens published in Journal of AOAC International. We are working on two food safety research projects for 2019.

As the year ends, and in anticipation of 2020, we look forward to enhancing our connection with the community we serve. We thank our nearly 100 support groups for all they do. They are GIG's "feet on the ground" in their communities. We are grateful to all our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and staff. Without these wonderful people, we could not accomplish as much as we do to support people in their daily gluten-free lives.

We look forward to working with you in 2020.

Cynthia Kupper, CEO



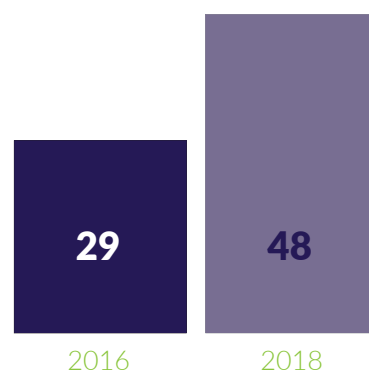
GLUTEN-FREE CERTIFICATION ORGANIZATION (GFCO)

GFCO is a program of the Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG) was established in 2005 as the first gluten-free certifier to require stricter gluten-free standards than most certification requirements, the World Health Organization, the FDA, and Health Canada.

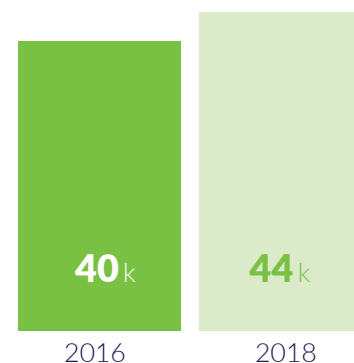
GFCO reviews manufacturers' processes, policies and procedures, and sets specific testing requirements for incoming ingredients and finished products based on ingredient and manufacturing risks. They are accredited by the International Standards Organization 17065 for product certification; this means GFCO has a third party checking to ensure they follow their own standards.

In 2018, GFCO certified over 50,000 products. This includes 1,230 companies with 2,100 different brands. GFCO certifies products and inspects manufactures in 48 different countries.

Countries



Products





Important GFFS Events

2009

- Gluten-Free Food Services (GFFS) Certification Program is established
- Completes first certification w/ McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago

2010-14

- Announces certification of California Pizza Kitchen, universities, hospitals and restaurants

2015

- Announces its certification partnership with Pizza Hut restaurants

2016-17

- Announces certification of additional universities, hospitals, and restaurants including The Melting Pot

2018

- Approximately 3,000 restaurants and food service locations have been certified by GFFS

GLUTEN-FREE FOOD SERVICE (GFFS)

GIG's Gluten-Free Food Services program (GFFS) works with a variety of establishments—from restaurants, to hospitals, to universities--to provide safe dining options for gluten-free consumers. GFFS helps develop, educate, and train food services to meet and adhere to the highest gluten-free food preparation standards. GFFS-validation establishes trust in gluten-free consumers for the food service to provide safe gluten-free food.

GFFS has validated over 2,400 establishments including restaurants, hospitals, universities, assisted living facilities, camps, bakeries, gelato shops and popular restaurant chains. Keeping up with trends, they even validated a food truck and meal kit companies in 2018. As food services explore their options for providing gluten-free meals, GFFS is ready to offer inexpensive solutions and resources to ensure consumer confidence when dining.

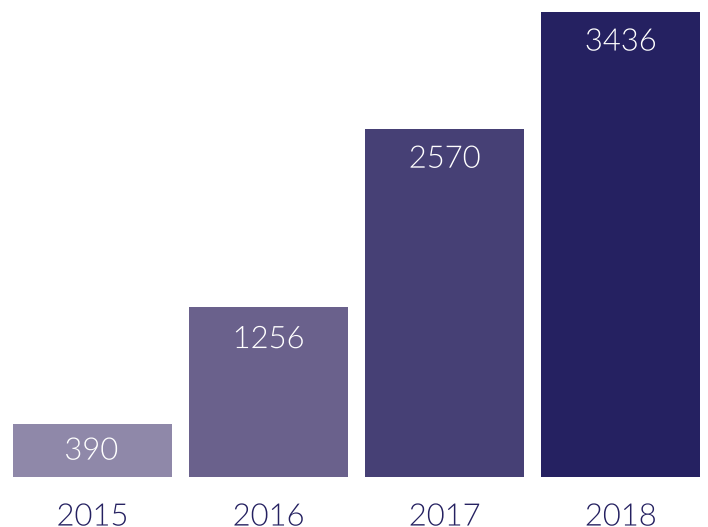


OUTREACH

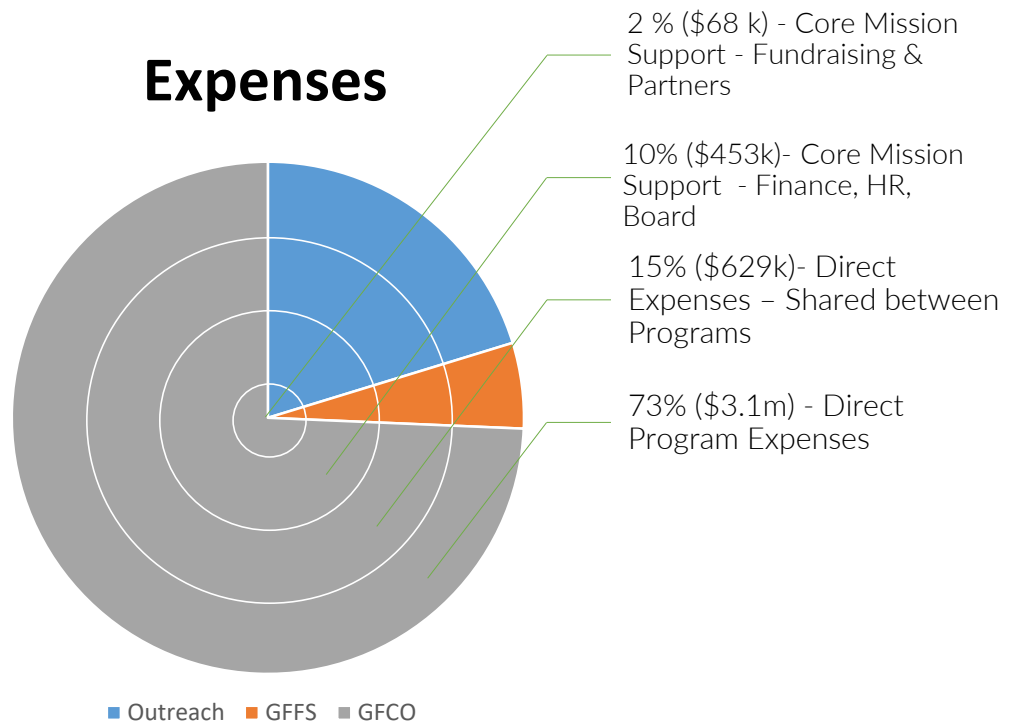
GIG's support groups and Generation GF kids groups help individuals living gluten-free connect with one another in their communities. Local groups provide support events, fundraisers, and meetings to create education and awareness of celiac disease and gluten-related disorders. GIG currently has 92 support groups in the United States and in other countries. Generation GF's 24 kids groups help kids know they are not alone.



Generation GF Kids Magazine Members



FINANCIALS



Total income: \$4,016.046.76

For each \$1 spend, we raised \$1.67



TESTIMONIALS



Laura Mulhern

*Director, Public Relations,
Front Burner Brands, Inc.*

After receiving a variety of requests from guests for gluten-free options, The Melting Pot Restaurants, Inc. decided to work with the Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG) in 2009 as our partner in providing safe and consistent gluten-free dining to our guests who must—or sometimes wish to have a gluten-free meal.

We became certified on the Gluten-Free Food Service Certification Program (GFFS) with GIG in March of 2017. This partnership helps to provide the best service possible to our guests and to increase the safety of our meals for gluten-free guests. The Melting Pot Restaurants, Inc. values the support and guidance we have received from GIG since the beginning of our partnership. Obtaining our GFFS certification and maintaining it annually has helped us gain more understanding to continue to provide safe gluten-free meals.



- Sydney Segear, 16

"The Summit really helped me connect with other people with celiac disease and share stories and experiences, and also it motivated me to bring Generation GF to Vermont. This is great as people with Celiac can learn that they are not alone and I just don't want them to have to deal with what I did."

- Elisabeth Eder, 18

"Meeting other teens with Celiac was really amazing. It made it feel normal and not that I was the only one in the world who is so careful about crumbs on my table and where I was sitting and what I was eating. To get to talk and to be friends with other people who are feeling the same exact way, and doing the same exact things that I am and that they are from different states is amazing to know."

- Teen Summit Parent

"In the past 12 years since diagnosis, this has been the single best event that we have ever attended."



**Laurie Katz and
Allyson Mathews**

*Group Leaders, Generation GF
Northern NJ*

What does the Gluten Intolerance Group mean to us? It means feeling grateful that there's a trusted organization working hard on behalf of the gluten-free community--to maintain strict certification standards for gluten-free food and restaurants, to educate consumers, to empower the gluten-free population to thrive. GIG makes us feel safe.

It also means feeling grateful for GIG's support. It's so easy to feel alone when you have celiac disease, and GIG's support groups give gluten-free kids and their parents a place to go to meet other local gluten-free families and know they're not alone. As leaders of GIG's Generation GF Northern NJ support group--and as parents of children with celiac disease--we see firsthand what a huge difference this sense of community and empowerment makes for the kids. It brings the fun back into being gluten-free

What does the Gluten Intolerance Group mean to us? Its true value is beyond measure.

We are Proud.

Proud to see individuals supporting each other.

Proud to have thousands of companies working with us to assure your safety.

Proud to witness kids and teens advocating for themselves.

Proud to be a part of this outstanding gluten-free community.

THANK YOU for asking and for allowing us to help you.

We would like to thank all of the companies, organizations, and individuals who provided donations to the Gluten Intolerance Group in 2018. With your support, GIG continues to provide the highest quality of Food Safety research, the largest program focused on gluten-free kids & families, and the most support of individuals in their home communities. We thank you for your dedication and generosity in helping us to achieve our Mission.

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Thank you to our Sponsors

The program of the Gluten Intolerance Group (GIG) affects the lives of millions of gluten-free individuals worldwide. From our support group network to our extensive Food Research projects, our outreach to the community would not be possible without the help of our sponsors. Thank you to each of these companies for assisting GIG with our efforts in 2018.

