



Denise Miller, education arts director of the Kalamazoo arts collaborative Fire, prepares food at the Community Incubator Kitchen. She was there Wednesday making food for teens participating in a summer arts workshop.

# Trailer treats

Portable kitchen helps new ventures get cooking

BY WILLIAM R. WOOD

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**KALAMAZOO** — On a recent Saturday afternoon at the arts collaborative Fire, education arts director Denise Miller served patrons cool, chunky gazpacho, freshly picked green beans, potatoes sauteed with garlic, and frittatas packed with spinach and onions.

The raw materials for the fare were organic and purchased hours earlier at the Kalamazoo Farmers' Market, hence the name of the weekly Fire event — Market Saturdays.

What many guests didn't know is that the food was prepared in a trailer that's a portable kitchen.

The Community Incubator Kitchen — located at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground, 2900 Lake St. — is a project of Fair Food Matters, a local organization dedicated to the support of locally produced food and healthy food consumption.



The kitchen trailer, based at the Kalamazoo County fairground, allows people without commercial kitchens to prepare food for large gatherings.

## KITCHEN DETAIL

**What:** Community Incubator Kitchen.

**Where:** 2900 Lake St., at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairground.

**How much:** Rental fee of \$10 per hour, by appointment only.

**Whom to contact:** The staff of Fair Food Matters. 492-1270.

the building," which is located at 1249 Portage Road and was once a fire station.

Fair Food Matters, whose offices are at 323 N. Burdick St., hopes to establish a permanent commercial kitchen in a building one day, but the trailer is a start, Bland said.

The kitchen trailer can be rented for \$10 an hour, has an eight-



Lucy Bland, of Fair Food Matters, is the coordinator of the Community Incubator Kitchen.

this place."

Bland was on hand to oversee things. In fact, she's always present to help those who use the kitchen, since many are not fully familiar