

Food Pantry Network News

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network

Our Vision: "Always Food in Every Home"



March 2017

EFPN Launches Annual "Stop Hunger Challenge"



No one should have to worry about how they will afford to feed themselves or their family. Many people in our community are faced with this concern every day. Hunger does not discriminate. Hunger does not care about gender, age, race or religion. Hunger can affect people who are unemployed or working full-time. EFPN will be conducting its annual "Stop Hunger Challenge" during the months of March and April. Food and money collected during this time will count towards this challenge. Our goal for this campaign is \$80,000 in food and money. Food items are valued at \$1.00 per item. This year we are once again very fortunate to have an anonymous donor come forward and offer an incentive for people to donate. EFPN will receive a check from this donor in proportion to the total funds and food items received during the challenge period. In addition, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is offering a 10% credit on our account for all money donated to us. In 2016, we spent \$138,022 with the Food Bank to purchase food for our regular program as well as the Backpack Buddies and Mobile Pantry programs. Because of your monetary donations in the 2016 "Stop Hunger Challenge", we were able to get \$4,350 in credits at the Food Bank which helped to reduce our Food Bank bills. The demand for all our major programs (Regular Pantry Program, and the Backpack Buddies and Nutritional Supplement Programs) increased last year. Because of your generous support, we were able to maintain the same level of support for our recipients in spite of the increase. Donations toward any of our programs or specific pantries will qualify for the campaign. Monetary donations may be sent to EFPN, P.O. Box 2521, Midland, MI 48641-2521. Food donations may be donated to any of our pantries or to our warehouse location at 503 S. Saginaw Rd. If you would like to leave a donation at the warehouse, please call 486-9393 to arrange a time for delivery or pickup. Many of our supporting churches will be collecting at this time. You can continue to bring your donations to your church collection site. Check our website, www.midlandcountyefpn.org, to watch our progress towards this goal or to donate online.

Mobile Pantries Supplement Meals for Our Neighbors In-Need

The Mobile Food Pantry is a "food giveaway" program held in partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. These mobile pantries are held approximately 10-11 times/year in various locations in Midland County. The truck contains 13,000-15,000 lbs. of food at a cost of \$1200/truck. Each Mobile Food Pantry helps around 250 families. EFPN typically spends an additional \$200-\$300 on items such as vegetables, pasta, or pasta sauce to supplement the food on the truck. Families leave a mobile pantry with a grocery cart of food that costs EFPN and our supporters a total of approximately \$5.00 per cart. Organizations and churches have hosted and funded the cost of these trucks. At least 65 volunteers are needed for each mobile. Recipients do not need to provide qualifying information. Recipients can come from any county, though the vast majority are from Midland County. Recipients will often come hours before registration begins in order to make sure they get a low number, as clients are served in the order they are registered. In 2016, the Mobile Pantries helped 2977 families, representing 8600 people. If you are interested in volunteering, hosting, or sponsoring all or part of a mobile pantry, please contact our office at 486-9393.



Reflections

- * A family lost their home in a fire. In addition to help by the Red Cross, EFPN is providing them food once a month until they can get on their feet.
- * An emancipated minor found an apartment but did not have money for food. She received food the very day she called. She said she thought no one would help her. She called the day after receiving her food to say thank you.
- * A man quit his job to take care of his ill wife. After she died, family members came for the funeral. He ran out of food feeding his visiting relatives.
- * A father, the breadwinner of a family, was sent to prison for two years. His wife is looking for a job to be able to take care of her children. She needed help with food until she could find a job.

Food For Thought

A thank you from a recipient to you:

"Thanks so much for the food you gave us. We are eating well because of you. We thank God for you being there. May love, happiness and kindness follow you all the days of your lives."

Our Pantries

EFPN has eight pantries located throughout Midland County. This article highlights our North Midland Family Center Pantry.

Spotlight on the North Midland Family Center Pantry



In Sept. 1997 the Personal Needs Pantry housed within the Bethel Church of the Nazarene joined the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network (EFPN) to expand their personal need pantry to include food. The pantry moved its location to the North Midland Family Center in 2003, allowing clients to take advantage of the broader services available at the Center.

As the only human service agency in northern Midland County, Greater Midland North Family Center (NFC) serves as the hub of the community, providing necessary resources and services for individuals, children, youth and families. NFC serves residents in the eight rural townships of Mills, Bentley, Billings, Tobacco, Edenville, Hope, Lincoln and Larkin, most of

which include substantial pockets of poverty.

The North Midland Family Center Pantry is supported by local churches such as the Hope United Methodist Church and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church and community businesses and members. The pantry is available five days a week and provides a weeks worth of pre-packaged boxes of food to recipients scheduled through the EFPN coordinator. NFC has also participated in the EFPN summer backpack program for children enrolled in their summer reading program.



Differences Between a Food Pantry and a Food Bank



People sometimes refer to EFPN as a food bank. There are differences between food banks and food pantries. A food bank is a non-profit organization that collects and distributes food to hunger relief charities like food pantries. Food banks act as food storage and distribution depots for smaller front line agencies and usually do not themselves give out food directly to people struggling with hunger. Food usually comes from various sources in the food industry, like grocery stores and wholesalers that have thousands of pounds of food to give away - food that could otherwise be thrown away. Food banks often form partnerships with local farmers in order to get fresh produce. They qualify for getting USDA items that are then sold to food pantries. Our local Meijer, Walmart and Kroger are tied into Feeding

America which is the umbrella organization for many food banks. The excess food from our local grocery stores goes to our local food bank, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM).

Food pantries are usually on the front line and have personal contact with the recipients. EFPN relies on the FBEM for providing us with low cost food items for many of our programs. Our pantry representatives are able to stretch your donated dollars by purchasing food from FBEM. In 2016, 27% of our food purchased for our eight pantries came from the FBEM. The Food Bank does not always have all the items that are needed to stock a pantry. Unless those items have been directly donated to EFPN by our supporters, our pantry representatives will purchase these items at the local stores. The Backpack Buddies Program is a program of the FBEM. The food that goes into those backpacks comes directly from the FBEM. We are able to offer this program very cost effectively because of our relationship with the FBEM. It costs us around \$81.00 per child per year to provide a weekly backpack. The food for our Mobile Pantries come from FBEM. We are able to purchase 13,000-15,000 lbs. of food for \$1200 for the Mobile Pantries. Because of our connection with the FBEM, our pantry representatives are required to take training in Civil Rights and safe handling of food. The FBEM periodically inspects our pantries to make sure we are following standard pantry operating guidelines.

Hidden Harvest is another vital partner of ours. Hidden Harvest rescues thousands of pounds of food from hospitals, hotels, restaurants, wholesalers, bakeries, grocery stores, and other health department or USDA approved sources. This food is delivered free of charge, to soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and other nonprofit community programs that help many of our neighbors every day. Much of our fresh produce comes from our relationship with Hidden Harvest. As you can see, there are many agencies that work together to address the issue of hunger in Midland County.

Thank You

Local Businesses, Churches
and Organizations for
Recent Food and
Monetary Donations for
Nov. 2016 - Jan. 2017!

Advanced Auto Parts
Aldersgate United Methodist
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin
Mary Parish
Blessed Sacrament Parish
Chapel Lane Presbyterian
Chestnut Hill Elem. 3rd. Grade
Chippewa Nature Cen. Venison
Church World Services
Consumers Energy Foundation
Dow Exec Christmas Party
Dow High Student Union
Dow High Volleyball Team
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Family Fare
First Church Of Christ Scientist
First United Methodist Church
GWRRRA Chapter V-MI
Heather Restaurant
International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers
James R. and Anita Horne Jenkins
Family Foundation
Kiwasssee Kiwanis Club
Kroger
Lalonde's Market
Members First Credit Union
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Midland Area Catholic Middle
School Program
MCFTA - Men of Music
Midland Church Of The Brethren
Midland Civitan Club
Midland Cogeneration Venture
Midland Community Orchestra
Midland Fig Skating Club
Midland Kiwanis Foundation
Midland Lions Club
Natural Resource Tech Inc.
New Hire Social Group
New Hope Community Church
Poseyville United Meth Church
Rite-Aid Pharmacy
Save-A-Lot customers
St Timothy Lutheran Church
Studley Grange
The Benevity Community Impact
Fund
The Charles J Strosacker Found.
The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints
The Peter & Dorothy A Solomon
Foundation
Trinity Lutheran Church
United Church Of Christ
United Way Sharing Tree
VFW Post 3651
W Midland Family Center
Walmart
Women Of Floyd Church Of God
Woodcrest Elem. 5th. Grade
Younkens Employees

Thank You Volunteers For the Difference You Make

Words are not adequate to thank the many volunteers who keep our organization running. Because of our volunteers, many people will not go to bed hungry. It is estimated that we have at least 400 volunteers in our organization. We wish we could personally thank each one of them. EFPN only has three part time paid positions-our coordinator who interviews the clients, her back-up, and a part time manager. It takes a lot of work and dedication to operate our eight pantries. We gave out over 18,000 items/month through our regular pantry program in 2016. That is a lot of food that has to be bought, counted in, shelved, and counted out as they are put in client's bags each month. In addition, the number of items in and out have to be reported for our internal statistics, for our annual IRS form 990 filing as well as making us accountable to our donors. Pantries also track which organizations, businesses or churches donated the items. Our Backpack Buddies Program has a dedicated volunteer who oversees the program. The volunteer weekly monitors the numbers of students in the program at 12 elementary schools and 2 Head Start Classes and orders the necessary amount of food as well as working with the schools to make the process as efficient as possible. In addition, we have many volunteers who make this program work. This program would not run without the Midland Public School Grounds' group and the many teachers and school volunteers who pack the bags. For some schools, local churches provide space and volunteers to store and pack the bags. We have a team from Wolverine Bank who secures, divides and delivers the fruit that we place each month in the backpacks. Our Senior Delivery Program has a group of people who each month deliver food throughout Midland County to low income home-bound seniors. Each mobile pantry takes at least 65 volunteers to run. Our mobile pantry coordinator, besides overseeing the event on the day of the mobile pantry, does a lot of work behind the scenes before and after these events. We had a record 11 mobile pantries in 2016. We have a crew of warehouse volunteers who meet the trucks from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and Hidden Harvest as well as help with food donations. All this food has to be counted in and shelved. All our board members volunteer their time. There are many other tasks that are done by volunteers that are crucial to keeping our organization operating. Volunteers have a choice as to where they spend their precious time. Winston Churchill has said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give". We are honored that our volunteers have chosen to give their time and effort to us.



Give Local Midland May 2

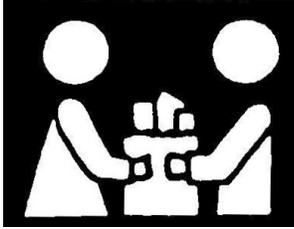
The Midland Area Community Foundation (MACF) is again sponsoring the Give Local Midland event. Give Local Midland is part of a national online giving event. This 24 hour one day event is on Tuesday, May 2 (12:00am-11:59pm). Many of the nonprofits in Midland County will be part of this event. All money collected on this day will go into our endowment fund. We hope to build our endowment fund to eventually fund programs such as the Backpack Buddies program. On May 2, you may make your donation to EFPN at www.givelocalmidland.org. Every donation will receive matching funds. There will also be prizes and incentives awarded to the participating nonprofits throughout the day. Check the Midland Give Local site to learn about some fun incentives.



EFPN NEEDS

Wondering what to donate to EFPN? Here are some items that recipients need but we often do not have or have in limited supply.

Baking Supplies: flour, sugar, salt
Canned Fruit
Canned Meat: ham, chicken
Coffee
Cooking Oil
Laundry/ Dish Detergent
Miracle Whip, Mayonnaise
Paper towels, Toilet paper
Aluminum foil, Plastic wrap
Personal Care Items: toothbrush & toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, razors, shaving cream



**Midland County
Emergency Food Pantry
Network**

**P.O. Box 2521
Midland, MI 48641-2521**

www.midlandcountyeftp.org

989-486-9393

**NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MIDLAND, MI
PERMIT NO 181**

Midland County EFPN Locations

Please call before delivering food & supplies to pantries

Bullock Creek Outreach Pantry

at Messiah Lutheran Church

1550 S. Poseyville Rd. (corner of Gordonville Rd.) • 835-7143

Coleman Railway Family Center

4839 N. Coleman Schools Drive • 465-2079

EFPN Warehouse

503 S. Saginaw Rd. • 486-9393

HELP Pantry

at Memorial Presbyterian Church

1310 Ashman St. (use Allen St. entrance) • 835-6759

North Midland Family Center Pantry

2601 E. Shearer Rd. • 689-7770

SAMS Food Pantry

hosted by St. John's Episcopal Church at

503 S. Saginaw Rd. • 631-2260

Sanford Food Pantry

at Sanford United Methodist Church

2560 N. West River Rd. • 687-5353

Wheeler Road Church of Christ Pantry

1123 E. Wheeler Rd. • 835-8559

West Midland Family Center Pantry

4011 W. Isabella Rd. • 832-3256

*If you know of anyone in need of food, please have them
call 989-486-9393*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stamp Out Hunger Postal Drive May 13, 2017



Every year our local postal workers join the National Association of Letter Carriers' food drive in their "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive. The drive this year is Saturday, May 13. This is the largest single day food drive in the country. Just leave a bag of non-perishable food items by your mailbox. Your mail carrier will pick up the food. The food will be distributed to Midland County EFPN pantries as well as Salvation Army, Caregiving Network, Open Door, Shelterhouse and various other pantries. We are very grateful to our local postal workers for participating in this event. Please support your local postal worker.

EFPN ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 10, 2017

The EFPN annual meeting will be on Monday, April 10 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3701 Jefferson. Social hour is at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm and a business meeting at 7:00 pm. Cost of the dinner is \$16.50 and is payable at the door.

You are welcome to come to the dinner and meeting or meeting only. If you would like to attend the dinner, RSVP to Sandy Warner, 486-9393 or manager@midlandcountyeftp.org by Friday, March 31. This event is a time for volunteers and supporters to come together to celebrate another year of making a difference in the lives of others.