

# Food Pantry Network News

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network

*Our Vision: "Always Food in Every Home"*



March 2014

## Time for the Feinstein Challenge

*"My money started this campaign but it is YOU who will decide how many people in YOUR city or town will be fed this year."*

*"All that will matter to us someday is what we did while we were here to help those who needed us."*

-Alan Shawn Feinstein

The year 2014 marks the 17th annual challenge from Alan Shawn Feinstein to alleviate hunger across the country. Each year Mr. Feinstein offers a contribution based on the amount of money raised and food items donated during the March 1 to April 30 time period. As part of this challenge, donated food items will be credited at \$1 per item.

The Feinstein Foundation awards \$1 million proportionally across the country with grants ranging in size from \$250 to a maximum of \$35,000. Donations must be received during the campaign period. We have set a goal of \$75,000 in gifts and food items combined. For

us at EFPN, this fund-raising period is second only to the end-of-year giving.

Please consider giving at this time. Donations toward any of our food programs 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.

Check our website, [www.midlandcountyefpn.org](http://www.midlandcountyefpn.org), to watch our progress towards our Feinstein Challenge goal.

## Reflections

\* A mother used up all of her food stamps at the beginning of the month and then came down with the flu. She had no juice or soups so EFPN supplied these items.

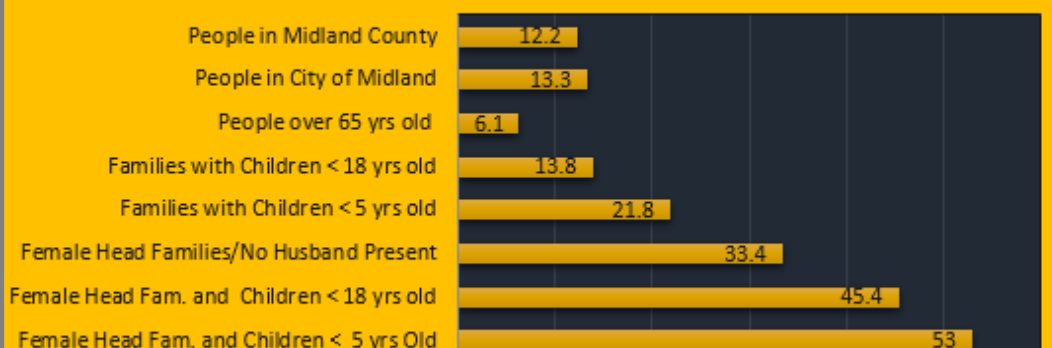
\* A father lost his job and needed help providing food for his family until he could find employment. He was relieved that EFPN was there to help him.

\* A local family lost their home in a fire. Red Cross put them up in a motel and EFPN provided food and personal care items.

\* A teenager needed food assistance while her mother was in the hospital getting chemo treatments.

## Poverty in Midland

### Midland County Population Groups Estimated % Below Poverty level \*



\* Based on U.S. government census data and American Community Survey 2008-2012.

## Food for Thought

\* A local store manager decided to hold a food drive because she benefited from an EFPN pantry as a child.

\* We received a contribution in honor of an elderly gentleman from his relative. The note said "other than gifts from his grandkids, he appreciates gifts like this more than many things under the tree."

\* A recent thank you note from a client, "Thank you for your help in my time of need. God has been with me this last 1 1/2 years with my health and he sent me to you. I am truly blessed with people like you in my life that have helped me."

# Thank You to Our Volunteers

The Emergency Food Pantry Network has only three paid employees: Our coordinator who screens the clients, her back up and a part time manager. The heart and soul of our organization is our large number of volunteers. We estimate we have over 500 volunteers. The volunteers include the people who work the regular pantries and the mobile pantries, our board, warehouse volunteers, Thanksgiving Basket volunteers, and all the volunteers for the Backpack Buddies Program. We wish we could thank each one of you personally and give you the recognition you deserve. We hope you can take pride in the knowledge that you are a very important part of alleviating hunger in Midland County. The recipients of food and the donors to EFPN are very grateful for your service and dedication. As we always say, together we are making a difference in the lives of many.



## Spring Into Caring

### Joint EFPN and Open Door Fundraiser

*EFPN and Open Door will join forces to help those in need. A luncheon fundraiser is being planned for Wednesday, May 7 at Whiting Forest. There will be raffle prizes, and valet parking will be available. Hold the date and check [www.midlandcountyeefpn.org](http://www.midlandcountyeefpn.org) for upcoming details.*

## Fresh Produce Season Coming

Providing more fresh produce to our clients is a goal of EFPN. One of the reasons for establishing a warehouse was to take advantage of produce available from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and Hidden Harvest and distribute it among our eight pantries.

Last year we were very fortunate to be the recipients of produce from the community garden established by Holy Family Episcopal Church. Holy Family will once again plant a community garden this year and will be looking for volunteers to help them. They welcome anyone in the community to help them in this effort. Watch the Holy Family Episcopal Church website at [www.holyfamily-episcopalchurch.org](http://www.holyfamily-episcopalchurch.org) for details on how you can help.

We also received vegetables from the gardens at Assumption Church, Circle Garden, and the heirloom garden at the Chippewa Nature Center. Managing these community gardens takes a lot of planning and work, but our clients are very thankful to be able to receive fresh produce which is often expensive to purchase. If you have a home garden, consider planting an extra row and donate the produce to EFPN.



# Thank You United Way for the Sharing Tree Program

EFPN would like to thank United Way and all the donors to the Sharing Tree program. EFPN received donations valued at \$10,638. EFPN requests are on the red tags representing typical EFPN clients. Sixty four percent of our tags were filled. Our clients were thrilled to receive extra personal care items, gift certificates for meat, dairy or fresh produce, kitchen supplies and restaurant gift certificates. We are very grateful to United Way for all their work to make this program a success and to our donors who were incredibly generous to our clients.

**Kroger Rewards Card Registration:** If you have registered your Kroger card to benefit EFPN, this is a reminder that your enrollment ends April 30. You will need to re-enroll your card. For those of you who have not enrolled your card, check the EFPN website, [www.midlandcountyeFPN.org](http://www.midlandcountyeFPN.org) for details. If you do not have internet access and would like your card registered, call 486-9393.

# Items Needed by EFPN Food Pantries

EFPN is grateful for all donations to help our pantries. Items may be dropped off to any of our eight pantries or can be brought to our warehouse at 503 S Saginaw Rd. Call 486-9393 to arrange a delivery to the warehouse. Remember all donations received during March and April will count towards the Feinstein Challenge. We are in particular need of certain items.

**Personal care items:** Shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. are always in short supply. Our clients cannot buy these items with their Bridge Cards. They also tend to be expensive items and we cannot get them from the Food Bank.

**Canned Protein:** Tuna, chicken, beef stew.

**Canned fruit including apple sauce:** These items are popular with our clients. We often cannot get these from the Food Bank.

**Breakfast items:** Cereal is a breakfast staple especially appreciated by children. Pancake mix and syrup.

**Cleaning Supplies:** Dish detergent, laundry detergent, paper towels.

## Thank You

*Local Businesses and Organizations for Recent Food and Fund Raising Events!*

Northwind Forest Apts  
Meijer's Simply Give  
Chestnut Hill 3rd Grade  
Edward Jones  
Global Tan  
Qdoba Mexican Grill  
LaLonde's Market  
Midland Fund Raising  
Midland Figure Skating  
Cabot Corp.  
Chemical Bank  
Midland 100 Club  
Midland Cogeneration  
Dow High Music Parents  
Midland High National Honor Society

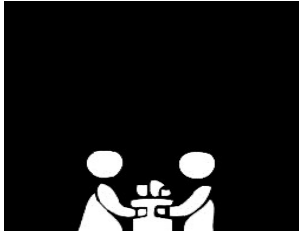
# Senior Hunger

Nearly 9 million older adults are at risk of hunger, but the depth of senior hunger in America is not widely understood. This is a problem often hiding right in front of us. Older adults are too embarrassed to ask for help — or even to acknowledge that they need it. Many people underestimate the day-to-day struggles of those who are age 65 and over. They struggle to make ends meet and to achieve a decent quality of life. It's easy to imagine that Social Security and Medicare provide sufficient protection against a problem as basic as hunger. Yet the average Social Security benefit is just over \$1,200 a month, and a majority of seniors today rely on Social Security as their largest source of income.



Data for Midland County, 2008-2012, shows 6.1 percent of adults over 65 are food insecure. In addition to our regular assistance program, during the winter, EFPN provides food once a month to seniors specially designated by the Department of Human Services. We also provide vouchers for nutritional supplements for elderly people who need this supplement.

Please go to our website [www.midlandcountyeFPN.org](http://www.midlandcountyeFPN.org) and test your knowledge of senior hunger.



Midland County  
Emergency Food Pantry

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

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[www.midlandcountyeftp.org](http://www.midlandcountyeftp.org)

989-486-9393

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## 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 Food Pantry**

at Coleman City Hall • 465-6961

### **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*

## EFPN Annual Meeting

The EFPN annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23 at Whiting Forest. Registration is at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:00 PM, and business meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Price for the meal is \$17.00. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Jessica Robison, 948-9345, [jessica@wilsonlawpc.com](mailto:jessica@wilsonlawpc.com) by April 11. You may pay the night of the event.

## Upcoming Event:



On Saturday May 10, the National Association of Letter Carriers will help **Stamp Out Hunger** across America. The Stamp Out Hunger food drive, has become the nation's largest single-day food drive.

Midland County postal workers will be participating in this drive. Helping Stamp Out Hunger is as easy as checking your mailbox. Just leave a bag of non-perishable food where your letter carrier normally delivers your mail. Your letter carrier will pick up the food. The food collected will be distributed to many of the food pantries in Midland County. This is one of the final drives to help stock pantry shelves for the summer months.