

Food Pantry Network News

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network

Our Vision: "Always Food in Every Home"



November 2017

Building for the Future

2018 may be the year we are on the move and we are asking for your help.



The office of EFPN began as space in the home of one of our founders and met our needs for almost 30 years. Just over 5 years ago, when the founder retired, we moved to an office in the community, partnering with St. John's Episcopal's SAMS pantry and the Diaper Alliance in a shared rental. The Diaper Alliance outgrew the space and the ministry of ACT Uganda came in as a partner to the building.

During this time the building became the drop off site to receive food deliveries from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM). Also, EFPN recognized the need to establish a warehouse to accept large community donations, venison from the Chipewa Nature Center and other hunters, and Hidden Harvest donations so these donations could be more easily shared with our eight pantries. A grant from the Midland Area Community Foundation allowed us to purchase shelving, refrigerators and freezers. This warehouse exceeded expectations, and we have outgrown our current space.

The food for the Backpack Buddies program is delivered every two weeks from FBEM to a Midland Public Schools' garage. There is floor space for food for 800 children and we are starting to get close to this number, especially as we work to expand to more preschools. We want to explore having some backpack food deliveries made to our current location which in reality does not have the extra capacity to receive these deliveries.

We received totes of produce from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan to share with our pantries, other local agencies, and Midland Fresh, the new mobile produce truck. We were lucky that we had a rather cool summer so we were able to keep the totes of produce in the garage. Again, a lack of space makes it difficult to move the produce to our air conditioned inside warehouse.

Our current location is for sale and if and when it is sold we will be given a short window of time to move. Because of these opportunities for growth and building issues, the EFPN board has recommended that we find a building that will meet our future needs. We hope a new location will allow us to continue our partnership with the SAMS' Pantry and ACT Uganda. Long term, we feel owning a building will result in reduced costs. We always try to put as much of your donated dollars as possible to food programs and keep overhead as low as we can. As a result, we have limited funds that we feel we could use as a down payment as most of our past donations were designated for food programs. In order to raise money for this future building, we are adding a new designation on our donor envelope. You may designate that your donations go to this building fund, or you may split your donation between the building and any of the food programs. Of course, you can always designate that your money go just to food programs and that will be honored. Our goal for this endeavor is to raise \$20,000. This is a major endeavor for EFPN but we believe it will result in reduced facility costs and with the expanded warehouse, we can process food donations more efficiently as well as look at expansion of our programs. In the event we do not find a building and move to a rental facility, your building donations will be put into our food programs. We want to thank you for trusting our organization for many years to use your donations wisely to serve those in need of food.

Reflections

* A family lost everything in a fire. They worked each day till 5:00 PM. They were able to receive help at our Wednesday evening pantry.

* A foster care mom who had 4 children was called by DHHS to accept 4 additional children. The children were upset because the parents had been sent to jail. They needed a stable home. She took them in. She found that they were very hungry. She called EFPN for help and was assisted that very day. She said she is not sure these children ever had enough to eat.

* A women with three children came to a pantry. She apologized because she thought she was taking too much food. She said she had no food in her house. Volunteers encouraged her to take as much as she needed.

* A woman fled from an abusive husband from another state. She had 2 children and no food. It was after pantry hours. An emergency box was packed and she picked it up at a church. She was so happy she could feed her children that night. She was also scheduled to receive a regular pantry visit.

* A man had to pay funeral expenses for his father and used his monthly income and a lot of his savings. He visited a pantry to get food for his family. He was amazed at the amount of food he received. He asked if he could pay for the food later. We declined his offer and told him that we live in a generous community that wants no one to go hungry.

* A woman with two children took in her niece because the parents could not take proper care of the child. The woman did not have enough money till payday to feed this extra mouth.

Community Thanksgiving Food Collection

Thanksgiving is a time to be grateful for all that we have. It is also a time to remember those who struggle to put food on their table. On November 19, resources from the Midland community will come together to provide 500 families with a Thanksgiving meal. This program is a partnership of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, EFPN and the Midland County Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS). The list of recipients is compiled with input from DHHS, EFPN and many of the nonprofit agencies in Midland County. To contribute to this Thanksgiving program you may bring your nonperishable food items and personal care items on Sunday, November 19, between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm to Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 2206 Airfield Lane. Many churches, schools and businesses in our community are collecting food for this event. If you cannot make it to Aldersgate on November 19, volunteers are available to pick up donations. Please call 839-9879 or 486-9393.

What is Needed

Food Needs: Canned fruits, vegetables and soup, cereal, spaghetti sauce, noodle, boxed potatoes, rice, dessert mixes, juices, stuffing, Jell-O, pie mixes

Personal Care Needs: Shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, combs, hair brushes, razor/shaving cream, toilet paper, tooth paste, tooth brushes, laundry detergent

Cookies: Donations of homemade cookies (labeled and packaged, a dozen per package in sealed plastic bags) would be especially appreciated. At least 500 dozens of cookies are needed.

Cash Donations: We need \$10,000 in cash donations to give recipients gift certificates which the families use to purchase perishable foods. Your tax deductible checks should be made payable to: Midland County EFPN, P.O. Box 2521, Midland, MI 48641-2521. Please designate your donation as Thanksgiving Baskets.



This quote from W. J. Cameron captures the sentiment of the Thanksgiving Program, "Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action."

Thank You Letter to Sanford United Methodist Pantry

I am writing to express my gratitude for the good food you provided us. This year my vehicle did not run and Dial A Ride only allows one bag and I was not able to use the pantry when needed. As a result most of my daily food was 2 eggs and a potato. It was cheap, filling, provided starch and protein. My husband and best friend returned to town in April. He needed emergency surgeries with more to follow. His mobility is limited, he is in a lot of pain and not able to work. The last thing I wanted to do was give him only eggs daily as he recovers. I appreciate the good staples you provided us. They allow me to offer him better, fuller, more nutritious meals. I wanted to buy milk, fruits, vegetables with our \$20.00 certificate but needed cleaning items more so went that route. Thank you for your kindness to help our family. (EFPN has reached out to Dial-A-Ride to find a way for recipients to take more food on the bus. It is a matter of being able to secure the food so it does not become a safety issue.)

Holiday Wishes Gala



The annual Holiday Wishes Gala, sponsored by the group Community Wishes, is being held Thursday, December 7 at the Great Hall & Banquet & Convection Center, 5121 Bay City Rd, 5:30-9:30 pm. It is going to be the biggest ugly sweater party for a cause. EFPN is honored to be one of three charities selected to receive funds from this event. Funds from this event will go to support our Backpack Buddies Program. A Brighter Tomorrow and Camp Fishtales are the other charities receiving money. There will be a live auction, raffles, a hearty hors d'oeuvres buffet, and open bar. Bring an unwrapped toy and you will be entered for the Holiday Wish Prize. Tickets are \$40.00. Tickets are available for purchase at our office, 503 S Saginaw Rd, Ayre Rhinehart Realtors, 4809 Jefferson Ave, Eastman Party Store, 5205 Eastman Ave. or Coffee Chaos, 6201 Jefferson Ave., or at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-wishes-gala-tickets-38780718172> or at the Community Wishes Facebook page under Events. EFPN wants to thank all the people involved with this event for all their hard work. Come and enjoy a fun filled evening while supporting local charities.

Thank You
Local Businesses, Churches
and Organizations for
Recent Food and
Monetary Donations for
Mid August - Mid October
2017

- 4-H Auction Gladwin County Fair
- 4-H Auction Midland County Fair
- Ace Hardware
- Aldersgate United Methodist Church
- American Assoc. of University Women cookbooks
- American Chemical Society Garden
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
- Blessed Sacrament Church
- Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church
- Circle Area
- Community Garden
- Civitan Club
- Family Fare
- Farmers of the Midland Area
- Chamber of Commerce
- Farmer's Market
- Feeny Chrysler Jeep Dodge
- First United Methodist Church
- First United Methodist-United Methodist
- Women-cookbooks
- Fisher Companies
- Freeland Bean & Grain
- Good Stead Farm
- Gordonville United Methodist Church
- Kroger Rewards' Program
- Meijer's Simply Give Memorial
- Presbyterian Church
- Midland Balloon Festival
- Midland County Fair Board
- Midland-Gladwin
- Central Labor Council
- Northpoint Ministries Church of God
- Rich Family Farms
- Rite-Aid Pharmacy
- Root Property Inspection
- Sanford Community Of Christ
- Spherion Staffing
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- Trinseo
- Wilson Miller Funeral Home

Sharing Tree Change for Red Tags

EFPN has participated in the Sharing Tree with the desired items on the red tags. The stories represented typical people that we encounter at our pantries. The needs were for personal care items, hot chocolate, popcorn, kitchen supplies, restaurant and grocery gift cards.



United Way is introducing a new system for red tags. Instead of buying actual items, donors can go online and contribute money in various categories at the Impact Store. EFPN will receive funds so that we can go and purchase the needed items. We hope to provide our recipients personal care items, kitchen supplies, grocery and restaurant gift cards. The Sharing Tree has been very valuable in allowing us to make Christmas special for our recipients. One of our past recipients remarked that this was the only Christmas gift she was receiving. We have used generous grocery gift cards to not only allow families to purchase food but also gifts for their children. We have been able to provide kettles to a women coming out of a shelter. Please support the Sharing Tree Red Tag program by making a contribution at the Impact Store (SharingTreeMidland.com) after November 1 and know you are making Christmas special for those in need.

Alice Report 2017 Update

Alice is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, households that earn more than poverty level but less than the cost of living for their county.

Thanks to United Way of Midland County for making this report available.

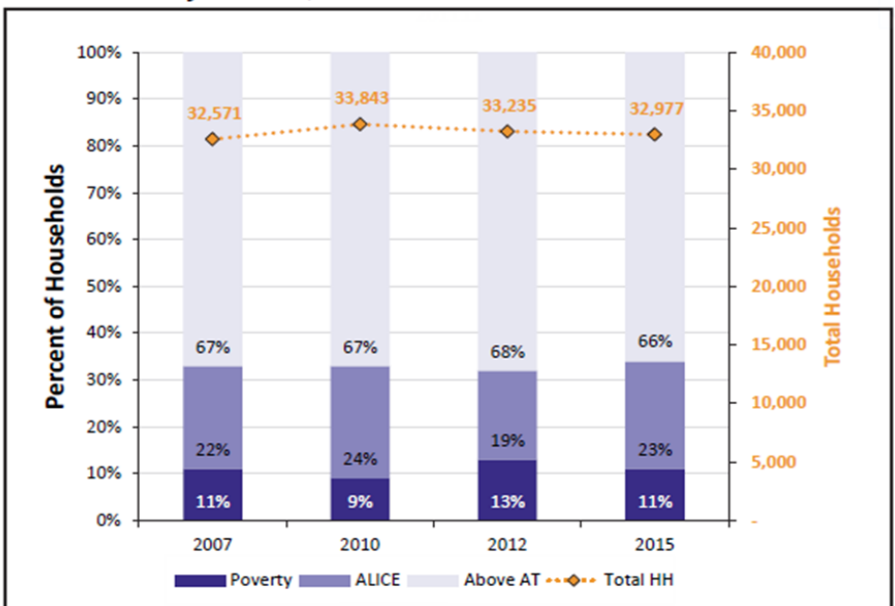
The two charts to the right contain data for Midland County.

Household Survival Budget, Midland County

| | SINGLE ADULT | 2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Monthly Costs | | |
| Housing | \$615 | \$803 |
| Child Care | \$- | \$1,143 |
| Food | \$184 | \$609 |
| Transportation | \$349 | \$697 |
| Health Care | \$184 | \$707 |
| Miscellaneous | \$153 | \$431 |
| Taxes | \$204 | \$350 |
| Monthly Total | \$1,689 | \$4,740 |
| ANNUAL TOTAL | \$20,268 | \$56,880 |
| Hourly Wage | \$10.13 | \$28.44 |

Sources: 2015 Point-in-Time Data: American Community Survey. ALICE Demographics: American Community Survey; the ALICE Threshold. Budget: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); Michigan Department of Treasury; Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

Households by Income, 2007 to 2015





**Midland County
Emergency Food Pantry
Network**

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

www.midlandcountyeftpn.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

**Two Great Concerts -
Two Opportunities to Help
Those In Need**



The Midland Community Orchestra, led by conductor Gina Provenzano, will be having a free concert on Sunday, November 19, at 3:00 PM in Bullock Creek High School auditorium, 1420 South Badour. Attendees are encouraged to bring a food donation to help stock the shelves of EFPN.

The Men of Music, led by Grace Marra, will hold their Christmas concert on Sunday, December 10 at the First United Methodist Church, 315 W Larkin St., Midland, at 2:00 and 7:00 PM. There is no admission charge. A free will donation will be collected with proceeds going to support EFPN. Please come and enjoy the music while supporting those in need.

