

Food Pantry Network News

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network

Our Vision: "Always Food in Every Home"



March 2018

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. Donated food, personal care and cleaning items are valued at \$1.00 per item. We are once again very fortunate to have an anonymous donor who will offer an incentive for people to donate either food or money. EFPN will receive a check from this donor in proportion to the total funds and food, personal care and cleaning 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 2017, we spent \$126,946 with the Food Bank to purchase food for our regular pantry program as well as the Backpack Buddies and Mobile Pantry programs. Donations toward any of our programs or specific pantries will qualify for the campaign. Donations to our building fund will count towards the incentive from the anonymous donor but not towards the Food Bank incentive. 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.

Food for Thought

- * A family living in a hotel had not eaten in 1 1/2 days. They were desperate for some food. They were helped that day.
- * A young parent with 4 children is undergoing treatment out of town for cancer. Doctors are hopeful the treatment will work. We provided them food for the trip as they had depleted all their resources.
- * A recipient at one of our pantries was overwhelmed with emotion because of the amount of food they received.
- * A father needed Ensure to help gain his weight back after having chemo treatments.
- * A mother with a sick child used her food stamps to buy food that her sick child would eat. She did not have enough money to buy more food for the rest of the family.

Remembering Jean Kellom

In November 2017 we lost the last of the EFPN founding members, Jean Kellom. Jean was instrumental in not only establishing our organization in 1983 but was a guiding force for many years. She served in a variety of roles from pantry worker at the Memorial Presbyterian Church's HELP Pantry, EFPN treasurer to Executive Director for 25 years. Her degree in mathematics served her well as she developed many spreadsheets and programs to not only monitor finances but also food inventories and donors. She wrote many of the policies and procedures which we still use today. As EFPN looked to take on new programs such as the Backpack Buddies, Medical Nutrition and client select pantries, Jean's response was "you got to have faith." As a result of Jean's faith we have grown the Backpack Buddies Program to over 700 students in elementary and preschools and the Medical Nutrition Program, which provides nutritional supplements as well as special baby formulas. Our largest pantries, which serve over 80% of our clients, are client select pantries. Jean lived the words of the gospel, "what you did for the least of these brothers, you did for me." Thank you Jean, for all you did for us and the least of our brothers.





Volunteers Make a Difference

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-ups, and a part time manager. It takes a lot of work and dedication to operate our eight pantries. We gave out over 17,000 items/month through our regular pantry program in 2017. 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. 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 11 elementary schools and 4 preschools and orders the necessary amount of food as well as working with the schools to make the process as efficient as possible. We are grateful to the Midland Public School Grounds' group and the staff from county schools who transport

the food to each school 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 Park Place Homes who secure, divide and deliver 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 of our 11 mobile pantries takes at least 65 volunteers. 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 have a crew of warehouse volunteers who meet the truck from Hidden Harvest as well as help with food donations. 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. An unknown author said, "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in". Thank you to our many volunteers for helping make Midland County a better place for those in need of food.

Academic and Career Education Academy



The Academic & Career Education Academy (ACEA) is an alternative high school that provides an innovative learning environment for students by integrating Michigan's educational standards through different delivery systems. ACEA offers the educational background necessary for students to begin a career or enter a post-secondary school after graduation. Many of these students are from low-income families. On occasion EFPN would be contacted to supply some food for a small pantry. We now are getting more involved with this pantry. Two EFPN volunteers will be monitoring the pantry and making sure it is stocked with food for these students. Some of these students live on their own and have limited transportation. Before Christmas we were contacted by ACEA to see if we could provide food for about 15 students. A school representative was concerned that these students would not have enough food over the holidays. We had these students come to the EFPN warehouse to shop. Because of the generosity of many food collections, our warehouse was well stocked. Due to the small size of our warehouse, we could only allow three students at a time into the warehouse. The students were very polite and appreciative. We received a number of thank yous from the students. Since it is our donors who allow us to help those in need of food, we want to share a couple of the thank you messages with you.

"Thank you for the food. It means a lot to me. We have money to pay bills but when we are done we have nothing left for food. So it means a lot to me. So I just want to say a big THANK YOU!"

"Thank you for the food you have given me. As a kid who goes to school fulltime and works part time you helped me a lot. I am very thankful."

Give Local Midland May 1

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 1 (12:00am-11:59pm). Many Midland County nonprofits 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 1, 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 more about this event.



Thank You Local Businesses, Churches and Organizations for Recent Food and Monetary Donations for Mid October, 2017—January, 2018

- Aldersgate United Methodist Church
- Assembly of God Church
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
- AT&T United Way Employee Giving Campaign
- Benjamin F. Edwards & Co.
- Blessed Sacrament Church
- Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church
- Charles J Strosacker Foundation
- Chippewa Nature Center * Church of the Brethren
- Coleman Talent Show * Community of Christ Church
- Community Wishes Holiday Gala
- Corporate Wellness food drive * Dollar General
- Dow Chemical Public Affairs Office Party
- Dow Chemical Customer Service & Supply Chain
- Dow Chemical DSS Team * Dow Corning Foundation
- Dow High School * Draves Auto * Edward Jones
- F/A Pnacek Ltd * Faith United Methodist Church
- Family Fare * Feeny Chrysler Jeep Dodge
- First Baptist Church * First Church Of Christ Scientist
- First United Methodist Church
- Frankenmuth CU Foundation for Our Communities
- Gold Wing Road Riders Association Chapter V-MI
- Good Stead Farm
- Gordonville United Methodist Church
- Grape Beginnings Winery
- Greater Midland Com Center Food Drive
- Hidden Harvest * Holy Family Episcopal Church
- Holy Scripture Lutheran Church
- Homer United Methodist Church
- James R. and Anita Horne Jenkins Family Foundation
- Kiwassee Kiwanis Club * Krogers
- Lalonde's Market
- Lord of the New Life Lutheran Church
- Lowe's * Mary C. Currie Foundation
- Member's First Credit Union
- Memorial Presbyterian Church
- Men of Music-Midland Center For The Arts
- Messiah Lutheran Church
- Midland Area Catholic Middle School Program
- Midland Area CROP Hunger Walk
- Midland Church Of The Brethren
- Midland Civitan Club
- Midland Cogeneration Venture
- Midland Community Center
- Midland Community Orchestra
- Midland DDA - Jingle Bell Run
- Midland Figure Skating Club * Midland High School
- Midland Jaycees * Midland Lions Club
- Midland Morning Rotary
- New Hope Community Church
- North Bradley Church * Northwood University
- Oil City Assembly of God * Old Oak Trails Estates
- Our Lady Of Grace Catholic Church
- Poseyville United Methodist Church
- Rite-Aid * Sanford First Baptist Church
- Sanford United Methodist Church
- St Brigid of Kildare Church * St John's Lutheran Church
- St Paul Lutheran Church * St Timothy Lutheran Church
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- St. John's Lutheran Church
- Studley Grange * Temple Beth El
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- The Peter & Dorothy A Solomon Foundation
- Trinity Lutheran Church * Trinseo
- Unitarian Universalist Church
- United Church Of Christ * Voyagers
- West Midland Family Center
- Wheeler Road Church of Christ



Update on EFPN Building Search

We are continuing to look for a building for the EFPN office, warehouse and SAMS Pantry. One of the challenges of finding a building is having a large enough parking lot that can receive the semi-truck of food from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan every two weeks. We are very grateful and honored to have received a generous grant of \$75,000 from the Dow Corning Foundation. In addition to this grant, we have received \$14,376 from our Capital Campaign effort. Adding this to the \$30,000 EFPN has available, we presently have a total of \$119,376 for our new building project. We have a group of people who are evaluating various options. We have contacted three lending institutions to see what our borrowing options are. Our goal is to borrow as little as possible and to keep our mortgage costs less than our current rental expenses. Our administration costs have been 10% or below, and we would like to keep it at that level. Most of our past donations have been designated for food expenditures, which is why we are raising funds specifically for a building. Your help in having the funding for this endeavor continues to be important. Thank you to all who have supported us in growing our building fund.

Make Birthdays Memorable for EFPN Recipients

EFPN provides birthday kits to recipients who have an upcoming birthday. EFPN is experiencing a shortage of these kits. These kits were initially given only to children, but we decided that everyone deserves something special for their birthday—especially those who have very little to begin with or are going through a difficult period. Recipients are delighted to receive these gifts, especially knowing that people took the time to assemble the kits for them. Grandparents love being able to get a kit for their grandchildren. In 2017, EFPN gave out 529 birthday kits. The minimum items for a kit are cake mix, frosting and candles. Our donors have been very creative and generous in assembling these kits often including birthday plates and napkins. The kits can be delivered to any of our eight pantries, as well as to our warehouse location at 503 S. Saginaw Rd. Contact the EFPN office at 486-9393 to arrange delivery.



ALICE Report: Midland County Household Survival Budget

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. We would like to thank United Way of Midland County for making this 2017 report available.

The Household Survival Budget calculates the actual costs of basic necessities (housing, child care, food, health care, and transportation) in Michigan, adjusted for different counties and household types.

The bare-minimum Household Survival Budget does not include any savings, leaving a household vulnerable to unexpected expenses. ALICE households typically earn above the Federal Poverty Level of \$11,770 for a single adult and \$24,250 for a family of four, but less than the Household Survival Budget.

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.



**Midland County
Emergency Food Pantry**

**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

EFPN Annual Meeting

The EFPN annual meeting will be on Monday, April 9, 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. Following the business meeting, there will be a short program by the Bell-tones, a musical ensemble from Northeast and Jefferson Middle Schools. Cost of the dinner is \$15.00 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 Monday, March 26. 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.

Stamp Out Hunger Postal Drive

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 12. 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 as they work to stock pantry shelves for the summer months.



OPEN HOUSE Open House at HELP Pantry

The HELP Pantry at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1310 Ashman St., has moved to an expanded location within the church. The pantry is holding an Open House on Sunday, April 22, 12:00 –2:00 pm. All are welcome to come and see this client select pantry. If you have never seen a pantry or would like to see your donations in action, please stop by.