

Food Pantry Network News

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network

Our Vision: "Always Food in Every Home"



September 2019

Renovation is almost completed on the building that houses the EFPN office and warehouse and SAMS Pantry, sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church. We are ready to celebrate this incredible journey. Thanks to our supporters, this dream has become a reality. Thank you to The Allen Foundation, The Dow

OPEN HOUSE

to not only store more food but move the food more efficiently through the building. We are grateful to the anonymous donor who is

funding the painting of an amazing mural on the outside of the building.

Please come and celebrate this milestone in the history of EFPN.

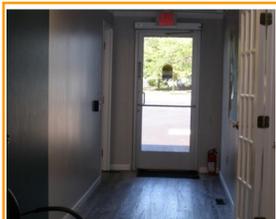
Food For Thought

A homeless man was living in his car and had no means of cooking or keeping anything cold. He needed canned goods and a can opener. We were able to provide both. The can openers were purchased from donations to the Sharing Tree kitchen category.

A woman took in her nieces and nephews because the mother could not care for them. The woman did not have children and was surprised at the amount of food they ate. She thinks the children did not have enough to eat at their mother's home. After being helped she called back to say she was amazed at all the food she received. She said the children were happy as well.

A single mom lost her purse containing her food benefit card and her paycheck. She called and was crying because she did not know what she was going to feed her children that night. We scheduled her for a pantry visit that day and she cried even harder. She said "what would I have done without the food pantry."

A woman lost her job and was having difficulty finding another one. We helped her till she found another job.



Hallway after renovations— Automatic door now at end of hallway allowing food to move more easily.



Hallway before renovations— Window at end, door at left. Volunteers had to turn grocery carts to get in and out of the building.

Corning Foundation, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation, The Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, The Midland Area Community Foundation, The Charles J. Strosacker Foundation and all of our other building supporters for your generosity to this project. We appreciate all the hard work done by Great Lakes Bay Construction to make our building more handicap accessible and allow us

Open House Celebration

Monday, September 16

4:30-7:00 pm

503 S. Saginaw Rd.

You can enter the building off Saginaw Rd or off Cambridge. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to having you see the transformation of our building and allow us to thank you for your support of our organization.

87% of the building purchase and renovation costs have been covered by grants and building fund donations. We continue to seek financial support to pay off the remaining building expenditures.



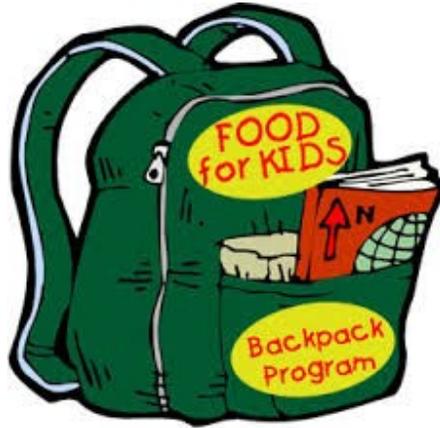
Building before renovations



Building after renovations

EFPN is Preparing for the 2019-2020 Backpack Buddies Program

EFPN will once again coordinate and fund the Backpack Buddies Program. 12 elementary schools and 5 preschools are served by this program. Midland County elementary and selected preschools will receive information regarding the Backpack Buddies Program with their start-of-school paperwork. Children who receive free or reduced price lunches are eligible for the backpack program. Once the forms come back, our Backpack Buddies Program coordinator, Debra Ahn, will work with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM) to determine the allotment of items for each school. Items included can be used for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a snack. There is no cost to the children, their families, or schools to participate in this program. EFPN also provides a piece of fruit monthly for each backpack. Many schools have switched to plastic grocery bags rather than the backpacks to help control program costs, and to ensure that students receive food regardless of whether they remember to return their backpacks on Monday. Many children and their families have come to rely on this extra food for the weekend. We are continuing to look at



expanding the program to other preschools. Expansion is not just a matter of EFPN having the monetary support, though that is very important, but also school personnel and volunteers to implement this program in their schools.

This past summer we did a backpack program for around 150 children at Coleman Elementary, West Midland Family Center, Siebert School, and North Midland Family Center. For many of these children, the food was offered as an incentive in a summer reading program.

We would not be able to keep this program going without all the volunteers involved, including the staff of all the Midland County schools and community volunteers, and the financial support of many donors. The current cost for a backpack is \$3.25/backpack or \$100.00/student/year. We have averaged 700-725 children enrolled in the program. Fred Rogers said, "Anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me." Thank you to the supporters of the Backpack Buddies Program for being heroes to Midland County children in need.

Stocking School Pantries

EFPN has partnered with Windover High School and the Academic and Career Education Academy (ACEA) to stock their food pantries. The pantries are open to all students at the school. Besides basic food items, we also try to provide personal care items. One ACEA student wrote "Thank you for the food you gave me. It helped me a lot when I was in need. It means a lot."

We have been able to stock these pantries in large part from donations that come into our warehouse. However, with the building renovation we distributed all the warehouse food to our pantries. As a result, we are having to purchase a large number of items in order to provide food for these school pantries for the upcoming school year. We hope our generous community will soon help us restock the warehouse. The warehouse also is used as a source of food for all of our eight pantries.



Michigan Hunger and Poverty Snapshot

1 in 7 households struggle to put food on the table

39,018 veterans live below the poverty line

2,697,159 people live in counties with poverty rate of 20% or more

Yes Midland! There Are Pantries!

On occasion we have had volunteers relate that when they tell neighbors or friends that they work at a food pantry, they hear the words "I did not know that Midland had food pantries." In addition to the eight pantries of the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network, there are pantries at Caregiving Network, Salvation Army as well as other smaller church pantries. Many of our recipients work and are one catastrophe from needing help with food or only have social security as their income. We are asking our supporters to spread the word to neighbors and friends that there are food pantries in Midland. We ask you to do this not only to maintain support and volunteers for these pantries but, more importantly, if there are people in need of food assistance they know these pantries are there to help them.

Thank You Local Businesses, Churches and Organizations for Recent Food and Monetary Donations for February, 2019—July, 2019

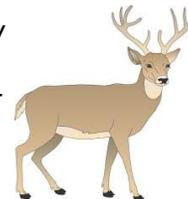
4-H Midland County
 Academic & Career Education Academy
 Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 American Chemical Society Garden
 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
 Blessed Sacrament Church
 Bullock Creek Middle School
 Cabot Corporation * Calvary Baptist Church
 Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church
 Chemical Bank * Chestnut Hill Elementary School
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 Civitan Club * Classic Sports Catering
 Community of Christ Church
 Dow Chemical Corporate Wellness
 Dow High School Music Boosters
 Ducks Unlimited - Sanford Chapter
 Edenville Methodist Church
 Faith United Methodist Church * Family Fare
 First Baptist Church
 First United Methodist Church * Girl Scout Troop
 Gordonville United Methodist Church
 Great Lakes Bay LPGA
 Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation
 Hidden Harvest * Holy Family Episcopal Church
 Homer United Methodist Church
 Islamic Center of Midland
 Jefferson Middle School
 James R. & Anita Horne Jenkins Family Foundation
 Meijer Simply Give * Memorial Presbyterian Church
 Meridian Church of God * Messiah Lutheran Church
 Midland Area Community Foundation Give Local Event
 Midland Area Interfaith Youth * Mills Seniors
 National Assoc. of Letter Carriers, Branch 2317
 National Wild Turkey Federation
 Old Oak Trails Estates * Open Door
 Our Lady Of Grace Church
 Sanford Food Center
 Sanford United Methodist Church
 Savant Group * St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 St. Brigid of Kildare Church
 St. John's Episcopal Church
 St. John's Episcopal Preschool
 St. John's Lutheran Church
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Unitarian Universalist Church
 United Church of Christ
 Voyagers Memorial Presbyterian Church
 Wheeler Road Church of Christ
 Zonta Club of Midland

Donate A Deer

EFPN has a partnership with the Chippewa Nature Center. In the fall months, deer that are harvested at the Chippewa Nature Center are donated to EFPN. EFPN has the deer processed with a licensed processor, and the venison is given to clients.

EFPN also runs a venison program independently of the Chippewa Nature Center program. Deer can be delivered to 784 South Poseyville Road, Midland or

we will pick up any deer within a 50 mile radius of Midland. Information or to request a deer pick up can be found at (989) 835-9601. EFPN pays for the processing of the donated deer. We are grateful to the Chippewa Nature Center and their hunters as well as other hunters for providing venison for our clients.



Current Volunteer Needs

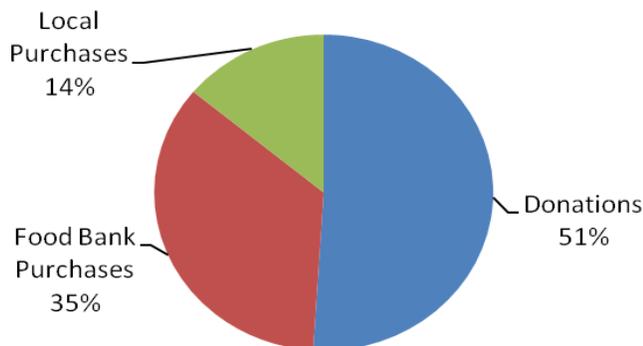


EFPN has some immediate volunteer needs. If you are interested in volunteering for these opportunities or to learn about other opportunities, please call 486-9393 or use the contact us form on our website: www.midlandcountyeftp.org.

●**Data Inputer:** Need a volunteer who can work from their home to input data into our client database. Commitment is 3-5 hours one-two times/month. Data sheets are picked up at our office at 503 S. Saginaw Rd.

●**Grocery Cart Pick-Up:** Need volunteer to pick up grocery carts for our once a month mobile pantries. Carts are at Memorial Presbyterian Church and Family Fare. We have a vehicle. Just need a driver.

2018 EFPN Food Sources



“You never imagine how much one meal matters until you’re the one who needs it.”



Program. The program is going on now till September 28. If you purchase a \$10.00 Simply Give gift card, Meijer's will contribute to EFPN additional funds. EFPN will receive Meijer's food gift cards which we use to buy items

EFPN will once again be the recipient of the Meijer's Simply Give

that are not donated or we have in short supply. The Simply Give donation cards can be found near the checkout lanes at our local Meijer. Friday, August 30 and Friday, September 13 will be Double Match Days. On these days, for every \$10.00 donation, Meijer will give an additional \$20.00. Your \$10.00 donation becomes \$30.00 for EFPN. Thank you for supporting this program.





**Midland County
Emergency Food Pantry**

**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

Midland Area Crop Walk



Church World Services will host their annual Crop Walk on Sunday, October 6. The start is at the Midland

Center for the Arts. Registration is at 1:30 and the walk begins at 2:00. EFPN is one of the recipients of the funds generated locally by the Crop Walk. The walk is 3.1 miles which represents what many woman and children in developing countries have to walk to get clean water. Check <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/midlandmi> for further details.

Midland Community Orchestra Concert

The Midland Community Orchestra, led by conductor Gina Provenzano, will be having a free concert on Sunday, November 17, at 3:00 PM in Bullock Creek High School auditorium, 1420 South Baudour. Attendees are encouraged to bring a food donation to help stock the shelves of EFPN.



Help Us Tell the EFPN Story & Become an EFPN Ambassador!

You can be an ambassador for EFPN by sharing content posted on our Facebook page to your social media networks. You can also share through email or by texting links to your family and friends.

Help us make "always food in every home" a reality.

Visit us on the web at midlandcountyeftpn.org or connect with "Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network" on Facebook.