

Food Pantry Network News

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network

Our Vision: "Always Food in Every Home"



November 2019



The Need for Food is Increasing

A homeless family in need of food, grandparents suddenly responsible for their grandchildren, a father of a family living on the edge loses his job, a mom leaves a shelter to move into a new home, a throat cancer patient needs a nutritional supplement, and a child helps feed her family over the weekend with a backpack of food. These are some of the people your food and money donations are supporting. These residents of Midland County are coming to EFPN in increasing numbers putting a strain on the EFPN budget. Our Backpack Buddies program has experienced a 14% increase for the 2019-2020 school year. We have exceeded our 2019 nutritional supplement budget even though we increased it from last year. The majority of calls from 211 for food are directed

to EFPN. Last year we distributed 17,000 items of food each month through our eight pantries. This year we are projecting the number may be greater. We have been able to keep up with these demands because of your past generous support. We want to ensure we can continue to support those in need of food so we need your continued support. We are honored that you have placed your trust in EFPN in the past to make wise use of your donations. Please remember the food insecure this coming holiday season and allow us to use your food and monetary donations to help them. We are grateful to an anonymous donor who funded the "People Helping People" mural, shown above, on the side of our building. You are the people helping those that are food insecure.

Reflections

A young minimum wage working couple was waiting for their SNAP benefits to start. Their "extra" money was being used for formula and diapers for their baby. After receiving a food order, they were overwhelmed with gratitude and wanted to pay us back. Our coordinator told them to pay it forward when they get on their feet.

A young family has to travel to Ann Arbor for their sick child. The prognosis is good as treatments continue. They have been using their food stamps to get by. As the child gets better and begins to eat more, the food stamps are getting depleted so we are helping them.

A family lost their home to foreclosure. They went to a hotel and had no food. We provided them an emergency box and an order of food. They wanted to repay us but we told them this is what we do because of the generous support the community gives us.



Fox Sports Detroit, Kroger and Former Detroit Lions Herman Moore and Joique Bell Team Up to Fight Hunger in Midland



The Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network (EFPN) is proud to welcome Fox Sports Detroit, and Former Detroit Lions Players Herman Moore and Joique Bell as well as former University of Michigan Quarterback Devin Gardner to promote Kroger's Zero Hunger, Zero Waste Initiative to end hunger and eliminate food waste. On Friday, November 22, 12:00-2:00 pm representatives from Fox Sports Detroit and these special guests will be at the EFPN building at 503 S Saginaw Rd. Please come and meet our visitors, get autographs and photos and bring a

donation of food or money to help feed your neighbors in need. All your donations are important in meeting the increased demand for food. The Ford Foundation and Kroger will also be making a donation to EFPN to recognize the work done by all in fighting hunger. It takes a team of people to fight hunger. Please come and join the team of Fox Sports Detroit, Herman, Joique, Devin, Kroger, Ford and EFPN in making a difference in the lives of many.

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 food on their table.

On November 24, 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 24, 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 24, you may call 600-8989 to plan another time to deliver your donations or to arrange a pickup of your donations.

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

Cash Donations: We need over \$10,000 in cash donations to give recipients gift certificates which the families use to purchase perishable foods. Your check 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 by W. Clement Stone, a businessman and philanthropist, reminds us of the true meaning of this holiday- "If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share." As you buy items for your Thanksgiving meal, please remember those who cannot afford food for their Thanksgiving table.

Sharing Tree Provides Special Gifts

EFPN will be participating in the Sharing Tree Program. This program requires that all of our Red Tag requests be gift cards. Red Tags will be on trees located throughout Midland. EFPN's requests include grocery gift cards to allow families to have extra special meals. We are asking for restaurant gift cards so that our recipients can have a treat to eat out at a restaurant. We are also asking for gift cards to purchase kitchen supplies. Many of the people who come to a pantry lack some basic kitchen items like can openers, pots and pans and baking pans. The Sharing Tree has been very valuable in allowing us to make Christmas and the time beyond the holidays extraordinary for our recipients. On a past Christmas Eve, one of our pantries debated whether to be open on Christmas Eve. They decided to open. A family came to this pantry on Christmas Eve. They selected their food and were given a very generous Meijer's gift card that had been given to EFPN from the Sharing Tree Program. The family had not had the money to buy presents for their children. Because of this gift card, they planned to get some presents for their children. Please support the Sharing Tree Red Tag program and know you are giving something extra for those in need.



Reverse Advent Calendar

Help those in need of food by doing a Reverse Advent Calendar during this Advent season. With a normal **advent calendar**, you open a door each day to see a picture, take out a chocolate or get some other prize. With a **reverse advent calendar**, you begin with an empty box. Every day for 24 days, you add one item a day.

After 24 days when the box is full, please donate the items to the Midland County EFPN. See the end of this newsletter for a listing of the pantries to take your donations to.

Below are some suggestions. You can change the foods or put in ingredients to make a favorite recipe and then include the recipe. Have fun as you celebrate this Advent Season while helping to put food on the table of those in need.



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| Day 1: one can of vegetables | Day 13: jelly |
| Day 2: one can of fruit | Day 14: cereal |
| Day 3: box of pasta | Day 15: Hamburger or Tuna Helper |
| Day 4: pasta sauce | Day 16: canned meals |
| Day 5: pancake mix | Day 17: cooking oil |
| Day 6: pancake syrup | Day 18: granola bars |
| Day 7: peanut butter | Day 19: flour or sugar |
| Day 8: box of macaroni and cheese | Day 20: bar of soap |
| Day 9: ramen noodles | Day 21: toothbrush |
| Day 10: can of soup | Day 22: toothpaste |
| Day 11: can of beef stew | Day 23: deodorant |
| Day 12: can of tuna or chicken | Day 24: shampoo |

Lemonade Stand Helps Those in Need Have a Happy Birthday

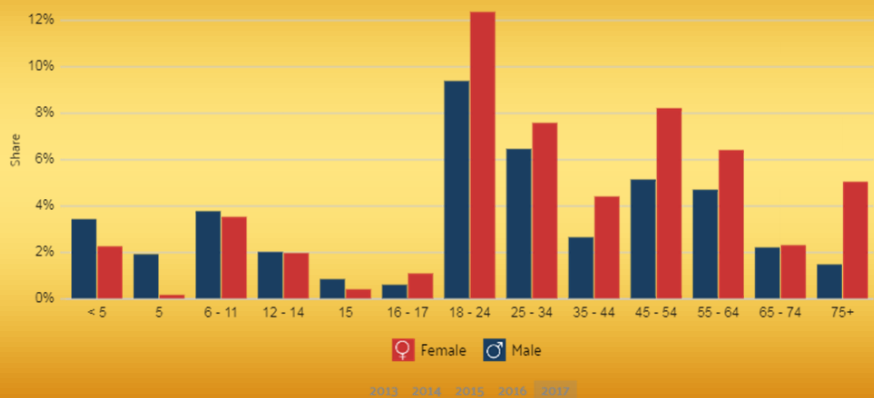
Sophia, Elizabeth and Madison hosted a lemonade stand this past summer. They used the proceeds to buy ingredients for 28 birthday kits so some of our food insecure recipients could have a nice birthday celebration.



Thank You Local Businesses, Churches and Organizations for Recent Food and Monetary Donations for August, 2019—October, 2019

Alpha Delta Kappa
 American Association of University Women
 American Chemical Society Garden
 Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
 Blessed Sacrament Church
 Central Michigan University Extra Mile Michigan
 Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church
 Chemical Bank * Civitan Club
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 Community of Christ Church
 Draves Auto Center * Ducks Unlimited
 Eurest Dining Service-Dow Central Campus
 Family Fare * Feeny Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
 First United Methodist Church
 Good Stead Farm
 Gordonville United Methodist Church
 Great Lakes Bay Construction
 Hemlock Semiconductor * Hidden Harvest
 Horizon Catering Service * Jacob Engineering
 Kohl's * Krogers
 Michigan Board of Realtors * Mears Group
 Memorial Presbyterian Church
 Messiah Lutheran Church
 Michigan Association of Healthcare Advocates
 Midland 100 Club
 Midland County Fair Midland County Fair Youth
 Large Animal Auction
 Midland-Gladwin Central Labor Council
 Old Oak Trails Estates * Ort Port Foods
 Our Lady Of Grace Church
 Sanford Community Of Christ
 Sanford United Methodist Church
 Space Inc. * St Paul Lutheran Church
 St Timothy Lutheran Church
 St. Brigid of Kildare Church
 St. John's Episcopal Church
 St. John's Lutheran Church * Studley Grange
 The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe
 The Peter & Dorothy A Solomon Foundation
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Unitarian Universalist Church
 United Church of Christ
 Wilson Miller Funeral Home
 Wheeler Road Church of Christ * Yeo & Yeo

Poverty by Age & Gender for Midland County



Data from American Community Survey (2017)

Support EFPN While Shopping

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support EFPN every time you shop at no cost to you. When you shop on AmazonSmile, you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price of eligible AmazonSmile items to EFPN. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. In order to get donations for EFPN you need to shop at <http://smile.amazon.com>.

Here's How to Shop AmazonSmile:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com. If you do not have an Amazon account you need to create one.
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials.
3. Choose the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network as your charity. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation to EFPN.



Kroger's Community Reward's Program

EFPN is part of the Kroger's Community Rewards program. Choose EFPN when you register your Kroger Card and you will be donating to EFPN every time you shop with no additional cost to you. Kroger will donate a percentage of your qualifying purchases back to EFPN. Supporters can earn rewards for EFPN on almost everything. However, there are specific purchases that cannot be included: alcohol, tobacco, and gift cards. The EFPN Kroger Non Profit Organization Number is **BD353**. **If a you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.** Sign-up requires access to the Internet. If you do not have Internet access, contact us at 486-9393 and we can sign up your card. You no longer have to re-enroll your card every year.

If you have never enrolled your Kroger card

1. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Click "create an account"
3. Put in your email address and password. Confirm your password
4. Enter plus card OR alt ID number
5. Go to Community Rewards (near bottom)
6. Follow through the steps. (name, address, etc.)
7. Put in the group number or part of the name of the organization.- **BD353**
8. Choose the correct organization.
9. Click Enroll.

You are now registered. Thank you to all those who are enrolled and we hope to add more supporters.



**Midland County
Emergency Food Pantry**

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

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 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



**Men Of Music
Holiday Concert**

The Men of Music, led by Grace Marra, will hold their Christmas concert on Sunday, December 8 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 a percentage of the proceeds going to support EFPN. Please come and enjoy the music while supporting those in need.

Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk Supports EFPN

The Midland Downtown Development Authority and the Greater Midland Community Center are hosting the Jingle Bell Fun Run on Thursday, December 5 at 6:30 pm at the corner of Main and Ashman. All, including strollers and leashed furry friends, are welcome to come dressed in their festive holiday gear. The H Hotel is providing free hot chocolate. Nonperishable food items will be collected to help stock the shelves of our pantries. Registration is required. Check www.midlanddowntown.com for details. Please remember those in need by bringing a donation and enjoy a fun family event in downtown Midland.

