

Food Pantry Network News

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network

Our Vision: "Always Food in Every Home"



November 2013

Thanksgiving Food Collection



2012 program. Over 20,000 items needed for 2013.

It is time for the community wide Thanksgiving Food Collection which plans to serve 450 families this year. This event is a partnering between EFPN, Aldersgate Methodist Church and the Department of Human Services. Canned and packaged foods and personal care items will be collected at Aldersgate

United Methodist Church on November 24th between 11:00am and 1:00pm. Donations of home-made cookies (labeled and packaged, a dozen per package, in sealed plastic bags) would be especially appreciated. At least 450 dozens of cookies are needed. We also need over \$9,000 in cash donations to purchase gift certificates which the families use to purchase turkeys and other fresh food. 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.

Reflections

* A mother undergoing chemo was too weary to cook. EFPN provided food for simple family meals.

* A newly divorced mom needed help as she adjusts to a single income. She was given food.

* An elderly woman's food stamps were cut off because she missed a deadline with DHS. EFPN was there to help.

* A single father with 3 little ones is adapting to single parenting. EFPN helped the family with food.

* A grandmother ran short on food with 3 weeks until payday. Food was provided the same day.

Food For Thought

EFPN greatly appreciates all donations of food. Over 150,000 items of food are moved through our eight pantries each year. Yet, in addition, monetary support is crucial for our programs.

The Backpack Buddies program helps feed 650-700 elementary students during the school year at a cost of around \$50,000 per year. This cost translates to approximately \$75 per child for the school year.

The Medical Nutrition program provides gift certificates for a nutritional supplement, like Ensure, to clients who are referred to us by Cancer Services

and Senior Services. The 2013 budget for this program is \$18,000. EFPN recently reduced the supply of nutritional supplements to clients by half, due to budget constraints.

EFPN also provides clients in our regular and Thanksgiving programs with \$10 or \$20 gift certificates which enables them to buy fresh or perishable items. Last year we distributed approximately \$40,000 in gift certificates through these programs.

Many thanks are extended to all our supporters for trusting us with your donations to help those in need.

Youth Helping Those in Need

* Five neighborhood children set up a lemonade stand on Moorland Drive and took donations for the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry. Thanks to their generous patrons, the children raised \$70!

* Two Boy Scouts and leaders from Troop 767 (Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church) diligently completed EFPN site clean up by removing weeds, dirt and debris. Their willing service enhances our client environment!

Perishable Food and Warehouse Project Underway

The EFPN office is located at 503 S Saginaw Rd. This building has a warehouse space that we are utilizing to get deliveries from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. It was decided to make greater use of this space plus other space that became available when the Diaper Alliance moved to their new location. Eight pantries comprise the Midland Country Food Pantry Network; two large pantries and six smaller pantries. The smaller pantries often cannot take advantage of the large quantities offered by the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. One of the goals of the warehouse is to order the larger quantity items and divide them among the pantries. We hope this will allow clients to have access to a greater variety of items. We have a number of volunteers who will help with the repackaging of items which then will be distributed to the pantries.

This could not have happened without a generous grant from the Midland Area Community Foundation. This grant allowed us to purchase appliances, shelving and miscellaneous items. We also were given a substantial discount on appliances and shelving by Lowe's manager Bill Justus. Having appliances will allow us to store our frozen venison at the site. We also hope to take advantage of items, especially produce and other perishable items, available from Hidden Harvest, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and other sources. We appreciate the efforts of Amy Smith from The Dow Chemical Michigan Operations Community Outreach Team and Nathaniel Owen who painted the warehouse.

This project is a great example of people coming together to turn an idea into a reality. As Helen Keller said "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much".

Sharing Tree

EFPN participates in the Sharing Tree program run by the United Way of Midland County. The needs of EFPN are listed on the red tags. The stories are meant to represent typical clients of EFPN. Last year EFPN received over \$8000 in value of items from the Sharing Tree. Typical

needs we list are personal care items, popcorn or hot chocolate and gift cards for produce, dairy and meat. We also introduced restaurant gift cards last year to give our clients a treat. When we learned that one of our clients did not have a can opener, we added requests for some basic kitchen supplies on some of our tags. Thank you to all who support the Sharing Tree. We often find that donors are very generous and place more items with the tags than we requested.



Donate A Deer

The Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network (EFPN) has a partnership with the Chippewa Nature Center. In the fall months, deer that are harvested at the Nature Center are donated to EFPN. EFPN has the deer processed with a U.S.D.A. approved 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 request for deer pick up can be found at (989) 835-9601. EFPN pays for the processing of the donated deer. Many of our clients appreciate getting this venison.

Birthday Kits



EFPN received 50 birthday kits from the Midland Area Youth Action Council. Each kit contains a cake pan, cake mix, frosting, candles, plates, and a handwritten birthday card.

EFPN tries to determine if members of recipients' families have an upcoming birthday. These birthday kits are then distributed accordingly, because everyone appreciates having something special on their birthday. We presently are in great need of birthday kits. Assembling these kits is often a great activity for youth groups. The kits should contain cake mix, frosting and candles. Many times donors include plates, napkins, cups and other special birthday items.

Thank You

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

Dow Chemical

Dow Corning

LaLondes

Meijer

Midland Jaycees

Northwood

Re/Max

Peel 'n Pare

Target

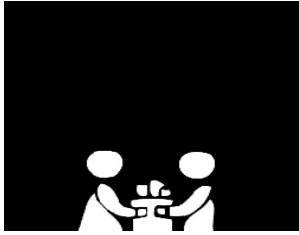
SNAP Benefits to be Cut in November

People who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) or food stamps will see their benefits reduced by 13% in November. The cut is due to the expiration of part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. That bill (better known as the stimulus) increased SNAP benefits during the worst of the recession.

Now that the recession is technically over the boost is rescinded. It was supposed to be a phase reduction but it has turned out to be an abrupt reduction in benefits. This is not related to the proposed cut in SNAP that is part of the Farm Bill.

Almost 18% of Michigan households receive SNAP benefits. 75% of these households had someone who is employed. 25% of Michigan's SNAP households have members over 60 years old and 48% are households with someone who has a disability. A family of four will lose \$36 per month from their maximum monthly benefit. Put another way, SNAP benefits currently average \$1.50 per person per meal. After the November cut, the benefit provided will be reduced to under \$1.40.

EFPN is unsure what impact this will have on the demand for our services. We have faith with your continued support, we will be able to meet the increase in demand.



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 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*

Alternative Gift Fairs

This is the season for Alternative Gift Fairs. These Fairs give you the opportunity to buy gifts that support a variety of charitable organizations. These gifts inspire change and will have an impact beyond the holiday season. EFPN will be represented at a number of these Fairs.

Blessed Sacrament, November 10, 9:00-1:00

Church of the Brethren, November 16, 10:00-5:00

Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church, November 24,

9:30 - Noon; 5:00 - 6:00

Memorial Presbyterian Church, November 24,

before and after 10:45 service

Upcoming Events:

QDOBA - November 2-25 *Cans for Quesos*

GLOBAL TAN - November 29 - December 23

Cans for a Tan

RAY'S BICYCLE SHOP - All of November

Discounts based on amount donated

MEIJER - November 3 - January 4

Simply Give Holiday Program

Check the EFPN website for further details on all these events.

Your patronage of all EFPN business supporters is appreciated!