

# Food Pantry Network News

September 2012



## EFPN Enters into Collaborative Arrangement for Offices

There's big news for Midland County EFPN on two fronts. First, after more than 28 years, the board of the Network has determined that we need an actual office to help run the Network's business affairs. After operating out of volunteers' homes since its inception, the Network will be part of a collaboration to lease facilities at 503 South Saginaw Road.

Second, the board had already decided early in the year to hire a part-time network manager (see announcement inside) when we became aware of the efforts of Debi Keyes, Executive Director of the Diaper Bank, to move their two-year-old non-profit out of her garage and into a 4500-square-foot facility with a mix of office and retail space. Because we were in need of office space, we started discussions about sharing space with the Diaper Bank.

When discussions began, the Network was looking at using just enough space to accommodate the new manager – just a small corner office in the larger facility. We were all surprised when SAMS Pantry, currently operating in about 650 square feet at St. John's Episcopal Church, announced that they were interested in occupying nearly 1200 square feet at the proposed facility to grow their outreach program.

After obtaining all necessary approvals from the three parties, an agreement was reached to share the facility and co-locate by September 1. It will take each organization a slightly different amount of time to make the transition, with the Diaper Bank likely the first occupier, followed by the Network's new manager in the middle of October. SAMS Pantry relocation is somewhat more complicated as stock, shelving, and other internal operations issues need to be moved or developed to facilitate the move. Their initial goal is to be moved by the end of October.

We would be remiss in not recognizing the tremendous efforts by Debi Keyes in helping drive this forward. The next newsletter will highlight the volunteers and donations of labor or goods that helped make this happen including the installation of a new door to allow for movement of goods in and out of the storage areas and a hydraulic floor jack from a local corporation to help with the unloading of product from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan deliveries.

This is an incredibly big and bold step that somehow has been pulled off in a just a few short months. When we talk about being faith based organizations, I think we've just experienced a little bit of faith in action. We are grateful for your support to help not only SAMS, but all eight of the pantries within our Network.

## Volunteers

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who help ensure that Midland families have food on the table. It would not happen without each of you and the time you donate.

## Clients We Have Helped

A mom became ill and needed help with groceries. She had used her bridge card (food stamps) for rice and juice.

A homeless women received an emergency box to help her until her SSI came in.

An unemployed father needed help for his family until his unemployment started.

## January – May EFPN Stats

Through May 2012, 1283 families with 4305 people were served through the eight network pantries.

Midland County Emergency  
Food Pantry Network  
P.O. Box 2521  
Midland, MI 48641-2521  
[www.midlandcountyeftp.org](http://www.midlandcountyeftp.org)  
989-374-0955

## Mobile Food Pantry

On June 28, the Mobile Food Pantry at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church served 268 families, representing 816 people. We are grateful for the 79 volunteers, mostly from the host church, who helped to make this an effective way to supplement the family food supply of the Midland County recipients. In addition, over 1500 personal care items were distributed along with the food items. The next MFP will be at West Midland Family Center on October 17.



## Job Posting: Organization Manager

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network is seeking a half-time manager to assist in day-to-day operations. This manager will be the chief administrator for the Network and will support program volunteers, manage daily administrative needs of the Network, provide guidance and support for pantries in the network, and work with the volunteer board in the development, oversight, and implementation of goals, policies, programs, and procedures to fulfill the mission of the organization. The successful candidate will have strong organizational and interpersonal skills; demonstrate strong oral and written communications skills; possess the ability to timely implement strategic plans, procedures, and projects to meet organizational goals; be computer literate; and ideally have experience with the management of a mostly volunteer organization, including budget management and non-profit administration. Bachelor's Degree desired. Life or work experience that demonstrates strong leadership skills and/or management of projects and volunteers will be favorably considered in lieu of a formal degree. To apply, send a one-page cover letter and resume to Midland County EFPN, P.O. Box 2521, Midland MI 48641-2521. Visit [www.midlandcountyeypn.org](http://www.midlandcountyeypn.org) to see a full job description. Application deadline is September 7.

## Habitat for Humanity Basket

EFPN has partnered with Midland Habitat for Humanity to provide a food basket for each family that receives a new home. In August, Rich Helling delivered one for the dedication of the Habitat home on Gordonville Road. The EFPN food basket welcomed the family of five – Mom, Dad, and three kids – to their new home.

## Thank You, Jefferson Middle School

Jefferson Middle School students collected over 500 items for SAMS Pantry this spring! One student's idea to collect unwanted lunch box items grew into a much larger school-wide collection for all kinds of food for SAMS. We thank the Jefferson students for thinking of and carrying out such a great idea to help those in need in the Midland community.

## Venison Program

For 19 years, EFPN has received venison from deer harvesting at Chippewa Nature Center and from private hunters. EFPN board member Bob McKellar arranges the processing, frozen storage, and distribution of the meat to the local pantries. We usually handle about 1400 pounds of venison during the season. To donate a deer prior to processing, please call Bob at 989-835-9601.

## Community Thanksgiving Basket Program

On Sunday, November 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., there will be a gathering of food and supplies for Community Thanksgiving Baskets at Aldersgate United Methodist Church at the corner of Dawn Drive and Airfield Lane. Donations of canned and packaged foods and household and personal supplies are needed. Baked cookie donations are also needed and should consist of a dozen cookies placed on a plate and put in a Zip-Loc bag with the type of cookies labeled on the bag. Their goal is to serve at least 400 families again this year. Cash donations can be made to the EFPN for "Thanksgiving Baskets" and sent to Midland County EFPN, P.O. Box 2521, Midland, MI 48641-2521.

Volunteers are needed from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., and 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 22, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Please call Elaine and Dean Tobey at 839-9879 to reserve a time for your group. Both adults and youth who are accompanied by adult leaders are welcome, but you must register to volunteer between October 3 and November 7.

## A Special Note of Thanks

Long-time board member and Mobile Food Pantry coordinator extraordinaire Jim Ostler has moved from the Midland community to be closer to family. Jim was a familiar face to anyone associated with the Midland EFPN. During his many years of service, he was a vital part of the Midland EFPN and will be missed.

As the summer ends, we will also be losing our intern Spencer Abbs. Spencer's internship was funded through a grant from The Dow Chemical Company Foundation through Northwood University. Spencer has been developing the EFPN's policy and procedures manual, a critical tool for the new manager, board members, and program coordinators.

## Backpack Buddies

October brings thoughts of crisp leaves, cool football nights, and sweet caramel apples. But for many elementary children in Midland County, it also means that the Backpack Buddies program will be resuming. Backpack Buddies, now in its eighth year in Midland County, provides a backpack full of food to qualified children at 13 elementary schools across the county. The backpacks are distributed each Friday throughout the school year, from October to May. Last year, an average of 640 students participated in the program, at a cost of only \$2.09 per child per week! Currently, we are funded through January, so donations to this valuable program are always welcome. Please designate your EFPN check to Backpack Buddies in the memo line. **If you or your organization would like to learn more about this valuable program, please contact Backpack Buddies Director Karen Dastick at [dastick@charter.net](mailto:dastick@charter.net).**

## CROP Hunger Walk

Don't forget us at the CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 7 starting at the



Midland Center for the Arts. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and the CROP Hunger Walk begins at 2:00 p.m. Each walker who raises \$150 or more will receive one 2012 CROP Hunger Walk t-shirt. Twenty-five percent of the funds collected remain in the area to fight hunger locally. Midland County EFPN is one of the organizations that benefits.

## Girl Scouts Celebrate 100 Years with 100 Birthday Kits

To commemorate the 100th year of Girl Scouting, Girl Scout Troop 359 made 100 birthday kits and distributed them throughout Midland EFPN. They donated Girl Scout cookies to the HELP pantry last year and wanted to take a tour. During the visit, they saw birthday kits and had never considered that children their age might not have something as simple as a birthday cake for their birthday. They decided to take it on as a project.

As fifth-graders at Woodcrest School, they started with a school-wide drive to collect the materials for the bags, like cake mixes, frosting, and baggies. In the process, they learned to do publicity, make signs, and some even asked local businesses for financial support. They used some of the money they earned by selling Girl Scout cookies to buy the additional items they needed to finish the birthday kits.

Because of the efforts of leaders Jennifer Pisarczyk and Amy Wilkins and the scouts of Troop 359 (Amy Folkenroth, Jessica Foster, Clare Garski, Paige Gilstad, Ally Jaster, Allison Lapham, Sara Pisarczyk, Maggie Reed, Delaney Strouse, Allison Thornton, and Gabrielle Wilkins), children needing the services of EFPN will be able to celebrate their birthdays. I wish they could see the smiling faces of the children who come with their parents to pick up the food and see the birthday kits. They would know that their hard work was appreciated.



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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 Food Pantry**

at Coleman City Hall • 465-6961

### **HELP Pantry**

at Memorial Presbyterian Church  
1310 Ashman St. (please use Allen St. entrance) • 835-6759

### **North Midland Family Center Pantry**

2601 E. Shearer Rd. • 689-7770

### **SAMS Food Pantry**

at St. John's Episcopal Church  
405 N. 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

## SUGGESTED DONATIONS

**Breakfast Foods:** biscuit & pancake mix, syrup, hot & cold cereals

**Beverages:** drink mix (iced tea, fruit punch, etc.), powdered milk, juice, hot cocoa, coffee, tea

**Proteins:** beef stew, peanut butter, tuna

**Starches:** mac & cheese, pizza mix, pasta, rice & potato mixes, Hamburger Helper

**Canned Goods:** canned fruits & vegetables, soup, canned meals, tomato & spaghetti sauces

**Accompaniments:** catsup, mustard, salad dressing, jam/jelly, crackers

**Desserts:** gelatin mix, pudding mix, cake & brownie mixes, cookies

**Special Diet:** low-salt, low-sugar, sugar-free items

**Personal Care:** bar soap, shampoo & conditioner, shaving supplies, toilet paper, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush

**Baby Needs:** diapers & wipes, diaper ointment, baby food, non-expired formula, baby shampoo & lotion

**Housekeeping:** dish detergent, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, paper towels

*To Contact EFPN:*

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

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