

# Food Pantry Network News

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network

*Our Vision: "Always Food in Every Home"*



November 2018

## Community Thanksgiving Food Collection

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday. It is a time to be grateful for all that we have. It is also a time to remember those who may be in need of food. On November 18, resources from the Midland community will come together to provide 550 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 many of the nonprofit agencies in Midland County. To be a part of this event, you may bring your nonperishable food items and personal care items on Sunday, November 18, between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 2206 Airfield Lane. Many churches in our community are collecting food for this event. If you cannot make it to Aldersgate on November 18, volunteers are available to pick up donations. Please call 839-9879 or 486-9393.

### What is Needed:

**Food Needs:** Canned fruits, vegetables and soups, cereal, spaghetti sauce, noodle, boxed potatoes, rice, dessert mixes, juices, stuffing, canned stews, 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 homemade cookies (labeled and packaged, a dozen per

package in sealed plastic bags) would be especially appreciated. At least 550 dozens of cookies are needed.

**Cash Donations:** We need almost \$11,000 in cash donations to give recipients gift certificates which the families use to purchase perishable foods. Checks 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 Westlake Taylor Purkiser, a preacher and scholar, reminds us of the true meaning of Thanksgiving, "Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving."

### Reflections

A foster family got an unexpected juvenile in their care. They needed help with food to take on this sudden addition to their family.

A couple moved to Midland with a promise of jobs but found there were no jobs. We helped them with food as they look for work.

A young woman attended a wedding with a friend. She noticed her friend was putting food into her purse. The lady said she had no food or money to buy food. The young woman called EFPN for help for her friend.

An elderly man receiving \$575/month from Social Security needed food assistance. He was very upset that he could not afford food. He will be getting an increase in Social Security in a couple of months so hopes to only need assistance till then.

A single mom got behind in her mortgage payment and used her food money to pay her mortgage.

## EFPN Senior Delivery Service



There are seniors in our community who are low income and have limited means or mobility to get out to purchase necessities like food. Over 15 years ago EFPN partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to provide food once a month to low income seniors during the months of October thru May. It was felt that utility bills are higher during these months and these seniors would not have a lot of money left over for food. This senior delivery program was run through the HELP Pantry at Memorial Presbyterian Church. A few years ago, EFPN decided to make this program year round and to expand it. In addition to DHHS, we partnered

with Senior Services to provide us names of homebound low income seniors. Five of our pantries are now involved in providing these boxes- Bullock Creek Outreach Pantry at Messiah Lutheran Church, Coleman Railway Center Pantry, HELP Pantry, SAMS Pantry sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church and Wheeler Road Church of Christ Pantry. We have a dedicated group of volunteers who deliver food or Ensure medical supplement to around 20 households each month. Themed cards have been a special addition to these boxes. Families with children looking for a way to volunteer are making cards each month. Sometimes we think the visit by the volunteers and the cards mean more to the seniors than the food itself. Thank you to all our supporters and volunteers. Without your help we could not continue this program that brings a little sunshine into the lives of these seniors.

# The Impact of Monetary Donations

EFPN greatly appreciates all donations of food, personal care and cleaning supplies. However, monetary support is also crucial for our programs.

Last year over 215,000 items were distributed from our eight pantries. Just over half of these items were donated. We are able to stretch your donated dollars by buying food from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM). We supplement items from FBEM with local purchases in order to fully stock our pantries. Last year we spent \$82,899 on purchased items. Donated deer provides venison for our clients, costing EFPN almost \$6000 for processing fees. In addition to food, we provided our clients \$51,000 in gift certificates to purchase items not available at the pantries.

The Backpack Buddies program provides a weekend backpack of food for children who qualify for free and reduced price lunches. For the 2017-2018 school year we had over 700 elementary and preschool students enrolled. EFPN purchases the food for this program from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. We add locally purchased fruit once a month to the backpacks. The cost for this program is \$83,900.

Our Medical Nutrition program provides vouchers for a nutritional supplement, like Ensure or Boost, to clients who are referred to us by Cancer Services, Senior Services and DaVita Dialysis. Our costs for this program have gone up because of our expanded Senior Delivery Service. This program also provides vouchers for specialty formulas needed by some babies.

The 2018 budget for this program is \$26,500.

A mobile pantry costs around \$1400. Most of our mobile pantries are funded by churches and individuals, however EFPN provides around \$350.00 in funding to supplement each mobile pantry truck. Even though we receive a lot of food donations for the Thanksgiving programs, we need to purchase additional items. We also provide recipients gift certificates to purchase perishable items. The Thanksgiving Program requires around \$15,000 in EFPN funds

EFPN has established a number of partnerships in which we provide boxes of food to agencies like Habitat for Humanity, Home To Stay Housing Assistance Center and Midland Community Former Offenders Advocacy and Rehabilitation. We also are helping to stock the pantries at Windover High School and the Academic & Career Education Academy. These partnerships require around 9000 food items. We frequently purchase many of the items for these partnerships because we often do not have the quantities needed in our inventory.

We are very grateful to all our supporters for trusting us with your donations and are constantly striving to keep our administration costs low. Kathy Calvin, President of the United Nations Foundation, said, "Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference." We hope you know that your donations are making a difference and having an impact on the food insecure in our community. Your continued support will allow us to maintain and expand our outreach to the food insecure.



## SNAP: Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program

SNAP is America's anti-hunger program, helping 1 in 8 Americans afford a basic diet. Two thirds of recipients are children, seniors and people with disabilities. Most working age SNAP recipients work but often in unstable jobs or low paying jobs with few benefits like sick leave. Despite providing modest benefits, averaging about \$1.40 per person per meal, the SNAP program combats food insecurity, alleviates poverty and has long-term positive impact on health as well as on children's educational attainments. All households (except those with elderly or disabled members) must pass a gross income test (130 percent of poverty) to qualify for SNAP benefits. For example, a family of 4 cannot have a gross monthly income greater than \$2,665 to qualify for SNAP. SNAP benefits cannot be used to buy personal care or cleaning products, diapers or paper products. The federal government pays 100 percent of SNAP benefits. Federal and state governments share administrative costs (with the federal government contributing nearly 50 percent). SNAP is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

## We Have a Home

EFPN has signed a purchase agreement for our current building, 503 S Saginaw Rd. The building is in need of extensive renovations. Expansion by EFPN into additional available rooms will provide needed warehouse space for donations of food for our eight pantries and food purchased for our Backpack Buddies Program. Additional temperature controlled space will also improve the storage of fresh produce. Reconfiguration of the spaces will improve handicap accessibility for clients to the SAMS pantry and the flow of food throughout the facility. We are grateful to all who supported this effort including grants from The Allen Foundation, The Dow Corning Foundation, The Midland Area Community Foundation, and The Rollin M Gerstacker Foundation. We currently have 50-60% of the funds necessary for the purchase and renovation. SAMS Pantry, sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church will continue to rent space in the building. We have applied for additional grants but your financial help will drive down our loan amount and allow us to devote our resources to our food programs.



## 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 [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile).

### Here's How to Shop AmazonSmile:

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile). If you do not have an Amazon account you need to create one.
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. If you do not have an Amazon account you need to create one
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.

**Thank You Local Businesses, Churches and Organizations for Recent Food and Monetary Donations for August, 2018—October, 2018**

Ace Hardware  
 Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
 American Chemical Society Garden  
 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church  
 Blessed Sacrament Church  
 Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church  
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
 Church of the Brethren  
 Consumer Energy Employees  
 Ducks Unlimited  
 Faith United Methodist Church  
 Family Fare Grocery Store  
 Feeny Chrysler Jeep Dodge  
 First Baptist Church  
 First Church of Christ Scientist  
 First United Methodist Church  
 Gordonville United Methodist Church  
 Hidden Harvest  
 Homer United Methodist Church  
 Krogers - Rewards Program  
 Lapelle's Flowers & Gifts  
 Meijer's Simply Give  
 Memorial Presbyterian Church  
 Memorial Presbyterian Church Voyagers  
 Messiah Lutheran Church  
 Midland Chamber of Commerce Farmers Market  
 Midland Civitan Club  
 Midland Cogeneration Venture  
 Midland County Fair 4H Auction  
 Midland County Fair Staff  
 Midland High School 50th Class Reunion  
 Midland Lions Club  
 Midland Nazarene Church Adult Sunday School  
 Midland R/C Modelers Club  
 Midland-Gladwin Central Labor Council  
 Muslim Youth of Mid Michigan  
 North Bradley Church of God  
 Old Oak Trails Estates  
 Open Door  
 Our Lady Of Grace Catholic Church  
 Poseyville United Methodist Church  
 Quad Graphics  
 Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation  
 Sanford Community Of Christ  
 Sanford Food Center  
 Sanford United Methodist Church  
 St. Paul Lutheran Church  
 St. Brigid of Kildare Church  
 St. John's Episcopal Church  
 St. John's Lutheran Church  
 Studley Grange  
 Temple Beth El  
 Trinity Lutheran Church  
 Unitarian Universalist Church  
 United Church of Christ  
 Wesleyan Church  
 Wheeler Road Church of Christ  
 Wilson Miller Funeral Home

**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 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**

Go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)  
 Click "create an account"  
 Put in your email address and password.  
 Confirm your password  
 Enter plus card OR alt ID number  
 Go to Community Rewards (near bottom)  
 Follow through the steps. (name, address, etc.)  
 Put in the group number or part of the name of the organization. BD353  
 Choose the correct organization.  
 Click Enroll.  
 You are now registered. Thank you to all those who are enrolled and we hope to add more supporters.



**Sharing Tree Online Impact Store**



EFPN will be participating in the United Way Sharing Tree Program. In past years, our requests were listed on the Red Tags. As was introduced last year, donations to support EFPN must be made through the online Impact Store. Instead of buying actual items, donors can go online and contribute money in various categories at the Impact Store. EFPN will receive funds so that we can go and purchase the needed items. We hope to provide our recipients personal care items, kitchen supplies, grocery

and restaurant gift cards. The Sharing Tree has been very valuable in allowing us to make Christmas and the time beyond the holidays special for our recipients. One of our past recipients remarked that this was the only Christmas gift she was receiving. We have used generous grocery gift cards to not only allow families to purchase food but also gifts for their children. On Cyber Monday, November 27, there will be a match for all donations made on this day. Please support the Sharing Tree Red Tag program by making a contribution at the Impact Store ([www.SharingTreeMidland.org](http://www.SharingTreeMidland.org)) after November 1 and know you are giving something extra for those in need.

**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. Grandparents are often delighted to have a kit to make a cake for their grandchild. 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. They have included items such as birthday plates, napkins or cups, a birthday card and even a baking pan. 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.







**Midland County  
Emergency Food Pantry**

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

[www.midlandcountyefpn.org](http://www.midlandcountyefpn.org)

989-486-9393

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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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 9 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.

**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 [www.midlandcountyefpn.org](http://www.midlandcountyefpn.org) or connect with "Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network" on Facebook.

