



MIDLAND COUNTY FOOD ASSISTANCE NETWORK

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MIDLAND COUNTY FOOD ASSISTANCE NETWORK NEWS



OUR VISION "ALWAYS FOOD IN EVERY HOME"

MARCH 2024

Name Change

Midland County Emergency Food Assistance Network (MCFAN) (formerly EFPN) changed its name to reflect its full portfolio of programs which address more than emergency food needs here in Midland County.

In 2023 our organization, celebrated its 40th anniversary. MCFAN was founded as a collective of food pantries throughout Midland County aimed to deliver on the mission – always food in every home. Today, the organization has eight pantry locations and also provides community food assistance through numerous programs such as Backpack Buddies for preschool and elementary youth, snack programs for middle and high schools, elderly food assistance, a nutrition supplement program and mobile food pantries. The new name – Midland County Food Assistance Network (MCFAN for short) removes the word emergency, an important distinction.



"Changing our name to reflect what we do was an important decision," said Kim Birch, President of MCFAN. "We provide food assistance through many programs that are nonemergent, but nevertheless critical to our community. Expanding our name beyond emergency food pantries better communicates what we are really all about."

MCFAN Locations

Bullock Creek Outreach Pantry
at Messiah Lutheran Church
1550 S. Poseyville Rd. 989-835-7143

Coleman Family Center
4839 N. Coleman Schools Dr.
989-465-2079

HELP Pantry
at Memorial Presbyterian Church
1310 Ashman St. 989-835-6759

MCFAN Warehouse
503 S. Saginaw Rd 989-486-9393

Coleman Family Center
4839 N. Coleman Schools Dr.
989-465-2079

Greater Midland North Family Center
2061 E. Shearer 989-689-7770

SAMS Food Pantry
hosted by St. John's Episcopal Church at
503 S. Saginaw 989-631-2260

Sanford Food Pantry
at Sanford United Methodist Church
2560 N. West River Road 989-687-5353

Wheeler Road Church of Christ Pantry
1123 E. Wheeler Rd. 989-835-8559

West Midland Family Center
4011 W. Isabella Rd. 989-832-3256



The Stop Hunger Challenge is an annual fundraising event for the Midland County Food Assistance Network (MCFAN). All food and money collected from March 1 to April 30 are counted for this effort. Food items are valued at \$1.00 per item. An anonymous donor will offer an incentive for people to donate. MCFAN will receive a check from this donor in proportion to the total funds and food items received during the challenge period. In addition, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, from which we purchase a lot of food, offers a 10% credit on our account for all money donated to us.



May 11, 2024 Letter Carriers, Branch #2317, as well as rural carriers, participate in the National Letter Carriers food drive. The Midland County postal workers collect on average 30,000 lbs. of food. This food is distributed to the 8 pantries of the Food Assistance Network plus other pantries in our community. Please feel free to leave non parishable at your mailbox.

NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

MCFAN also announces Terrah Johnson as the new managing director for the organization. In line with a newly launched strategic plan which focuses on organizational efficiency, optimizing programs and services, and using organization resources effectively, the MCFAN Board of Directors saw a need for additional organizational leadership and are happy to announce Johnson who brings strong leadership experience.

"Terrah is a great fit for our organization," said Birch. "She has a history working with us through her previous roles and knows the value and impact of food security on our community. As we look to continue tackling food insecurity in partnership with various other nonprofit organizations, Terrah will help us deliver on our strategic goals."

Canstruction

Canstruction Midland was held November 12, 2023. Nine teams of students competed in the Canstruction Midland event: Bullock Creek High School, Christian Home Educators of Midland, H.H. Dow High School, Jefferson Middle School, Meridian Early College High School, Midland High School, Northeast Middle School, St. John's Lutheran School and Windover High School. Together, they used more than 12,000 cans to create their Michigan themed structures.

Canstruction is a nationwide charitable competition that involves building sculptures with canned food items. The event was hosted locally by the Midland Mall, Midland Public Schools and the Midland County Food Assistance Network (MCFAN). The event received generous community support and was well attended at the Midland Mall.

The competition's goal is to raise awareness of food insecurity in Midland County. According to United Way, 33% of households in Midland County struggle to meet basic needs, which might force a choice between paying bills or purchasing food. The net proceeds of the Canstruction Midland event will help support MCFAN's vision of "always food in every home."



St. John Middle School

Meijer Simply Give

Between Sunday, March 31st, and Saturday, June 29th stop by Meijer and purchase a \$10.00 Simply Give gift card located near the checkout lanes. Meijer will contribute additional funds to our organization. The Midland County Food Assistance Network will use the money to buy items that are not donated or available from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Double Match Day will be Saturday, June 15. For every \$10.00 donation, Meijer will give an additional \$20.00. Your \$10.00 donation becomes \$30.00 for MCFAN.



Upcoming Mobile Food Pantries

March 12 West Midland Family Center
 March 21 First United Methodist Church
 March 25 Coleman Family Center
 April 1 North Midland Family Center
 April 9 West Midland Family Center

April 27 Blessed Sacrament Church
 April 29 Coleman Family Center
 May 6 North Midland Family Center
 May 14 West Midland Family Center
 May 20 Trinity Lutheran Church
 May 28 Coleman Family Center
 May 31 North Midland Family Center

2023 STATISTICS

- 2036 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED THROUGH PANTRIES
- 5950 PEOPLE SERVED THROUGH PANTRIES
- OVER 17,000 ITEMS DISTRIBUTED PER MONTH
- 780 STUDENTS FROM 12 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND 2 HEAD START CLASSES ENROLLED IN BACKPACK BUDDY PROGRAM
- 304 INDIVIDUALS RECIEVED EMERGENCY BOXES
- 130 INDIVIDUALS RECIEVED HOMELESS BAGS
- 250 HOUSEHOLDS RECIEVED THANKSGIVING BASKETS
- 180 THANSGINGIV MEALS DELIVERED BY ASTER
- 15 INDIVIDUALS ON MEDICAL NUTRITION PROGRAM
- 19 SENIORS SERVED MONTHLY THROUGH SENIOR DELIVERY PROGRAM

NEW SNACK PROGRAM

In partnership with the local middle and high schools, MCFAN is helping to address hunger in schools. When teachers began to see students acting out and or feeling sluggish, they noticed it was due to food insecurity. Through donations, MCFAN is able to provide snacks to 8 local middle and high schools for the 2023-2024 school year. There is no cost to participate in the program. Middle School and High School age students are able to receive snacks to keep them energized throughout the day.

BACKPACK BUDDY

In cooperation with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, MCFAN is offering the Backpack Buddy program for the 2023-2024 school year. Elementary and preschool children are eligible to participate if they qualify for free or reduced meals, live in a household with a Food Stamp FIP case number or in a household qualifying for WIC assistance.



There is no cost to participate in the program. To enroll in the program, parents should contact the administration of their child's school for an enrollment form.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Midland County Food Assistance Network could not help those in need without volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help in the regular pantries, the mobile food pantries, and the senior delivery program, to sort or pack food donations at the warehouse or other areas to help keep our programs going. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pesi Kennett, at outreach@midlandcountyeftp.org or (989) 750-7177

AMAZON WISHLIST

As a non-profit organization, we appreciate your generosity and donations to help make sure there's "always food in every home." Here is a link to our Amazon Non-Profit Organization Wishlist if you wish to give:



MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Cereal | Syrup | Soup (Tomato or Chicken) |
| Laundry Detergent | Olive Oil | Spagetti Sauce |
| Peanut Butter | Deoterant | Saltine Crackers |
| Jelly, Jam | Bar Soap | Salad Dressing |
| Misquick or Baking Mix | Ravioli | Cleaning supplies |
| Manwich or Dinty Moore Beef Stew | Cannted Tuna Fish | Canned Fruit |
| | Canned Spaghetti O's | |