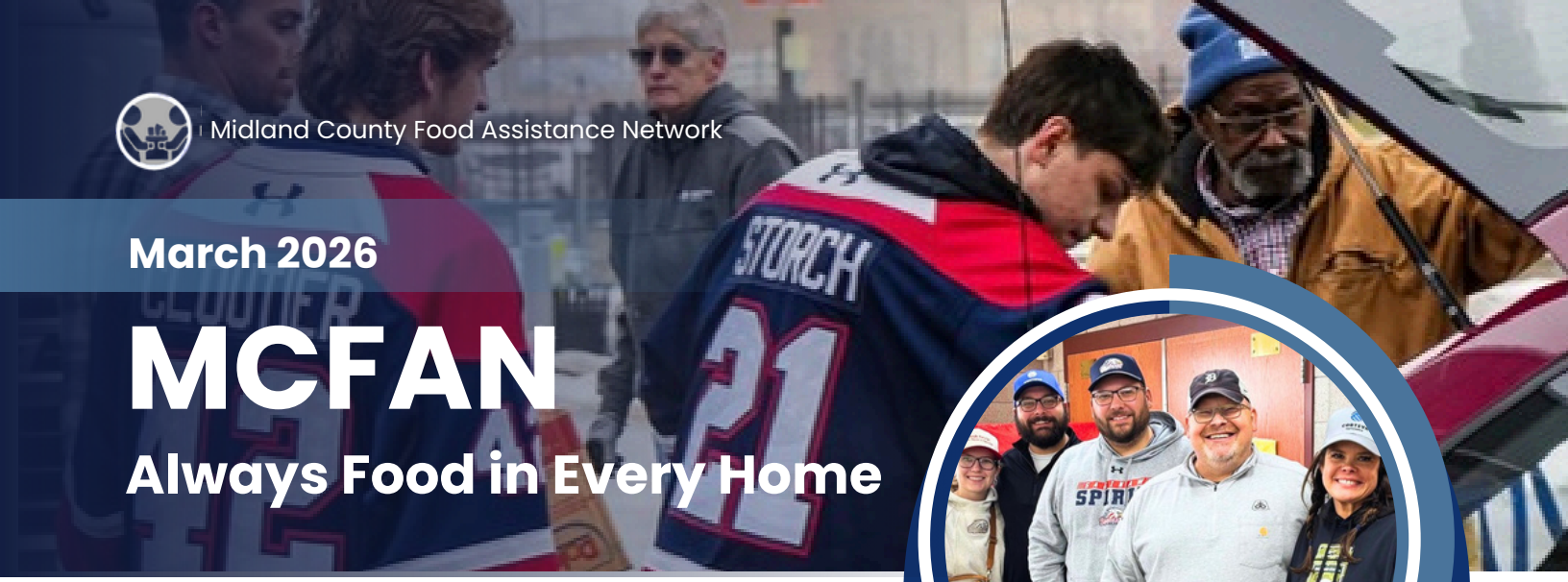


Midland County Food Assistance Network

March 2026

# MCFAN

## Always Food in Every Home

## Looking Back at 2025 & Looking Ahead to 2026

In 2025, MCFAN worked diligently to expand our reach and share our story through a variety of marketing avenues, ensuring that those who need us can find us. We remained intentional about raising awareness and highlighting the vital role community support plays in sustaining our mission.

Toward the end of 2025, we saw a significant increase in need as SNAP benefits were paused. During that challenging time, our Midland community demonstrated just how compassionate and generous it truly is. Many individuals, businesses, and organizations stepped forward to donate their time, financial resources, and food. Because of this extraordinary support, we were able to continue serving our neighbors without interruption.

It is because of people like you and the strength of this remarkable community that we are able to provide food and hope every single day.

As we look ahead to 2026, our focus remains clear:

- Staying client-centered in all we do
- Continuing to tell our story and raise awareness
- Deepening relationships with our donors and partners

We cannot do this work alone. It is your ongoing support and commitment to our mission that allows us to continue making a difference.

Together, we can ensure we are creating a lasting impact for our community and our neighbors.

**Terrah Johnson- Managing Director**

## *People Helping People in Action*

**Community in Action: MLK Day at East Side Soup Kitchen**

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, Corteva Agriscience Midland partnered with the Midland County Food Assistance Network, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Great Lakes Loons, Hidden Harvest, Saginaw Spirit, and Phoenix Community Farm for the MLK Day of Service at the East Side Soup Kitchen on January 19, 2026. From preparing and serving meals to distributing winter clothing and to-go lunches, volunteers came together to address food security and support neighbors across the Great Lakes Bay Region.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

# BACKPACK BUDDIES

## Nourishing Students' Future

Our Backpack Buddies program provides extra support on weekends for children who receive free or reduced-price lunches at school. When school meals are unavailable, this program ensures children head home on Fridays with a backpack full of nutritious, easy- to-prepare foods to carry them through the weekend.

For many of the children we serve, this backpack is their only reliable source of food when school is not in session. Currently, we provide backpacks **720 students** through **11 local elementary schools** and **7 preschools**, ensuring consistent support for our youngest community members.

This impactful program would not be possible without the dedication of more than **50 volunteers each week** who help sort, pack, and distribute backpacks every Friday. Their commitment, along with the generosity of our community, ensures that local children never have to face the weekend hungry.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support that makes Backpack Buddies possible. Together, we are nourishing both bodies and futures.

**Each backpack includes items from key food groups, fresh fruits and/or vegetables, dairy, grains, and a source of protein carefully selected to be:**

- Single-serving
- Individually wrapped
- Shelf-stable
- Nutritious and kid-friendly
- Easy to prepare
- Microwaveable

**To join, please contact your student's school. Flyers are in school offices.**

# DID YOU KNOW?

**Did you know that in 2025, 9,598 families were served through our mobile food giveaways, with 653,523 lbs. of food distributed throughout the year?**

Our mobile food pantries operate in collaboration with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Hidden Harvest, MCFAN, local churches, and other community agencies. Together, we host distributions multiple times each month at various locations across Midland County to reach families where they are.

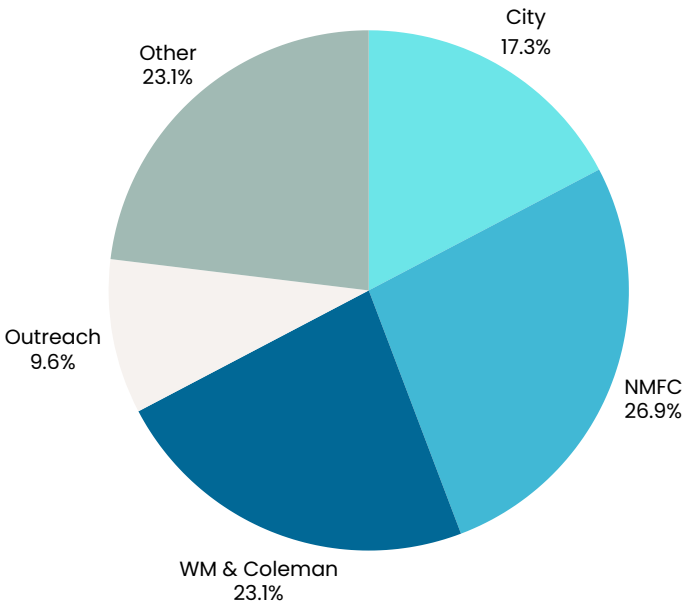
Each mobile pantry event provides essential groceries to approximately **150 families**, offering fresh and shelf-stable items that help stretch household budgets and ease financial strain. With food insecurity impacting so many of our neighbors, these events are a simple yet powerful way to ensure families have access to nutritious food.

MCFAN is always looking for sponsors and volunteers to help make these mobile distributions a success. Sponsoring a mobile pantry costs between $700–$1,200, and each event requires approximately 25 volunteers to run smoothly.
If you or your organization are interested in sponsoring, hosting, or volunteering, we would love to hear from you. Contact us to get involved and help us combat food insecurity in Midland County.

# 2025 STATISTICS

Mobile Distributions Held: **52**
Individuals Served (Mobile): **9,598**
Families Served (Mobile): **2,405**
Food Distributed: **653,523 lbs**
Volunteers: **1,065**
Snack Pack Program: **1,165 bags distributed**
Community Cupboard: **292 items provided**
Community Cupboard Donations: **76 items donated**
Thanksgiving Program: **245 families / 888 individuals**
Emergency Food Boxes: **149 distributed**
Backpack Buddies: **720 children enrolled**
Nutrition Program: **37 clients served**
Pantry Households Served: **2,614**
Pantry Individuals Served: **7,754**

## MOBILE DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS




# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Stop Hunger Challenge (March-April)**
The Stop Hunger Challenge is an annual fundraising event for MCFAN that takes place across March and April. All food and money collected from March 1 to April 30 are counted, with food items valued at $1.00 per item.
Our 2026 goal is to raise **$85,000**. The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is again offering a 10% credit on our account for monetary donations we receive during this event, helping donations stretch even farther. For information on how to donate visit: https://midlandcountyfan.org/howyoucanhelp.

**National Letter Carriers Food Drive May 9th .**
During the month of May, members of the National Association of 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. To participate, leave a bag of non-perishable food where your letter carrier normally delivers your mail on May 9th.

## Midland County Food Assistance Network Locations

**Bullock Creek Outreach Pantry**
at Messiah Lutheran Church
1550 S. Poseyville Rd.
989-631-5200

**Greater Midland Coleman Family Center**
4839 N. Coleman Schools Dr.
989-486-9393

**Wheeler Road Church of Christ**
1123 E. Wheeler St.
989-835-8559

**Greater Midland North Family Center**
2601. E. Shearer Rd.
989-689-7770

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

**SAMS Pantry hosted by St. Johns Episcopal**
503 S. Saginaw Rd.
989-631-2260

**Sanford Pantry at Sanford United Methodist Church**
2560 N. West River Rd.
989-687-5353

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

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

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