

FOOD PANTRY NETWORK NEWS



MARCH 2011

VOLUME 24 NO. 1



Thanks for all you are doing to help others in their time of need

Who have you helped?

- A single mom needed bland food for her two girls. While she relies on food stamps, the family had the flu and her food stamps were late.
- A grandmother suddenly gained custody of her three teenage grandchildren and didn't have the money to buy enough food to feed them. We helped with a seven day supply of food just one day after contacting us.
- A man's wife suddenly died and he needed food for all the extra people who would be staying with him, We helped out again in a month because he was a stay at home dad and his wife was the only one working. Your support helps during trying times such as these.

Feinstein's 14th Annual March Against Hunger March 1st through April 30th

For the 14th consecutive year, Alan Feinstein is putting up a \$1 million challenge to communities across the country in his effort to support the elimination of hunger. Each of the past 14 years Mr. Feinstein has awarded grants to local communities based on the amount of money and food items donated during the months of March and April.

The Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network has seen a large portion of its annual income received during this period and we hope that this year's contributions blow away last year's success. In March and April of 2010 we booked \$77,023 in cash plus food items (each item donated is credited at \$1 toward the challenge).

If you have been waiting for the challenge period to make a contribution now is the time. You may designate your gift toward any of our programs to qualify during the challenge period. Of course all cash gifts to the Midland County EFPN qualify for state tax credits (see additional information about the tax credit on page 3).

Mobile Food Pantries Feed Thousands!

In 2010 the EFPN, through a partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, distributed more than 112,455 meals to 2,174 families (about 7,500 individuals) throughout Midland County. A Mobile Food Pantry involves purchasing a truck full of food from the Food Bank and distributing the entire contents in a matter of about three hours. Up to 300 families benefit from each MFP. The cost is an amazing \$600 per event. Each MFP is usually sponsored by a church or club.

Upcoming Mobile Food Pantries

March 16th

Coleman Faith United Methodist Church. Sponsored by Coleman Lions Club.

May 19th

Trinity Lutheran Church, Jefferson Street, Midland. Sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Midland Chapter

June 15

North Midland Family Center. Sponsored by Chapel Lane Presbyterian.

To volunteer:

Contact Jim Ostler at jimbarbo32@sbcglobal.net

To sponsor a MFP:

Contact Thayre Talcott at thetalcotts@sbcglobal.net

Interested in becoming an MFP volunteer?

Volunteer for an upcoming Mobile Food Pantry (MFP)! These food distributions take place about once a month. Registration at each MFP usually starts in the morning and the food distribution starts about noon —as soon as the crew has unloaded and stacked the food.



***Your contributions continue to make a difference
Please support these special programs in the coming months***

PLEASE SEND ALL DONATIONS TO:

Midland County EFPN P. O. Box 2521 Midland, MI 48641-2521



2010 CROP HUNGER WALK SUCCESSFUL

On Sun., Oct. 3, Midland celebrated its annual **CROP WALK**. CROP Hunger Walks help children and families worldwide—and here in the U.S.—to have food for today, while building for a better tomorrow. The Midland community raised nearly \$45,000 toward it's 2010 goal from which the EFPN received a donation of \$3,500.

REMAX FOOD DRIVE FEEDS MANY

Our thanks go out again to Wayne Crosby of REMAX in cooperation with the United Way of Midland County for their food drive conducted in November of 2010. The Midland County EFPN was the eventual recipient of 2,723 food and personal care items collected during the drive.



THE VENISON PROGRAM

For over 19 years the Pantry Network has been the recipient of venison received from private hunters who have made donations to the Pantry Network through Bob McKellar (989-835-9601). These private donations are processed at Stutsman's in Loomis and kept frozen at McKellar's. In 2010 we were able to distribute 1,455 packages of venison among the

Network pantries. We are thankful to all the hunters who donated the meat and to the meat processors for giving us a reduced processing fee.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Thanks to all of our supporters who responded so generously by providing food, funds and cookies for the 2010 Thanksgiving Program. Food and supplies were distributed to 1,350 people (about 400 families) invited by the Midland County Department of Human Services EFPN and other participating agencies. Volunteer youth and adults under the leadership of Elaine and Dean Tobey from Aldersgate United Methodist Church once again did an outstanding job of collecting, sorting and distributing thousands of food items to make sure these families were able to partake in the blessings of a Thanksgiving meal with family. Contributions designated for the Thanksgiving Program surpassed \$9,000 in 2010. Another wonderful example of how this community stretches our wealth (financial and people) to meet the need of those who are suffering.



MEN OF MUSIC

Once again the annual Men of Music Christmas Concert was held and the EFPN was selected as one of the recipients of the free-will offering collected at this wonderful event. Thanks to the generosity of all who attended the Midland County performances \$2,250 was provided to help feed the hungry throughout Midland County. Many thanks to all.

Backpack Buddies Program Receives a Special Gift

In January of 2011 a check arrived in our PO Box that overwhelmed us. Made in honor of four couples in the community, this donation of \$20,000 is enough to underwrite about one semester of the Backpack Buddy program.

So far this year our program has distributed over 11,000 backpacks through all of Midland County's public elementary schools. Each backpack contains enough food for the enrolled student to eat healthily over the week-end. For only \$2 each backpack is stocked with at least one breakfast, one lunch and one dinner product along with snacks that meet nutrition guidelines.

Students who qualify for the program must be enrolled in the Free or Reduced Lunch program and a parent or guardian must also enroll that student in the Backpack Buddy Program.

As of February 631 kids were enrolled in the Backpack Buddies Program. To learn more about this program contact Karen Dastick at Dastick@charter.net.



Midland County EFPN Locations

Please call before delivering food and supplies to pantries

BULLOCK CREEK OUTREACH PANTRY

Messiah Lutheran Church
1550 S. Poseyville Rd.
(Corner of Gordonville Rd.)
835-7143.

COLEMAN PANTRY

Coleman City Hall; 465-6961.

HELP PANTRY

Memorial Presbyterian Church
1310 Ashman St. (Please use
Allen St entrance.); 835-6759.

NORTH MIDLAND PANTRY

North Midland Family Center
2601 E. Shearer Rd.; 689-7770.

SAMS PANTRY

St. John's Episcopal Church
405 N. Saginaw Rd. (Please contact
church office.); 631-2260.

SANFORD PANTRY

Sanford United Methodist Church
2560 N. West River Rd.; 687-5353.

WEST MIDLAND PANTRY

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

WHEELER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

1123 E Wheeler Road: 835-8559

We welcome our newest pantry to the partners of the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network. At the beginning of January 2011 the pantry at the Wheeler Road Church of Christ became a member of the network, expanding our capacity to feed those in need and to expand their church's desire to increase the food and items they can offer to families who have been served previously by their pantry and volunteers. Welcome!

Suggested Food and Supply Donations for Pantries

Breakfast foods: assorted hot & cold cereals, biscuit and pancake mix, syrup

Beverages: powdered milk, juices, drink mixes (iced tea, fruit punch, etc.), hot chocolate, coffee, tea

Proteins: beef stew, peanut butter, tuna

Starches: macaroni & cheese, spaghetti, noodles, pizza mix, pasta, rice & potato mixes, "hamburger helper"

Canned goods: canned fruits & vegetables, tomato & spaghetti sauce, canned meals, soups

Accompaniments: catsup, mustard, salad dressings, jam or jelly, crackers

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

Personal care: bar soap, deodorant, shampoo & conditioner, shaving supplies, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes

Baby items: diapers, baby food, currently dated formula, baby shampoo & lotion, diaper ointment, baby wipes

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

Special Diets: low salt and low sugar items, sugar free items

We say a special good-bye to Stuart Bergstein. Many of you know Stuart but you may all not know that it was Stuart along with his long time friend Ron Beech who initiated the Backpack Buddies Program now operating in its fourth year. Stuart and Ron found the original funding and helped kick off a program that currently feeds 631 students each week-end during this school year. The cost at just \$2 per child per weekend is one of the best programs that EFPN provides. Many thanks to Stuart. Shalom good friend.

CASH DONATIONS TO EFPN QUALIFY FOR STATE TAX CREDIT

Cash donations made directly to the EFPN qualify for the "Food Bank" credit on the Michigan Income Tax return. The allowable credit is 50% of the contribution to a maximum of \$100/person or \$200 /married filing a joint return.

Please note: The Michigan state tax credit applies only to donations made out directly to Midland County EFPN. Donations made to a church pantry are not eligible for this State tax credit. However, if you send your gift to **Midland County EFPN** and designate it for a specific Network pantry, we will transfer the gift to the pantry of your choice. Alternatively, you may choose to specify one of these programs: Backpack Buddies, Mobile Food Pantries, or Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

Board Sets April 4 for Annual Meeting

Where: St. John's
Episcopal Church,
Williams Hall.

*Invitations and details
to be mailed soon.*

" Together, we are making a difference to the hungry people in Midland County. "



Midland County
Emergency Food Pantry Network

P.O. BOX 2521
Midland, MI 48641-2521

www.midlandcountyeftpn.org

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We need your help!

The EFPN is in the process of switching our records to a new database. While the kinks are being worked out, we may be sending multiple copies of the newsletter, sending copies to summer and/or winter addresses, or we may have your names recorded incorrectly. We may also need to make corrections to mailing names, addresses or unfortunately to account for those who may have passed on.

Please share any corrections at the time a donation is made. Or, contact us through our website and help us reduce the number of recipients we may be mailing to at your church or agency address. Please accept our apologies for any and all mistakes at this time.



Please visit us at www.midlandcountyeftpn.org to find out the latest information, scheduled event or volunteer opportunities. To make a contribution please send all checks to Midland County EFPN, PO Box 2521, Midland MI 48641-2521.