

# Food Pantry Network News

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network

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



September 2014

## EFPN BackPack Buddies Program

### Reflections



It is back to school time! For EFPN and the coordinator of our BackPack Buddies Program, Karen Dastick, this means it is planning time to provide a weekend backpack of food for children in need. The food is provided on the weekends to supplement the free or reduced price lunches children receive during the week at school. All Midland County elementary school children receive information regarding Backpack Buddies with their start-of-school paperwork. Children who are eligible to receive free or reduced price lunches are eligible for the Backpack Buddies Program. Other families learn how they can contribute to the program. Once the forms come back, Karen will work with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM) to determine the allotment of items for each school

based on the number of participants. Each backpack includes items that can be used for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a snack. The FBEM will begin delivering the food items to the Midland Public School warehouse every two weeks starting in October. Volunteers from each school pack the backpacks to be distributed at their respective schools. Many schools have switched to plastic grocery bags rather than the backpacks to help control program costs and to ensure that students receive food regardless of whether they remember to return their backpack on Monday.

Recipients often share the food with their families. One mother noted that the food helped her whole family over a weekend when their food items were low. An EFPN volunteer who was overseeing a Battle of the Books team at a local school always brought snacks for her team. At one meeting, a member of her team announced they had a snack to share. Our volunteer recognized it as coming from the BackPack Buddies Program and said the student was happy to have a snack to share with others.

This past summer, Meridian Elementary School did a pilot backpack program to encourage students to participate in a summer reading program. If children who qualified for free or reduced priced lunches brought back books to exchange for new books, they were given a backpack of food. This program served approximately 150 children. Children could receive up to three backpacks of food. Funding for this was provided by the women's group of Sanford United Methodist Church as well as EFPN. The program received positive feedback and may be repeated in the future.

We would not be able to keep this program going without all the volunteers involved, including the staff of the Midland Public Schools and community volunteers. The FBEM does a wonderful job of providing food that makes this program possible. Each filled backpack costs EFPN around \$2.25 per child per week. A donation of \$70.00 covered the food costs for one student for the 2013-2014 school year. With food price increases, it may be a little higher this coming school year. During the past school year around 700 students took advantage of this program, for an overall yearly program cost of around \$50,000. We have drawn on many different sources to keep this program going. A recent grant from the Allen Foundation as well as funds from the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the James and Anita Jenkins Family Foundation and many others have provided partial support for this program. The BackPack Buddies Program is a testament to many in Midland County working together to ensure no child goes hungry.

\* A mom needed help with a nutritional supplement for her teen who was fighting anorexia; EFPN was able to help.

\* A man finally got a job, but had to catch up with other bills. He had not eaten in 2 days.

\* A father struggling to make ends meet needed help with food so he could pay some other bills.

\* A low income grandmother had her grandchildren for the summer and did not realize how much food was needed for them.

### Food for Thought

\* A little girl noticed that the food backpacks were being delivered to the classrooms. She said "I am glad it is Friday because I get my backpack."

\* According to the Feed America 2014 Hunger in America Survey, 66% of households report choosing between paying for food and medicine or medical care each year, and 57% of households choose between paying for food and housing annually.

\* A recipient's note:

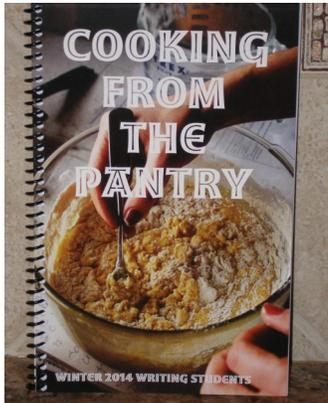
"Thank you for making a positive difference in our family's life. We appreciate your kindness to give of your time and encouraging words as well as sweet sprits. God Bless."

## “COOKING FROM THE PANTRY”

Trish Harris, a professor at Delta College, decided to give her 2014 winter semester writing students a unique assignment. She

had them create a cookbook targeted to clients who use a food pantry. The recipes would be simple, and use ingredients that clients receive from a pantry. They partnered with Julia Terhune of Michigan State Extension Services and Dana Pressnall, pantry representative from St. John's Episcopal SAMS' pantry. Many of the recipes were from the students' families and modified to fit the requirements of this project. Students even tested some of the recipes.

Last year, EFPN received a grant from the Midland Area Community Foundation (MACF) to purchase appliances and shelving for our newly established warehouse. We had funds left over from this grant, and with permission from MACF and Professor Harris, we decided to make copies of this cookbook available to our clients. We received a great discount from Quick and Reliable Printing (QRP) al-



lowing us to print more copies than we originally thought we could. Joy Stewart, who works for QRP, did an amazing job in replicating the cookbook. The pantries are now handing out copies of these cookbooks to clients who are interested. Response from our clients has been very positive and gives them an opportunity to try new recipes. It has also sparked cooking discussions between clients and volunteers. One discussion led to a client feeling confident enough to try cooking dried beans.

If anyone is interested in purchasing this cookbook, it is available through the Lulu self publishing site ([www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)). This endeavor is a great example on how partnerships (Delta College writing students, SAMS' Pantry, and MSU Extension Services) and leveraging resources (MACF grant funds) came together to give our clients a wonderful surprise.



The Midland Area Community Foundation (MACF) joined more than 100 communities across the country to raise funds for local nonprofits through a one day online giving event-"Give Local Midland". Money raised that day went into the nonprofit's endowment fund.

EFPN appreciates all the effort that went into the planning and execution of this event. The process worked perfectly thanks to all the upfront work done by MACF. On this day, EFPN raised approximately \$5,200.00. We were surprised to get a bonus of \$200.00 for being the nonprofit having the most new donors to an endowment fund.

Thank you to all donors who supported our organization through this event, and to MACF for sponsoring this unique giving opportunity.

## New Location for Coleman Pantry

The Coleman Food Pantry was established in 1983 as a member pantry of the newly formed Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network. It has been in various locations over the years. In 1996, the pantry was relocated to the Faith United Methodist Church where it remained till this year. Coleman also had another food pantry located at the Coleman Railway Family Center, 4839 N. Coleman Schools Dr. It was decided in 2014 to consolidate the two pantries into one and locate it at the Coleman Railway Family Center. Our volunteer coordinators from the pantry at Faith United Methodist Church still oversee the pantry. We have the added bonus that the coordinator of our pantry at North Midland Family Center is also involved with the Coleman Railway Family Center.

Relocating has resulted in expanded hours for clients to pick up food, and volunteers do not have to transport food to the former pick-up location. The pantry is now larger and recipients can take advantage of other activities at the Railway Family Center.



The EFPN Coleman Food Pantry served 127 households in 2013. We hope at the new location that we can serve even more clients. We are very grateful to the community of Faith United Methodist Church for their many years of supporting this ministry. They are still involved with the EFPN Coleman Pantry by providing donations and volunteers and hosting a mobile pantry.

## ONLINE DONATING TO EFPN

EFPN has put in place a process to receive online donations through our EFPN website-[www.midlandcountyeFPN.org](http://www.midlandcountyeFPN.org). There is a donate button on the left side bar of the front page as well as in the "How You Can Help" section. Payments are processed on a secure site via PayPal. You do not need to have a PayPal account to make a donation.



## Feinstein Challenge Results

During the months of March and April, Alan Feinstein offers his one million dollar challenge to nonprofit hunger agencies throughout the country. All food and money collected during this period are counted for this effort. Thanks to all our supporters for helping us raise approximately \$88,000 in money and food during the Feinstein Challenge. This is a record amount for us, exceeding our \$75,000 goal! With increasing food costs, the additional funds will help us meet the rising demands for food.

## Items Needed by EFPN Food Pantries

EFPN is experiencing a high demand for food. Summer is often a time for this increased demand because children are home and do not receive their free or reduced priced lunches or their backpacks of food. At the same time donations of food items tend to be lower during the summer.

We are in particular need of the following items:

Personal care items: Shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. are always in short supply. Clients cannot buy these items with their Bridge Cards, and they tend to be expensive items.

Canned Protein: Tuna, chicken, beef stew.

Canned fruit including apple sauce: These items are popular with our clients. We often cannot get these from the Food Bank.

Breakfast items: Cereal is a breakfast staple especially appreciated by children. Pancake mix and syrup.

Cleaning Supplies: laundry detergent, dish detergent

Staples: flour, sugar and cooking oil

Birthday Kits: Birthday bag with cake, frosting, and candles

## Thank You Local Businesses and Organizations

Abundant Life Apostolic Church  
Aldersgate Methodist Church  
Allen Foundation  
Asset Brokers & Loan  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day  
Saints  
Community Alliance for Youth Services  
Community Garden of Holy Family  
Episcopal Church  
Delta College Winter Writing Class  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority  
Dow Corning Tennis Classic  
Dr. Daniel Clement and staff  
Heirloom Garden of Chippewa Nature  
Center  
Lalonde's Market  
Midland Figure Skating Club  
Midland Jaycees  
Midland Public Schools Admin  
National Letters Carrier's Association  
St Brigid of Kildare

\*In the 2013 annual report we inadvertently left off Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church as a supporter of the HELP Pantry

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Food Collection at Midland Balloon Festival, September 12-14

The Midland Balloon Festival will be held September 12-14 at the Midland County Fairgrounds, [www.midlandballoonfest.com](http://www.midlandballoonfest.com). As part of the event, attendees are asked to bring a nonperishable food item. There will be trucks on site to collect the food. Please help stock our shelves by having fun at the Balloon Festival while helping your neighbors in need.

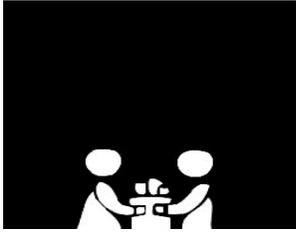
### Lalonde's Market to Hold 2nd Annual "Claws for a Cause"

All you lobster lovers can now get your lobster while supporting EFPN. On September 20 & 21, Lalonde's Market, 4007 Jefferson, will be selling fresh or cooked lobsters. Last year over 1600 lobsters were sold. Live lobsters are \$12.50 and cooked lobsters are \$14.00. Lobster accessory bags that will include clarified butter, lobster crackers, seafood forks and lobster bibs will be available for purchase. You are encouraged to preorder your lobsters to guarantee enough are available.

To preorder, you can send an email to [emily@lalondesmarket.com](mailto:emily@lalondesmarket.com) or visit the Lalonde's website at [www.lalondesmarket.com/events.php](http://www.lalondesmarket.com/events.php) or call the store at 636-7794. Last year EFPN used the proceeds from this event to purchase ground beef which was a real treat for our clients.



### Community Thanksgiving Drive, November 23



Midland County  
Emergency Food Pantry

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

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

989-486-9393

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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*

## Stamp Out Hunger Results



On Saturday May 10, the National Association of Letter Carriers held their Stamp Out Hunger food drive across the country. Our postal workers collected 30,429 lbs of food in Midland County, 17,027 lbs of which were collected in the city of Midland. Louise Fazio from EFPN coordinated the food distribution to 13 pantries in Midland County. She was assisted by volunteers from Blessed Sacrament and Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church.

Thank you to all Midland County Postal workers, especially Tina Jacobs, who coordinated the local effort. It was a very long day for many of these workers. Thank you to all who supported the Letter Carriers in their drive to end hunger by placing food by your mailboxes.