

Food Pantry Network News

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network

Our Vision: "Always Food in Every Home"



November 2014

Community Thanksgiving Food Collection



Thanksgiving is a time of reflection. 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 23, resources from the Midland community will come together to provide 425 families with a Thanksgiving meal. This program is a partnering of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, EFPN and the Midland County

Department Human Services (DHS). The list of recipients is compiled with input from DHS, EFPN and many of the nonprofit agencies in Midland County. To contribute to this event, you may bring your nonperishable food items and personal care items on Sunday, November 23, between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm to Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 2206 Airfield Lane. Over 18,000 items are needed. If you cannot make it to Aldersgate on November 23, volunteers are available to pick up donations. Please call 989-839-9879 or 989-486-9393.

What is Needed:

Food Needs: Canned fruits, vegetables and soup, cereal, spaghetti sauce, noodle, boxed potatoes, rice, dessert mixes, juices, stuffing, 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 with cookie type, and packaged, a dozen per package in sealed plastic bags) would be especially appreciated. At least 425 dozens of cookies are needed.

Cash Donations: We need almost \$9000 in cash donations to give recipients gift certificates which the families use to purchase perishable foods. Your tax deductible 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 from W Clement Stone, a businessman and philanthropist, captures the sentiment of Thanksgiving, "If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share."

Reflections

* A young widow with children needed our help. Her husband was the sole provider so she is without income and no means of support from her family.

* A woman in hospice care needed a nutritional supplement, like Ensure, and soups. We gave her the nutritional supplement plus soups and juices and anything else she needed. She said there is something about chicken noodle soup that made her feel better.

* A recently divorced mom needed help. She thought she had budgeted enough money for food and then an unexpected bill came. She had to spend her food money to pay the bill.

* A father lost his job and was out of work for a few months. He found a lower wage job but needed food assistance till he could catch up with bills from being out of work.

Food For Thought

* A gentleman was at a local restaurant when two young children approached him and gave him money to pay for his meal. The man was very grateful and decided to pay it forward by multiplying the amount 10 fold and contributing it to EFPN so others could have food.

* A young child saw the flyer for the Backpack program at her school. The flyer asks those who do not qualify to receive a Backpack to consider making a donation to support the program. This child saves a portion of her allowance for sharing with others and decided to give her money to EFPN.

* 34.3% of Midland County students receive free or reduced price school lunches.

Mobile Pantries Supplement Meals for Neighbors In Need



The Mobile Food Pantry is a “food giveaway” program held with the cooperation of the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Featuring an average of 13,000 – 15,000 pounds of supplemental food, the product is delivered either in a straight truck or a semi trailer. These mobile pantries are held approximately 7 times/year in various locations in Midland County. Messiah Lutheran will often sponsor a "Filling Midland's Cup" in months that do not have an EFPN sponsored mobile pantry. The Mobile Food Pantry typically helps 250 families at each distribution.

The cost of this smaller truck is \$700.00. In recent years, we have noticed an increase in the number of people coming to these food giveaways so we have had to order the larger truck which can feed approximately 300 families. This truck costs \$1200.00. Since we never know what food items will be on the truck, EFPN often supplements the truck items with other items from the Food Bank. EFPN typically spends an additional \$200-\$300 on items such as vegetables, pasta, or pasta sauce. Families leave a mobile pantry with a grocery cart of food that costs EFPN and our supporters a total of approximately \$4.00 per cart. Our mobile pantry coordinator has worked hard at getting various organizations and churches to fund the cost of these trucks. We have had other groups provide the place needed to host these mobile pantries which are then funded by other groups or EFPN. Each mobile pantry needs at least 70 volunteers for smooth operation. Family Fare grocery store provided the EFPN mobiles with carts and bags. The Messiah Lutheran sponsored mobiles get carts and bags from Sanford Food Pride. For the mobile pantry there is no qualifying information needed. Recipients can come from any county, though the vast majority are from Midland County. Recipients will often come hours before registration begins in order to make sure they get a low number, as clients are served in the order they are registered. If you are interested in volunteering, hosting, or sponsoring all or part of a mobile pantry and/or the supplement, please contact our office at 989-486-9393.



Donate a Deer

The Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network (EFPN) has a partnership with the Chippewa Nature Center. In the fall months, deer that are harvested at the Nature Center are donated to EFPN. EFPN has the deer processed with a U.S.D.A. approved processor, and the venison is given to clients.

EFPN also runs a venison program independently of the Chippewa Nature Center program. Deer can be delivered to 784 South Poseyville Road, Midland, or we will pick up any deer within a 50 mile radius of Midland. Information or request for deer pick up can be found at (989) 835-9601. EFPN pays for the processing of the donated deer. Many of our clients appreciate getting this venison. Venison recipes have been included in the "Cooking From A Pantry" cookbook that is being handed out to clients.

EFPN Helps Low Income College Students

One of the programs of the Emergency Food Pantry Network (EFPN) is the student assistance program which helps low income college students monthly with food and gift certificates to purchase perishable items. These students have limited financial resources. Often these students are single parents returning to school in order to get a better job in the future. Students must provide proof that they are a student in order to receive assistance.. EFPN wants them to focus on getting their education without having to worry about having enough money for food. EFPN currently has 24 students enrolled in this program for the 2014-2015 school year.

Help EFPN While Shopping

Kroger's Community Rewards

EFPN is part of the Kroger's Community Rewards program. Register your Kroger Card, choose EFPN and you will be donating to EFPN every time you shop. Kroger will donate a percentage of your qualifying purchases back to EFPN. Supporters can earn rewards for EFPN on almost everything. 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 989-486-9393 and we can sign up your card.



A. If you were registered in the program last year, you need to re-enroll each April. Go to Kroger.com. Go to top of page and sign in.

1. Put in your e-mail and your password.
(Use the **Forgot your password** link if needed)
2. Go into My Account; Click Edit Under Community Rewards.
3. Find your organization by typing in EFPN Non Profit Organization number – 91387.
4. Click Select Your Organization.
5. Click Save Changes. Your card is re-enrolled to support EFPN.

B. If you have never enrolled your Kroger card :

1. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and Click "create an account".
2. Put in your email address and password. Confirm your password.
3. Enter plus card OR alt ID number.
4. Go to Community Rewards; Enter Name, address, etc.
5. Put in the group number or part of the name of the organization-91387.
6. Choose the correct organization. Click Enroll.

You need to register your Kroger card every year. Your card enrollment expires every April 30. We currently have around 49 people enrolled and we receive almost \$1000/year. Thank you to all those who are enrolled!

Amazon Smile

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 <http://smile.amazon.com>. If you do not have an Amazon account you need to create one. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (after you have logged into your account), it will have a spotlighted charity but it will give you the option to choose a charity. Please search for Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation to EFPN.



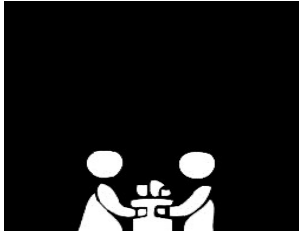
Make Memorable Birthdays



For a number of years EFPN has given to our clients "birthday kits" if a family member was having a birthday within the next month. They 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. The basic ingredients for a birthday kit are a cake mix, frosting, and candles. Our donors have been very creative and generous in assembling these kits. They are often in birthday themed gift bags. They can contain paper plates, napkins, and cups. Some have included a birthday card, cake pan, and party games. Any extra items included are very much appreciated by our recipients. Our supply of these kits is starting to dwindle. We welcome any effort by you or a group to make birthday kits for EFPN recipients. 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 989-486-9393 to arrange delivery.

*Thank You
Local Businesses and
Organizations for recent food
and fund raising events!*

*Blessed Sacrament & St. Brigid Middle School Youth Ministry
LaLondes
Stanford LP Gas
Temple Beth El*



Midland County
Emergency Food Pantry

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

www.midlandcountyeftp.org

989-486-9393

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MIDLAND, MI
PERMIT NO 181

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*

Alternative Gift Fairs

Alternative Gift Fairs give you the opportunity to buy gifts that support a variety of charitable organizations. These gifts inspire change and will have an impact beyond the holiday season. EFPN will be represented at a number of these Fairs.

Blessed Sacrament, November 16, 9:00-1:00
Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church, November 23,
9:30 - 6:00

Memorial Presbyterian Church, November 23,
9:00 - 11:00 and Noon - 1:00

Upcoming Events:

Sharing Tree, November till December 8

EFPN requests will be on the red tags and the stories are meant to represent typical clients. Our requests include personal care items, popcorn or hot chocolate, kitchen utensils and gift cards for produce, dairy, meat and restaurants.

Culver's Food Collection - All of November

Bring in 2 nonperishable food items
and receive a free 1 scoop sundae.



Men of Music Concert

First United Methodist Church, Dec. 7, 2:00
PM and 7:00 PM. Free will donation with
proceeds going to EFPN.