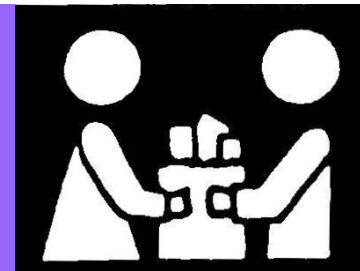


# Food Pantry Network News

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network

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



September 2018

## Preparing for the 2018-2019 Backpack Buddies Program

EFPN will once again coordinate and fund the Backpack Buddies Program. For the school year 2017-2018, approximately 700 children in 11 public elementary schools and 3 preschools received this weekend supplement of food. Children who receive free or reduced price lunches are eligible for the backpack program. Once the program application forms come back, our Backpack Buddies Program coordinator, Debra Ahn, will work with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM) to determine the allotment of items for each school. Items included can be used for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a snack. There is no cost for children, their families or schools to participate in this program. EFPN also provides a piece of fruit once a month into each backpack. 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 backpacks on Monday. Many children and their families have come to rely on this extra food for the weekend. It has been shown that children that have adequate food can concentrate on their studies. This past summer we did a backpack program for 210 children at West Midland Family Center, Coleman Element-

ary School, Siebert School and North Midland Family Center. For many of these children, the food was offered as an incentive in a summer reading program.



We are working to expand the program to other low income children in public school preschool classes. Expansion is not just a matter of having the monetary support, though that is very important, but also having the school personnel and volunteers to implement this program in their schools. The Midland Public Schools transportation garage is near capacity on the amount of food it can accept before it is delivered to the schools. With the addition of more children, we are looking to have a second delivery be made at our warehouse location.

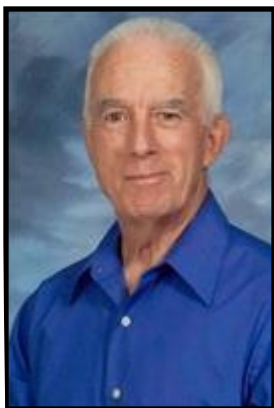
We would not be able to keep this program going without all the volunteers involved, including the staff of all the Midland County schools and community volunteers, and the financial support of many organizations including The James R and Anita Horne Jenkins Foundation, Aldersgate United Methodist Women, Mary Currie Foundation, Charles J. Strosacker Founda-

tion, Community Wishes, Ladies of Blessed Sacrament, First United Methodist Church, Midland Lions Club, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Memorial Presbyterian Women and the Midland Kiwanis Foundation as well as many individuals. We are projecting the cost for a backpack this coming year will be around \$137.00 per child which translates to \$96,000 for 700 children.

The Backpack Buddies Program is a testament to many resources coming together to make a difference in the lives of our children. Nelson Mandela said "history will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children". Food is part of the everyday life for all of us. Thank you for continuing to support our efforts to finance and manage the Backpack Buddies Program. Your continued support allows EFPN to not only serve our current roster of schools but to expand to more children in need.

## Remembering Earl Crawford

We were sad to learn of the passing of Earl Crawford. Earl took over running the Sanford Pantry at Sanford United Methodist Church after he retired and was worried about not having enough to do. Along with his wife Kay they were very dedi-



cated in managing the pantry and were great ambassadors for the pantry. Earl developed a great relationship with his local grocery store and other groups in Sanford. These relationships were a great benefit to the Sanford Pantry. Earl often supplemented the EFPN Backpack Buddies Program at Meridian Elementary School with kid-friendly foods that he had secured because of his connections. In looking at statistics on the number of items going out per client, Earl's pantry numbers often exceeded every other pantry. He cared deeply for his recipients and was very generous. He has been known to deliver food to recipients who could not make it to the pantry. His quick sense of humor often had us laughing. EFPN was blessed to have Earl and Kay be part of our organization.

## Reflections

An elderly woman who lived at Greenhill's Apartment is now living in a more expensive apartment and she needed help with food.

A family with a very ill child needed PediaSure. The child is starting to improve. The family is grateful to EFPN for helping the child get better.

A woman recently released from prison needed help with food for her family until she could find a job. She thanked our coordinator for not judging her.

A man used his social Security and pension to pay his taxes. He needed help with food so called 211 and was referred to EFPN. After his visit to the pantry he called back to say he was overwhelmed and happy.

A man wanted to leave his wife for reasons beyond his control. He called to check if we would help him and his children if he needed food. Our coordinator said we would help and he was relieved to know his children would be able to get food.

## The Path From Your Donations to Those in Need

Have you wondered how your food donations get into the hands of those in need? A person in need of food contacts EFPN by calling 211 or a local church or agency for a referral or by calling our number directly. Sometimes concerned neighbors, friends or family members alert us to people in need. Many of our recipients hold jobs that are low paying or have few hours and do not have enough money to pay their bills plus put food on the table. At times an unexpected major expense comes their way including having to take responsibility for younger family members. Sometimes they get ill and do not get paid while off from work. All these calls are channeled to our coordinator who then contacts the recipient. She interviews the recipient to determine the need. We have streamlined the number of questions asked. A lot of the information we obtain is required by USDA or the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM). Sometimes our coordinator reports she can barely hear the person during her interview. They are speaking very softly because they are embarrassed to have to ask for help. Often the stories are very difficult to hear. Our coordinator assigns the person to one of our eight pantries. Our guidelines say that recipients can be helped every two months. However, our coordinator has the discretion to help more often and she often does. Those in our student assistance program are helped monthly.

Some of the hardest working volunteers in our organization are the pantry coordinators and their behind the scene volunteers. They are responsible for making sure the shelves are not only stocked but stocked with a good variety of items. They process donations from the community and purchase food either from the FBEM or local stores. At the end of each month statistics

related to the food inventory and clients served are compiled. They also track churches, organizations or individuals that provided them with food or monetary donations. Our eight pantries give out over 17,000 items /month.

Recipients arrive at the pantry in cars belonging to them, a family member or friend. They also use Dial A Ride, bicycle or walk. Getting to a pantry is sometimes a challenge for many of our recipients. In addition to pantries with weekday hours, we have a Saturday morning pantry and a Wednesday evening pantry. Over 85% of our clients now go to client select pantries. These pantries allow the recipients to pick out their own food. At client select pantries, the recipients are told to take a weeks worth of food. Often we have recipients who need to be encouraged to take more. We often hear the reason they do not take enough is because they want to leave food for others. Volunteers will often help them put meals together or give them ideas on cooking various items. We have recipe sheets we developed for a variety of vegetables. If a recipient or a family members has a birthday coming up within the next month or two, they are given a birthday kit. They are also given gift certificates to purchase items we do not have at the pantry-especially certain perishable items. Volunteers often help the people out to their vehicle with their groceries.

We could not provide food for those in need without your support. Because of your generosity, our pantries are well stocked with items that have been donated, purchased from the FBEM or from local stores. Thanks to the many volunteers who help keep our eight pantries running.



### EFPN Still Seeks a Permanent Home



The EFPN building committee continues to look for a building to meet the needs of our organization. The building is to be shared with the SAMS Pantry so will need to be well located in relationship to other EFPN pantries and pantry recipients. EFPN accepts a semi-truck delivery of food every two weeks from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan as well as deliveries from Hidden Harvest so a large parking lot is needed. We will soon need space to accept some of the food for the Backpack Buddies Program since the Midland Public Schools' transportation garage is at capacity for food pallets it can receive. There are not a lot of buildings available that meet these criteria. Many of the buildings we have looked at in our price range are in need of extensive renovations. Since the last update to our donors, we secured a grant of \$40,000 from the Midland Area Community Foundation and a \$25,000 grant from the Allen Foundation. These are in addition to the \$75,000 grant from the Dow Corning Foundation. Even with the generous support of these foundations as well as individual donors, we still need additional funds to secure and renovate a building. Money that has been designated in the past for food programs will not be used for the building fund. We thank you for your continued support of EFPN and our search for a building that meets the needs of our organization and the future needs of those who are food insecure. Want to help? Make a donation designated to the building fund in the enclosed envelope! Check our online donation option at [www.midlandcountyeftp.org](http://www.midlandcountyeftp.org).

### Partnership with MCFOAR

EFPN has established a number of partnerships. We are able to do this because of your generous assistance. We provide a box of food at Habitat for Humanity home dedications. We provide nutritional supplements to people referred to us by Cancer Services, Senior Services and DaVita Dialysis. Our homebound senior deliveries go to people referred to us by the Department of Health and Human Services and Senior Services. We stock the pantry at the Academic & Career Education Academy. We have now established a partnership with the Midland Community Former Offenders Advocacy and Rehabilitation (MCFOAR). A volunteer heard a presentation by Rob Worsley in which he describes picking up former offenders when they arrive in Midland. They have very little when they arrive. EFPN is providing them a box of food to help them start their new lives. They also will be told about our pantry network. These boxes are being packed from our pantry at Wheeler Road Church of Christ. MCFOAR has express their gratitude. They said that getting the food is a blessing for their clients. We hope this food not only starts them on the road to recovery but also shows that our community wants them to succeed.

Midland Community  
Former Offenders  
Advocacy and Rehabilitation



*Thank You Local Businesses, Churches and Organizations for Recent Food and Monetary Donations for February, 2018—July, 2018*

Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
 Amazon Smile Program  
 American Association of University Women  
 American Chemical Society Garden  
 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church  
 Blessed Sacrament Church \* Calvary Baptist Church  
 Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church \* Chemical Bank  
 Chippewa Nature Center Venison  
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
 Church of the Brethren \* Church World Services Crop Walk  
 Coleman Family Pharmacy \* Coleman Wesleyan Church  
 Community of Christ Church \* Community Wishes  
 Corteva Agriscience Employees of Midland  
 Dept. of Health & Human Services  
 Dow Chemical Process R&D  
 Dow Chemical Rail Department  
 Dow Chemical Science of Speed Event  
 Dow Chemical-DSS Team  
 Ducks Unlimited - Sanford Chapter  
 Edenville Methodist Church  
 Emmanuel Baptist Church Youth & Children  
 Faith United Methodist Church \* Family Fare Grocery Store  
 Feeny Chrysler Jeep Dodge \* First Baptist Church  
 First United Methodist Church \* Floyd Brownie Group  
 Food Bank of Eastern Michigan \* Friends Unlimited  
 Girl Scouts Troop 50224 \* Girl Scouts Troop 50834  
 Gordonville United Methodist Church  
 Grape Beginnings Winery  
 Great Lakes Bay Construction \* Hidden Harvest  
 Holy Family Episcopal Church  
 Hope United Methodist Church  
 Krogers' Food Drive \* LaLondes Market  
 Meijer Simply Give Program  
 Memorial Presbyterian Church  
 Memorial Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School  
 Memorial Presbyterian Church Voyagers  
 Meridian Schools \* Messiah Lutheran Church  
 Meyers Farm \* Midland Area Community Foundation  
 Midland Area Farmer's Market  
 Midland Church Of The Brethren  
 Midland Civitan Club \* Midland County Fair 4H  
 Midland Ford Lincoln \* Midland Realtors  
 MidMichigan Medical Center-Midland Administration  
 Mom's Club  
 National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 2317  
 National Wildlife Turkey Federation  
 Network For Good \* North Bradley Church of God  
 Old Oak Trails Estates \* Our Lady of Grace Church  
 Poseyville United Methodist Church  
 Poseyville United Methodist Women  
 Psi Iota Xi \* Sanford Food Center  
 Sanford United Methodist Church \* Savant Group  
 St John's Lutheran Church  
 St. Brigid's of Kildare Church \* St. John's Episcopal Church  
 St. John's Lutheran Church \* St. Paul Lutheran Church  
 Strategic Communication Group  
 Studley Grange Church \* Temple Beth El  
 The Allen Foundation \* The Dow Corning Foundation  
 The Peter & Dorothy A. Solomon Foundation  
 Trinity Lutheran Church \* Trinseo  
 Unitarian Universalist \*United Church of Christ  
 United Way of Midland County Sharing Tree  
 Warren Masonic Lodge No. 427  
 Wheeler Road Church of Christ

## Donate a Deer

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 licensed 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 to request a deer pick up can be found at (989) 835-9601. EFPN pays for the processing of the donated deer. We are grateful to the Chippewa Nature Center and their hunters as well as other hunters for providing venison for our clients.



If you wonder what food to donate to our organization, below are some suggestions of items that are either not donated in great quantities or we go through quickly.

### Breakfast:

Pancake mix & syrup  
 Cereals

### Protein:

Canned chicken, tuna, ham  
 Beef Stew  
 Peanut Butter

### Miscellaneous:

Flour, Sugar  
 Cooking Oil  
 Salt, Pepper  
 Canned fruit  
 Pasta and Sauce  
 Coffee  
 Hamburger or Tuna Helper  
 Canned Pasta Meals

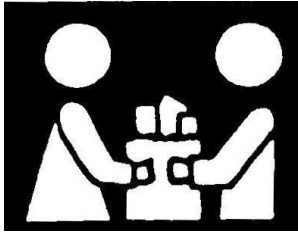
### Personal Care & Cleaning Supplies

toothbrush & toothpaste  
 shampoo  
 deodorant  
 soap  
 razors  
 dish & laundry detergent

## Income Guidelines for Recipients

Because of your generosity, EFPN is able to help people at 200% of poverty or below. Our coordinator has the discretion to help people above these guidelines if an unexpected event results in people not having enough money for food. The chart below shows the income thresholds that we follow in accordance with Food Bank guidelines.

# of persons in household	Annual Income
1	\$24,120
2	\$32,920
3	\$40,840
4	\$49,200



**Midland County  
Emergency Food Pantry**

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

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

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989-486-9393

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**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*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**CROP  
HUNGER WALK**   
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

**Midland Area  
Crop Walk**

Church World Services will host their annual Crop Walk on Sunday, October 7. The start is at the Midland Center for the Arts. Registration is at 1:30 and the walk begins at 2:00. EFPN is one of the recipients of the funds generated locally by the Crop Walk. The walk is 3.5 miles which represents what many women and children in developing countries have to walk to get clean water. Check <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/midlandmi> for further details.

### **Help Us Tell the EFPN Story & Become an EFPN Ambassador!**

You can be an ambassador for EFPN by sharing content posted on our Facebook page to your social media networks. You can also share through email or by texting links to your family and friends.

Help us make "always food in every home" a reality.

Visit us on the web at [www.midlandcountyeftp.org](http://www.midlandcountyeftp.org) or connect with "Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network" on Facebook.

