

# Food Pantry Network News

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network

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



February 2020

## You CAN Make a Difference!

What happens when you combine the principals of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math), unopened cans and boxes of food and creative and dedicated teachers and students who want to help their community. You have an event called Canstruction. The Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network (EFPN), Midland Schools and the Midland Mall are joining together to host a Canstruction event. Teams of students will use their STEAM skills to construct sculptures of food. The build date is Friday, February 21 at the Midland Mall starting at 8:00 AM. Technical Awards will be announced at 2:30 pm on Febru-



ary 21. You are invited to come and watch as students defy logic and gravity as they build structures out of cans and boxes of food. The structures will be on display in the Midland Mall February 21 thru 12:00 pm on Saturday, February 29. You can vote for your favorite structure by purchasing tickets for \$1.00/ticket. You can vote till the mall closes on Friday, February 28. The People's Choice Award will be announced on February 29 at the Midland Mall at 12:00 PM. All food used in these structures will come back to EFPN to help feed your neighbors in need. This event is part competition, part food drive, and a whole lot of fun. We are grateful to many local businesses who have helped to fund the food that the students will be using. Come to the Midland Mall and enjoy the structures, vote for your favorite and support the efforts of the students as they show how we can tackle hunger and make a difference one CAN at a time.



## Your Donations Helped

A couple with four children needed help with food. They both work full time and were having a hard time keeping food in the house. Their food stamps stopped and they said they really needed help.

A family recovering from a house fire spent the money on items for their new home and did not have enough money for food. We are helping this family every month for six months til they get on their feet.

A lady lost her husband and she has a handicapped child. She is having difficulty getting her child enrolled in SSI. She has very little other income.

An elderly women is trying to live on \$780.00 each month. In addition to her subsidized housing costs, her other bills leave her little income for food.

## Working Together To Stop Hunger

No one should have to worry about how they will afford to feed themselves or their family. Many people in our community are faced with this concern every day. Hunger does not discriminate. Hunger does not care about gender, age, race or religion. Hunger can affect people who are unemployed or working full-time. EFPN will be conducting its annual "Stop Hunger Challenge" during the months of March and April. Food and money collected during this time will count towards this challenge. Our goal for this campaign is \$80,000 in food and money. Donated food, personal care and cleaning items are valued at \$1.00 per item. We are once again very fortunate to have an anonymous donor offer a match for all donations. EFPN will receive a check from this donor in proportion to the total funds and food, personal care and cleaning items received during the challenge period. The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is offering a 10% credit on our account for all money donated to us. In 2019, we spent \$139,861 with

the Food Bank to purchase food for our regular pantry program and Backpack Buddies and Mobile Pantry programs. Donations toward any of our programs or specific pantries will qualify for the campaign. Monetary donations may be sent to EFPN, P.O. Box 2521, Midland, MI 48641-2521. Food donations may be donated to any of our pantries or warehouse. Many of our supporting churches will be collecting. You can continue to bring your donations to your church collection site. Check our website, [www.midlandcountyeypn.org](http://www.midlandcountyeypn.org), to watch our progress towards this goal or to donate online. Winston Churchill said, "You make a living by what you do, buy you make a life by what you give" Thank you for your past support of EFPN. We appreciate your continued support so we can all help those in need of food in our community.





## Thank You To Our Dedicated & Caring Volunteers

Many people will not go to bed hungry because of our volunteers. Words are not adequate to thank the many volunteers who keep our organization running. It is estimated that we have at least 400 volunteers in

our organization. EFPN only has two part time paid positions-our coordinator who interviews the clients, her back-ups, and a manager. It takes a great deal of work and dedication to operate our eight pantries. We gave out over 17,000 items/month through our regular pantry program in 2019. That is a lot of food that has to be bought, counted in, shelved, and counted out as they are put in client's bags each month. Pantries also track which organizations, businesses or churches donated the items. Our Backpack Buddies Program has a dedicated volunteer who oversees the program. The volunteer weekly monitors the numbers of students in the program at 12 elementary schools and 5 preschools and orders the necessary amount of food as well as working with the schools to make the process as efficient as possible. We are grateful to the Midland Public School Grounds' group and the staff from county schools who transport the food to each school and the many teachers and school volunteers who pack the bags. For

some schools, local churches provide space and volunteers to store and pack the bags. We have a team from Park Place Homes who secure, divide and deliver the fruit that we place each month in the backpacks. Our Senior Delivery Program has a group of people who each month deliver food throughout Midland County to low income home-bound seniors. Each of our 11 mobile pantries takes at least 65 volunteers. Our mobile pantry coordinator, besides overseeing the event on the day of the mobile pantry, does a lot of work behind the scenes before and after these events. We have a crew of warehouse volunteers who meet the truck from Hidden Harvest as well as help with food donations. All our board members volunteer their time. There are many other tasks that are done by volunteers that are crucial to keeping our organization operating. Volunteers have a choice as to where they spend their precious time. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." We are very grateful to all of our volunteers who have made life easier for many who need food.



## Give Local Midland May 5 - Help Support Our Future



The Midland Area Community Foundation (MACF) is again sponsoring Give Local Midland. Give Local Midland is part of a national online giving event. This 24 hour one

day event is on Tuesday, May 5 (12:00am-11:59pm). Many Midland County nonprofits will be part of this event. All money collected on this day will go into our endowment fund. We hope to build our endowment fund to eventually fund programs such as the Backpack Buddies Program. On May 5, you may make your donation to EFPN at [www.givelocalmidland.org](http://www.givelocalmidland.org). Every donation will receive matching funds. There will be prizes and incentives awarded to the participating nonprofits throughout the day. Check the Midland Give Local site, <https://www.givelocalmidland.org> to learn more about this event that will help ensure the success of local nonprofits now and in the future.

## Getting to a Food Pantry Can Be a Challenge

Our recipients often face challenges getting to a pantry. They may not have cars or have unreliable cars. Some use Dial a Ride or County Connection. Using these services costs money and because of pick-up and drop-off schedules they often come early to their appointment and then have to wait after their appointment. They are limited on what they can take on the bus. They have to be able to have control over all their bags. Sometimes recipients arrange rides with a family member or friend. These arrangements can fall thru and the recipient has to



reschedule an appointment. Some walk to a pantry. This presents a challenge in how much food can they take. Sometimes

they will make multiple trips in order to get the food back to their homes. Some come on bikes which also can be a challenge for the recipient and volunteer as to how to balance all the food on a bike. As you can see in the picture, a few have added a carrying container to their bikes to be able to transport the food. For low income homebound seniors we have our senior delivery program. Many of us take for granted being able to easily get to our destinations. For low income people, that is not always the case.

## What is WIC?



The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federal assistance program of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for healthcare and nutrition of low-income pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and children under the age of five. Their mission is to be a partner with other services that are key to childhood and family well-being. WIC provides nutritious foods, breastfeeding support including breast pumps and/or infant formula, nutrition education and height, weight, iron & lead level checks. The basic eligibility requirement is a family income below 185% of the federal poverty level. A family of 4 can make up to \$45,510 per year and still qualify. 2018 data reports that in Midland County, 1817 infants and children and 647 women are enrolled in WIC. Mid Michigan Community Action Agency administers WIC in our area. EFPN provides vouchers for low income moms for special formulas not covered by WIC.

*Thank You Local Businesses, Churches and Organizations for Recent Food and Monetary Donations for November, 2019—January, 2020*

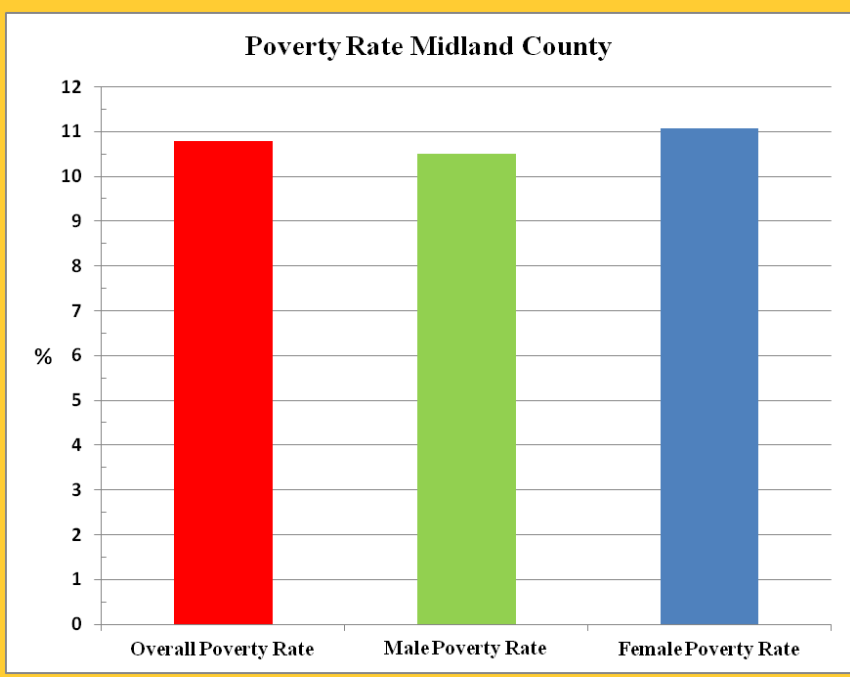
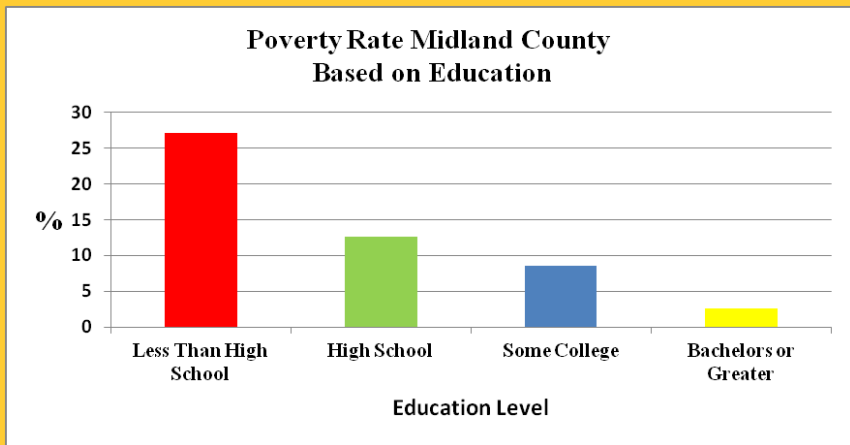
- Aaron's Gifts from Home
- Aldersgate United Methodist Church
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
- Betten Baker Midland, Inc
- Blessed Sacrament Church \* Case Systems
- CBM Services \* Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church
- Charles J. Strosacker Foundation
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Church World Services \* Cintas \* Civitan Club
- DaVita Dialysis \* Disability Network of Mid-Michigan
- Dow RISE \* Edenville Methodist Church \* Edward Jones
- Extra Mile Michigan \* Family Fare \* Family Video
- Feeny Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
- First Church Of Christ Scientist
- First United Methodist Church
- First United Methodist Church Youth Group
- Fisher Contracting Company \* Fox Sports Detroit
- Garber Chevrolet \* Gavin & Associates
- Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
- Grape Beginnings Winery
- Great Lakes Bay Construction
- Greater Midland Community Center Food Drive
- GWRRRA Chapter V-MI
- Hemlock Semiconductor Operations LLC
- Herbert Henry Dow High School \* Holy Family Episcopal
- Holy Scripture Lutheran Church \* Hopeville Church
- Horizon Bank \* leuter Insurance Group
- Kiwassee Kiwanis Club \* Kroger \* Lalondes
- Lord of the New Life Lutheran Church
- M2 Property Group \* M-30 Storage
- McMahan Thomson & Associates \* Meijer
- Member's First Credit Union
- Memorial Presbyterian Church
- Messiah Lutheran Church
- Michigan Association of Healthcare Advocates
- Midland Board of Realtors
- Midland Center For The Arts-Men of Music
- Midland Church Of The Brethren
- Midland Cogen Venture
- Midland Community Orchestra
- Midland County Democratic Party
- Midland Downtown Development Authority - Jingle Bell Run
- Midland Figure Skating Club
- Midland Kiwanis Foundation
- Midland Lions Club Charities \* Midland Morning Rotary
- National Wildlife Turkey Federation
- Network For Good \* New Hope Community Church
- Northwood University \* Old Oak Trails Estates
- Our Lady of Grace Church \* Panda Restaurant Group
- Panera \* Qdoba \* Sanford United Methodist Church
- Spartan Nash Foundation \* St. Brigid of Kildare Church
- St. Brigid Church and Student Council
- St Timothy Lutheran Church
- St. John's Episcopal Church \* St. John's Lutheran Church
- The Dow Chemical Company
- The Peter & Dorothy A Solomon Foundation
- Trinity Lutheran Church \* Unitarian Universalist Church
- United Church Of Christ
- Wheeler Road Church of Christ
- Women of Floyd Church Of God
- Woodcrest Elementary Kindergarten

**EFPN Needs**

Wondering what to donate to EFPN? Here are some items that recipients need but we often do not have or have in limited supply.


- Baking Supplies: flour, sugar, salt
- Canned Fruit \* Canned Meat: ham, chicken
- Coffee \* Cooking Oil \* Laundry/ Dish Detergent
- Miracle Whip/Mayonnaise \* Paper towels
- Toilet paper/Aluminum foil/Plastic wrap
- Personal Care Items: toothbrush & toothpaste, deodorant , shampoo, soap, razors, shaving cream


**Poverty in Midland County, Michigan**



Source: US Census- American Community Survey 2018 5-Year Survey

**Gratitude of Former Recipients**

 "I was so amazed and so thankful for the help from the pantry at the church. It was so nice and relaxing and the workers there were so helpful. I have saved my bags and hope I get the opportunity to go again. None of the food I received is wasted and it fills my tummy. Thank you very much!"

"Thank you food pantry for going above and beyond to help me." 

A lady stopped by and donated items of cereal, honey, milk, tuna and other foods. She did not want a thank you note. She wanted us to know that she appreciated what we did when she needed it. She got food one time from one of our pantries. She was laid off from work and now is a survivor! She wanted to give back for receiving help in her time of need.



**Midland County  
Emergency Food Pantry**

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

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

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989-486-9393

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**NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
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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

### **EFPN Annual Meeting**

The EFPN annual meeting will be on Monday, April 13, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3701 Jefferson. Social hour is at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm and a business meeting at 7:00 pm. Catering will be by Pat's Food Center Catering. Following the business meeting, there will be a short program by a choral group. Cost of the dinner is \$15.00 and is payable at the door. You are welcome to come to the dinner and meeting or meeting only. If you would like to attend the dinner, RSVP to our manager, Pesi Kennett, 486-9393 or [manager@midlandcountyeftpn.org](mailto:manager@midlandcountyeftpn.org) by Wednesday, April 1. This event is a time for volunteers and supporters to come together to celebrate another year of making a difference in the lives of others.

### **Stamp Out Hunger Postal Drive on May 9**

Every year our local postal workers join the National Association of Letter Carriers' food drive in their "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive. The drive this year is Saturday, May 9. This is the largest single day food drive in the country. Just leave a bag of non-perishable food items by your mailbox. Your mail carrier will pick up the food. The food will be distributed to Midland County EFPN pantries as well as Salvation Army, Caregiving Network, Open Door, Shelterhouse and various other pantries. We are very grateful to our local post-al workers for participating in this event. Please support your local postal worker as they work to stock pantry shelves for the summer months.

