

For Immediate Release

MANNA FOOD PROJECT ANNOUNCES NEW STAFF

Harbor Springs, MI – After an extensive search process, Manna Food Project chose Jessyca Stoepker as its Community Engagement Coordinator, a new position responsible for its volunteer program and electronic and print communications. Stoepker began her position on Monday, August 6, 2018.

Manna Executive Director, Kim Baker, commented on the organization's selection process, "Of more than 40 local and statewide candidates who applied, a short list was selected for the interview process. Among those, Jessyca stood out as bringing a rare combination of skills, knowledge and experience as a communicator, nutritionist, and volunteer. She also demonstrated a strong passion for Manna's mission to feed the hungry throughout the North."

Stoepker recently graduated from Grand Valley State University with a BA in health communications. Originally from Hastings, Michigan, near Lake Odessa, she has lived in Grand Rapids the past few years. As an outdoor enthusiast, her first day up North was spent on the Little Traverse Wheelway, biking from Petoskey to Harbor Springs and back.

"Northern Michigan is so beautiful, so unique. There will never be a lack of things to see and experience," says Stoepker.

While in college, she worked part-time at Spectrum Health and completed several internships with organizations like the Kent County Health Department and the Mary Free Bed YMCA. While she has worked in a variety of professional settings, non-profits like the Manna have always been her calling.

"I fell in love with Manna right away. From my very first conversations with staff, it seemed like a perfect fit. The position combines all of my interests, and will allow me to make a difference in the lives of those in need," says Stoepker.

Manna Food Project (Manna), a 501(c) (3) charitable organization, helps feed the hungry in Northern Michigan. Manna operates a food rescue program, a food distribution center (food bank), a weekly food pantry, and the "Food 4 Kids" backpack program for elementary at-risk students. Manna works with forty partner food pantries and community kitchens to provide supplemental food to over 42,000 families each year in Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet counties. Manna is a partner organization of the national Feeding America food bank network.

For more information, visit Manna Food Project at mannafoodproject.org.