



Feeding the hungry throughout the north.

Do you really know us?

That's the question we're asking ourselves.

We want you to know us.

We want you to be familiar.

Most of all, we want you to help.

*We're The Manna Food Project
and we're feeding the hungry throughout the north.*

We couldn't do it without you.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season.

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FALL/WINTER 2007



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DO YOU REALLY KNOW US?

What, you may ask, exactly is The Manna Food Project? Our mission is simple.

Coming from humble beginnings of a soup kitchen concept offering nourishment to those who might be hungry, The Manna Food Project is now a food bank warehouse distributing surplus food to 38 pantries and agencies throughout Emmet, Charlevoix, and Antrim counties. The food bank is responsible for acquiring both food and non-food items from Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank of West Michigan, Inc. of Grand Rapids for a small charge, and then making this food available to the many pantries of northern Michigan for a nominal fee. Pantries then pass this food along to families in their communities at no charge.

Our operation is then two-fold. Within The Manna Food Project warehouse, is the Manna Food Pantry. Our pantry (open for distribution on Tuesday mornings), is only one of the 38 pantries/agencies operated by The Manna Food Project. All other pantries/agencies are independent of Manna, but because they get some of their product from us, they are required to follow the same guidelines set down by America's Second Harvest - The Nation's Food Bank Network. Requirements include passing all food along to the families at no charge, requiring minimal documentation from families obtaining the food, and maintaining proper standards for the handling of all food items.

Currently, The Manna Food Project distributes over 70,000 pounds of food each month via area pantries and agencies. One pound equates to one meal. Representing over 70,000 meals, you can see how great the need is throughout northern Michigan, and that need remains strong throughout the winter months. We know that families coming to our pantries are truly grateful for what they receive, all of which helps to stretch their dollars a bit further.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Second Annual
Alternative Gift Fair
Saturday, December 1
10am - 3pm
First Presbyterian Church
Cemetery Road
Harbor Springs*

*Third Annual
Gingerbread Contest
December 5 - 14
Stafford's Pier Restaurant
Bay Street
Harbor Springs*

*Little Traverse Civic Theatre's
"The Christmas Schooner"
Benefit Performance
Thursday, December 6
Little Traverse Civic Theatre
Mitchell Street
Petoskey*

GET INVOLVED

The Manna Food Project is always seeking assistance in continuing our already successful operation.

*Financial contributions,
food donations,
and volunteer efforts are always welcomed and appreciated.*

*To learn more,
visit www.mannafoodproject.org*

NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR INVENTORY

Throughout the month of October, Kathy Hart and Sharyl Rambo, administrative assistant, under the leadership of Bill McCullough from Watshall Computer Company, have finally implemented a new computer program which will aid in the tracking of all products entering and leaving the warehouse. Previously, items were tracked in a manual log, a process which was very time consuming and outdated. There are still many bugs to be worked out before we really understand the full capacity of the new system, but it is truly light-years ahead of where we were. This will allow us to manage every single detail of our inventory. Thanks to Bill McCullough for sharing his knowledge and, most importantly, his patience with us.



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WHAT CAN I DO FOR MANNA?

That is a question we hear often, and there are many answers to it, all of which are important.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial support not only gives us the operational funding to keep the building going with staff and volunteers, but it also allows us to acquire food for distribution through the Manna Food Pantry. In addition, this funding helps us to pass along more of the food we get from Second Harvest Gleaners (SHG) to our other pantries and agencies at no charge. Your contribution, no matter how big or small, makes a tremendous difference in the life of someone else needing assistance.

FOOD DONATIONS

We are often asked about food drives, and yes, they can be very beneficial in addition to the financial support. The food we receive from SHG is at minimal cost to us and therefore makes good use of our funding. However, there are many items that pantries like to have available for the families visiting them that we are not always able to get from SHG. Some of these items include cereal, tuna, peanut butter, soups, canned fruits and vegetables, canned beans and paper products – just to name a few. Interested in making a difference? You would be surprised at how easily you can help. Consider spending an extra \$5 each time you visit the grocery store. Donate the items purchased with that extra \$5 to Manna and know that someone in need will directly benefit. We are also always open to any ideas for a food drive. Please contact us should you have ideas about coordinating a food drive in conjunction with your upcoming event or benefit. Food drives are wonderfully beneficial and desperately needed at all times of the year.

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

Food banking and food pantry systems, at both national and local levels, would not be in existence throughout our country if it were not for the many volunteers supporting those operations. The Manna Food Project and Manna Food Bank always have jobs available for anyone who might have some time to offer. We welcome any and all assistance that is given to us. Whether a family, group, or individual, please contact us to discuss matching our needs with your capabilities. Your help is appreciated.

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The Harbor Springs Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the third annual Gingerbread Contest at Stafford's Pier Restaurant in Harbor Springs. This year, entries can be submitted on behalf of a charity or non-profit organization.

Manna is privileged to have Phillipe Brewer of Stafford's Hospitality making an entry for the contest on our behalf. Visit the Pier Restaurant December 5th - 14th to vote on entries and to make donations to your favorite charities such as The Manna Food Project.

Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners.

Most importantly, the People's Choice winner will go to the entry raising the most in donations for its charity. That winner's total donations will be matched up to \$500.00 by the Harbor Springs Area Chamber of Commerce.

Please stop by the Pier Restaurant, support these deserving charities, and celebrate these wonderful displays of creativity!

THE MANNA FOOD PROJECT AND MANNA FOOD BANK

*Kathy Hart, Executive Director
 Sharyl Rambo, Administrative Assistant*

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SECOND ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

Saturday, December 1; 10am - 3pm
 First Presbyterian Church
 Cemetery Road in Harbor Springs.

This is your opportunity to pick up a gift for the person who has everything and support local and international non-profit organizations at the same time. Refreshments, music, unhurried shopping in a peaceful setting - what could be better for taking care of your gift list? Bring a friend and have a great time!

"THE CHRISTMAS SCHOONER" BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

Thursday, December 6; 7pm pre-glow and 8pm performance
 Little Traverse Civic Theatre
 Mitchell Street in Petoskey

"The Christmas Schooner" will set sail once again with a load of Christmas trees for the less-fortunate in Chicago. The opening night production of this wonderful holiday musical will be the site of a benefit for The Manna Food Project. A pre-glow, catered by Stafford's Bay View Inn, will start the evening. Then enter the theatre to your reserved seating and enjoy this warm-hearted story about thinking of others more than yourself. After the show it's back to the gallery to end your evening with lovely desserts and coffee. There is limited seating for this magical evening and tickets are \$50.00 per guest. Tickets may be purchased at www.ltct.org, or 231-348-1850. A story about *passing it on*, "The Christmas Schooner" will send you home with a warm glow in your heart knowing that you have made someone else's life a little easier.

"THE MAGPIE PAPERS"

This self-published book by Don Ward and Jennifer Eis is a collection of six of the wonderful programs that they presented at their home over the years. "The Magpie Papers" can be purchased at Ward and Eis Gallery and all monies from the sale of the book go directly to four charities Don and Jennifer have chosen to be the beneficiaries of this special project. The Manna Food Project, Bay View Music program, Women's Resource Center, and the Little Traverse Conservancy – all benefit while you have some great inspirational and informational reading for yourself or as a gift.

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