



8791 McBRIDE PARK COURT
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN 49740



Feeding the hungry throughout the north.

Organized in 1987, The Manna Food Project is a private 501(c)(3), non-profit corporation, comprising a food bank and food pantry. The purpose of our organization is to gather, organize, and distribute food to those in need throughout Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet Counties.

Your contribution helps feed families in need.

WWW.MANNAFOODPROJECT.ORG

FALL/WINTER 2008



FALL/WINTER 2008



Feeding the hungry throughout the north.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: RUSS DEWITT

A pair of well-used hands folded in prayer is on the front of a card that I received from a friend. Below them are the words "Expect Miracles".

Miracles in the form of blessings are something that we experience all the time at The Manna Food Project and the greatest of these blessings are the wonderful volunteers who come looking for a way to serve. The food pantries throughout the area would not be able to do what they do without the many hands of all the volunteers giving of their time in so many ways.

This past year we lost one of our long-time volunteers with the passing of Russ Dewitt. Russ began helping at Manna many years ago as a member of the Harbor Springs Kiwanis Club, and continued that service until just days before his death. He and Lou Fantini would leave at 6:30 a.m. every Tuesday to make the rounds picking up the day-old bread and produce for distribution in the pantry that morning.

In March 2008 the Board of Directors for The Manna Food Project established the RUSS DEWITT MEMORIAL FUND to honor Russ and all Manna volunteers. These funds will be used for special needs at Manna under the direction of Kathy Hart, the Executive Director, and a board member..

To make a donation into this fund to honor Russ or any of our wonderful volunteers, send to:

The Manna Food Project
"Russ DeWitt Memorial Fund"
8791 McBride Park Court
Harbor Springs, Michigan 49740

BUILDING ADDITION UPDATE

It is nearing the end of October and our building addition is complete! By the time you read this newsletter it will be full of much-needed food for the pantries in our area. We have commented often around here about how amazing the timing on this whole project has been. Right now, when pantries are struggling to keep up with the demands for assistance, the space becomes available to us to fill with food for them. From October 23 to December 18 we have 8 trucks scheduled as opposed to the normal 5 trucks. This will allow us to build up our supplies and better serve the pantries and families throughout the coming winter months.

This project would not have been possible without the tremendous support of many individuals, organizations, and foundations. To be able to be a part of The Manna Food Project knowing that we have so many who believe in what we are doing is such a blessing – to us, the volunteers, and the families receiving the food. Thank you for caring and demonstrating that through your continued support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*The Empty Bowls Luncheon
Monday, November 24
11:30am
Stafford's Perry Hotel
Bay & Lewis
Petoskey*

*Third Annual
Alternative Gift Fair
Saturday, December 6
10am - 3pm
First Presbyterian Church
Cemetery Road
Harbor Springs*

*Food Pantry Benefit Concert -
Vivace School
Sunday, December 14
4:00pm
Community Center Building
(Emmet County Fair Grounds)
Charlevoix Avenue
Petoskey*



Feeding the hungry throughout the north.

MICHIGAN FOOD BANK TAX CREDIT

Many people are not aware of the extraordinary Food Bank Tax Credit offered on donations by the State of Michigan. Below is a sample of how this credit works when making a donation to our organization.

	<i>Married Itemizer:</i>	
Gift		\$400.00
Savings from Federal Income Tax Deduction at 27%		-\$108.00
Savings from Michigan Food Bank Tax Credit		-\$200.00
Donor's Actual Cost		\$92.00

	<i>Single Itemizer:</i>	
Gift		\$200.00
Savings from Federal Income Tax Deduction at 27%		-\$54.00
Savings from Michigan Food Bank Tax Credit		-\$100.00
Donor's Actual Cost		\$46.00

Please check with your tax consultant for tax savings in your particular bracket.

WITH HOLIDAY CHEER COMES HOLIDAY NEED

As the holidays approach and the winter brings colder temperatures, the need for our services increases dramatically. Compounding a historically important time of year for our organization, this year will be even more difficult as our country faces the current economic challenges.

Last year, we offered services to nearly 20,000 families in our tri-country area. One year later, we now serve over 25,000 families in Emmet, Antrim, and Charlevoix Counties.

This time of year, we ask our supporters to open their hearts and their hands to our organization. Your generous support is needed now more than ever. Please know that anything you can do to help is greatly appreciated. No matter how large or small the donation, it can make a BIG difference to someone else. For additional information on getting involved, please visit:

WWW.MANNAFOODPROJECT.ORG

EMPTY BOWLS LUNCHEON HISTORY

The Empty Bowls project was started in 1990 by an art teacher in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, as a way to help his students raise money for a local food drive. The class project that evolved was to make ceramic bowls into which guests were served a simple meal of soup and bread. These guests then took the bowl home as a reminder of hunger in the world.

Since then Empty Bowls events have been held throughout the world, and millions of dollars have been raised to combat hunger.

Karen and Steve Andrews of Sturgeon River Pottery brought the idea to northern Michigan about 17 years ago and every year since then the community of potters and art students have used their talents to make the beautiful bowls and make the event a reality.

Held on the Monday before Thanksgiving, many find this simple meal to be a great way to begin the Holiday season. Everything about the event is donated – the venue, bowls, food, advertising, tickets – so all monies raised can be used by The Manna Food Project to bring food into the community to assist those in need.

Tickets to this year's Empty Bowls Luncheon may be purchased at Sturgeon River Pottery, The Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce, The Manna Food Project, The Grain Train, and The Harbor Springs Area Chamber of Commerce.

Monday, November 24 (11:30am)
Stafford's Perry Hotel (Bay & Lewis Streets in Petoskey)

\$35.00 "Early Pick" Ticket
\$20.00 Regular Ticket

MAGNUM HOSPITALITY "HELP EVERYONE EAT"

What a gift was given to the Boyne City pantries this past year with the Red Mesa Grill and Magnum Hospitality's "Help Everyone Eat" program!

What was started on Thursdays in December 2007 and continues the first Thursday of each month in 2008, the Red Mesa Grill sets aside 15% of their sales to come to Manna to be put into the accounts for the Boyne City Food Pantry and the Seventh Day Adventist pantry in Boyne City.

This has amounted to over \$11,000.00 through September and has allowed these pantries to have food to distribute without being concerned about the cost to the pantry. Thank you Red Mesa Grill and Magnum Hospitality! What a blessing you have been to your community.

If you have a business that would like to set-up a program for the food pantry in your neighborhood, please contact Kathy Hart at manna@mannafoodproject.org or 231-347-8852. She would be happy to discuss it with you.

WEBSITE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Manna Food Project is proud to announce the launch of our new website. The new site offers visitors a much more informative view into the history and operation of The Manna Food Project. Visitors to the site can explore a history of the organization, gain information on volunteer efforts and food donations, download newsletters, articles, and flyers, and of course make a secure online donation to Manna through PayPal. We encourage everyone to visit the new site and explore the wonderful details of our operation and the services that we provide.

WWW.MANNAFOODPROJECT.ORG

TRAVERSE MAGAZINE'S MyNORTH GIVING GUIDE OFFERS AWARENESS OF NON-PROFITS

The November issue of Traverse Magazine features the 2008 MyNorth Giving Guide, designed to bring awareness to some of northern Michigan's most outstanding non-profit organizations. The Manna Food Project is fortunate to have a spot on the list, allowing readers to learn about and donate to our organization. To learn more about The Manna Food Project and other non-profits throughout our area, pick up the November issue of Traverse.

Feeding the hungry throughout the north.

