



Manna Food Project suspends food donations and rescue, encourages financial support instead

March 30, 2020

HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN—Like many other organizations during the COVID-19 health crisis, Manna Food Project (Manna) has been examining how to conduct safe operations and reduce further spread of the virus. To this end, Manna has decided to suspend all food donations from the public, including from over 20 businesses participating in its Food Rescue program.

“Food donations are highly valued, as they reduce the burden on food pantry budgets and increase the variety of food available to clients,” says Kim Baker, Manna’s executive director. “Suspending this program was a difficult decision to make, but it’s for the protection of our staff, our volunteer rescue drivers, store employees, and recipients of the donated food.”

As a result of the program’s suspension, Manna will be losing a critical source of food that it makes available to its partner agencies throughout Northwest Michigan—from food pantries and community meals, to human service organizations and shelters. This means that Manna will have to purchase far more food from local, state, and national sources to meet the growing need.

This major change comes with other operational adjustments. Starting March 30, Manna’s facility will be open Monday through Thursday only, with staff working from home on Fridays. This, along with hiring a cleaning service and limiting access to the building, is just another way they hope to minimize exposure.

“These changes will stay in place until the ‘Stay Home, Stay Safe’ order has been lifted by Governor Whitmer,” Baker says.

Baker notes that emergency food boxes will still be available seven days a week, while the diaper pantry organized by Christ Child Society will move from Friday to Thursday mornings. The regular hours for Manna’s food pantry curbside service will not be affected.

“At this time, what we need most is additional financial support to help see us through the COVID-19 crisis. We don’t know how long it will last, but we do know that the need for food assistance is rising rapidly.”

See www.mannafoodproject.org for further information and updates.

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Manna Food Project, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, helps feed the hungry in Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet Counties. Manna is a partner organization of the national Feeding America Food Bank Network and operates a food bank and distribution center, a food rescue program, a food pantry, and the “Food 4 Kids” backpack program. For more information, call 231.347.8852 or visit www.mannafoodproject.org.