

Midwest Memos

December 2018



Midwest
FOOD BANK



Mobile distribution at
Lehigh Acres, FL.

Seeking new ways to help the hungry

At Midwest Food Bank, we accept food donations and redistribute them. Seems simple enough. Thanks to the operational support from our volunteers and donors, we are on track to give away more than \$200 million of food, roughly a 35% increase over 2017.

Distributing food is vital in fighting against food insecurity. But in order to make gains in the war, forward thinking and visionary work are necessary. Here are some of the collaborative initiatives Midwest Food Bank is involved in:

Food Drop provides food distributors, truck drivers, and logistics companies with a quick and easy online resource for donating unwanted or displaced loads of healthy nutritious food. It was developed in a collaboration with MFB Indiana.

Rather than dumping rejected loads, drivers can donate unwanted items to Indiana-based

hunger relief organizations. There they will receive help unloading their trucks, a tax deductible donation receipt, and the benefit of knowing they are helping the hungry.

In its 6-month pilot the Food Drop program captured 87,000 pounds of fresh produce. This program is now being expanded statewide in Indiana and hopes to go further.

MFB Arizona is in the very beginning stages of a similar concept. Truckers with rejected loads in the Phoenix area can text "REJECT" to 474747 and donate their loads. They will be unloaded, get a donation receipt, and know they are helping those in need in Arizona.

Two volunteers at MFB Florida began a mobile pantry distribution. They partnered with two churches to host a monthly food distribution. Immokalee and Lehigh Acres, FL, are the communities receiving the food. Around 1,000 come to these events.

Hungry students struggle to learn. MFB Georgia provides snacks to all of the elementary and middle schools in Fayette county. A group of volunteers, led by a teacher, boxes the food and gets it there.

Nothing that Midwest Food Bank does would be possible without generous donors and volunteers. It is a blessing to work together and find solutions for those in need.



Gail Frantz, in yellow, started the Backpack Program at MFB Georgia.

MIDWEST FOOD BANK MISSION STATEMENT

AS A FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION, IT IS THE MISSION OF MIDWEST FOOD BANK TO SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST BY ALLEVIATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION LOCALLY AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND PROVIDING DISASTER RELIEF; ALL WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION.



A produce load at Midwest Food Bank Indiana.

WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US. - 1 JOHN 4:19

Matthew 25 is a special chapter of the Bible to We Care. Here is a passage:

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes



and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’”
 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Matthew 25:37-40

We Care Ministries practices the Three Rs

It’s hard to think of a more fitting name for this ministry than “We Care.” Speaking with Tanya Johnson, Ministry Director, one soon discovers a heart overflowing with love and concern for people.

We Care, Ft. Myers, FL, is an agency partner with Midwest Food Bank Florida. There are 11 on their ministry team. Their Three Rs are in their mission statement: “...Reclaim, Restore, and Recover those who are enslaved by poverty, homelessness, abuse and chemical dependency.” We Care promotes hope and healing through biblical principles so people can come closer to God and be spiritually nourished. While they are happy to provide

necessities, We Care truly wants to help struggling people change their lives.

“When people are broken, we empower them with the basic necessities,” says Tanya. “It allows us to minister to their souls.”

Daily hot meals are served at their location. Every Friday evening and Sunday morning, hot meals are taken to a location in Ft. Myers and served to between 75 and 150 people. In addition to food, other needs are met, like tarps, diapers, and crisis intervention.

“We are a front-line ministry – special agents for the Lord doing Kingdom business,” says Tanya.

“Tanya is so invested in her clientele,” says Karl Steidinger, Executive Director of MFB Florida. “She has a genuine, caring heart.”

Midwest Food Bank is happy to provide food for We Care. It is a blessing to know that it is being distributed in love.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Ground floor volunteer led to serve

There’s a phrase for being a part of something from the beginning – the ground floor. Not only was Earl Sauder here from the ground floor, he helped install it! He also helped install the bathrooms and set up the warehouse. Earl is practically a fixture of Midwest Food Bank Morton.

Earl just celebrated his 78th birthday and can work as hard as about anyone in MFB. A full-time warehouse volunteer since 2015, he is a skilled forklift driver, and especially enjoys the stand-up forklift. He has an extensive background in the building trades.

“It’s my calling,” says Earl. “God has given me the health and I feel led to do it.”

When he has some spare time, Earl is an avid race car fan and owns three race cars. This fall his team set a national record in Super Stock F-modified division at an event in Indianapolis. “I work with my buddies, the ones that drive, and work on the cars.”

When asked what he likes best about volunteering at MFB, Earl replies, “Everything.” To narrow it down he especially likes the challenge of the work and the people.

“Earl is a major factor in the continuity of the Morton warehouse,” says Carol Jankowski, Executive Director of MFB Morton. “He has a heart for the agencies that are served at the Morton location and makes sure they get the items they need to serve their clients.”

A passage of the Bible that has been meaningful to Earl this year is Philippians 2:12-18. Here is a portion of that: “Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”

Earl is one of thousands of volunteers that make the mission of Midwest Food Bank come to life. He daily blesses those in need.



Earl Sauder with his preferred fork lift, the stand-up.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

SHARE

>30% OF THE FOOD SUPPLY IN THE UNITED STATES IS WASTED

1. BECOME A FOOD PARTNER
2. START A FOOD DRIVE
3. SPREAD THE WORD

\$ DONATE
 99¢ OF EVERY DOLLAR DONATED FEEDS HUNGRY PEOPLE

VOLUNTEER 
 YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN!
1 HOUR
 OF VOLUNTEERING PROVIDES **275+ MEALS** FOR THOSE IN NEED



News and updates from MFB locations

ARIZONA

Due to our proximity to California, MFB Arizona was blessed to offer relief to the victims of devastating fires. Plans are being made to send hygiene kits and non-perishable food. For additional details, please visit our website.

With the end of the year approaching, we'd like to remind Arizona residents of the Arizona Tax Credit. Donate up to \$800 and you can deduct that amount from the state taxes owed.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, IL

Things are in high gear in our Normal location. Thanksgiving boxes are being given away in both New York City and Normal. Included is everything needed for a complete Thanksgiving meal. Last year, over 2,400 were distributed at the Normal location. A church group will be taking the meals to NYC and distributing them at four locations.

EAST AFRICA

MFB East Africa co-sponsored a 3-day street fest in Kenya. There were 160 baseball and soccer teams competing. It culminated in a Sunday event with 5,000 children in attendance. After listening to an inspirational speaker, many accepted Christ.

Tender Mercies meals are providing a way for us to show God's love to hurting people. Efforts to send meals to refugee camps in South Sudan seem to be gaining traction. MFB is also helping an organization in Uganda feed 28 trafficked people they rescued.

FLORIDA

We have partnered with the German-American club over the past several weeks. They have gathered canned goods in support of MFB Florida. We hope to continue this partnership moving forward in support of the community.

GEORGIA

Our goal for 2019 is to provide more nutritious food and a better working environment and equipment for our volunteers. In April, over 7,000 sq. ft. of additional space in our building will be made available to add a freezer and refrigerator large enough to hold 8-10 semi-loads of food. This will allow us to accept more donations of frozen foods, fresh produce, meat and dairy products.

HAITI

Midwest Food Bank Haiti is thankful to report that five sea containers of Tender Mercies meal packets and other food products have been sent to Haiti this year. Our hope is to send a sixth one soon. These meals help Christian schools and orphanages feed the children in their care.

INDIANA

We are gearing up for our annual Pack the Pantries fundraiser. It starts the week of Thanksgiving and will run through mid-December.

Emmanuel Church of Johnson County and its two satellite locations have partnered with MFB Indiana to purchase and pack an entire semi load of disaster relief boxes.

The Indy Food Drop program expanded to cover the entire state of Indiana. The program gives truckers the information they need to donate rejected loads of perishable food.

MORTON, IL

What can 50 junior high students accomplish in two hours? 750 disaster boxes - packed and ready to go to people impacted by the hurricanes. On October 2 students from Morton Junior High School volunteered at the Morton Division as part of the school's annual Help-a-thon.

PEORIA, IL

Renovations at Midwest Food Bank Peoria are underway. Construction workers have been busy creating MFB staff offices and a community room. Plans are to move into this new space before the end of this year and begin demolition of the old office space to add 2,500 sq. ft. of much-needed warehouse, storage, and workspace.

TEXAS

The Texas Division is working to streamline their operations in order to accommodate as many agencies as we can. We are currently serving 32 agencies and doing two distributions per month. We are exploring expanding to 40 agencies by going to weekly distributions. We are collecting the equipment necessary for us to be able to provide food packing and sorting projects for volunteer groups.

- Hurricane Florence
- Hurricane Michael
- California Fires

Midwest Food Bank has sent over **45 LOADS** of DISASTER RELIEF in 2018.



Midwest Food Bank's Arizona location has made it possible to assist in California for the first time. It is a blessing to expand relief services, offering help and hope to a new area.



MFB Arizona volunteers box relief for California.

Charity Navigator, America's premier independent charity evaluator has awarded four out of four possible stars to Midwest Food Bank since 2011.





Midwest Food Bank

2031 Warehouse Road
Normal, IL 61761

**PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NORMAL, IL
PERMIT NO 148**

“ If we have the power and the means, then we must help. -Seth Adam Smith ”

BE CONNECTED

Follow us on Facebook

BE INVOLVED

Contact your local Midwest Food Bank to learn more about our volunteer opportunities.

BE SUPPORTIVE

We are thankful for your support in prayer. If you are led to contribute financially, we have enclosed an envelope for your convenience. Over 99¢ of every dollar donated goes to our programs and services. On behalf of those we serve, thank you.

Produced by Midwest Food Bank
2031 Warehouse Road, Normal, IL 61761

Recurring gifts

We appreciate the gifts our donors can share to help others. Midwest Food Bank is completely funded by donations. Our Share Partners program allows one to easily make recurring gifts to MFB.

Scheduled gifts are arranged to be deducted from your credit card. There is no need to remember anything.

We currently have over 150 Share Partners dedicated to providing a monthly gift. We send receipts monthly and annual giving statements.

A ten dollar donation to MFB can provide 85 meals to the hungry in the U.S. To sign up, visit our website and click on “Donate.”



Website refreshed

This fall, Midwest Food Bank launched a revamped website. The address is the same (midwestfoodbank.org), but the site has been streamlined for easy navigation. Visit it to be brought up to date on what is going on at each MFB location.

Tender Mercies Growth

Tender Mercies, Midwest Food Bank’s packaged meal has experienced amazing growth over last year. 847,000 Tender Mercies meals were produced in 2017. This year, through October, 1,472,000 meals have been produced.

Tender Mercies is a tasty and nutritious mix of rice, beans, textured vegetable protein, and chicken seasoning. Production is housed in Midwest Food Bank Morton, but offsite packing events are held at campuses, churches, schools and other locations.

Tender Mercies is the main focus of MFB Haiti. 750,000 meals have been sent there this year.

Tender Mercies has 13 grams of protein, 6 grams of fiber and 1 gram of fat per serving.