



FEEDING KIDS ALL YEAR LONG

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is committed to ending hunger in the 22 counties we serve. The goal of our children's food programs is simple; close the meal gap and allow every child access to nutritious food through innovative program options all year long.

DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

Through pre-school and after-school meal programs, the Food Bank provides more than 351,500 meals for children in need.

SCHOOL PANTRY

- Designed to close the weekend meal gap, and allows for teenagers to select their own nutritious food items.
- Pantries have specific hours of operation, and access is only granted to students and their parents.
- Typically stocked with non-perishables as well as fruits and vegetables, snacks, drinks, and toiletries.
- **Our pantries serve kids & their families at 39 sites!**

WEEKEND BACKPACK

- Each weekend, backpacks containing two breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and snacks are sent home with elementary school children in need.
- The food is nutritious, kid-friendly, and shelf stable.
- \$100 fills a weekend backpack for the entire year for one child.
- **The Backpack Program now serves 207 schools in 22 counties.**

BEST FOOD FORWARD

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan has partnered with Westwood Heights Schools, Michigan Department of Education, and Wayne State University to study the impact that closing the meal gap for an entire school district would have on students, families, and their community.

In the first two years of this initiative, more than **225,300** meals were made available to youth and their families. The next phase of this program will continue to provide mobile food pantry distributions and also work to bring a community garden to a local school. Best Food Forward has also contributed to the launch of 2 school pantries to assist in hunger relief efforts (one at the community high school and one at the alternative education building).



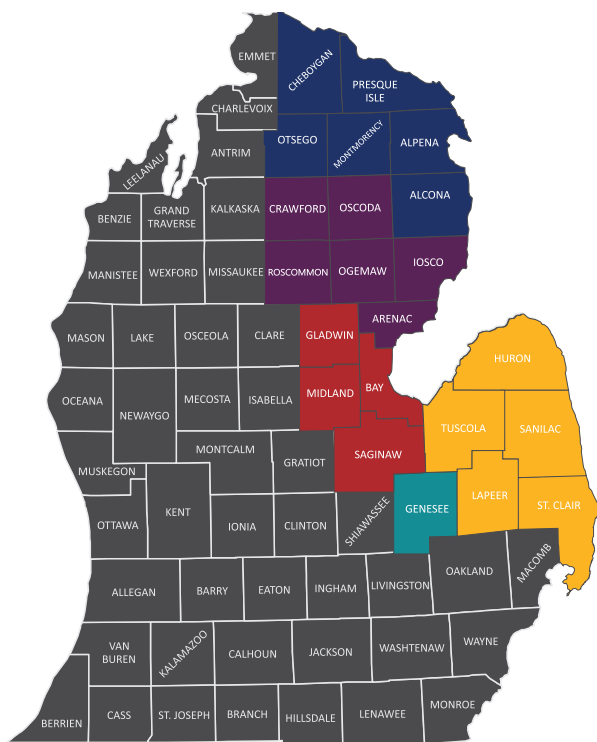


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Many families rely on free or reduced-priced meals throughout the school year. The Food Bank has programs to provide nutrition when school is out.

DURING THE SUMMER

- During the summer, the Food Bank distributes free meals to kids when school is no longer in session through the **Meet Up and Eat Up** and **Summer on the Run** programs.
- Summer on the Run breaks down the transportation barrier by **delivering the food right to hungry kids** at parks, apartment complexes, and churches.
- Summer sites offer physical activities and nutrition education.
- In 2022, our kitchen prepared & **delivered 49,000 meals to 39 sites.**
- Kids participating in our summer meal program also receive a large bag of nutritious food for the weekends.
- Last summer, our production kitchen **distributed over 8,000 nutrition bags** for children to have healthy food for the weekends during the summer.



EASTERN MICHIGAN IMPACT

- Through a network of nearly 700 hunger relief partners, FBEM distributed more than 30 million pounds of food in 2022
- 1,823 mobile pantries delivered to neighborhoods
- Nearly half of the food distributed is FRESH:
 - **Produce – 9.5 million pounds**
 - **Dairy – 4 million pounds**
 - **Meats/Proteins – 3.5 million pounds**
- 2,894 senior boxes delivered throughout the year
- 5,400 holiday boxes in November and December to brighten the season