

“

The Greatness
of a Community
is most accurately measured
by the
Compassionate Actions
of its Members.

”

- Coretta Scott King



manna

2023 Impact Report

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EVERY day someone needs Manna. EVERY day Manna needs you.

“We have a beautiful community, and there’s always need.”

EVERYday at Manna, we see our beautiful community of people who provide help to those in need. Our beautiful community is you.

“We’re only as strong as the most vulnerable. And it’s our responsibility to help.”

Each of us—you and me—helping our neighbors in need.

“We have neighborhoods where we want to be together. We want to work together to make a better community. And hunger separates us.”

None of us want to think that hunger could exist in our community. But it’s important to know that hunger is EVERYwhere.

“We’ve got a lot of kids who are struggling.”

At least 1 out of 4 children do not have enough food to eat in our two county area. Let’s think about that for a moment ... 1 in 4 kids will go to bed tonight, will wake up in the morning and not have enough food to eat. But it’s not just children. Hunger hurts EVERYone. Thousands of our neighbors are hungry – from the veteran who defended our country to the grandmother raising her grandchildren to working families who are just barely getting by to senior citizens who go without critical medication so they can eat.

“This one small thing I do cumulatively with all these other people partnering together; so much can be done when EVERYbody’s a part of it.”

Manna is never alone in this fight, in this important work. You’re always with us, right by our side.

“And the best part is y’all love me.”

Yes, yes we do.

EVERY day someone needs Manna. EVERY day Manna needs you.

DeDe Flounlacker
Executive Director

P.S. Scan this QR code or head on over to our website at MannaHelps.org to view a short video commemorating Manna’s 40 years of service.

MANNA Staff

DeDe Flounlacker

Kerri Smayda

Jeff Gottschalk

Melissa Branton

Barbara Smith

Melanie Thorpe

Cheri Eichen



OUR Impact

Manna continues to provide high quality service to those in need despite many challenges. Rising inflation and global conflict, combined with the continued rising cost of food, housing and utilities, have all contributed to a decrease in food donations and a continued sharp increase in requests for food assistance. Manna has met the extraordinary need thanks to the generous support of Manna Hunger Heroes.

86,890

Neighbors Given
Food Assistance

803,338

Pounds of Food
Distributed

925,445

Healthy Meals
Provided

25

% Increase Over
Number of People
Helped in 2022

\$1,542,408.96

Value of Food
Distributed

\$.92

of Every Dollar
Donated went
Directly to Services

49,688
pounds

Fresh Produce
Distributed to
Patients

10,604
miles

Traveled By
Manna Vehicles
Picking Up and
Delivering Food

95

% of Distributed Food
Donated by the
General Public

Manna's healthy food distribution footprint covers every zip code in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, serving neighbors in need from all walks of life.

Manna's Healthy Kids Initiative ensures that children in more than 60 schools in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties receive the healthy food they need to grow and learn.

Through Manna's food security programs, healthy food in the form of groceries is distributed to:

- schools
- after-school clubs
- low-income rental communities
- law enforcement
- veteran housing
- healthcare providers
- child advocacy centers
- faith-based organizations
- nonprofits providing wrap-around services

OUR Children's Programs

Tummy Bundles is a collaboration with *Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast* that, since 2016, has provided seven healthy weekend meals to students participating in their after-school programs. In 2021, the program expanded from a single school-site distribution to now include the Boys & Girls Main Pensacola Club in Englewood, making nutritious food available to dozens more Escambia County children in need every week of the school year. *Tummy Bundles* is designed to alleviate the excess burden of hunger for children participating in the program and allow them to focus on improving academic and health outcomes. Children in the program demonstrate successful and improved outcomes year after year. In the last completed surveys: 83% of parents/guardians reported that, their child(ren) is more food secure; 92% of students were considered successful in their coursework (as defined by the Department of Education); and 61% improved their Body Mass Index, moving closer to or within the normal range. For families in need of additional support, Manna provides the entire family unit with bags of healthy food.



Manna partners with the *Escambia County Sheriff's Office*, the *Gulf Breeze Police Department*, the *Pensacola Police Department*, and the *Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office* to carry out the *School Resource Officer Food Program*. The program provides School Resource Officers (SRO) with food in more than 60 schools across the Escambia and Santa Rosa county area for students who've identified themselves as being in need. SROs utilize the food as a tool: first, to fulfill an immediate need – food for a hungry child; then to have deeper conversations with students about life at home, academic performance, behavior, and more.

Last school year the majority of SROs said 'yes,' the food helped build a relationship and/or prompted a next-step with the student. In addition, school resource officers have identified whole family units struggling with food insecurity during home visits and welfare checks. SROs notify Manna, and we supply the family with bags of healthy groceries to help them get by, and just as important, the relationship between law enforcement and the family is strengthened.

Your neighbors and mine are the folks who are helped by Manna; folks like Maggie. Pensacola High School Resource Officer Dekle now has the trust of PHS students like Maggie, but it wasn't always that way. Officer Dekle was new at the start of the school year and soon recognized a student who often ate lunch in the dean's office and who also made it clear she did not like nor trust the police. After weeks of offering food to Maggie – food provided through Manna's School Resource Officer Food Program – and brief conversations, Officer Dekle earned her trust. "Through offering the food Manna provides the school, I was able to create a vital shift in her outlook on law enforcement officers," said Officer Dekle. "This will, hopefully, create a ripple effect for any further interactions with law enforcement for her to be more trusting and not so defensive."

55%

of all people served last year were **children.**

Our partnerships with *Gulf Coast Kid's House* and *Santa Rosa Kid's House* provide emergency food bags at their facilities to distribute to the families and children they serve. Prior to the collaboration, advocates would have to refer families to other resources for emergency food. This presented a problem, especially when children were placed on the weekend or in the middle of the night, resulting in a lapse of time when the children and their guardians could access emergency food assistance. The partnership now provides families in need with immediate access to healthy food. Since 2015, more than 3,000 children and their guardians have received food assistance through the program—the equivalent of 46,485 healthy meals!

Manna partners with *Rally Pensacola* – a foundation that works to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer research and to support families with children fighting cancer – to provide emergency food assistance in the form of healthy groceries, as needed, to families with children to support them through treatment, remission, and recovery.



In partnership with Backpack Project USA (an Escambia County nonprofit) and the American Heart Association, Manna supports a *Child Nutrition Program* that benefits approx. 550 Escambia County students who are found to be in need of food assistance by their teachers or other school personnel. Prior to implementation of the program, students typically received 7-8 items in a bag that consisted of things like ramen noodles, beanie weenies, chips, and pop tarts. Now, students receive a bag of nutritious food every week of the school year (including academic breaks and holidays) that includes a healthy, balanced menu of 13-14 items including protein, vegetables, fruit, grains, and dairy. Escambia County educators are surveyed: Do you believe this food will improve the nutritional quality of the student's diet? Of the schools reporting, 98% said the food will improve the children's access to healthy food and improve the nutritional quality of their diet!

Launched in 2014, *Backpacks4Teens* is a collaboration with the Santa Rosa County School District that enables trained school personnel to connect homeless and Unaccompanied Youth, as well as Emergent Needs students, (primarily 6 – 12-year olds) with Manna's resources. Food is a critical stabilizing factor for these students, and it reduces the likelihood that they will engage in risky or illegal behavior to obtain food. The program has benefitted more than 12,950 Santa Rosa County students over the past nine years. Manna also provides food bags to the school district for families who are found to be in need of additional support.

Manna provides *Children's Home Society* social workers and resource navigators with healthy food bags weekly to support the children and families they serve. When they find a child and his/her family is struggling with food insecurity, social workers and navigators facilitate the delivery of food to children and their families. Family members are supplied with a 5-day food bag in an effort to stabilize the family unit. Nearly 8,320 children and their family members have benefitted from the program.



OUR Food Security Programs

Benefitting senior citizens, veterans, and other neighbors in need

The *Healthy Seniors Food Program* at *Westminster Village* provides a 10-day supply of healthy food each month to more than 120 senior citizens residing in a low-income rental retirement community who must often choose between buying food or medication. The program improves their access to healthy food and, in turn, improves the nutritional quality of their diet. In our most recent food security survey conducted with seniors in the program, 97% told us the nutritional quality of their diet had improved! Manna also provides additional monthly support to vulnerable seniors through the *Monthly Senior Food Program* at *Main Pantry*. The program supports approximately 60-70 low-income senior citizens with 10 days' worth of nutritious food each month. Like the *Healthy Seniors Food Program*, the program improves their access to healthy food and the nutritional quality of their diet. If a senior in the program is a grandparent raising grandchildren, Manna provides food to the household.

Manna provides the social workers of *Covenant Care* with food bags to support the individuals, families, and caregivers they serve in Northwest Florida. Food bags of healthy groceries are supplied to *Covenant* as needed to be kept on-hand for quick, easy access and distribution.

Manna provides *ReEntry Alliance Pensacola (REAP)* and the justice-involved citizens they serve with healthy food bags monthly to support them on their pathway to success – self-sufficient, crime-free, and productive.

Manna regularly provides healthy food bags to veterans residing at *Volunteers of America's* Pensacola Veterans Village to alleviate their expenses and improve the nutritional quality of their diets during their time in transitional housing, preparing them for a life of independence.

Manna provides food bags of healthy groceries containing more than 3,375 meals each month to *Cantonment Improvement Committee* to support their food distributions at Carver Park to neighbors in need in North Escambia County.

Through Habitat for Humanity of Pensacola's *AmeriCorps VISTA* (Volunteers In Service To America) program, Manna provides a 10-day supply of nutritious food monthly to VISTAs participating in the program to offset their cost-of-living expenses.



Evan Noon and Liana Reggio

In partnership with the American Heart Association, Manna supports a *Food as Medicine* program that benefits the patients of three local providers: Health and Hope Clinic, Community Health Northwest Florida, and Baptist Hospital. The program is designed to support individuals who may benefit from incorporating fresh produce in their diet to both address food insecurity and improve their health outcomes (blood pressure, weight, A1C, etc.). Our friends at The Farm supply fresh produce boxes twice each month, and Manna supplements the boxes with bags of nonperishable groceries for each patient and members of their household.

Manna provides healthy food bags to clients enrolled in *Ministry Village* at *Olive's Tender Hearts Caring Hands* financial stability class. Furnishing groceries alleviates additional financial burden as well as provides a meaningful opportunity to put the class experience into practical application by offering an instant reduction in expenses. Families may utilize that money for savings, debt reduction, or other needed purchases.

In partnership with *Pensacola State College*, Manna provides the *Pirates CARE Team* – a group of faculty and staff that assists students who are experiencing crisis or difficulty outside the classroom – with healthy food bags for currently enrolled students and their families at three campus locations. The food is supplemented with nutritional information and additional community resources.

OUR Volunteers

Manna is a volunteer-supported organization. We could not do what we do without the love and dedication of our volunteers. Individual volunteers and volunteer groups make Manna's work possible. Take a look at their incredible impact last year!

2023 Volunteer Service Snapshot

4,295 # of Volunteers

13,691.25 Volunteer Hours

\$31.80 Value of Volunteer Time Per Hour
IndependentSector.org

6.58 # of Staff Positions Volunteers Fill

\$435,381.75 Value of Manna Volunteers' Service

261,229 # of Meals Volunteer Service Creates



The most precious thing I have to give is my time.

- Silvia Hartmann



Paula Lamont
Jim Ramminger



Liz Berry
Debbie & Neal Vaughn



Devon Brian, WEAR



Vicki Sauer



Jim Morningstar
Jack Gilliland

CH125: A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800) 435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

Ways you can make a difference!

Donate Food

Manna relies on healthy food donations to support our neighbors in need. Food drives are an excellent team-building project and an impactful way to give back. Make it a competition for extra fun!

Donate Funds

92 cents of every dollar donated to Manna goes directly to our food assistance services. Direct financial support, event and program sponsorship, and matching gift programs are all ways you can give.

Volunteer

We could not do the work we do without the support of generous volunteers. Manna hosts both individual volunteers and volunteer groups. Volunteering is another fun way to engage your team!

Advocate and Attend

Anyone can be a Manna advocate! Help share our mission, work, and events on social media, as well as from our website and e-newsletter, with family, friends, and coworkers. When you help tell our story, you ensure our neighbors in need are fed!



Special thanks to Evergreen Printing & Mailing for printing this report.

