



# 2021 Impact Report



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# YOU gave Hope, Courage and Compassion

Dear Friends,

**YOU** made the world a better place for thousands of children and families this year.

*That's a bold statement, but you did it.*

You gave, and it made a difference in our neighbors' lives.

You gave **HOPE** ... to the 82 year old woman who has to decide between buying medication or food ... to the working mom who doesn't eat so her children can ... to the Vietnam veteran who served our country and now struggles to find his place ... to the family suddenly facing a medical crisis and crushing bills ... to the 6-year-old student who goes hungry each weekend ... to folks like you and me who continue to feel the hurt of the pandemic.

You gave **COURAGE** to Manna so we could ... expand our reach to help more children by growing our Tummy Bundles program from one site to three ... nearly double our School Resource Officer food for kids program to include Santa Rosa County schools ... create a new nutrition intervention program with American Heart Association and Backpack Project USA to provide healthy food to 500+ children every weekend.

You gave **COMPASSION** so we had the resources to ... provide 494,508 healthy meals in our community ... help 31,014 hungry people, with 49% being children ... work with 40+ organizations and agencies in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties that helped folks with financial literacy, educational outcomes, medical challenges, housing and so much more.

We've faced many challenges this year, but **YOU** have been beside us all the way. You know, Manna isn't about a building or even really about food. We're about people who need help and people who give help.

Manna is about you and me and this community making the world a better place – yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Thank you for your love  
and support!

In grateful service,



DeDe Flounlacker  
Executive Director



# Your contributions made Manna's work possible

Food insecurity rates remain high due to the effects of the pandemic. The need for food assistance in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties is still great, which is why Manna served 63% more people last year than we did in 2019. Without the generous support of our donors and the tireless efforts of our partners, it would not have been possible.

**31,014**

NEIGHBORS SERVED

**473,667**

POUNDS OF FOOD

**494,508**

HEALTHY MEALS

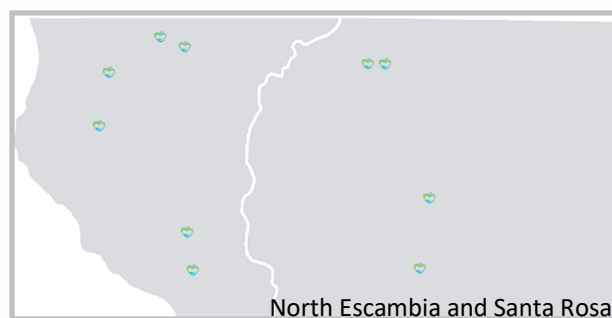
**\$824,181**

VALUE OF FOOD  
DISTRIBUTED

**49**

% OF THOSE SERVED  
WHO WERE CHILDREN

Through our pantries and partners, Manna's healthy food distribution footprint stretches far and wide across Northwest Florida. In Escambia County, Manna provides food assistance to neighbors in need of all ages, in all county zip codes, including 27 elementary, middle, and high schools. Distribution points in Santa Rosa County primarily benefit children and their families, including 25 elementary, middle, and high schools.



# Manna's Specialty Programs and Partnerships

*Tummy Bundles* is a collaboration with the *Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast* that provides seven healthy weekend meals to children participating in after-school programs at Montclair Elementary, Dixon School of Arts and Sciences, and Boys & Girls Clubs Main Site. The program alleviates the burden of hunger children face and allows them to focus on academic and health outcomes.

*Backpacks4Teens* is a collaboration with the Santa Rosa County School District that enables trained school personnel to connect Unaccompanied Youth (mostly homeless 10th–12th graders living in cars, parks, or on the streets) and Emergent Needs students with Manna's resources. Food is a critical stabilizing factor for these students, and it reduces the likelihood they'll engage in risky or illegal behavior to obtain food.

Manna provides 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, and more.



A Cokesbury United Methodist Church volunteer loads food boxes into his vehicle. The boxes are home-delivered to seniors enrolled in Manna's Monthly Senior Food Program.

The *Healthy Seniors Food Program* at *Westminster Village* and the *Monthly Senior Food Program* at *Main Pantry* provide a 10-day supply of healthy food each month to senior citizens 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 Westminster Village program, 99% told us the nutritional quality of their diet had improved!

Manna partners with *Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office*, *Pensacola Police Department*, and *Escambia County Sheriff's Office*, to operate the *School Resource Officer Food Program*. The program provides School Resource Officers (SRO) with food in schools across the two-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; then to have deeper conversations with students about life at home, academic performance, behavior, and more.

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. Advocates would previously have to refer families to other resources for emergency food. This presented a problem when children were placed on the weekend or through the night, resulting in a lapse of time when they could access emergency food assistance. The partnership provides families with immediate access to food.

Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Deputy Todd is a school resource officer at a Milton elementary school. Thanks to the expansion of the School Resource Officer Food Program to Santa Rosa County, Deputy Todd is able to provide food to hungry students in need this schoolyear. Within a few short weeks, he recognized the food makes a difference.

“The Manna food program has been great. The children involved were especially happy. There are a few kindergarteners who don't have anything for snacks, and the food provides some a tremendous break (and to the teachers as well, who can only provide so much). Thank you for what you do.”

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. This partnership provides more than 4,500 meals annually to veterans in need.



*Eight local agencies raised more than 34,000 meals for neighbors in need during the 2021 Donut Strike for Manna!*

Manna provides more than 100 bags of healthy groceries to *Cantonment Improvement Committee* every week to support their food distributions in North Escambia County. This partnership provides more than 2,250 meals each week to neighbors in need.



*Participants in the PensaCan competition, hosted by AIA Florida Northwest, donated more than 5,000 pounds of nonperishable food items to Manna last year alone, feeding thousands in need.*

Manna provides *Children's Home Society* social workers and resource navigators with food bags every week to support the children and families they serve. This partnership provides more than 1,400 healthy meals monthly to CHS clients.



*The installation of our generator—which can carry our entire electrical load—was made possible by IMPACT 100 Pensacola.*

Through the United Way of West Florida'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 help offset their cost-of-living expenses.

Manna provides *ReEntry Alliance Pensacola (REAP)* and the justice-involved citizens they serve with healthy food bags every month to support them on their pathway to success — self-sufficient, crime-free, and productive. This partnership provides approximately 4,500 healthy meals annually to ReEntry Alliance Pensacola clients.



*Krewe of SWAT donated more than 12,000 pounds of food during the 2021 Krewe of Sparta Annual Food Drive Challenge!*

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

Brad is a United States Army veteran who assists *Volunteers of America* with their efforts. Brad has delivered Manna food bags for VOA to other veterans in need in the past, but recently found himself in need of food assistance too. Manna provided Brad and several others with a 5-day bag (15 healthy meals) to help them get by. They were very appreciative.

“ We got more food from y'all yesterday and when I heard it was from Manna, I was thrilled. Thank you so much for thinking of all of us veterans here. When I initially spoke with you about getting food from you, I never expected you would do it more than once. Again, thank you from all of us veterans! We will never forget your generosity! You made our life better. ”

# Manna continues to provide the healthiest food possible

At Manna, we believe in providing the healthiest food possible, because we know that, in order to positively affect the health of our community, nutrition must be a part of our equation. As we've done for years, we continue to pack our 5-day food bags and 10-day food boxes to US Department of Agriculture Standards for a Healthy Diet, including fruits, vegetables, proteins, grains, and even dairy when possible.

In order to provide healthy food to more students in need, we expanded our Tummy Bundles and School Resource Officer (SRO) Food programs at the start of the school year. Tummy Bundles grew from one site to three — now reaching more than three times more children every week than in past years — and the SRO program grew to include Santa Rosa County schools. Though SROs receive mostly grab-n-go items, we are also working to ensure those items are nutritious by including low sugar, whole grain options.

In late summer 2021, Manna entered into partnership with the American Heart Association to put two nutrition programs in to motion—a child nutrition program and a food as medicine program. For both, Manna brings our infrastructure and expertise in healthy food distribution to the table (pun intended), as well as an understanding of low-income and/or at-risk populations and the coping mechanisms they typically use when in need.

## Food as Medicine



The Food As Medicine program, run in partnership with the American Heart Association and with the support of Levin Papantonio Rafferty Proctor Buchanan O'Brien Barr Mougey, PA, benefits patients of local healthcare providers Health and Hope Clinic, Community Health of Northwest Florida, and Baptist Hospital's Heart Failure Clinic.

Patients enrolled in the program, who often have health issues such as hypertension, diabetes, and heart failure, are those who could benefit from a diet that includes fresh produce. Patients receive a fresh produce box from The Farm twice each month, as well as Manna food bags (5-day supply) for each person in the household.

All partners expect and look forward to sharing positive health outcomes such as improvement in blood pressure, weight, body mass index, A1C levels and more, for example.

## Child Nutrition Program



The Child Nutrition Program, run in partnership with Backpack Project USA (a local nonprofit) and the American Heart Association, and with the support of Levin Papantonio Rafferty Proctor Buchanan O'Brien Barr Mougey, PA, benefits Escambia County students who are found to be in need of nutrition 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 enrolled in the program receive a bag of nutritious food every week of the school year that includes a healthy, balanced menu of 13-14 food items including protein, vegetables, fruit, grains, and dairy.

When surveyed, 100% of teachers and school personnel believe the program will improve children's access to healthy food and will improve the nutritional quality of the students' diets.

# The Incredible Impact of Manna Volunteers

Manna is a volunteer-supported organization. Volunteers make it possible to fulfill our mission. Through the last year, we continued to operate with a reduced volunteer workforce due to continuing concerns related to the pandemic. However, the few volunteers who served provided food assistance to 63% more people than pre-COVID-19!

## 2021 VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

**1,702** # OF VOLUNTEERS

**5,676.25** VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$28.54** VALUE OF VOLUNTEER TIME  
PER HOUR

*Independent Sector*

**3.75** # OF STAFF POSITIONS  
VOLUNTEERS FILL

**\$162,000.18** VALUE OF MANNA VOLUNTEERS' SERVICE

**97,200** # OF MEALS VOLUNTEER TIME  
CREATES



**Bill Van Pelt**



**Becky Fleischhauer**



**Ron and Mary Hull**

“

Four years ago, we sold our business and retired. We knew that after selling our business, we wanted to find a way to get involved and give back to our community.

Manna Food Pantry was one of the first organizations we considered because we had been supporting them through our church for many years. Frank Johnson, who was the organizing director, was a member of our church and always talked about Manna.

We wanted to find a place where we could not only financially support but also actively volunteer.

Manna Pantries has given us that opportunity. We are grateful for the experience and are proud to serve with an organization that is making a true difference in our community and providing food to families in need. What could make you feel better than knowing you helped give a meal to a hungry family or a child in need.

”

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

Donations of healthy, nonperishable food items are critical to our work. Food drives are a great way to make a difference for hungry folks in Northwest Florida! Work, school, athletics, civic clubs, faith organizations — your group can change the lives of our neighbors in need.

## Donate Funds

Manna makes your financial gift go further. Last year, 93 cents of every \$1 donated was spent directly on services. Your \$50 gift will provide 30 healthy meals for seniors, your \$100 gift will feed 20 people healthy meals for a full day, and your \$500 gift will provide 300 meals to children in need!

## Volunteer

We couldn't provide hope to the hungry without the support of our volunteers. Volunteering as a group is great for team-building! Manna has projects for individuals, teams of more than 25, and every size in between.

## Advocate

Anyone can be a Manna advocate! Help share our mission and work on social media and 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.*

