



manna

2025 Impact Report



Doing the Best We Can, Together

I'm doing the best I can.

These few words convey so much, don't they? And, in many ways, they could have served as the anthem for 2025.

Ellen was right on time for her appointment at Manna's pantry on E Street. When she arrived, our volunteer greeter welcomed her and asked for the necessary paperwork to sign her in. "No problem," Ellen said, because she had put everything together before leaving her house. After a couple of minutes frantically looking in her bag, her pants pockets, and her jacket, Ellen gave up. Near tears, she said to our volunteer, "I'm doing the best I can." We reassured her that it was ok – that she was ok – and to take as much time as she needed. With that little bit of encouragement, Ellen slowed down and found everything she needed. By the end of her visit, Ellen learned about other resources to help her family. And she walked out of our pantry with bags of groceries containing 5 days' worth of food for each member of her family.



DeDe Flounlacker
Executive Director

I'm doing the best I can.

Seaman James, stationed at Whiting Field, was worried. With a young child to raise, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a critical resource for this single parent. SNAP enables Seaman James to supplement his monthly grocery budget so he can buy healthy food. When the November SNAP benefits were not initially issued because of the government shutdown, Seaman James had no idea what he was going to do ... until he heard about a food distribution being held on base for anyone struggling. He swallowed his pride and drove to the distribution, embarrassed that he needed help. When a volunteer walked up to his car and gave him bags full of groceries, Seaman James' embarrassment quickly turned to gratitude. One of the things that really amazed him was that everyone was thanking *him*.

I'm doing the best I can.

Sara is in 2nd grade and can't wait to get to school Monday morning for one simple reason: she gets to eat. She's always hungry on Monday because there's never enough food at her house. She feels bad because her mom hasn't been eating dinner at all. Last night, when Sara's mom got home from work, Sara offered to share her bowl of tomato soup with her. Her mom began to cry and said she wasn't hungry.

I'm doing the best I can.

Thousands of moms and dads, grandparents raising grand kids, veterans, servicemembers and their families, and folks who look just like you and me ... they are all doing the best they can to put food on the table, to have a safe place to sleep, and to take care of their families. Altogether, 71,005 people were helped by Manna last year. 61% of those folks were children.

At Manna, we continue to do the best we can every day to provide healthy food to our neighbors in need; to develop partnerships and collaborate with other agencies to address the root causes of hunger; and to proactively seek answers to local needs because we are a local social service organization.

Thank you for doing the best you can to support this important mission. YOU make our work possible.

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Mary Mehta, MD
Pediatric Physician

Manna's Impact by the Numbers

In the face of global and civil unrest, inflation, and the high cost of food, housing, and utilities, Manna remains a steadfast source of support for our community. While donations have declined overall and requests for assistance have surged, the compassion and generosity of Manna's Hunger Heroes have given us the ability to meet this extraordinary need.

665,970

Pounds of Food
Distributed

71,005

Number of Neighbors
in Need Helped

787,177

Healthy Meals
Provided

\$1,311,961

Value of Food
Distributed

91 cents

of Every Dollar
Donated went
Directly to Services

1,374,091

Pounds of Food
Moved through
Manna's Warehouse

**87,095
pounds**

Fresh Produce
Distributed



**8,500+
miles**

Traveled By Manna Vehicles
Picking Up and Delivering Food



Manna's Healthy Kids Initiative

1 in 4 children in Northwest Florida are food insecure

Tummy Bundles

Tummy Bundles is a collaboration with Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast that, since 2016, has provided food bags (packed to USDA Standards for a Healthy Diet) including seven healthy weekend meals to students participating in their after-school programs. The program expanded in 2021 from a single school-site distribution to now include the Boys & Girls Pensacola Club in Englewood, making nutritious food available to dozens of 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. For families in need of additional support, Manna provides the entire family unit with bags of healthy food.

Last year, Manna distributed more than 13,400 pounds of healthy food to 1,822 children—both those enrolled in the program and their siblings. **That is 101% more food than in the prior year!**

In collaboration with Boys & Girls Clubs, Manna tracks the academic outcomes, health outcomes (with Body Mass Index as a health indicator), and the food security of each participant. Children in the program demonstrate successful and improved outcomes year after year.



Escambia County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer



Volunteers (L to R) Susan Stoneman, Emily Rogers, Susan White, Paula Harris, and Mary Hull.



Alyssa Tucker, Nemours

School Resource Officer Food Program

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 30 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. In addition, SROs have identified whole family units struggling with food insecurity during home visits. On these occasions, we supply each family member with a 5-day supply of healthy groceries, and just as important, the relationship between law enforcement and the family is strengthened.

Manna and local SROs distributed 19,199 pounds of food to students and their families in need—**24% more than the prior year!**

Children's Home Society

Manna provides *Children's Home Society* social workers and resource navigators with healthy food bags each week to support the children and families they serve. When they find that a child and his/her family is struggling with food insecurity, social workers and resource navigators facilitate the delivery of food bags to children and their families. Each family member is supplied with a 5-day healthy food bag in an effort to stabilize the family unit.

Few things have more impact than **nutrition**
on a child's ability to **survive**,
learn effectively and
escape a life of poverty.

— Ann Veneman

61%

of all people served last year were children.

Gulf Coast Kid's House + Santa Rosa Kid's House

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.



Gulf Coast Kid's House team members (L to R): Executive Director Stacey Kostevicki, Volunteer Sally Pate, Volunteer Debbie Brown, Outreach & Events Specialist Rachel Smith, Family Advocate Linda Kahl, and Prevention Specialist Taylor Steurer.

Child Nutrition Program

In partnership with Backpack Project USA (an Escambia County nonprofit) and One Pensacola, Manna supports a *Child Nutrition Program* that benefits approximately 500 Escambia Co. students every week 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. Students in the program now 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, grain, and dairy.

Nemours Children's Health

Last year, Manna and *Nemours Children's Health* (Pensacola) launched a partnership to provide nutritious food to children and their families being seen and treated at the main campus pediatric clinic. Too often the Nemours team heard from patients' families that access to food was a challenge. And a lack of access to food is an obstacle to healthy kids and families.

Now, the Nemours team – doctors, nurses, and social workers – have access to Manna food bags on-site at both their standalone facility and at Studer Family Children's Hospital to support children and families in need. Each bag, packed to USDA Standards for a Healthy Diet, has five days' worth of nutritious food in it, and Nemours team members discreetly give the bags to children and families in a private area, ensuring not just the families' dignity, but also their food security, health, and well-being.

Backpacks4Teens

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 the food they need.

Last year, Manna distributed 25,831 pounds of healthy food to Santa Rosa County students in need through the Backpacks4Teens program — a **23% increase over the prior year.**

Bags Full of Love

St. Vincent de Paul Society Volunteer Phil recently received a request for a home visit for a local family that was in need of food and other resources. Before he headed out, Phil gathered some Manna food bags.

After arriving at the home, Phil placed the bags full of groceries onto the floor. When he began speaking to the parents about their needs, two young children ran into the room. They were elated!

They were not excited about their visitor, rather they were thrilled to have been given food. The children began pulling groceries out of the brown paper bags, ecstatic with the items they found - canned fruit and vegetables, tuna and peanut butter, oatmeal and rice.

YOU made this possible!

Food Security Programs

Benefitting senior citizens, veterans, and other neighbors in need

Senior Food Programs

The *Healthy Seniors Food Program* at *Westminster Village* provides a 10-day supply of healthy food each month to more than 100 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, 100% told us the nutritional quality of their diet had improved!

Manna provides additional monthly support to vulnerable seniors through the *Monthly Senior Food Program*. The program supports approximately 80 low-income senior citizens with 10 days' worth of nutritious food each month. 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 will provide food to the entire household.

Manna distributed 62,917 pounds of healthy food at no charge to all participants in our senior food programs.

Food as Medicine

In partnership with One Pensacola, Manna supports a *Food as Medicine* program that benefits the patients of four local healthcare providers: Health and Hope Clinic, Community Health Northwest Florida, Ascension Sacred Heart, and Baptist Hospital's cohort of patients who reside at Wesley Scott Place, a low-income senior community. 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, A1C, body weight, 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 at no charge. Last year, Manna distributed 147,002 pounds of food for the Food as Medicine program, and 86,402 pounds were fresh produce.

Main Pantry

Manna's Pantry Services Program is designed to provide short-term food assistance to families and individuals in temporary crisis situations by providing a free five-day supply of healthy food in the form of groceries per person in need. Pantry Service is offered a maximum of three times per year to individuals (to prevent creating a system of dependency) and is available by appointment. It is our goal to identify root cause issues of hunger when people come to our pantry and to connect them to other community resources. We distributed 99,593 pounds of food to 3,972 people through the Pantry last year!

Priority Veteran

Manna provides support to veterans in partnership with *Priority Veteran* – an assistance program created through a grant from the US Department of Veterans Affairs focused on serving US military veterans and their families who are homeless or at immediate risk of becoming homeless. Manna provides bags of healthy food on request for free to the individuals and families served by Priority Veteran.

Pensacola State College

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 all three campus locations. The food is supplemented with nutritional information and linkage to additional community resources. Last year, Manna distributed 15,924 pounds of healthy food at no charge to 1,653 people at Pensacola State College!

Pensacola Veterans Village

Manna provides healthy food bags for free to veterans residing at *Volunteers of America's* Pensacola Veterans Village each month to alleviate their expenses and improve the nutritional quality of their diets during their time in transitional housing. Manna distributed 5,589 pounds of nutritious food to 324 veterans last year.

Ministry Village at Olive

Manna provides healthy food bags to clients enrolled in Ministry Village at Olive's *Tender Hearts Caring Hands* financial stability class at no charge. 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 necessary purchases. Manna distributed 5,006 pounds of healthy food to 319 people served at Ministry Village.

AmeriCorps VISTA

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

ReEntry Alliance Pensacola

Manna provides *ReEntry Alliance Pensacola (REAP)* and the justice-involved citizens they serve with healthy food bags monthly at no charge to support them on their pathway to success – self-sufficient, crime-free, and productive.

Cantonment Improvement Committee

Manna provides food bags of healthy groceries containing more than 3,375 meals each month at no charge to *Cantonment Improvement Committee (CIC)* to support their food distributions at Carver Park in North Escambia County. We distributed 56,403 pounds to 11,496 people through CIC last year!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Manna provides healthy bags of food for *Society of St. Vincent de Paul* for individuals and families that the Society identifies as needing food assistance. Volunteers from the Society engage in home visits with people who have requested help for various reasons. In the course of the home visits, if people are found to need food, the volunteers simply call Manna and free bags of healthy groceries are provided.

Volunteers

Manna is a volunteer-supported organization. We simply could not do the work 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!

Volunteer Service Snapshot

4,564 # of Volunteers

13,568.25 Volunteer Hours

\$34.79 Value of Volunteer Time Per Hour

IndependentSector.org

6.52 # of Staff Positions Volunteers Fill

\$472,039.42 Value of Manna Volunteers' Service

283,224 # of Meals Volunteer Service Creates



Volunteer Gene Becerra



Volunteer Hilda Giorlando



Escambia County Fire Rescue's
Captain Joel Richardson



Publix Volunteer
Mary Shropshire

MANNA STAFF

DeDe Flounlacker
Executive Director

Kerri Smayda
Associate Executive Director

Jeff Gottschalk
Operations Director

Melissa Branton
Donor Relations Manager

Melanie Thorpe
Finance and Data Manager

Cheri Eichen
Volunteer Manager

Michelle Boatman
Warehouse Coordinator

Madisyn Langley
Marketing and Events Manager

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

Healthy, nonperishable food donations play a vital role in our mission. Hosting a food drive brings teams together while directly impacting the lives of neighbors who need our support.

Donate Funds

Your financial gift goes further with us — 91 cents of every dollar funds our food assistance services. You can contribute through direct donations, event sponsorships, and matching projects.

Volunteer

We could not do the work we do without the support of our generous volunteers. Manna hosts individuals and volunteer groups. Volunteering is a meaningful way for your team to give back!

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.

