

FROM  
**hunger**  
TO  **hope**



You make it possible.



[www.mannafoodpantries.org](http://www.mannafoodpantries.org)

## Recognizing the crisis

A grandfather told us he skips meals so his wife and grandkids have enough to eat. Try to imagine what it feels like to be hungry and to worry about how to provide your family's next meal.

When you're hungry, it's hard to think about anything else. It's hard to learn, work, love, laugh, hope, sleep or stay healthy. In fact, it's hard to do anything at all. Hunger stunts physical growth, educational outcomes and school readiness. And it's touching more families than ever. With 1 in 4 children in

needs of more children, senior citizens and even military in our area. Manna is the only pantry in the region packing grocery bags using USDA Standards for a Healthy Diet – we need to provide more fresh foods so our clients get even healthier options. We want to add learning opportunities because access to food has a greater impact when paired with education and training. And because hunger is never the only issue overwhelming these families and individuals, we want to connect them with agencies that address issues beyond food.

# When you're hungry, it's hard to think.

Escambia and Santa Rosa counties struggling to have enough food to eat, Manna plays a vital role in offering the healthiest food possible to thousands each year. We see our neighbors struggle – people who never thought they'd need our help count on us and on you.

## Wanting to do more

Every month with your help Manna provides 25,379 meals for 890 families in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Every day we see areas where we can have a greater impact. Our services have to evolve to reach the

## Asking for your help

Manna can't meet the needs of the hungry in our community without a new facility. The April 2014 flood destroyed our equipment and food. For more than two years we've cobbled together operations between 4 separate buildings, with roughly 50% of our former space. Our work cannot continue effectively in these conditions.

We need your help to raise the \$1 million needed to make our new facility the solution we know it can be. We can only move those in need from hunger to hope with your support.

## 1 in 4 kids



in Santa Rosa & Escambia counties  
**don't have**  
access to healthy food or  
**enough food**



Through strategic partnerships and innovative programs, Manna fills a number of gaps in service to children and the elderly in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

### Making seniors healthy

Senior hunger is a nationwide problem and is prevalent in our area. Every month thousands of senior citizens choose to pay bills, buy medication or buy food. An innovative partnership with Westminster Village expanded our **Healthy Senior Monthly Food Program** to include 145–160 low-income people who now receive ten days of healthy food each month.

Through our Pensacola Main Pantry and Milton Pantry, our Healthy Senior program has doubled in the past three months.

The **Backpack4Teens Program** – a Santa Rosa County School District collaboration – lets trained school personnel connect Unaccompanied Youth (mostly homeless 10th-12th graders, living in cars, parks, or on the streets) with Manna's resources. Having access to food provides critical stability for these students, reducing the likelihood of risky behavior to obtain food.

Manna also provides emergency food for the **Gulf Coast Kid's House** to distribute to the families and children they serve. Before this collaboration, GCKH advocates referred

families to other resources for emergency food, which often led to delays in assistance. Our partnership means families have immediate access to healthy food.

### Solving community hunger

In addition to these programs, Manna operates a network of **three food distribution pantries** in our two-county area. Last year we provided nutritional assistance to 20,303 people.

But we know there's more to do. Our new space will allow us to enhance these programs and create new initiatives to help those neighbors in need.

# In 2015 we helped 20,303 people in need.

(But that's not enough.)

### Growing healthy children

A hungry child cannot learn and grow. Many of the thousands of children in our area who receive free or reduced meals at school have no access to food on the weekends. To address this, Manna works with other organizations to supply kid-friendly, healthy food for the weekends.

The **Tummy Bundles Program** helps low-income students at Montclair Elementary. In partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs and United Way of Escambia County, program participants receive the equivalent of seven healthy meals on Friday afternoons, so no one goes hungry over the weekend.

## Who did we help?

"Eight months ago I lost my job out of the blue. My savings are gone. I'm struggling to provide for my two teenage boys. My older son got a job to help out. So now he's juggling school, homework and a full-time minimum wage job. He skips meals, so his brother and I don't have to go without."

Debbie - 39 years old



(Under the age of 18)  
67% were under 12.

"Our only income is a monthly social security check. Sometimes I struggle to provide enough food. I always make sure my wife and my grandchildren eat first, and that their bellies are full."

Robert - 79 years old



(Over the age of 55)

"My husband and I are both in the Navy. Things were fine, then my sister passed away suddenly and left behind her three small children. Our family doubled in size overnight. Without any extra income, we are struggling to provide everything the kids need, including food."

Gabbie - 26 years old



(Active duty, veterans and retirees)

## Overcoming Mother Nature

The 2014 flood devastated Manna, destroying all our food and equipment.

Before that, Manna operated in two separate buildings – a non-air conditioned warehouse space and a separate building that housed services, food, and freezer space. Now we use two construction trailers and small portions of our two original buildings. Combined we have roughly 50% of our former space.

Between the significantly reduced working area and less than ideal food handling capabilities, it didn't take long to see that these conditions couldn't sustain our operations. So, after reviewing over 35 properties, we found our new home at 3030 North E Street.

## Improving under one roof

At more than 23,000 square feet, this new building puts Manna under the same roof for the first time in decades. More importantly, this space will increase our operational efficiency and capacity. This will enable us to expand services and address the growing hunger issues our neighbors face.

# 23,000 square feet of hope

Without question, this new building will let us improve access to healthy food for children, families and seniors in need.

- All food will be safely stored and handled here, no longer subject to extreme temperature changes between buildings.
- Dedicated cleaning and storage areas will increase the amounts of available fresh fruits and vegetables, improving access to healthier foods.
- A climate-controlled space and fire sprinkler system mean a safer environment for volunteers and staff.
- Larger reception and interviewing areas will improve client privacy and quality time. Plus, they will receive their food just a few steps away. These changes allow us to restore dignity and respect to our clients.
- Each specialty program, like our Healthy Seniors and Tummy Bundles programs, requires different grocery lists. Additional space will allow for more specialized packing areas so more people get helped.



## 3030 North E Street

Over 23,000 sq. ft. – all under one roof

**TOTAL RENOVATION EXPENSES: \$1,000,000**

### MAJOR RENOVATION EXPENSES

- New roof: \$125,000 - \$150,000
- Climate control: \$100,000 - \$125,000
- Fire sprinkler system: \$100,000 - \$125,000

### MAJOR BENEFITS & NEW CAPABILITIES

- House services in one modernized space
- Handle and store healthy fresh foods properly
- Expand services to meet growing need
- Enhance key programs and develop new initiatives
- Connect clients with needed social service agencies and training opportunities
- Increase volunteer opportunities



## Moving forward

The flood forced us to take a hard look at how we were doing business. We discovered we could do more and we could be better. One of the biggest realizations: hunger isn't the only hurdle our clients face. Because of this, they benefit from a "wrap around" service approach. Our new facility will allow us to connect more families and children with community services that address issues beyond food. Plans include a dedicated area for other social service organizations to

# We will do more and be better.

offer assistance. Nutrition education will be available on-site, with food demonstrations and classes. A Community Room will allow partner agencies to give targeted training on topics like financial stability, family budgeting and healthy habits.

Together, these will help improve the overall quality of life and restore hope to those overwhelmed by hunger.

Manna is a local grassroots organization fighting hunger in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. We provide groceries directly to individuals and families in need. • Manna's services are all offered free of charge. We receive no government funding and have no national affiliation. Most of our funding comes from individuals, foundations, faith-based organizations, corporations, and businesses. We are nonsectarian, community focused and volunteer supported. • We believe every person has a right to live free of hunger and to be treated with respect and dignity.

To learn more, visit [mannafoodpantries.org](http://mannafoodpantries.org) or call 850/432-2053.



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