 **manna** 2024 Impact Report


manna

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A Message from the Executive Director

Kindness. Hope. Thanks.

Three simple words that really mean ... **Love**.

Kindness. The dictionary defines Kindness as "the quality of being generous, helpful and caring" That describes every individual who has ever given to Manna - whether it was a gift of food, money, time or talent. Individuals, organizations, businesses, foundations, families - the list could go on and on for pages. We've got a lot of Kindness happening at Manna.

Hope. One of the definitions of Hope is "to want something to happen or be true." At Manna, we provide Hope every day by providing healthy food to people who don't have enough food to eat. But we're not just providing a bag of food. We're connecting folks to other resources for help. We're supporting community partners who are, through case and care management, supporting those in need by taking a more holistic approach toward solutions. Every bag of food holds that special ingredient of Hope because someone cares.

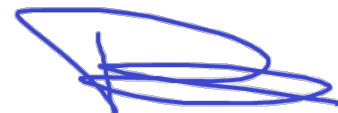
Thanks. Defined as "kindly or grateful thoughts" as well as "an expression of gratitude," Thanks is a word we use and hear a lot at Manna. We hear it during food distribution when our volunteers are talking with a client or handing bags of food to a family in need. We say it to our volunteers, donors, and partners. We give Thanks for our community every day.

At a community event where Manna was taking food donations, an older adult lady dragging a small suitcase behind her walked up to our table. At first glance, I thought she was going to ask for food. Her dress and sweater were old and torn, and I jumped to a conclusion, ready to answer her question about needing help. But I was wrong. At first, she was upset because she thought she had to drive up to make a donation. She didn't have a car, and either walked or rode the bus to get around. As we talked, she struggled to lay her suitcase on the ground and get it unzipped. You see, she had two bags in her suitcase - one filled with food for Manna and the other for herself. A while back, Manna had helped her. She said she was very grateful for the food and now she wanted to help someone else.

Kindness. Hope. Thanks.

Three simple words that really mean ... Love.

Thank you for showing Love to Manna.
We could not do this without you.



DeDe Flounlacker
Executive Director

Staff

DeDe Flounlacker
Executive Director

Kerri Smayda
Associate Executive Director

Jeff Gottschalk
Director of Operations

Melissa Branton
Marketing & Events Manager

Barbara Smith
Program & Services Manager

Melanie Thorpe
Donor Relations Manager

Cheri Eichen
Volunteer Manager

Michelle Boatman
Warehouse Support

Manna's Impact by the Numbers

662,866

Pounds of Food Distributed

67,427

Number of Neighbors in Need Helped

767,599

Healthy Meals Provided

93,151

Pounds of Fresh Produce Distributed

26

Number of Zip Codes Served in the Two Counties

\$.97

of Every Dollar Donated went Directly to Services

8,133

Miles Traveled by Manna Vehicles Picking Up and Delivering Food

\$1,279,331.38

Value of Food Distributed



2024 Clover Pick A Bowl Fill A Bowl



City of Pensacola Employee



Fiesta of Five Flags Court of DeLuna



Gulf Breeze Police Dept. Chief Hawthorne and donor



Joyce Blackwelder, Cokesbury UMC, and Michelle Boatman



Volunteer David Davies



Volunteer Kristen Judd

Children's Food Security 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, making nutritious food available to dozens more Escambia Co. 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. Last school year, 88% of parents/guardians with children benefitting from the program reported that their child(ren) has improved in school, and 88% also reported that their child(ren)'s health has improved due to the program. In 2024, Manna distributed 6,682 pounds of healthy food to 842 students. *Tummy Bundles* enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year has skyrocketed—an approximate 85% increase in student need in just the first trimester compared to last year.

In partnership with the American Heart Association and Backpack Project USA (an Escambia County nonprofit), 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 last school year, 100% said the food will improve the children's access to healthy food and improve the nutritional quality of their diet! Last year, Manna distributed 70,115 pounds of healthy food to more than 19,000 Escambia County students at 19 elementary, middle, and high schools.



Volunteer Bill Van Pelt



Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Deputy and SRO Richard Dunsford



Child Nutrition Program Volunteer and Operations Director Jeff Gottschalk



Pensacola Police Dept. SRO Heather Dekle

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 for a hungry child; then to have deeper conversations with students about life at home, academic performance, behavior and disciplinary issues, and more. Last school year, 97% of SROs said 'yes,' the food helped build a relationship and/or prompted a next-step with the student. Last year, Manna distributed 13,987 pounds of food to Northwest Florida School Resource Officers to benefit their students in need. 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 entire family unit is strengthened.

POVERTY IS A VERY COMPLICATED ISSUE,

BUT FEEDING A CHILD ISN'T.

- Jeff Bridges

60% of all people served last year were children.

Our partnerships with *Gulf Coast Kid's House* and *Santa Rosa Kids' House* provide emergency food bags at their facilities in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties to distribute to the families and children they serve. Prior to the collaboration, Kid's House advocates would have to refer families to other resources for emergency food. This presented a significant 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 2,700 children and their guardians have received food assistance through these partnerships —the equivalent of 53,200 healthy meals! Last year, Manna distributed 10,368 pounds of healthy food in bags packed to USDA Standards for a Healthy Diet to 684 people served by Gulf Coast Kid's House and Santa Rosa Kids' House.

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 (all grade levels; many are students who live in cars, parks, on the street, or who couch-hop) 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 13,000 Santa Rosa County students over the past 10 years. Last year, Manna distributed 20,870 pounds of healthy food to 2,125 students. Manna also provides food bags to the school district for families who are found to be in need of additional support.

Ruth's five grandchildren were unexpectedly removed from their parents' home and placed into her care. Manna program partner Gulf Coast Kid's House – a child advocacy center – supported Ruth and her family through the transition. They recognized that Ruth* is on a fixed income and had concerns about being able to feed her five grandchildren. So, Gulf Coast Kid's House provided Manna food bags to the family to sustain them for weeks, as well as connected Ruth to additional community resources. Ruth said she was very appreciative of the support, and she was happy to give the children home-cooked meals – “something the children rarely got to receive.”

*Names are changed to protect privacy.

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. Last year, Manna distributed 38,472 pounds of healthy food to 2,794 people. Nearly 8,000 children and their family members have benefitted from the program since 2020.



New Partnership with Nemours Children's Health Addresses Child Food Insecurity and Well-being

In 2024, 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 was hearing 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 to support children and families in need. Each bag, packed to USDA Standards for a Healthy Diet, has five days' worth of healthy food in it, and Nemours team members discreetly give the bags to families in a private area, ensuring not just the families' dignity, but also their food security, health, and well-being.

Food Security Programs

In partnership with the American Heart Association, Manna supports a *Food as Medicine* program that benefits the patients of four local providers: Health and Hope Clinic, Community Health Northwest Florida, Ascension Sacred Heart, and Baptist Health Care. 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 throughout each month, and Manna supplements the boxes with bags of nonperishable groceries for each patient and members of their household. In 2024, a cohort of patients who reside at Wesley Scott Place, a low-income senior community, were enrolled in the program. Last year, more than 82,000 pounds of fresh produce was distributed to patients in need.



Mr. Robert of Wesley Scott Place

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.

The *Healthy Seniors Food Program* at Westminster Village provides a 10-day supply of healthy food each month to approximately 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, 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 citizen in the program is a grandparent raising grandchildren, Manna provides food to the household. Last year, Manna served more than 6,300 seniors.

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. Last year, Manna distributed 10,429 pounds of healthy food to PSC.

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.



Matthew Jeffreys and Roger Coleman (L to R) of Pensacola Veterans Village

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 distributed 6,067 pounds of healthy food to VOA last year.

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 lives.

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.

Manna provides food bags of healthy groceries containing more than 1,125 meals each week to *Cantonment Improvement Committee* to support their food distributions at Carver Park to neighbors in need in North Escambia County.

Manna Volunteers' Impact

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!

4,365 # of Volunteers

14,305.4 # of Volunteer Hours

\$33.49 Value of Volunteer Time Per Hour

IndependentSector.org

6.88 # of Staff Positions Volunteers Fill

\$479,087.85 Value of Volunteers' Service

287,453 # of Meals Volunteer Service Creates



Gulf Winds Credit Union



Dolly Heitz, Publix



Krewe of Priscus

Meet Dana

One of the most touching things that happens at Manna is when someone shares their testimonial with us. It's a story of receiving Manna's services, becoming financially stable, and the difference the food made—a success story. And, every now and then, former recipients come to Manna to give back. That is volunteer Dana's story.

While sorting through donated canned goods in Manna's warehouse with her colleagues, Dana* shared her full-circle moment. She and her family had needed the assistance of Manna a few years ago. She said, at the time, she was working multiple jobs to make ends meet, trying to keep her children fed. But she struggled. So, she came to Manna's pantry for help. Dana said that the food she received ensured that her children would not just eat but eat well. She was very grateful for the food bags provided to her family, and very glad that she could now serve.

**Names are changed to protect privacy.*

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 very much 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

97 cents of every dollar donated to Manna goes directly to our food assistance services. Direct financial support, special 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!



Shawn Esfahani Foundation



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Allen Turner Hyundai

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

