

FOOD & FARMING NETWORK

Building NW Michigan's
Agricultural Future



FOOD ACCESS

HEALTHFUL FOOD FOR ALL

Northwest Michigan is an agricultural wonderland full of enough healthful food to fill the plates of everyone in our community. However, existing barriers and lack of awareness of these barriers make it difficult for many of our neighbors to access this cornucopia. With our region's dedicated farming community and innovative food programs, we can work together to overcome these barriers and secure healthful food for all.

FOOD RESCUE AND MANNA FOOD PROJECT

Serving 94 area food pantries in Northwest Michigan, Food Rescue and Manna Food Project continue to be local forces for bringing healthy, fresh food to those in need. In 2017, Food Rescue and Manna had rescued a total of 1,946,321 pounds of perishable food from local grocery stores, restaurants, and farms and distributed it to those in need. 721,390 pounds of that total was fresh produce, 16.8% of which came from local farms.

Source: Manna Food Project

1,946,321 TOTAL LBS.
PERISHABLE FOOD RESCUED

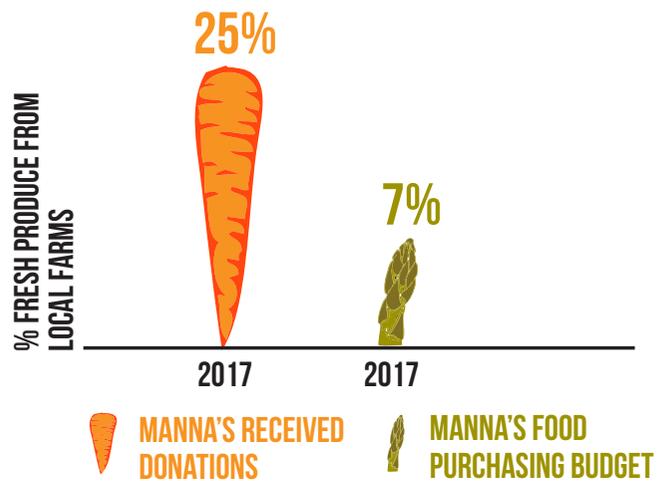
721,390 LBS.
FRESH PRODUCE

16.8%
PRODUCE FROM LOCAL FARMS

DIRECT FROM FARMERS TO PANTRIES AND MEAL SITES

In 2017, 94 pantries and meal sites throughout Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Wexford, Emmet, and Charlevoix counties recorded a total of 756,439 visits by families in need. The Northwest Food Coalition and Manna Food Project have been working hard in Northwest Michigan to bring fresh, healthful food from local farmers to the patrons who visit these pantries. 25% of all fresh produce received by the Manna Food Project in 2017 was donated by local growers. Meanwhile, 7% of their food purchase budget was used to buy additional fresh produce from local farms. These purchases began in July 2017, and Manna plans to increase local purchases by as much as 173% in 2018.

Source: Northwest Food Coalition, Manna Food Project



RURAL FOOD ACCESS

In 2014, Benzie Sunrise Rotary conducted a survey in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Kalkaska counties to improve local understanding of food insecurity in the area. Surveys were conducted with 421 clients during 48 visits to 21 pantries and emergency meal sites throughout the region. With support from Michigan State University's Center for Regional Food Systems, the Food and Farming Network is partnering with Grow Benzie, Groundwork and the Local Food Alliance to facilitate a rural food access survey in 2018 to measure our progress in providing access of local foods to area pantry patrons. Source: Benzie Sunrise Rotary



FARMERS MARKET FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Double Up Food Bucks is a statewide healthy food incentive program of the Fair Food Network which incentivizes local purchasing by doubling the value of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) nutrition benefits spent at participating farmers markets and grocery stores. Although 2015 and 2017 saw the number of SNAP-accepting markets increase by just two, the program's expansion to retail locations has increased the total number of participating Double Up Food Bucks sites in Northwest Michigan from 14 to 22.

Source: Fair Food Network, Michigan Farmers Market Association



SARA HARDY FARMERS MARKET FOOD ASSISTANCE

The Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market is dedicated to creating opportunities for consumers to purchase quality farm-grown goods. This Traverse City farmers market accepts a variety of food assistance programs including: SNAP/EBT, Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb), Project Fresh/WIC, and Senior Project Fresh. While revenue at the market is increasing, the portion of that revenue derived from food assistance programs has steadily declined since 2011. This decline has been attributed to a decrease in statewide funding, as well as an increase in the number of area markets participating in these programs. The Downtown Development Authority processed a total of \$30,873 in all food assistance program transactions in 2017.

Source: Traverse City Downtown Development Authority

