



Helping Hands of Cass County

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Website –helpinghandscassco.org
Tax ID Number – 38-2663969

Our Mission: To serve the economically challenged who live in Cass County and help them bridge the gap.

People Receiving Food



Averaged 104 families/300 people per month receiving food boxes (totaling 3,601 food pantry services)
1,938 Feeding America truck
331 TEFAP
652 Senior Commodities
70 Cass Jail Inmates
300 Seasonal Workers
100 Sam Adams Backpack

6,992 TOTAL FOOD SERVICES

Utility Assistance
57 Families Helped



268 People Received
Clothing



19 People Received
Household Items

Transport Vouchers
50 People Helped



Medicine
6 People

All Pantry Visitors Received
Hygiene Products

2,225 CHILDREN RECEIVED SERVICES OR SUPPORT

- Hygiene products for 555 students
- Clothing & other essential items for 1,229 students
- Baby hygiene supplies/diapers for 217 babies
- Five Star Life programs 112 foster & kinship children
- Christmas for children of jail inmates 28 kids
- Sam Adams Elem. tutoring program 36 children
- Volinia Outcome life skills class 41 students
- Head Start birth certificate support



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- * Helping Hands adopted a relational approach to its food pantry by hiring a Pantry Manager to meet with clients and provide information on services available to them. The pantry moved to 408 East State Street, so pantry users could select from a greater variety of food products. **Pantry use was up nearly 60% from 2023.**
- * In his year of service, CEDAM worker Brandon Anderson completed a “shopping model” pantry, created a pastor’s collaborative, and led the tutoring program.
- * Baby hygiene products and diapers were provided using Norma Frank Trust funds in a continued partnership with Church of Cassopolis LEE Diaper Ministry.
- * A Pokagon Fund grant allowed Helping Hands to purchase food for 300+ seasonal workers arriving in the spring.
- * Funds from the Norma Frank Trust--dedicated to helping families and children--were used to meet basic needs by purchasing hygiene products, clothing, and other essential items for children in 23 schools in Cass County.
- * Excess donations of clothing and household items were shared with area nonprofits to reach countless people.
- * Volunteers and staff from Helping Hands tutored students at Sam Adams Elementary in spring and fall.
- * Store sales and fundraising covered 92% of operating expenses. Thrifters, specialty shoppers, and anyone seeking basic goods at low prices shop at Helping Hands downtown Cassopolis store.

2024 Staff/ Volunteers

Tina Grice, Store Manager,
Miki McKnight, Pantry Manager,
plus 4 other part-time staff and
25 regular volunteers processed
donations and provided
services to the community.

*“Whatever you did
for one of the
least of these
brothers and
sisters of mine,
you did for me.”
Matthew 25:40*

2024 Board of Directors

Joan Murphy, Pres.	Sue Ann Stewart
Leigh Goyings, VP	Carl Ross
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Cheryl Groner, Sec.	Robin Emenaker
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Roger Leach	Sheryl DeLuca
Vicki Vaughn	Mary Howie
Heather Beaudoin	

HELPING HANDS APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT OF churches, individuals, businesses, and other organizations that fund our services or donate food and other items.

Churches

Cassopolis Seventh Day Adventist
Cassopolis United Methodist Church
Church of God (Cassopolis)
Dowagiac First UMC
Glenwood Seventh Day Adv. Church
Granger Community Church
Penn Friends Community Church
Pleasant View Church of Christ
Pokagon Bible Church
St. Ann Catholic Church
United Presbyterian Church
Vandalia Church of God

Funds

American Legion Post 355, Cass.
American Online Giving Foundation
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
Anonymous Fund of Community
Foundation of St. Joseph County
Denise & Adam Gutstein Giving Fund
Ed Lowe Foundation
The Norma Frank Trust Fund for
Children & Families
The Pokagon Fund
Tuesley Family Foundation
Women of the Moose Ch. 413, Niles

Community Partners

ACTION Ministries
Area Agency on Aging
Better World Books
Cassopolis Police Dept.
Cass County Council on Aging
Cass County Parks & Recreation
Cass County Road Commission
Cass County Public Transit
Dowagiac High School
Great Start
Michiana Family Center
Michigan State Police, Niles
Penn Township Pickleball Club
Sam Adams Elementary
Southwestern Michigan College
St. Joseph County United Way
2 Men on a Mission with Friends
Van Buren Cass District Health Dept.
Village of Cassopolis

Food Partners

Cassopolis Community Garden
Cultivate!
Feeding America
Feed the Hungry (Lesea)
Harding’s
Milford Food Bank
SMCAA
Vandalia Community Garden

Businesses

1st Source Bank
Alchemy Wellness
Aldi
Aunt Millie’s Bakery
Boat Butler
Bolt Laserworks
Broadway Café
Cassopolis Dental
Circle Federal Credit Union
CHT
Darr’s Tent & Event Rentals
Diamond Dough
Diamond Lake Association
Diamond Lake Yacht Club
Dowagiac Family Dentistry
Dragonfly Kitchen III
Dussel’s Farm Market
Fisher Printing
Ed Lowe Foundation
EDP Renewables North Am.
Everwise Credit Union
Florea Farms
Forest River
Four Lakes Golf Course
Gaba Paddles
Good Lyfe Farms
G.W. Jones Bank
Hall’s Bait Shop
Hampshire Golf Course
Harding’s Friendly Markets
Hayden & Sons True Value Hardware
The Holden Green Tavern
Hydro Aluminum
Janel’s Industries
Just Hair
Leo’s Bait Shop
McKenzie Highlands, LLC
Meijer
Midwest Energy & Communications
Morris Park Country Club
MPM-C Marshall LLC
Nelson’s Herbs & Farm Market
Orchard Hills Country Club
Paddletek
Park Shore Golf Course
Past Presents and More
Regeneration Farms
Savage Bean
State Farm Ins., Lorie Bowers
South Bend Racquet Club
Stone Lake Grill
Sugar Farms LLC
Vandalia Organics
Village Floral
Wabigon Gardeners
Wakeside Marine
Walmart, Elkhart
C. Wimberley Ford

Individuals

Carol & Dale Bealor
James & Vickie Beebe
Sue Cain
Cass Co. 100 Women Who Care
Shanna Clark
Karen Current
Sheryl DeLuca
Diana Nita & Don DeLong
Mark Dussell
Marty Eby & Diane Seifert
Duane Felton
Bob & Vicki File
Ed Gogol & Brenda McArthur-Gogol
Nancy Goodrich
Leigh Goyings & Dale Blunier
Melody & James Grubbs
Ron Grzeskiewicz
Ed Hall
Greg Howell
Mary Howie
Sally Hunt
Clifton & Heather Hawkins
Daniel & Jeannine Iott
Kevin & Tamilyn Keigley
Rose Kelsheimer
Pat & Ernest Klug
Angela & Tyler Knight
Jeannie & Roger Lawson
Peggy Long
David & Monica Majewski
Dolores McNeary
Deborah & David Miller
Oralia Mitchell
Alivia Mitchell
Steve & Joan Murphy
Robert & Laura Overholser
Valeria Pompa
Tammi Preston
George & Bonnie Purlee
Doris Reynolds
The Rockwell Family
Sharrla Paige Rogers
Carl & Sara Ross
Lauren Sheeley
Paul & Karen Smieciniski
Eileen Smith
Lori & Chris Stanicek
David & Deborah Tuttle
Donna Warren
Amy & Kevin Williams
Becky Young
Bill Zimmer

Partners Providing Teams of Workers

Cassopolis HS Adult Alt. Ed.
Dowagiac HS Students
Granger Community Church
L.A.D.D. Residents/Staff
Pleasant View Church of Christ
SMC Honor Students

Thank you St. Ann Catholic Church for providing utility funding for heat and to Cass County 100 Women Who Care who supported other utility needs.