

## **“The Good News” Newsletter Youth Pantry Survey Results for 2018-2019 School Year**



In January 2017 Emmanuel Episcopal Church opened the Northmen Den Youth Pantry at the Petoskey Middle School with 8 students attending. By the end of this 2018/2019 school year, we have grown to FOUR pantries: **Northmen Dens at the Petoskey MS & HS; Harbor Hut at Harbor Springs MS; & Lakeview Locker at Lakeview Academy HS** which is the Emmet County court appointed school.

We now have over **100+** students shopping each Friday during the school year at their designated school pantry out of the **650** students who are receiving the Free or Reduced Lunch program.

**Our Mission is:** We nourish our neediest middle & high school students by providing weekend food, school snacks, school supplies, clothing & toiletries in a manner that respects dignity, encourages academic success & sustains dreams.

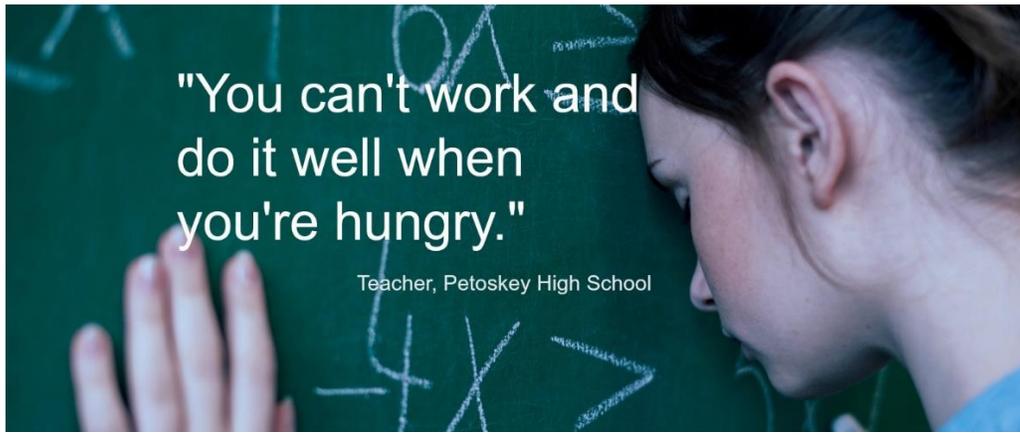
At the end of this school year, we asked our Northmen Den and Harbor Hut students to complete a survey telling what they liked about the youth pantry and what suggestions they had for next year. We also asked teachers and staff to complete a similar survey. *Here is a sampling of the responses.*

### **The Student Survey:**

#### **QUESTION: Tell us what you liked about the Northmen Den/Harbor Hut?**

1. It is a place where **kids can go and not have to worry if they will have a meal** on the table the next day.
2. The den **helped me in every way this school year**
3. **“It helps so my mom dosnt git back on rent [sic]”**
4. Don’t change anything because it is already awesome. **You helped me out a lot, so thank you.**
5. The people are wonderful. Yes, I will shop at the Den next fall. **I shop for me and my brothers.**
6. it helps a lot in my family
7. “it helps me with getting food because **we cant [sic] afford much”**
8. “It is a nice way to help kids in a financial [sic] way.”
9. **Being able to provide for my family and myself.**
10. **“your [sic] able to get food if you don’t have any at home”** I liked the nice people
11. It’s perfect. **Amazing people.**
12. It helps a lot when there is **no food at home.**

**(more on back)**



**Teacher and Staff Survey: Question: From your observations and experiences, please share with us what impact the ND or HH is having on a student(s) who shopped with us this year?**

*100% of the teachers/staff strongly agree the Youth Pantry is a worthwhile service for their students in need.*

- 1. It's hard to believe we have not been doing this all along.**
- 2. Our homeless students need this!**
- 3. Some of my students who go to Den are more positive and respond better to adults.**
- 4. My favorite thing is that this is a non-judgmental program.** I have multiple students who use and love seeing you all. As a matter of fact, I have one student who doesn't need anything, she has everything. However, she comes down every single week to visit, "They make me so happy. They are always smiling. I want to do that when I grow up." **You are not only helping students who greatly need it – you are inspiring others to do kind things for others. Thank you!**
- 5. It provides "relief" – they are fed and have some power over their situation.**
- 6. I have one student who said, "not only do they get us healthy stuff, but they also let us get the food that my friends eat, that my family can't afford, like OREOS!"**
- 7. Students feel valued by volunteers and have established positive adult relationships.** I think getting food **empowers them to take care of their needs.**
- 8. Thanks for all you do! The impact each volunteer is having on these students is wonderful – the warmth and caring with which students are greeted really make them feel special!**
- 9. I believe the impact is priceless. You are giving very unfortunate students a fighting chance.**

**THANKS & GRATITUDE TO OUR MAJOR DONORS (\$100,000+ raised from Jan, 2017 to July, 2019)**

\$15,000+: Emmanuel Episcopal Church \* Fletch's (Give A Kid A Chance) \* Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation

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