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# Family Network News

ISSUE SIX | Summer 2019



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FNTW ANNUAL YARD SALE!

Join us in the Family Network Parking Lot and find a treasure and a bargain! All for a good cause.

### COW PIE BINGO FUNDRAISER AT FAMILY NETWORK

Live Cows; Real Cow Pies! Date to be announced. Grand Prize will be a \$500 gift certificate to a local butcher shop. You do not need to be present to win.

Follow Us on Facebook. We'll publish the dates for these events as soon as they are confirmed.



### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday:  
10:00am-5:00pm

### Pantry Hours

Monday: 2:30-5:00pm  
Wednesday: 1:30-4:30pm  
Friday: CLOSED



## CONTACT US

1029 44th Street SW  
Wyoming MI 49509  
616.885.9919  
fntw.org  
info@fntw.org

facebook.com/familynow

## LIVES CHANGED FOREVER BECAUSE YOU CARE.

People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care. Does that sound like you? They say knowledge is power. The truth is more about what you do with the knowledge. Are you using it for good? Are you making a difference in the lives of others?

We provided food and encouragement while sharing the love of Christ. The couple needed more than just food. Family Network gave them referrals to help with their budget and a plan to sell the non-essential items that they had picked up over the years to help catch up on their bills. It was hard for them to let go of stuff; however, they knew one day that they would get it back.

Over the last number of months, I have had the privilege of speaking with some men and women who have served here at the pantry for a great number of years. One recently retired; he was 93 years old and a World War 2 veteran. He had served his country faithfully as he did this pantry. I asked him why he served here for so many years and his response was "because he could see that we are making a difference in the lives of local families everyday". He cares about the lives of others.



We were able to provide them help finding work because of our jobs program. While they were here we were able to share the gospel with them, and they renewed their faith.

Several months have now passed, and they have saved their home and are doing much better with money management. The kids are doing better as well.

One such family was Peter & Emily. They have several children that they love so very much. Together they made a choice for Emily to be home to raise the kids in a way that mattered to them. Peter had a great job until he got laid off due to changes in the company. They got behind on their mortgage and other bills. After several months of looking for a full-time job the bills stacked up. They were about to lose their house. At one point he worked two jobs to try to get back to the level of income they once had. Still it was not enough. He heard about Family Network of Wyoming and came looking for some help with food and budgeting during these difficult days.

This was made possible by your generous gifts that support the pantry. I want to thank you for your kindness. Together we can teach a man to fish vs giving a man a fish.



May you be safe and be blessed.  
Dale Echavarría, Executive Director

WE PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IN NEED OF FOOD, DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPORT IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.

PLEASE HELP BY ADOPTING A FAMILY - JOIN CLUB 19

Family Network has been known for having the best food in the region for our guests. We feed over 10,000 folks a year. Many of our guests are working their way through tough times. This is where you can help. Here at the pantry we feel that it is very important to be able to feed a family good, healthy food so that there is one less problem for them to fight through. When their issues are addressed, they are ready to face other issues such as getting a job, housing, and so much more.

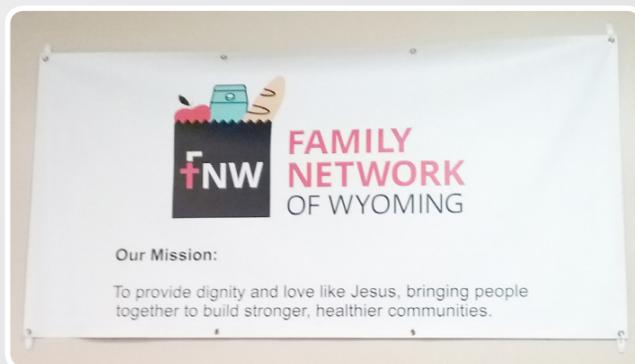
One of the ways that we help them fight for food is through the Club 19 Program. With the help of a sponsor & Feeding America West Michigan, we can get \$10.00 worth of food for every dollar we take in. Through the Club 19 program an individual, family or organization donates \$19.00 a month. That translates in to \$190.00 worth of food that will help feed a family of four. It can really make the difference for this family as they may be out of a job. Or even worse, they may be homeless. Have you ever missed a meal? You know how that feels inside; not very good! What if you missed several meals? What if that person was a family member, your neighbor, a relative or a friend? I am sure that you would want to help. NOW you can. Inside this newsletter you will find a Club 19 brochure to sign up for the program. Join us in adopting a family today. If you have questions about the program feel free to call Sandy at 1-616-885-9919 for more details.



Family Adopted in 2019

HAVE YOU NOTICED OUR NEW LOGO?

We can't tell you how many times folks have come into the pantry and said "So this is where you are. I've driven past for years and never knew what kind of an organization Family Network was." We're trying to help in that regard so that the public knows who we are and what we do. You may have noticed some changes lately as we continue to incorporate our new logo on our signage, brochures and publications. We've made updates to our web page as well (www.fntw.org). Because of the generosity of a donor, we've now been able to update our outdoor sign with our new logo. Our Mission Statement is now proudly displayed on the wall near our front desk. If you haven't had a chance to see them, please check us out. Visit our web page, and Like Us on Facebook. Many have commented that they find it helpful. Do you agree?



SPARTAN/NASH - FAMILY FARE

Announces Upgrades to 8 Local Stores.

We have been fortunate to be one of Family Fare's Community Partners for some time. The upgrades support the community in many ways, including using locally produced products, local suppliers and providing local jobs. We were invited to celebrate with them at the Grand Re-opening of their Burlingame Store.

The evening festivities included a flag raising, ribbon cutting, tastings, tour of the new offerings within the store, AND they presented a pallet of cereal to Family Network. We have been blessed by many of their programs and events, and are appreciative to have been included in this celebration as well. THANK YOU and MAY YOU BE BLESSED!



JOBS PROGRAM



We are proud to announce that we have helped 5 more clients and community service folks find jobs in the workplace. They needed a second chance, came to us for assistance with an updated resume and referral. With the help of **Lumbermen's, Express Employment, and Hascall Steel**, these folks have successfully made their way back into the workplace. There is true joy in seeing someone who was without, but who is now so grateful to have full time work with benefits.

LOOKING FOR WORK?

Ask us about our JOBS PROGRAM

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



### JOANNE

A volunteer at Family Network for about ten years now, Joanne joined the pantry crew while we were still located on 28th Street. She worked her entire career at Old Kent Bank (now 5/3rd) starting as an intern while still in high school. After she retired in January 2009, she quickly decided that she didn't like being idle, and began to look for somewhere nearby to volunteer. Luckily, she found Family Network, and has been with us ever since. You may have seen JoAnne working at an intake desk, assisting clients with their food choices of the day, doing data entry, assisting with special projects like bulk mailings, or working at a fundraising event. Recently, she spent many extra hours at the computer entering existing client records into our new Virtual Case Manager (VCM) database. As with several of our volunteers, Joanne got her family involved as well. Over the years, she enlisted her husband, Ed, her daughter, Michele, and even her grandsons,

Cody and Christopher to give some of their time to Family Network. These days she also volunteers two evenings a month at Holland Home, calling Bingo for the residents there, where her mom resides. Like all our volunteers, she brings her best to Family Network, and we truly appreciate it.



Prayers!

Personal Care products

Non-perishable food items

New "used" truck with lift gate

100 new members to join Club 19

2 Volunteers to work during Food Pantry

to replace 2 who have recently retired

New Outdoor digital sign

Corporate Sponsors



## HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO DRIVE A TRUCK?

This may be your big chance! Join us.  
Give back while having fun.

### Volunteer drivers needed for 2+ hour shifts

1st and 2nd Thursday of each month

5:30 - 7:30pm

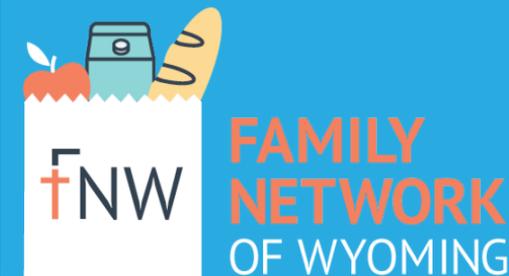
Thursday and Friday mornings weekly

10:45am - 1:00pm

No special certifications required

You just need a valid driver's license.

Call us at 616-885-9919 if you have questions,  
Stop in for an application today!



# Join Club 19

## You Can Make a Difference

### Adopt a family of Four

**A Monthly Sponsorship of \$19 Helps Feed a Family of Four**

*Our goal is to reach 1000 families. Will you please help?*



**\$19 = \$190 Worth of Food**

**When Purchased Through Feeding America**

**Family Network of Wyoming**

**www.fntw.org**

**1029 44th St SW, Wyoming MI 49509**

**For more information contact**  
**Sandy or Dale**

**616. 885. 9919**

All donations are Tax Deductible. Family Network of Wyoming is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

## 2019 GOLF OUTING A SMASHING SUCCESS

This year was filled with lots of golfers, good food, and fun; all to help support families in need.

We had 96 golfers sign up to play on the hottest day of the year. In addition to our annual sponsors, there were 44 companies that helped by sponsoring the event.

Wyoming Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Bolt and Roger Lamer were the chief cooks on duty. Steenstra's Royal Dutch Bakery provided the best rolls and buns in the business for our golfers. They were mighty good.

Some of the events included the boom gun that catapulted a ball almost 400 yards down range. Then there was the putting contest and the hole-in-one contest. I think many folks enjoyed the silent auction as well. A good time was had by all.



## 2019 BRAND IT BLUE CAMPAIGN

What is Brand it Blue all about? It is a program that Express Employment runs every year with a partner in conjunction with their customer base to help make a difference in the community. This year they have selected Family Network of Wyoming to be the key recipient of the program.

Express Employment will help us secure food and personal care products for our guests by placing pick-up boxes in business locations and in the offices of their customers. Their clients will donate much needed personal care items such as toothpaste, bar soap, deodorant, TP and other personal care items along with some key foods. These are the hardest things for us to get as they do not have expiration dates for most of these products. The stores can still sell them for a long time.

Many of our guests who use the pantry have food stamps, WIC cards and/or SNAP cards. These cards allow them to buy food in the stores, but they cannot use them to buy the basics like TP, hand soap, or laundry detergent. This Brand it Blue initiative will really make a difference in the community. We will be picking up the boxes within the next few weeks. Please pray for the success of this program so that we can make a difference in their lives; not just feed them.



# Family Network Food Pantry Fund Raiser 13th Annual Golf Classic



## The Pines Golf Course

5050 Byron Center Ave SW,  
Wyoming, MI 49519



### **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2019 ANNUAL SPONSORS**

*Lumbermen's  
Members First Credit Union*

*Express Employment Professionals  
Vredevoogd-Brummel Insurance Agency*

### **Thank You to our 2019 Sponsors!**

#### **Platinum Sponsors** *Lettinga & Associates LLC-CPA Gelock Heavy Movers*

#### **Gold Sponsors**

COSTCO Wholesale  
Courtesy Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram  
Republic Services

#### **Silver Sponsors**

Above Roofing, Direct Supply, Grandville Printing,  
Matthysse Kuiper De Graaf Funeral Directors,  
Ray's Drive In, Solt Family Dental PLLC,  
Standale Lumber & Interiors, The Architectural  
Group

#### **Bronze Sponsors**

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Flooring America  
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Lake Michigan Credit Union  
Patrick Brewer – Grandville Printing  
Raymond James Financial – G Patrick Bykerk

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Affinity Financial Group – John De Maar,  
Tommy & Sue Brann, Bruinsma Chiropractic,  
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Grandville Optical, Harkes Landscape Management,  
Helder Home Services, Ivanrest Hardware,  
Lake Michigan Carpet Cleaning, Marge's Donut Den,  
Marshall & Wells, Mayor Jack And Mary Poll,  
Richard Postema Associates PC,  
Witte Lawn Maintenance Inc, Weller Auto Parts

#### **Donors**

State Farm Insurance – Doug Jurgens, Elenbaas Hardwoods, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
Rebecca Rymbrandt, Royal Dutch Bakery, Serv U Success, Edward Jones - D. Hibschan