



# LEELANAU CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS

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[www.leelanauchristianneighbors.org](http://www.leelanauchristianneighbors.org)

March, 2023

Dear Church Family,

It seems like it was a minute ago that we were celebrating the beginning of 2023 and we are already into March! We are excited to look forward to all that 2023 has to offer.

Thanks to you and others in our community, we received over \$33,000 in Meijer gift cards! What an outstanding fundraiser that was! We are going to use this money to purchase fresh vegetables and fruits each week for our neighbors. Some of the items we have already purchased are; lemons, garlic, green onions, red grapefruit, oranges, bananas, spinach, squash, cucumbers and the like. Here are some pictures of our produce area that is ready for our neighbors!



One of our neighbors said "I can't remember the last time I had a grapefruit!"

We have been distributing 125, two persons, pre-made meals to our neighbors each Monday since February 6<sup>th</sup>. Josh Deters from the VI Grill is making us some delicious and hearty meals that the neighbors are really enjoying. Many comments have been; "I don't have to cook after a long day at work", "Sometimes I just don't have all the ingredients to make a balanced meal for my family". "I'm starting to eat much better now as it's hard to cook when you live alone". We are pleased to be offering full, cooked and balance meals to our neighbors.

We believe in distributing not just food to our neighbors but healthy fruits, vegetables and lots of great protein. Purchasing 3 hogs and 1 steer every other month helps us fulfill this mission.

While food prices are at an all time high, we are also seeing high rents and utility bills. It's tough out there for our neighbors but with the movies such as "The Razors Edge" a documentary being filmed about food insecurity and homelessness here in Leelanau County and other areas of the USA, articles in local papers and healthy conversations, we will continue to highlight the need for all of us to help our neighbors! The need is real and we all can help.

Affordable housing is on top of everyone's list but for housing to be built we need land to build it on. If you have some acreage that you would like to donate or sell at a great price, we are happy to connect you to the right people. We have given over \$20,000 in the first two months of 2023 assisting in rent and mortgage payments. We can not continue this long term.

Leelanau County is filled with kind and giving individuals and we are very appreciative of all the support we receive.

If you would like to have a conversation regarding our work and the needs we see, please call or email me! I'll be happy to buy you a cup of coffee!

Happy Spring!

Mary Stanton  
LCN, Executive Director  
231-510-0271-cell

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Food Pantry • Neighborhood Assistance Ministry (Financial Assistance)  
Blessings in a Backpack • Baby Pantry • Samaritans' Closet (Resale Store)