

REACH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



Dear LiveWell REACH Program Partners,

As we step into what finally feels like fall, we're taking a moment to reflect on the incredible momentum we've built together throughout Year 1 and 2 of the REACH program. Through collaborative partnerships, shared learning, and a strong commitment to our communities, we've made meaningful strides to support food service guidelines, produce prescription programs, safe and accessible physical activity, and family healthy weight programs. Thank you for the energy, passion, and dedication - your efforts are leaving a lasting impact across Lake, Newaygo, and Oceana counties.

- The LiveWell REACH Team

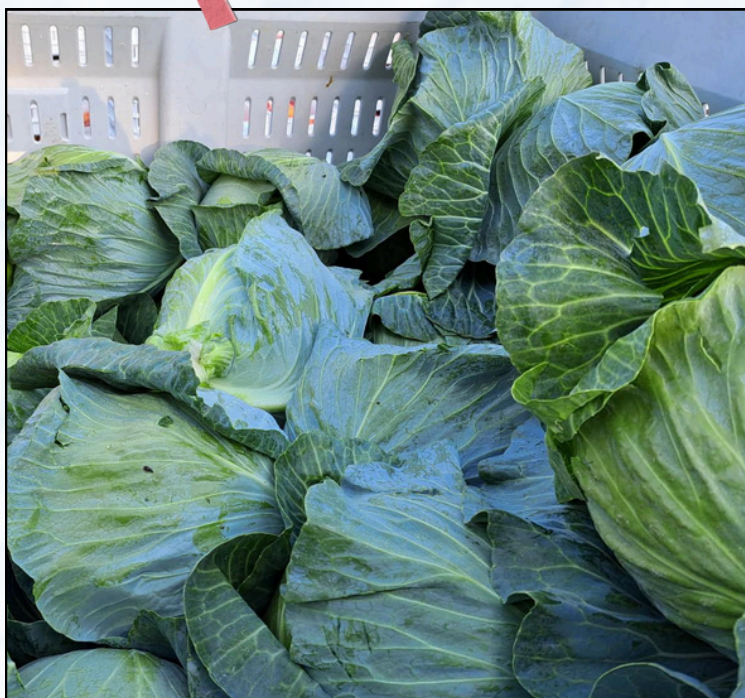


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Spotlight on Rothbury Helping Hands Pantry

Rothbury Community Church's Helping Hands Food Pantry is bringing farm-fresh produce to local families through its ***Let's Help Nourish Our Neighbors*** project. Made possible by generous support from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund Grant and the Bessie E. & Ethan Allen Gray Health Fund of the [Oceana Community Foundation](#), the project launched in June and will continue through Michigan's growing season. At the September's distribution, neighbors took home a delicious assortment of fresh peaches, crisp lettuce, and hearty cabbage - wonderful additions to their tables!



Spotlight on Rothbury Helping Hands Pantry (continued)

In addition to distributing fresh, local produce, the program is making strides in outreach and community awareness. To help spread the word about the \$2,500 grant award from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund, the REACH team developed two social media posts, a video, and a press release. The release was featured on the DHD#10 Facebook page and picked up by the *Oceana County Press*, helping to amplify the impact of this meaningful initiative.

Read the article here: [Helping Hands Food Pantry Receives Grant for Fresh Produce.](#)



Helping Hands Food Pantry receives grant for fresh produce

September 24, 2025



ROTHBURY — The Rothbury Community Church Helping Hands Food Pantry, in collaboration with District Health Department #10 and the Centers for Disease Control's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program, have received a \$2,500 grant from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund. This funding will be used to purchase fresh produce for pantry clients, helping ensure that local families have access to nutritious, healthy food, according to a press release from the department.

The Helping Hands Food Pantry, coordinated by Jeff Wood and Kaye Schmidt, is open to all in need of food on the second Monday of every month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Located at Rothbury Community Church, the pantry serves individuals and families from throughout the community, providing essential food items to those facing food insecurity.

"Our patrons love the fresh fruit and vegetables," said Kaye Schmidt, coordinator of the Helping Hands Food Pantry. "I love my community, and I'm happy when we can provide them with fresh things. They are so appreciative and love when we can offer fresh produce. We are so thankful for the funds that make this possible."

The GLE People Fund is supported by Great Lakes Energy members who choose to have their monthly bills rounded up to the next dollar amount. All contributions are pooled together and donated to nonprofit organizations for charitable activities in the GLE service area. There are no overhead costs — 100 percent of the money collected is returned to the community.



Oceana County on Wheels: Celebrating “The Ride Around Home”

The 2nd annual Ride H.O.M.E. bike event took place on October 4 along the Hart-Montague Trail, bringing cyclists together for a beautiful fall day on the rail trail. Riders enjoyed up to 46 miles of cycling, supported by aid stations and post-ride food. A portion of proceeds supported the Pentwater-Hart Trail.

New this year was *The Ride Around* on October 5 - a 48-mile self-guided tour through scenic Oceana County, featuring stops in Shelby, Little Point Sauble Lighthouse, Silver Lake, Cedar Point County Park, and downtown Pentwater. Strong participation across both days reflected the community's love of cycling and support for local trail expansion.

Pictured at top right is the event flyer, while the bottom left highlights a social media post shared the week of the event, encouraging residents to get outdoors, join, and enjoy the opportunity for physical activity.



THE RIDE AROUND HOME
A WEEKEND OF CYCLING

THE RIDE HOME RAIL TRAIL EVENT OCTOBER 4, 2025 9 AM - 2 PM ✓ OUT AND BACK UP TO 46 MILES ✓ AID STATIONS ✓ POST EVENT FOOD ✓ A PORTION OF PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE PENTWATER HART TRAIL	THE RIDE AROUND TOUR OF OCEANA COUNTY OCTOBER 5, 2025 9 AM - 2 PM - SELF GUIDED TOUR ✓ - AID STATIONS ✓ 48 SCENIC MILES ✓
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EVENT T-SHIRT WITH REGISTRATION
PACKET PICKUP | START | END AT OCEANA BIKE AND BOAT 49 S. STATE STREET
REGISTRATION \$50 PER EVENT OR \$80 FOR BOTH

OCEANABIKEANDBOAT.COM

BikeReg

OCEANA BIKE AND BOAT
HART, MI 49420

PENTWATER HART TRAIL



Celebrating Our Community Champions

The REACH team recently gathered at Pompeii's in Baldwin to celebrate the contributions of our dedicated community champions. Twelve individuals came together for an evening of dinner, conversation, and reflection on the work accomplished and the goals ahead.

Kylie Davis shared a bilingual (English and Spanish) slideshow showcasing some of the year's most impactful moments, all made possible through the commitment of our champions. These individuals are the heart of our efforts: building trust, fostering connections, and helping us better support their communities. We're deeply grateful for their time, energy, and partnership.

Community Champions

Sofia



Escoto

Cynthia



Hernandez

Erica



Tate

Mike



Stevens

Shawn



Ware

Celebrating Our Community Champions (continued)



Photo Above (Left to Right): Shawn Ware, Erica Tate, and Cynthia Hernandez



Photo Above (Top Right to Left): Katie Miller, Jasmine Hibma, Shawn Ware, Cynthia Hernandez, Qur'an Griffin, Steven Jones, and Catalina Burillo
(Bottom Right to Left): Kylie Davis, Katie Haner, Alisa Sponseller, and Erica Tate

