**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Manna Food Bank recognizes Hunger Action Month in September**

**Pensacola, FL** (September 1, 2021) – For Hunger Action Month this September, Manna Food Bank, along with countless other food banks and pantries across the nation, invites our communities’ citizens to learn about food insecurity and to take action for lasting change.

The month-long observance was created to inspire the public to get involved and raise awareness of hunger in America. Food insecurity rates in Escambia County, Santa Rosa County, Florida, and the entire United States had all shown steady decline (fewer people in need of food assistance) over the four years prior to the pandemic. However, once the effects of COVID-19 were felt, the rate of food insecurity jumped. In children, food insecurity rose from 1-in-5 affected locally to 1-in-3.

In recognition of Hunger Action Month, Manna encourages Northwest Florida citizens to get involved by donating food, donating funds, volunteering, and/or advocating for hunger relief. On its social media pages, Manna will share a different way you can support our neighbors in need each day in September.

For more information, please visit [www.mannahelps.org](http://www.mannahelps.org).

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**About Manna**

Manna’s mission is to offer emergency food assistance, service the food-related needs of vulnerable populations, and engage the entire community in the fight against hunger. A local grassroots organization with no national affiliation or government funding, Manna provided food to 35,417 people last year. Manna operates a network of three emergency food distribution pantries and 12 specialty programs with 14 community partners in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.