**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Help Krewe of Lafitte *Pack the Pirate Ship* with non-perishable food for Manna December 17!**

**Pensacola, FL** (December 7, 2021) –This holiday season Krewe of Lafitte, Astro Lincoln, Pensacola Blue Wahoos, WKRG News 5, and Manna Food Pantries invite the public to *Pack the Pirate Ship* with healthy nonperishable food donations for our neighbors in need in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The iconic ship parade floats will be ready to collect donations for the *Pack the Pirate Ship* food drive on Friday, December 17, 2021, from 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. at Astro Lincoln in car city, 6350 Pensacola Boulevard, Pensacola and at the Pensacola Blue Wahoos Stadium, 351 West Cedar Street, Pensacola.

Donating on the day of *Pack the Pirate Ship* is easy! Supporters can remain safely in their vehicles while volunteers offload their food donations at one of Krewe of Lafitte’s Pirate Ship floats. Financial gifts (cash, credit/debit cards and checks) are also greatly appreciated. A donation of $25.00 will provide food for five days to a senior citizen in need, and $50.00 will provide 30 healthy meals for a child.

“Manna suffered a concerning drop in food donations over the last year-and-a-half. In turn, we spent more on food purchases than we’ve ever had to before to keep up with demand,” said Manna Executive Director DeDe Flounlacker. “Our community is an extremely generous one, but the need for food assistance is still great, which is why we are so grateful to Krewe of Lafitte for hosting this food drive,” she said.

Manna’s most needed items are:

* Canned Fruit in 100% Juice (16 oz. and smaller)
* Canned Mixed Vegetables (16 oz. and smaller)
* Chicken and Tuna (canned and pouches)
* Oatmeal (boxes of single-serve packets)
* Peanut Butter (1 lb. jars and individual cups)
* Microwaveable Dinners (e.g. Hormel Compleats)
* Canned Beans

Manna accepts and appreciates all nonperishable food donations. To ensure food safety, we cannot accept any rusty or unlabeled cans, perishable items, homemade items, noncommercial canned or packaged goods, alcoholic beverages, or items that have been used or opened.

“It’s important to Krewe of Lafitte members to give back to our community. Over the past couple of years, it has been harder to hold events, but we wanted to find a way to make a difference for those in need,” said Keith Carson, Krewe of Lafitte Treasurer. “We know that hunger is still a significant problem in Northwest Florida, and by supporting the work of Manna, we know that we can make a big difference for those in need.”

For more information, please visit [www.MannaHelps.org](http://www.MannaHelps.org) or call (850) 432-2053.

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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 31,014 people last year. Manna operates a network of three emergency food distribution pantries and 15 specialty programs with 17 community partners in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.