President’s Message
By Rick Mueller

ECHO Myths and Urban Legends

Dictionary.com defines a myth as a legendary story with or without a determinable basis, an unproven collective belief. Wikipedia defines an urban legend as a form of modern folklore consisting of stories that may or may not have been believed by their tellers to be true. Every day I hear many myths and urban legends involving ECHO from friends, relatives, co-workers, and people on the street. In this article I will address some of these myths and attempt to discern ECHOfact from ECHOfiction.

Myth. ECHO is just a food pantry. False. Food is a very important service, but ECHO also provides emergency housing from homelessness, assistance with rent and security deposit, help with transportation to work, school supplies in the fall, presents at Christmas, and baskets for Easter. And ECHO staff assist and counsel clients along the path out of poverty.

Myth. Most ECHO resources go to Illinois. False. I am sure you have all heard the urban legend about the young woman who comes out of ECHO with a full cart of groceries and loads them into her boyfriend’s brand new SUV with Illinois license plates. The details change; sometimes the young woman is a mother carrying a child, sometimes the vehicle is a sportscar, sometimes it is five or six cars with Illinois plates. The fact is ECHO works very hard to make sure that all ECHO resources stay local. All ECHO clients are required to show a picture ID, proof of residency showing a Janesville address, and proof of income to qualify for an ECHO ID card and receive ECHO services. This information is checked periodically to monitor changes in client status. The purpose of this is to be good stewards of ECHO resources and donations and make sure they get to ECHO clients who need and deserve them.

Myth. All ECHO clients are lazy and don't want to work. False. Most ECHO clients have jobs and work very hard. Some of them have more than one part time job but just don’t make very much money. Many ECHO clients have complicating factors due to their poverty that make employment more difficult, such as health issues, unstable housing, unreliable transportation, and difficult family environments. ECHO staff work with clients in evaluating needs and link them with services to improve their job skills to obtain higher paying jobs and improve the quality of their lives. (Continued on page 11)
ECHO is in the midst of its 20th summer fund drive, Christmas in July, which was launched in 1996 when we had to shut down services because of increased need, limited resources, and growing awareness that many people think our business slows down after the holidays and in summer. It doesn’t slow down, and we experience a funding drought three of the four seasons in a year. In 1998, we added the component of Need Doesn’t Take a Summer Vacation and extended the fund drive to other summer months.

I can’t sugarcoat it. We are out of money and have been operating on a loan. As donations come in, we pay the bills first, and if any money is left, we pay some of the principal of the loan (in addition to the interest). There is no money in other accounts—no money stashed away. We do not deny services to people who we otherwise would have helped when we have funds in order to save money for later. We feel it’s just not right and can be a form of discrimination. Admittedly, this also puts us at risk of running out of money, but it is easier to explain to people why you are denying services when you are literally out of money and operating on a loan, and they understand that better. It is, of course, best to not be in that position.

Most years, we have to cut back on some services for short periods when donations are down. Our worst period is typically September - October. This year, it started in early February. We didn’t have enough carry-over from 2014 holiday donations. Also, funding the first half of 2015 is down 19% from what it was the first half of 2014. Local donations are down 34%, but our use of housing grant funds was up 64% - that actually means we will have less in the second half, because our total grant funding is not increased for 2015. Typically, our funding is 83% local and 17% grants. Of the local funds, 96% comes from churches, individuals, businesses and our fundraisers, and 4% comes from United Way.

ECHO’s local funding is down 19% from January – June 2015, compared to the same period in 2014. Church donations are down 32%. Donations from Faith-based Groups and Events are down 100% – we haven’t received our 25% of the CROP Walk donations raised; last year, Church World Service sent most of it by the end of June. Our Spring Dance wasn’t well attended and made little over the cost to put it on – there were some unexpected big conflicts, such as athletic teams making it to State, and a big fundraiser at JPAC that wasn’t scheduled when we picked our date for the dance. Other Contributors donations are down 40%. The Feinstein Challenge always helped us in this category in March and April. It wasn’t the grant we received from the challenge that made the difference; it was the spark it gave people – people like challenges. I indicated in our spring newsletter that Mr. Feinstein retired and ended the challenge.

The local economy is better – we can only guess why the numbers are down. We are not out on the streets at local businesses to collect funds from people as they shop, so we are not as visible, and we don’t get a feel for people’s resources, shopping activity or frequency. If you have heard anything, tell us.

We can only surmise what people may be thinking or saying. Some people may think that we must be doing fine, because we are undertaking a big building project that is very visible. I described the additions, remodeling and the reasons they are needed to you in the spring newsletter. I also indicated in the newsletter and in various media venue that this entire building project was evaluated, along with our good reputation for delivering services, and approved by a donor who requests anonymity. This donor is paying for the whole project, as described in a grant application submitted last summer. It was determined that ECHO needed this project to provide services more effectively and efficiently. None of this grant can be used for those services.

People may think we are doing fine, because people are streaming in for services, very visibly because of the construction forcing us to have the clients come in and out of the single door on Court Street. Food has to come through the main front door as staff, volunteers, donors, etc. Our Food Services cost us money to buy, transport and store, although a lot of food is also donated. Our Housing Services (Rent Assistance and Lodging) and Case management are our biggest costs.
Some people like to donate to agencies that fit niches they identify with, such as subcategories of the population: low income or homeless children; the elderly; people who are homeless; families; single men; single moms; women who are abused; people with physical, cognitive, or emotional disabilities; veterans; people with medical needs; etc. ECHO helps all of them – all of the low-income population. Some of them may get some services elsewhere, but they all come here for many of their basic needs, such as a roof over their heads and food on their tables.

Some people like to donate to agencies that focus on particular services, such as food; school supplies for youth; Christmas gifts for youth and families; bus tokens or gas cards for people to get to work; shelter for children, women, and/or men who are homeless; personal and household supplies; diapers and baby food; etc. ECHO provides all of those services, and we coordinate them with other services in the community.

Some people say - ECHO: that’s a nice place that helps people with food. That is a kind and true statement, but it doesn’t convey the message that it costs money to provide services. ECHO does the day-to-day work of meeting basic human need, simply because it exists, and ECHO works to address the underlying problems. For 46 years, ECHO has grown from being a food pantry to being a vital charity organization serving low-income families in our community with many services. The community has come to expect that ECHO will help low income families with many vital services. Usually, we are able to help them, after evaluating their needs and resources. In most cases, ECHO is a client’s last hope for assistance during a time of an emergency for that family.

We don’t have a fund development or marketing person on staff. Our overhead is low – 98% of donations go to direct assistance. The costs increase for food we provide, rents we pay, and many other support services and staffing. This requires a proportionate increase in support. ECHO projects an estimate of donations that will come in and what services will be provided. If cash flow slows down, we have to cut services.

ECHO has provided service to over 2,286 unduplicated, or different, households (HHs), with 9,200 people in those HHs, the first half of 2015. We are on track to serve at least 3,600 HHs, with over 14,400 people in those HHs, in 2015. Many of them come in monthly, but this count refers to counting them the first time.

Sustainability and perseverance shadow us at ECHO. Despite operating on a loan and cutting back services for 4-5 months already this year, we have persevered and provided over 1.6 million meals, 194 months of rent assistance, personal supplies to over 18,874 people, over 6,000 hours of case management, etc. in the first half of 2015. ECHO’s strategies are focused on food access through our pantry and emergency rent assistance to keep a roof over people’s heads. Our housing program stresses landlord and tenant connections, financial counseling, and direct access to stabilize housing, in our efforts to reduce the number of homeless families in our area.

The success of ECHO’s 20th annual Christmas in July and Need Doesn’t Take a Summer Vacation summer fund drive is vital. The Ripple Effect is similar to our slogan Life is an ECHO—what you send out, you get back! All of those little things you do in every moment of your life can ripple out to create endless changes in the lives of others. We are grassroots, not part of a national organization. Local support is our lifeblood. ECHO needs to stay afloat to help the vulnerable in our community. Having stable housing, food and other basics gives people hope that they can tackle obstacles in their path toward achieving self-sufficiency. Your actions make a difference at ECHO, in this community, and in your lives and hearts. Thank You! Karen Lisser

ECHO needs volunteers to help in the food pantry and unload food donations. If you would like to volunteer, please call Fran at 754-5333 to schedule a visit to fill out the volunteer application.
2015 Janesville CROP Hunger Walk

We reached for the clouds this year with our goal of crossing the $1,000,000 mark for total funds raised during the 38 Janesville CROP Hunger Walks. We met and exceeded our goal by $14,843.95!

The total raised, because of your generosity, during the 38th Janesville CROP Hunger Walk was $45,024.95. ECHO will receive 25% or $11,256.23 of that amount. ECHO should have received the first check by the time you are reading this newsletter. Thank you so much for your extraordinary generosity!

Special thanks to the churches who raised the money and their recruiters who did the behind the scenes work of encouraging individuals to walk and then receiving and counting the funds they raised.

Asbury United Methodist  Kirk Demmon
Cargill United Methodist  Deb Kline-Tollefson
Faith Lutheran  Jim Tollefson
First Christian  Martin Huckstep
First Congregational  Carolyn Brandeen
First Lutheran  Eric Engen
First Presbyterian  Wes Green
Good Shepherd Lutheran  Dianne Punzel and Todd Sullivan
Mt Calvary Lutheran  Gloria Huschka
Mt Zion United Methodist  Ruth Watt
Rock Prairie United Presbyterian  Shari Faber
St John Lutheran  Lori Haldeman
St Mark Lutheran  Rev. Paul Speerbrecher
St Mary Catholic  Lynn Soat
St Patrick Catholic  Mike and Kathy Farrey
St Peter Lutheran  Karen Goelzer McKaig
Trinity Episcopal  Ann Wanke

This was an historic Walk because we crossed the $1,000,000 mark for funds raised during the 38 Janesville CROP Hunger Walks. We honored those who had participated in the first CROP Hunger Walk in 1977. They are: Marj and Bob Banner of Asbury United Methodist; Julie Farnsworth of Good Shepherd Lutheran; Karen Goelzer McKaig of St Peter Lutheran; Deb Kline Tollefson and Al Bennett of Cargill United Methodist.

We are grateful for your commitment to ending hunger and providing clean and safe drinking water for children and families across the world.

Housing Affordability in America

Families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care. An estimated 12 million renter and homeowner households now pay more than 50 percent of their annual incomes for housing. A family with one full-time worker earning the minimum wage cannot afford the local fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment anywhere in the United States.

From Housing and Urban Development

Participate with 3 easy steps

☐ Get an Eat Well, Give Well card at Skelly's during your next purchase.

☐ Live healthy by buying fresh produce at Skelly's.

☐ A non-profit of your choice receives a 10% donation of all your produce purchases when you show your card.

Location: 2713 Hayner Road - Janesville, WI
Homelessness can happen to anyone. On any given night, as many as 200 individuals and families in Rock County are assisted by local shelter providers. Many who seek these services are placed on waiting lists.

On Friday, November 6, 2015 the first Sleep Out to End Homelessness event will be held at the Rock County Fairgrounds. Five local organizations are uniting to raise awareness and funds to support local programs and services assisting Rock County’s homeless population. Event proceeds will benefit: ECHO, Edgerton Community Outreach, G.I.F.T.S., House of Mercy, and Project 16:49.

Participants commit to sleep out at the fairgrounds and gather sponsors to raise money for the cause. Prizes will be awarded to the top individual and group, youth and adult fund raisers. At the event, participants will have the opportunity to discuss, think and learn about homelessness in Rock County. Individuals, families, youth groups, church congregations, service and fraternal organizations, school clubs, and corporate teams are encouraged to participate.

While there is no way that a single night can replicate the helplessness and personal pain of truly being homeless, Sleep Out participants should leave with a better understanding of:

◊ homelessness in Rock County and its causes
◊ challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness
◊ community resources available to assist the homeless and increase their self-sufficiency
◊ how we, as individuals and a community, can play a role in creating and supporting change

To find out how to sign up and sleep out to end homelessness, please visit www.rock-hitf.org.

Food Insecurity Info

48.8 million Americans—including 16.2 million children—live in households that lack the means to get enough nutritious food on a regular basis. As a result, they struggle with hunger at some time during the year.

Food-Insecure Families

Food insecurity—the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food—exists in 17.2 million households in America, 3.9 million of them with children.

Rates of food insecurity are substantially higher than the national average among households with incomes near or below the federal poverty line, among households with children headed by single parents (35.1% of female-headed households with children are food-insecure) and among Black and Hispanic households.

From http://www.nokidhungry.org/
SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Crayons (24 pack)
- Glue & Glue Sticks
- Watercolors
- 3-Ring Binders
- Scissors
- Pencils & Colored Pencils
- Pens (Black, Blue & Red)
- Markers & Dry Erase Markers
- Highlighters
- Black Sharpie Markers
- Rulers
- Supply Box/Bag
- Erasers (pink & pencil top)
- Pencil Sharpener with cover
- Spiral Notebooks (wide & college ruled)
- Notebook Paper (wide & college ruled)
- Scientific Calculators
- Pocket folders
- Ear Buds/Phones
- Backpack

Academy of Cosmetology, Anchor Bank, Associated Bank, Badger Veterinary Clinic, Basics, Big Lots, Commercial Bank, Data Dimensions, First Community Credit Union, The Gazette, Hagen CPA, Jax Custom Graphics, Johnson Bank, McDonalds, Office Pro, Park Place Chiropractic, Rock County Clerks Office, Rock-Green Realtors Association, St. Mary’s Hospital, Walgreens, WCLO/WJVL

ECHO is preparing for approximately 800 children to apply for the August 21st School Supply Distribution. With no money in the ECHO budget for school supplies and other needed services, ECHO desperately needs your help to make sure no child goes without the basic supplies to get their school year off to a good start. Checks can be mailed to the ECHO School Supply Fund at 65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548, or use PayPal at www.echojanesville.org. Call 754-5333 if you have any questions about the program or would like to volunteer.
Name: Mary Hunt

How long have you volunteered for ECHO? At least 15 years.

How did you get involved at ECHO? When ECHO moved into its current building I felt I could and should volunteer my Monday mornings.

What do you do at ECHO? Generally I fill orders for food and personal items.

What is your favorite thing about ECHO? My experiences meeting other volunteers. A group of good friends to work with and sometimes even to visit with outside of ECHO.

What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering? Nothing surprised me as my church was and still is a big supporter of ECHO.

www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville

to find out more about what is going on at ECHO real time

Summer Fund Raiser

We need your help in reaching our goal to better serve families here, in our community, in need of housing, shelter, food, clothing, and other necessities that no one should be without.

Please make a donation that will help families in need.

The options are endless and so is the need.

Can you help by donating to ECHO to assist in paying for items & many that have not been mentioned below?

- $ 20 – Gas so someone can go to work.
- $ 52 – Monthly bus pass to get someone to work.
- $ 80 – 1 week of groceries for a family in need.
- $200 – 1 week of lodging for a homeless family.
- $600 – 1 month rent to prevent a family from becoming homeless.

Life is an ECHO — what you send out, you get back!

Please make checks payable to ECHO and send to ECHO, 65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548

To pay by credit card call 608-754-5333 or visit www.echojanesville.org

Name ____________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State: ________ Zip: ______________
Phone #: ______________________ E-Mail: _________________________________
Upcoming ECHO Events

Tenth Annual Culinary Delight
September 26, 2015
Janesville Country Club

Enjoy an Excellent Culinary Experience with a Silent Auction and Live Music by Yuri Rashkin!
Cash Bar & Passed Hors d’oeuvres at 6:00pm and Dinner served at 7:00pm
Cost is $75 per person ($40 is tax deductible)
Reservations by check can be mailed to ECHO at 65 S High St., Janesville, WI 53548 or make a payment by Credit Card on our website at www.echojanesville.org. For more info, please call Jessica at 754-5333.

Presented by
Nowlan & Mouat LLP

Empty Bowls
October 24, 2015
Parker High School
11am to 2:00pm
More info at www.echojanesville.org

JOIN ECHO AT THE
2nd Annual Turkey Trot
November 14, 2015
Riverside Park
Register at www.echojanesville.org

ECHO Holiday Express
Sunday, Nov. 29, 2015
at the Pontiac Convention Center
Adopt a Family Sign-Up Begins
The holiday season is about 6 months away. ECHO is once again looking forward to assisting low-income families in need this year through our Adopt A Family program. Individuals and organizations are asked to consider adopting one or more families to help provide hope and joy during the holiday season.

Families that are served by ECHO are on limited incomes and struggle to afford their basic needs, such as rent, electricity, transportation, and food. The holiday season can bring on even more stress to a family adding in extra expenses to one’s budget. Without the benefit of holiday programs, many families would not be able to have the pleasure of waking up to their children’s excited faces and squeals of glee after seeing gifts under the Christmas tree.

Families are picked randomly by the ECHO staff, then given a “wish list” to complete. Items include clothing, toys, and household necessities. Once a “wish list” is completed, it is assigned a family number and matched to a donor. Donors receive the list with first names, ages, and any other relevant information needed to be able to purchase gifts for their chosen family. ECHO asks that 2-3 gifts are bought per family member, and donors only adopt a family that fits within their own budget. To adopt a family, please contact Jessica Schafer-Locher at 754-5333 or jschafer@echojanesville.org.

ECHO, as well as the families who have participated in the Adopt A Family program, greatly appreciate all the individuals and organizations that have generously adopted a family in years past. We are looking forward to working with you again and making this holiday season a memorable one for many families.

Thank You!

Janesville Farmer’s Market Voucher Program
Thank you to the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin and their donors for raising funds so our neighbors in need can visit the Janesville Farmer’s Market to purchase fresh local food.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
Thank you, Chef Stan Arnold and your volunteers who helped ECHO show appreciation to our many wonderful volunteers during Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Letter Carriers’ Food Drive
Many thanks to all Janesville Post Office employees, volunteers, and donors who collected over 22,000 pounds of food for ECHO.

Eat Out for Hunger
Thank you to our 2015 Eat Out for Hunger participating restaurants: Citrus Cafe, Culver's, Dairy Queen West, Eagle Inn Family Restaurant, East Point Sportz Pub, Hammy's Roadside Bar, Hhffrrrggh Inn, H&S Hibachi and Sushi, Kealy's Kafe, Knutes Bar and Grill, Lucy's Loon Lake Coffee & Deli, Mac's Pizza Shack, Menchie's, Milwaukee Grill, My Apartment Pub & Grill, Panda Garden, Peking Chinese Restaurant, Prime Quarter Steakhouse, Sneakers Sports Bar & Grill, South Padre Sea Food, and Wedge Inn East.

Boardtracker Harley-Davidson Bike Night
Thank you to Boardtracker Harley-Davidson, Grey Matter Mechanics, Lions Quick Mart, Jax Custom Printing, and all who came for a great night of music at ECHO’s Bike Night on June 16th.

Daniel’s Sentry West Annual Summer ECHO Cookout
ECHO thanks Sentry for organizing a wonderful day of family friendly fun and all who gave at the 5th Annual ECHO Cookout on June 20th at Daniels Sentry West.
In Memoriam:
Since our last newsletter, we received contributions in memory of the following ECHO friends. Their families and friends are in our thoughts and prayers.

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<tr>
<th>Christopher Bouton</th>
<th>Michael A. Fox</th>
<th>Marie Quade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Donald “Charlie” Chambers</td>
<td>Alice Franklin</td>
<td>Madge Schaitel</td>
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<td>Ian Christine</td>
<td>Floyd James Inke</td>
<td>Mark Severance</td>
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<td>“Ginny” Cieslewicz</td>
<td>Louise Koenen</td>
<td>Arnold Simeth</td>
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<td>Walt Couey</td>
<td>James Lee</td>
<td>Claude &amp; “Duke” Snyder</td>
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<td>Daniel B. DuBois</td>
<td>Rudy Lindholm</td>
<td>Clem Sonntag</td>
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<td>Dolores Ellison</td>
<td>Roy Manz</td>
<td>Ginny Spors</td>
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<td>Anne Griffiths</td>
<td>Kay McCrone</td>
<td>Marion Vencill</td>
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<td>Helen Hugunin</td>
<td>Jack Pregont</td>
<td>Donna Wilson</td>
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<td>Leona Fanning</td>
<td>Ronald Pulcine</td>
<td>Everett Winchell</td>
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In Honor:
We join the families and friends in congratulating the following ECHO friends who were honored by donations in celebration of their birthday, anniversary, or special occasion.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fred &amp; Sandy Clint – 50th Anniversary</th>
<th>Jessica Schafer Locher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Betty Gilbert – 83rd Birthday</td>
<td>Harry &amp; Sharon Roberts – 50th Anniversary</td>
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<td>Father James Kuhn - Retirement</td>
<td>Karen Seichter – Birthday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randy Lansing</td>
<td>Judy &amp; Michael Stoney – Anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martha Morehart</td>
<td>Father Stephen Umhoefer - Retirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne &amp; Lynda Olson – 50th Anniversary</td>
<td>Gary Wallace</td>
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We thank you all for thinking of ECHO!
Memorial and honorarium card packets are available at the ECHO office or through participating churches. Each packet contains:
1. An ECHO information sheet and envelope for you to mail or bring in your donation to ECHO.
2. A postcard to send to the person or family to let them know that a donation was made to ECHO in honor or memory of the person you are remembering.
3. Checks may be made payable to ECHO, Inc. (Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.)

ECHO Mailbag

Thank you so much for the work you do for the community!
Angel

I am glad I can help, though I know it is but a small bit towards your needs. Best wishes to all of you.
Elizabeth Reid

In honor of Betty Gilbert (ECHO Board Member), who is a wonderful and persuasive advocate of ECHO and all it does.
Evelyn & Charlie

Time for another contribution to your important outreach in the community.
The Atwoods

Thank you for helping our community!
St. John Vianney Kindergarten Class
**Food and Fund Drives**

Special thanks to the following businesses and organizations that held food, fund and other drives:

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<tr>
<th>A &amp; H Trucking</th>
<th>Kwik Trip</th>
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<tr>
<td>Asbury United Methodist Church</td>
<td>Little Debbie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bimbo Bakeries USA</td>
<td>MacFarlane Pheasant Farm</td>
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<td>Birds Eye</td>
<td>Moose Club</td>
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<td>Brownberry Bread</td>
<td>Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church</td>
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<td>Butternut Bakery</td>
<td>Mt. Zion United Methodist Church</td>
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<td>Cargill United Methodist Church</td>
<td>Nativity of Mary Catholic Church and School</td>
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<td>Catholic Charities</td>
<td>NHA-WIC</td>
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<td>Chambers &amp; Owen</td>
<td>Olive Garden</td>
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<td>Chipotle</td>
<td>Peace Lutheran Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country Quality Dairy</td>
<td>Pepsi</td>
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<td>Crystal Farms</td>
<td>Pick’n Save</td>
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<td>Daniel’s Sentry Food Stores</td>
<td>Riverplace Senior Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunkin’ Donuts</td>
<td>Rock County 4-H Junior Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>E &amp; D Water Works</td>
<td>Rock Green Realtors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faith Lutheran Church</td>
<td>Rock Prairie Presbyterian</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Congregational Church</td>
<td>Royal Neighbors of America - Chapter 310</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Lutheran Church</td>
<td>St. John Lutheran Church</td>
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<td>First Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>St. John Vianney Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardner Bakery</td>
<td>St. Mark’s Lutheran Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girl Scouts #3110 &amp; 3575</td>
<td>St. Matthew Lutheran Church &amp; School</td>
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<td>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</td>
<td>St. Patrick Catholic Church</td>
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<td>Harmony Elementary School</td>
<td>St. Paul Lutheran Church</td>
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<td>Hedberg Public Library</td>
<td>St. Peter’s Lutheran Church</td>
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<td>Hendricks Properties</td>
<td>St. William Catholic Church</td>
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<td>Hormel</td>
<td>Sam’s Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin</td>
<td>Schnucks</td>
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<td>Hunger Task Force - Milwaukee</td>
<td>Seneca Foods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay’s Big Rolls</td>
<td>Starbucks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janesville Womans Club</td>
<td>TOPS Chapter #395</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jones Dairy Farm</td>
<td>We Are ECHO</td>
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<td>Kids Against Hunger</td>
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**President’s Messaged Continued from page 1**

Myth. ECHO executive director Karen Lisser secretly advises Badger basketball coach Bo Ryan on how to run his program and was Bo’s first choice to replace him after he retires next year. False. I am not sure where this rumor started, but I have not found any evidence to suggest that Bo relies on Karen’s extensive knowledge and management expertise and Karen denies there is any connection between her and Bo. But, if it is supposed to be a secret, and Karen denies it, maybe…..ok, just checking to see if you are still reading.

Myth. ECHO competes with other social service agencies. False. ECHO works closely with other social service organizations to meet the needs of its clients and is a leader in addressing poverty issues in our community. ECHO staff act as a clearinghouse of social services by referring clients to organizations like House of Mercy, Health Net, the Job Center, and the Salvation Army.

The last myth I would like to address is that ECHO always has lots of money. This is absolutely positively false. Because of ECHO’s unwavering belief in its mission, we are always going to be tight on cash. We depend on your support to do ECHO’s good work and that has never been more true than right now. Our clients are not a myth. They are real people who need our help to put a roof over their heads, to put food on their tables, to give them hope for a better life.
ECHO Calendar of Events

♦ 8/21 School Supply Distribution –
at St. John Lutheran Church


♦ 10/24 Empty Bowl Soup Fundraiser –
  11 AM - 2 PM at Parker High School

♦ 11/6 Sleep Out to End Homelessness –
  6 PM at the Rock Co. 4-H Fairgrounds

♦ 11/14 Turkey Trot –
  8 AM at Riverside Park

♦ 11/21 Thanksgiving Basket Distribution –
  at the Rock Co. 4-H Fairgrounds

♦ 11/29 Holiday Express –
  at the Pontiac Convention Center

Upcoming ECHO Board Meetings:
8/17, 9/21, 10/19, 11/16, No December Meeting

ECHO NEEDS YOUR LARGE BROWN
PAPER BAGS, PLASTIC BAGS, TWIST TIES & PLASTIC BOTTLES
Drop them off at ECHO
Mon.-Fri. 9am-Noon, or Mon.-Thur. 1-4pm

We have 15 households requesting fans. Please donate a new fan so they can keep cool this summer.