A few weeks ago I went on my annual camping and fishing trip in the U.P. of Michigan. It was nothing fancy, no electricity, cell service, or running water. I like camping like this because it is always a challenge to try and get along without all the modern conveniences we take for granted every day. It’s not survival camping with two sticks and a pair of flip flops but it is more fun without all the stuff. But this trip was different. No matter what I did, I kept thinking about all the people that have to live like this all the time because they are homeless. I am not talking about peace and quiet, great sunsets, and smores over the campfire. I’m talking about trying to stay dry when it is raining, cooking your food without a stove, staying warm when it is cold, and finding a safe place to sleep at night. Everything I did that week I tried to imagine what it would be like to have to do that all the time if I were homeless. I had a great time and we caught lots of fish but, especially with lots of rain and temperatures in the 40s, at night by the end of the week I was ready for a hot shower and a nice, soft bed.

The next week I slid back into my daily routine of phone calls, work, and meetings and everything got back to normal. But on Wednesday of that week I helped ECHO and the other organizations of the Homeless Intervention Task Force do their semi-annual homeless count. We went out at 1:30 am looking in all the places we thought people would go if they had no place to live. We checked parks, parking lots, truck stops, bridges, greenbelts, and vacant lots. While we were driving around looking, I kept thinking about my camping experience and how the challenges I faced were nothing compared to what people that are homeless face every day.

It is hard for most people to think of homelessness as a problem in Rock County because we don’t see it every day. But just because we don’t see it doesn’t mean it isn’t there. Some sleep in their cars, some stay in shelters, some couch hop from friend to friend, and some camp in remote areas. During our homeless count there were 8 people who did not have a place to live and we know there are others out there we did not see. A few years ago, our area had one of the highest foreclosure rates in the country. Many in our community still worry about paying their mortgage or rent if they were laid off from their job.
ECHO is in the midst of its 21st annual summer fund drive, *Christmas in July*, 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.

Some people like to donate to agencies that fit niches they identify with, such as: 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 people like to donate to agencies that focus on particular services, such as: food; shelter for children, women, and/or men who are homeless; personal and household supplies; diapers and baby food; school supplies for youth; Christmas gifts for youth and families; bus tokens or gas cards for people to get to work… *ECHO provides all of those services!*

In 47 years, ECHO has grown from being a food pantry to being a vital charity organization serving low-income families in our community. 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. ECHO is often a client’s last hope for assistance during a time of an emergency for that family. *ECHO does the day-to-day work of meeting basic human need, simply because it exists!*

The local economy is better, but people are streaming in for services. ECHO provides services to over 3,600 unduplicated households, with over 14,000 people in those households. Many of them come in monthly - unduplicated refers to counting them just the first time.

ECHO is probably most widely known as being a food pantry. In the first six months of 2016, we provided 1,737,701 meals, an increase of 8% over the same period in 2015. Food flies off the pantry shelves. Our Food Services cost us money to buy, transport and store, although a lot of food is also donated.

We try to prevent homelessness by offering emergency Rent Assistance. There are no in-kind donations for this service, as with food. Our numbers reflect what we were able to do, not what the actual need is. We provided 216 months of rent assistance January – June 2016, an increase of 11% over the same period in 2015, which was a year that we had to deny many services – not a year to emulate! We provided 85 months of rent assistance in June alone – our usual is 25-30 months in a month. But, we are down 31% compared to the same period in 2013, a year when we did not have cutbacks in the first half of the year and provided 312 months of rent from January – June, which is more typical.

One segment of the low-income population we serve is the homeless population. Some homeless people find room at one of the shelters, but they are usually full. Some live temporarily in cars, tents, or in someone else's apartment. But many are living in motels on vouchers from ECHO. Lodging is an expensive service, and we have had to scale this service back due to funding. In the first six months of 2016, ECHO provided 970 shelter nights, a 3% decrease from January–June 2015, but 2015 was a year when we had significant cutbacks in service. We are down 69% in 2016 vs 2013, a year when we did not have cutbacks the first half of the year and provided 3,097 shelter nights from January – June, which is more typical.

Our Food Services cost us money to buy, transport and store, although a lot of food is also donated. Our Housing Services and Case management are our biggest costs. Having stable housing, food and other basics gives people hope that they can tackle obstacles in their path toward achieving self-sufficiency.
My name is Kazoua Xiong and I am attending the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. My major is social work and I will be done with my undergraduate degree once I am finish with my internship at ECHO. I want to go into the field of social work because I want to help those who are in need. I do not have a specific field in mind so I am open to anything that sparks an interest. I was taught to help others at a young age and it has stuck with me ever since. If I have the power to assist others, I want to put that to use.

I have been interning at ECHO for the past couple of months. I chose ECHO as my internship because they do help those in need. I like how they provide multiple services for the clients. Food is such an essential that everyone needs. I wanted to get the experience of being able to provide those in need at least one of the basic needs of a human. As I am nearing the end of my internship, I have learned so much from ECHO. This is an opportunity that I am glad I got to experience.
First Annual Rock County Historical Society

**Sunday Dinner to Benefit ECHO, Janesville Craig FFA**

Locally-produced food prepared by professional chefs will highlight the First Annual Sunday Dinner, set for September 18, 2016 from 4-7 p.m. at the Rock County Historical Society (RCHS), 426 N. Jackson Street in Janesville. Sunday Dinner is a new, farm to table feast served family style that brings together local farmers, food providers, businesses and community members to celebrate and support the food missions in 2016 of ECHO, Janesville Craig FFA, and a new food awareness initiative of the Rock County Historical Society.

Set on the campus of the Rock County Historical Society in the shadow of the iconic Lincoln-Tallman House, here’s a chance to join your neighbors in Rock County for this delicious outdoor feast.

The fun begins with live music and games, followed by a live auction and 4-course meal served family style. Whet your appetite with appetizers of apples and cheese, hummus, salsa and chips. Next, savor fresh corn, beef tenderloin, pork loin, and homemade side dishes. Save room for homemade brownies and ice cream! Wine and beer will also be available for purchase.

As a thank-you for attending, each family will receive an original family cookbook featuring recipes from local food families and chefs alike, including the Sunday Dinner recipes!

Tickets are $40, or $15 for children under 10. Purchase tickets online at [rchs.us/event/sunday-dinner-farm-to-table-feast/](rchs.us/event/sunday-dinner-farm-to-table-feast/) or at RCHS from August 15th until September 8th. Get yours early! No tickets will be available at the event.

The Sunday Dinner will be held rain or shine.

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**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.

**Locations:**

2713 Hayner Road - Janesville, WI
Janesville Farmers Market - Main St.
Homelessness can happen to anyone. On any given night, as many as 300 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 4, 2016 the second 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.
President’s Message - Continued from Page 1
When people think about ECHO, they usually think food pantry and that is a very important service that ECHO provides. But few know that ECHO helps hundreds of families find housing every year. First, for people who are homeless, ECHO will find emergency housing in local motels like the Lannon Stone until they can get into a shelter. Next ECHO works with landlords to find apartments for clients and helps with security deposits and first month’s rent. ECHO continues to help with rent and counseling to address issues like employment and household budgets. Finally, for families that are stable in their housing but hit a bump in the road like an illness or a job layoff ECHO will cover a month’s rent to help keep them in their home.

It’s hard to go to an interview when you don’t have a place to take a shower. It’s hard to do well at your job after you slept in the woods during a storm. It’s hard to cook dinner when you don’t have a stove or a refrigerator. It’s hard to learn at school after you slept in the back seat of your car. ECHO can help.

We are ECHO.
Name: Randy Fisher
How long have you volunteered at ECHO? Four years.
How did you get involved at ECHO? Read about ECHO online.
What do you do at ECHO? Place food orders in grocery carts and give to clients.
What is your favorite thing about ECHO? Many of the clients are so thankful and feel blessed to get assistance. ECHO (staff and volunteers) should always feel appreciated. It is such a wonderful service that helps so many.
What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering? The volunteer network is so strong and lasting.

Name: Deb Fisher
How long have you volunteered at ECHO? Four years.
How did you get involved at ECHO? We moved to Janesville in retirement and looked for volunteer opportunities that fit our passion: to work with those who struggle with poverty.
What do you do at ECHO? Pack groceries primarily. I also unload the lift and stock shelves as needed.
What is your favorite thing about ECHO? That so many churches work together to help their neighbors in Janesville.
What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering? The commitment level of the staff who work hard even though ECHO is not able to pay benefits.

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: ______________________________
Empty Bowls
a fundraiser for ECHO

Saturday, October 22, 2016
Parker High School
3125 Mineral Point Ave., Janesville
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lunch and Fundraiser to support ECHO, fighting to end hunger in Janesville with handmade soups from restaurants along with artisan breads

- Soup, Bread, Beverage, and Dessert Only: $8 ($10 at the Door)
- Soup, Bread, Beverage, Dessert and Hand Thrown Bowl: $13 ($15 at the Door)
- Soup, Bread, Beverage, Dessert, Hand Thrown Bowl, and Reserved Seating with Servers: $35

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
ECHO: 65 S High Street, Janesville
Online at www.echojanesville.org

For more information call:
ECHO at (608) 754-5333
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 20,000 pounds of food for ECHO.

Eat Out for Hunger
Thank you to our 2016 Eat Out for Hunger participating restaurants: Citrus Café, Charlie's Place, Culvers – Milton Ave., Midland Rd., and Court St., Dairy Queen – Court St., Eagle Inn, East Point Sportz Pub, GR’s Sandwich Shoppe, HHFFRRRGGH, H&S Express Hibachi & Sushi, Kealy’s Kafe, Knute's Bar & Grill, Looking Glass, Luke’s Deli, Lucy’s Loon Lake Coffee & Deli, Mac’s Pizza Shack, Milwaukee Grill, My Apartment Pub & Grill, Panda Garden, Peking Chinese, Prime Quarter, Riley’s Sports Bar & Grill, Sneakers Sports Bar, Time Out Pub & Eatery, and Wedge Inn East

Daniels Sentry West Annual Summer ECHO Cookout & Big Idaho Potato Truck
ECHO thanks Sentry for organizing a wonderful day of family-friendly fun and all who gave at the 6th Annual ECHO Cookout on June 18th at Daniels Sentry West. We also extend a huge thank you to Daniels Sentry West, Dean's Foods, Crystal Farms, the Wisconsin Beef Council, and Idaho Potato for the awesome potato bar event on August 9th at Daniels Sentry West.

Inclusive Charity DJ Network’s Janesville Adult Prom
ECHO appreciates Jon Gordon and his friends for planning this great night of fun and selecting ECHO as the charity for the proceeds. We greatly appreciate the many sponsors of the event.

Adopt a Family Sign-Up Begins
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 extra expenses to the 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 Locher at 754-5333 or jlocher@echojanesville.org by November 11 to receive your family’s wish list for Black Friday shopping.

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!

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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.

Diane Ansier          Kathleen Hinaus          Martha Rhoades
Warren Austin         Arlene Hulich           Bill Ries
Mary Jane Condon      Genevieve Joyce        Mary Roach
Alice Conway          Mary Kennedy           Patrick Ryan
Rose Cummins          Fr. Mike Klarer         Paul Sandgren
Violet Mae Enke       Karen Knox             Marion Schenkl
Andy Feggestad        David J. MacDougall      Louis Shekels
Marion Fugate         Margaret Mead          Ginny Spors
Robert Gleijf         Lucille Mullikin        Arlene Thompson
Bob Goepfert          Elizabeth Peterson      Mae Thornton
Virginia Hart         Barbara J. Reed          Richard Traxler
Dr. Mark Hartlaub     Carol Reese            James and Norine Turner
Pat Hiller            Sue Repaal             Greg Weissinger

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.

Al & Nancy Bennett’s Anniversary                    Larry & Mary Miller’s Anniversary
Phyllis Byrne’s Birthday                             Mike Shaw’s Birthday
Shirley DuBois’ Birthday                             Gene Smith’s Birthday
The ECHO Staff                                      Shelly Tyler’s 50th Birthday
Betty Gilbert’s 84th Birthday                        Shelly Wendt
Kathy Lader

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.)
**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>Jones Dairy Farm</th>
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<td>Aldi Inc.</td>
<td>Kids Against Hunger</td>
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<td>All Saints Church</td>
<td>KinderCare</td>
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<td>Asbury United Methodist Church</td>
<td>Kwik Trip</td>
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<td>Bimbo Bakeries USA</td>
<td>Little Debbie</td>
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<td>Birds Eye</td>
<td>MacFarlane Pheasant Farm</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>
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<td>Chambers &amp; Owen</td>
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<td>Chipotle</td>
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<td>Country Quality Dairy</td>
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<td>Crystal Farms</td>
<td>Perfectly Plus Consignment</td>
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<td>Daniels Sentry Food Stores</td>
<td>Pick’n Save</td>
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<td>Dunkin’ Donuts</td>
<td>Riverplace Senior Housing</td>
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<td>E &amp; D Water Works</td>
<td>Rock-Green Realtors</td>
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<td>Faith Lutheran Church</td>
<td>Rock Prairie Presbyterian</td>
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<td>St. John Lutheran Church</td>
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<td>First Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>St. Matthew Lutheran Church &amp; School</td>
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<td>Gardner Bakery</td>
<td>St. Patrick Catholic Church</td>
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<td>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</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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<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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<td>Jay’s Big Rolls</td>
<td>Starbucks</td>
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<td>Jazzercise</td>
<td>Trinity Episcopal Church</td>
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**ECHO Mailbag**

To the ECHO Staff,
Once again I want to tell you how much I appreciate everything you do for me. I am truly grateful.
God’s Blessings on all-
Anonymous Client

Jessica & Crew,
Thank you so much for teaming up with WJJO for Sonic Boom! Can’t wait to do it again next year!!
Bonnie O and the WJJO Staff

Dear Ms. Tanya,
Thank you and everyone at ECHO for all you are doing for this community. I am thankful ECHO could help me out with my rent. It made a difference in my life. Thanks again,
Sincerely,
Anonymous Client
For removal from our mailing list, call (608)754-5333, notify us in writing, or email office@echojanesville.org

**ECHO Calendar of Events**

♦ **8/26 School Supply Distribution** – at St. John Lutheran Church

♦ **9/24 Culinary Delight** – at the Janesville Country Club

♦ **10/22 Empty Bowl Soup Fundraiser** – 11 AM - 2 PM at Parker High School

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

♦ **11/19 Thanksgiving Basket Distribution** – at the Rock Co. 4-H Fairgrounds

♦ **11/27 Holiday Express** – at the Pontiac Convention Center

♦ **12/16 Christmas Toy Distribution** – at St. John Lutheran Church

♦ **12/25 Christmas Dinner** – at St. William’s Catholic Church

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**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

Thank you to everyone who donated fans this summer - we were able to keep over 213 households cool!