Season’s Greetings
President’s Message
By Gloria D. Huschka

“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas, all around the town….” Yes, it is early, but the holidays will be here soon. Are you ready? Are you prepared? Have you thought about your lists of groceries, of presents to buy or perhaps lists of what you would like this holiday season?

As the president of ECHO I am challenging you – yes, you! November and December are busy times for everyone, but you can make the holidays much brighter for your neighbor in need. It does not require a lot of time or even money; it just requires a giving heart. Here are a few suggestions:

- Adopt a family in need!
- Donate money for food or other needs that a low-income family may have.
- Donate new toys for the toy distribution.
- Volunteer to deliver meals or distribute meals on Saturday, November 17 at the Rock County Fairgrounds.
- Bake cookies to be distributed on November 17 at the Thanksgiving basket giveaway.
- Donate Christmas trees, wrapping paper and holiday cards for those who can’t afford these items.
- Volunteer to be an elf on December 19 and help distribute gifts to children at St. John’s Lutheran Church.
- Bring your children and grandchildren to the Pontiac Convention Center on Sunday, November 25 for Holiday Express. Families will enjoy the movie, “The Muppets Christmas Carol,” along with crafts, photos with Santa, raffles, and much more. The event is from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Come to St. William’s Church on Tuesday, December 25 and enjoy the smells and sounds of the Christmas spirit as many volunteers gather to produce a delicious turkey dinner for community members who may be alone on the holiday.

Seasonal services are among a variety provided by ECHO. However, these are non-budgeted items and ones that the clients must rely solely on the community to provide. Included under this heading are Easter baskets, school supplies, Christmas toys, Christmas trees/decorations and Adopt-a-Family. Working together we can all help our neighbors have a brighter holiday season and together we will all be singing a happy tune!

Happy Holidays!
Transcending Boundaries

What people can do and enjoy together is limitless. The Brewers are on their way to the play-offs! The Packers are headed into a super season. It’s exciting. We can all learn something from the sports community. I especially want to point out the Brewers comradery. I record all the Brewers games and watch them late into the evening. There isn’t any other team, from my observation, that has the player enthusiasm in the dugout that they have, cheering for each other, jumping around, chewing bubble gum instead of tobacco, smiling and laughing – real team spirit! Brewers manager Craig Counsell sets the tone.

This transcends boundaries - the sports community can become one humanity. Spectators fill up Miller Park every home game and stay until the end of the game. They show true sportsmanship, cheering and applauding for all good plays. The energy spreads beyond boundaries. If we could do this in our daily lives, can you imagine what could happen? We could tackle poverty in our community!

If you step back far enough, it is easier to see humanity as one. It’s not just about people who are:
• Members of a particular faith denomination
• Owners or managers of small or large businesses
• Manufacturing, farming, media, restaurant, medical or other specialty businesses
• Pastors, bankers, teachers, social workers, doctors, attorneys, engineers
• Young people, middle-aged, or retired folks
• Republicans, Democrats, or those who like parts of both or neither of them…

It’s about all of us – a perfect blend of people – working together to make our community a better place to live. This perfect blend happens in our daily lives at ECHO, as volunteers and staff work together to help people needing basic essentials such as food and housing, supported by donors in the community. ECHO serves over 3,600 households (about 14,000 people).

Imagine...what it would be like if...in the first 8 months of 2018, ECHO hadn’t:
• Provided over 2,593,590 meals through our many food services
• Provided 299 months of rent assistance to keep families housed and 2,367 shelter nights in motels to keep families safe, with a roof over their heads
• Provided baby food and formula, diapers and baby wipes, to 3,194 babies
• Provided gas certificates or bus tokens to almost 360 families to help them get to jobs
• Provided personal care and household supplies that helped 29,898 people
• Provided birthday presents and cakes to 119 children to celebrate their birthdays
• Provided school supplies to almost 516 children before the start of school and gave remaining supplies to Janesville School District.

If you think that partial list is amazing, we still have the day-to-day needs for four more months in 2018, plus special holiday extras! Besides our basic services, for Thanksgiving and Christmas ECHO expects to provide:
• Groceries for a traditional Thanksgiving meal for an estimated 600 families on November 17
• Traditional, sit-down Christmas Day dinner and live entertainment for an estimated 800 people
• Christmas presents for an estimated 800 children at its December 19 toy distribution
• Christmas presents for about another 400 people (100 families) through the ECHO Adopt-a-Family program

Imagine...what it would be like to...
• Earn 0-30% of Rock Co. median income (~80% of ECHO clients)
• Earn 31-80% of Rock Co. median income (~20% of ECHO clients)
• Pay more than 50% of gross family income on housing (~70% of ECHO clients)
• Live in female head-of-household - no dual income earning power (~65% of clients)

Continued on the next page
But, imagine…seeing the faces of the people ECHO serves through your community support—there is hope reflected in their eyes and more smiles on their faces when they leave than when they came in.

Thank you all for giving me the opportunity, through ECHO, to see people’s lives become more bearable and to see the gratefulness and hope in the faces of the many thousands of adults and children ECHO serves day-in and day-out. It is much easier for the ECHO staff to do the work we do when we have the funds to help people who are struggling to make it on their own, than when we have to deny services simply due to funding.

It’s all about all of you in Everyone Cooperating to Help Others. ECHO is an organization of the people; it’s not mine, it’s not the ECHO staff’s, it’s not any one church’s, or any one group’s—it is Everyone’s! Many people benefit from your actions and your spirit of giving to ECHO. We need and appreciate your support throughout the year, as well as the extra boost you give us during the holidays.

Life is an ECHO; what you send out, you get back. May God bless you and your families this Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

Volunteer Take 5

Name: Greg Kraft

How long have you volunteered at ECHO? I began serving on the board six years ago.

How did you get involved at ECHO? Sandy and I were asked by the pastor of St. Mary’s to represent the church on the board.

What do you do at ECHO? Serve on the board of directors, help in the food pantry one or two days a week, and assist when asked at fundraising events. I am proud to be a part of the dumbwaiter team.

What is your favorite thing about ECHO? Providing book bags and school supplies to help children perform to their best ability. Also providing fruit and nutritious food to families in need.

What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering? I expected personal and church donations but was surprised by the large amount of donations from local businesses.

WIN A HOLIDAY GETAWAY

NEW YORK CITY OR LAS VEGAS
FOR THE HOLIDAYS

7 DAY STAY IN NYC OR VEGAS RESORT WITH $200 TRAVEL BONUS

Raffle Tickets are $5 each or 6 Raffle Tickets for $20

Trip must be used within 2018 and winner will be responsible for travel expenses beyond $200 Travel Bonus, Security Deposit and/or Resort/Amenity Fees if applicable.

Raffle Drawing on October 27, 2018 at 1:30pm.
Need not be present to win.

Proceeds Benefit
Give Thanks This Holiday Season

Thanksgiving Basket Distribution
Saturday, November 17

Thanksgiving baskets have been a part of ECHO since at least 1975. The basket includes a turkey, vegetables, instant potatoes and gravy, stuffing, homemade cookies or bars, pumpkin pie and whipped topping, and other miscellaneous items.

Sponsors are needed for the Thanksgiving baskets. Each basket costs $30. If you would like to make a donation to help feed families for Thanksgiving, please send a check to the ECHO Office at 65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548, made out to: “ECHO Thanksgiving” or visit www.echojanesville.org to make a donation online.

Canned Cranberry Drive began October 1. ECHO would like to get 1,200 cans for the Thanksgiving Basket program. On Facebook you will see weekly posts about the drive.

Volunteers are needed at 8am to begin packing the Thanksgiving baskets at Rock County Fairgrounds. Volunteers are needed at 9:30am for distribution of the Thanksgiving baskets. Please call our volunteer coordinator, Fran, at 754-5333 with questions or to volunteer.

Grocery bags can be picked up at ECHO for youth groups and organizations to decorate. Please bring your decorated bags to ECHO by Friday, Nov. 16.

Volunteer bakers are needed. Drop off your pre-packaged cookies and bars (one dozen per ziploc bag) at Rock County Fairgrounds on Saturday, November 17, 7am-10am or at the ECHO office on Friday, November 16, 9am-Noon.

A Donation of THANKSGIVING
ECHO expects to assist 600 families who are low-income.

Yes, I would like to sponsor ____ Thanksgiving Dinner(s) at $30 each and/or I would like to make a donation to help feed families after Thanksgiving by sending a check to the ECHO Office at 65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548, made out to: “ECHO Thanksgiving”.

$30 □   $60 □   $120 □   $250 □   $500 □
Any donation is appreciated □ $___________

Please help make a family’s holiday a thankful one!

Name: _____________________ Phone #: ___________ E-Mail: __________________________
Address: __________________________________________ Zip Code: ____________
For payment by credit card: Circle one: VISA MasterCard Discover 3 or 4 Digit CSC: __________
Credit card # ___________________________ Expiration date: ___________

Donations can also be made online at www.echojanesville.org
Christmas Toy Drive
and Distribution Info

Please be a part of our holiday tradition this year. ECHO is accepting cash and new, unwrapped toys for children in need in our community now through December 18 at the ECHO office for our Toy Distribution. Holiday wrapping paper and batteries for toys are also needed and can also be dropped off along with the toys.

The Toy Distribution will be held on Wednesday, December 19 (Snow Day - Thursday, December 20) at St. John Lutheran Church, 302 N. Parker Dr. Pre-registration is required from Monday, October 29 - Friday, December 14 at ECHO for participation in the program. Participants need to bring in a photo ID, current utility bill, and proof of income for the entire household to sign up.

Many volunteers are needed to make this distribution a success. If you would like to be a Santa’s helper or help with setting up “Santa’s Toy Shop,” please call Fran at 754-5333 to schedule a time.

Toy Wish List
- CDs
- Shoes
- Skateboards
- Makeup
- Jewelry
- Watches
- Books
- Baby Toys
- Legos
- Puzzles
- Art Supplies
- Movie Certificates
- Sports Equipment
- Movies (New releases)
- Small Electronic Gadgets
- Perfumes
- Colognes
- Cars & Trucks
- Learning Games
- Board Games
- Bedding - cool sheets
- Barbies & Dolls
- Store Certificates

Adopt-A-Family Program

Families who are chosen for the program complete a wish list for the donor to purchase items the family needs. Families who are not in the Adopt-A-Family are able to sign up for the Toy Program. The deadline to sign up as a donor for the Adopt-a-Family Program is November 9, 2018. To sign up or for more information, please contact Jessica at 754-5333 or by email at jlocher@echojanesville.org.

FREE ECHO CHRISTMAS DINNER

Tuesday, Dec. 25 from 11AM to 1PM
(Open to everyone in the community)
St. William’s Catholic Church, 1820 Ravine St., Janesville

Everyone’s welcome! Please join us!
Visit with Santa and listen to festive holiday music!
Tickets on sale 12/1!

CHICKEN BOY PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS

DEATH IN THIS MASQUERADE

MURDER MYSTERY

Two Evenings - January 18 & 19, 2019
The Venue | 37 Water Street, Janesville

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM
PLAY STARTS AT 6:30 PM
Welcome to our new Client Advocate, Rejeana DeViana!

Hello to you all! I am so happy to be here at ECHO with so many wonderful people. For me, coming to work at ECHO is like completing a circle.

Some of my earliest life lessons about serving and caring for others were directly linked to ECHO. My parents, Gary and Ruth Watt, firmly believed that it was important to act out faith in God and love for His people with ministry to others. And so even when we didn’t really understand the depth of our actions, we were directly involved in many activities even as children.

As children, we learned about poverty with lessons about hunger as we got sponsors and walked with Dad in the Crop Walk, even in the rain and when our feet hurt, because we wanted to get our full amount from our sponsors.

At Christmas, we knew that part of the day would be spent helping at the ECHO Community Christmas Dinner. Even that day (ESPECIALLY that day) was a gift to be shared with others.

I continued serving others after graduating from UW-Whitewater with a program called VESS, an AmeriCorps partner (Volunteers for Education and Social Service). I moved to Texas and worked at an Immigration Counseling Service assisting mostly Spanish-speaking people apply and study for citizenship.

Returning to Janesville in 1999, I began working in social services in our community to combat the effects of poverty and homelessness. During my time at other agencies, over the years I have worked side by side with ECHO professionally while we’ve assisted many clients together. With the perspective of a professional and as an adult, I was able to see the amazing work ECHO was doing in our community. And at times, I was able to volunteer and attend fundraising events to further the mission.

To be here at ECHO, at this time in my career, to me is a blending of my various past roles as a social worker – bilingual case manager, experience working with people in crisis and providing care with compassion to those that come here for help. And for many that we serve, a welcoming and familiar face during a difficult time.

Finally, I know my dad would be so happy to see me here at ECHO, continuing to serve and in a place that provides so much to so many with compassion.

As the holidays approach, people take time to consider what they’re thankful for and many choose to donate some of their time, attention, and resources to others. In that spirit of giving, each year the National Coalition for the Homeless sponsors Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week during the week prior to Thanksgiving. Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is designed to educate the public, draw attention to the problem of poverty, and build up the base of volunteers and supporters for local anti-poverty agencies.

Details about local events will be shared at www.facebook.com/ECHJanesville
Empty Bowls
a fundraiser for ECHO.
Saturday, October 27, 2018
Parker High School
3125 Mineral Point Ave., Janesville
11a.m. to 2:00p.m

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

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

Live Music by CATFISH
And sneak preview of the Little Mermaid

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

For more Info call:
ECHO at (608) 754-5333
Get your workout in this Thanksgiving Day!

The Festival Foods Turkey Trot is the perfect guilt-free solution for eating your weight in mashed potatoes.

The Festival Foods Turkey Trot allows participants to partake in either a 5-mile run or a 2-mile run/walk and is open to everyone of all ages and abilities. Don’t forget to bring your favorite cuddly companion for the 2-mile Dog Jog.

Proceeds Benefit: ECHO, YMCA, and Boys & Girls Club.

Register Online at www.festivalfoodsturkeytrot.com to run/walk or volunteer!

JOIN THE 42nd ANNUAL JANESVILLE CROP HUNGER WALK/RUN/ROCK
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019
Registration 1:00 p.m. Walk/Run/Rock 1:30 p.m.
Cargill United Methodist Church in Janesville
(2000 Wesley Ave. Janesville, WI 53545)
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.

- Marilyn Bartle
- Mary Jo Commons
- Rev. Paul Garchow
- Jesse Louison
- Jim Ramsdell
- Patricia Schindler
- Ginny Spors
- Shirley Steinke
- Donald Swanson
- James and Norine Turner
- Ron Van Able

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.

- Betty Gilbert
- John Janes
- Acacia Latka
- Austin Latka
- Max Latka
- Sadie Latka
- Steve and Judy Latka
- Anthony Nass
- Justin Nass
- Kathy Pingel
- Jim and Linda Short

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.)

Thank you to everyone who has brought in donations of fresh produce from their abundant crops!

Are you a friend of ECHO?
www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville

Kids Helping Kids
Holiday Toy Drive on December 14, 2018
to benefit ECHO and The Salvation Army at Blain’s Farm & Fleet
# Food and Fund Drives

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

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<td>All Saints Anglican Catholic Church</td>
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<td>Asbury United Methodist Church</td>
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<td>Badger Chordhawks</td>
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<td>Bimbo Bakeries USA</td>
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<td>Bird’s Eye</td>
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<td>Blain’s Farm &amp; Fleet</td>
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<td>Brownberry Bread</td>
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<td>Cargill United Methodist Church</td>
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<td>Catholic Charities</td>
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<td>Chambers &amp; Owen</td>
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<td>Contemplative Prayer Group</td>
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<td>Daniel’s Sentry Food Stores</td>
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<td>Dean Medical Group</td>
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<td>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</td>
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<td>Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Hunger Task Force - Milwaukee</td>
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<td>Janesville Senior Center</td>
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<td>McFarlane Pheasant Farm</td>
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<td>Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church</td>
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<td>Trinity Episcopal Church</td>
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<td>Van Buren Elementary School</td>
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**LARGE BROWN PAPER BAGS, PLASTIC BAGS, TWIST TIES & PLASTIC BOTTLES NEEDED**

Drop them off at ECHO (65 S. High St., Janesville)
Mon.-Fri. 9am-Noon, or Mon.-Thur. 1-4pm
ECHO, Inc.
65 S. High St.,
Janesville, WI 53548
Phone: 608-754-5333
Fax: 608-754-9199
E-mail: office@echojanesville.org
www.echojanesville.org
www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville

Return Service Requested

For removal from our mailing list, call (608)754-5333, notify us in writing, or email office@echojanesville.org

ECHO Calendar of Events

- 10/27 Empty Bowls - 11 AM to 2 PM at Parker High School
- 11/17 Thanksgiving Basket Distribution - at the Rock Co. 4-H Fairgrounds (See page 4 for more information)
- 11/22 Turkey Trot - 8 AM at Craig High School. (See page 9 for information)
- 11/25 ECHO Holiday Express - 2-4 PM at the Pontiac Convention Center. (See page 9 for information)
- 12/19 Christmas Toy Distribution - at St. John Lutheran Church (See page 5 for more information)
- 12/25 Christmas Dinner - 11 AM -1 PM at St. William’s Catholic Church, (See page 5 for more information)
- 1/18 & 1/19 Murder Mystery - 5:30 PM at The Venue
- 3/23 Swing into Spring - at Pontiac Convention Center

WE NEED SUPERHEROES TO HELP FIGHT HUNGER!
CALL FRAN AT (608) 754-5333 TO SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

GO GREEN.
REQUEST YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL AT www.echojanesville.org