Thanks and Praise-ECHO has served Janesville 50 years!

President’s Message
By Nancy Hansen-Bennett

What a blessing this year has been and what a challenge. We had three birthday celebrations. Business after five celebration in spring brought the business people thru our doors for tours, food and entertainment. Our summer event featured train rides, bounce house, picnic and fun for all ages. Our fall gala at the armory culminated our busy year. Now that we are starting on our next 50 years we have work to do. We are serving more people than ever and we need to raise more funds. Our staff work very hard and are very dedicated. Our volunteers go above and beyond- I couldn't ask for a better Board and Executive committee. They all serve our community with gusto! I love interacting with our consumers who are truly grateful for what ECHO offers -Hope- as well as food and a listening ear.

Thank you Janesville for caring and giving.

If you would like to volunteer at ECHO, please call Fran at 754-5333 to schedule a visit to fill out the volunteer application.
ECHO - Lifesaving for 50 Years!

ECHO is celebrating 50 Golden Years of saving peoples’ lives in this community! We celebrated/are celebrating with three events this year. We hosted the Forward Janesville Business After Five on Thursday June 20 – the New Orleans Jazz-style food, décor and music by Jazzguise event was very successful. The second one was ECHO’s Community Block Party, held on the ECHO and First Congregational campus July 13, geared to kids and families. The third one was ECHO Golden Bandstand 1969, a 60s-style dance that was held at The Armory on October 5 – it was a fantastic event that many people want us to repeat.

I am pleased to say that this is my 25th year of serving as ECHO’s Executive Director.

1969—If ECHO had a time capsule to open, with a Janesville Gazette from late 1969 inside, we might be reading about the Apollo mission’s “One Small Step for Man, One Giant Leap for Mankind.” Or, that over 30 bands brought 400,000 people to Max Yagur’s 600-acre dairy farm for the Woodstock Music Festival.

BUT, in the Local section! - “St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Janesville, sees a need in the community and under the direction of Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald, a commission was formed to meet the needs of the poor, elderly, disadvantaged and handicapped.” This commission grew rapidly in the first year, with St. John Vianney joining in with the pantry at St. Mary’s, and St. Patrick’s starting the clothing closet. This cooperative venture became Everyone Cooperating to Help Others. ECHO was conceived!

ECHO’s first constitution was drawn up in 1974. Incorporated in 1975, ECHO hired its’ first Director, Laverne Sandgren, and opened its’ first office at 317 Dodge St, rent-free from First Congregational UCC, until we built this building in 2002 on 65 S. High Street, also on the First Congregational UCC campus.

A wonderful foundation was set by the churches for ECHO in those early years, from 1970-1975. In 1975, records about services started being kept. ECHO has grown tremendously, taking off from the launching pad provided for us. Five decades! A brief synopsis:

1979—ECHO’s 10th Anniversary celebration was held at St. Patrick’s. ECHO was receiving a lot of community support and had 19 churches as members. ECHO added more services, including emergency lodging.

1989—ECHO celebrated its’ 20th Anniversary. ECHO had 32 member churches. ECHO had been operating at a second location since 1983, which we called the ECHO Annex, at 7 N. Academy. It consolidated food, clothing, and household goods, instead of being at the churches.

1999—ECHO celebrated its 30th Anniversary on upper Courthouse Hill Park. Much happened in the last ten years. Laverne retired in 1990, after 15 years with ECHO. Barb Smith was the Executive Director 1991-1994. In Dec. 1994, I applied for their position opening for Executive Director and was hired to start in January 1995. The ECHO Annex had been at Trinity’s Ortmayer Hall since moving the Annex from 7 N. Academy in February 1997. In 2002, we moved the pantry to the same building as the office, at 65 S. High, but kept clothing and household goods at Ortmayer Hall, until ending that in February 2006.

2009—ECHO’s 40th “Ruby” Anniversary! Since 2002, we have been in this building at 65 S. High Street, and the 317 Dodge Street house was demolished. We celebrated our Ruby Anniversary, as a Community Block Party, on the ECHO and First Congregational site.

2019—ECHO’s 50th “Golden” Anniversary! Let’s just look at three of our core services – Food, Housing and Case Management. Continued on next page
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**Food Services:** Who would have guessed 50 years ago that ECHO would be providing about 3.8 million meals in a year!

**Housing Services:** Who would have guessed 50 years ago that ECHO would provide about 4,000 shelter nights in motels in a year to homeless people! Who would have guessed 50 years ago that ECHO would provide about 450 months of rent assistance in a year to keep people stably housed!

**Case Management Services:** Who would have guessed 50 years ago that ECHO would provide about 15,000 hours of Case Management and Payee Services in a year!

**We Keep Doing More!** You can check our website at [www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org) for more details.

One of our specialty reports is *ECHO Services 1975 – 2018*. ECHO was started in late 1969, but 1975 is the first year that we had an Executive Director, and we started tracking service data. This report shows the first and last year of the first two Executive Directors: LaVerne Sandgren 1975-1990 and Barb Smith 1991-1994, and a variety of years with me, the third Executive Director – 1995, 2005, 2010 and 2018. From 1975 to 1990, under LaVerne, services increased 83%. From LaVerne’s last year (1990) and Barb’s last year (1994), services decreased 16%. From Barb’s last year (1994) to my first year (1995), services increased 88%. We started counting pounds of food going out in 2005, which wasn’t counted in the previous years. Subtracting out the pounds of food, since that number skews the total, from my first year, 1995, to 2018, services have increased 452%.

**Why such a large increase in services?** ECHO continued to grow as needs in the community grew. The population increased. The need increased. We offer more services. ECHO became more physically accessible to people with disabilities.

**Donations to ECHO pack a huge punch!** The annual ECHO DOLLARS & SENSE REPORT combines our year-end service and financial reports, and adds in-kind donations to depict the estimated value of ECHO’s services. The ECHO DOLLARS & SENSE 2018 shows ECHO’s Direct Assistance is 98.5% and Administration just 1.5%!

**Services Cutback.** Because of our funding situation this year, we had to cut back on Housing Services, including Lodging for the Homeless, which is a critical service in this community. Community support makes it possible for us to keep families safe in Housing, keep Food on their tables, and provide many other essential services.

**Looking forward to the next 50 years, what will ECHO be doing?**

I’d like to repeat what I said to a Janesville Gazette reporter in 1999.

In 1999, a Gazette reporter, Pat Burkhard, wrote a booklet from 30 years of news clippings: *ECHO: A History of 30 Years of Caring*. In conclusion, Pat asked me how I envisioned ECHO’s role in the coming millennium.

I said: “I see us continuing to meet the basic needs. Food is an absolute necessity. Emergency rent assistance and temporary housing [lodging] are important. I see us as a major player in the establishment of a single-room housing facility, both transitional and permanent. Such housing for families is also a goal of ours.”

I also said, “ECHO looks forward to the time when its services are no longer needed, when there no longer will be people in need of help. Until that utopia is realized, ECHO will be greeting those people with a resounding ‘Yes, we can help.’”

**We have some work to do.** We can only help others with community support – Everyone Cooperating to Help Others! **To be a Lifesaver, ECHO depends on You!**

Thank you for supporting us as we celebrated 50 years of serving this community. **Have a very Merry Christmas everyone.**
Name: Judy Perleberg

How long have you volunteered at ECHO? Many...

How did you get involved at ECHO? By volunteering as a representative for St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, attending monthly ECHO Board Meeting, introduced me to the many areas of need for volunteering ECHO had available.

What do you do at ECHO? I started out on the fundraising committee. Then came getting mailers and newsletters ready for delivery, special fundraising events, setting up school supplies and Christmas gifts, and Holiday Express. Guess I’m an “All Over Volunteer.” I especially like building raffle baskets for the many events through the year.

What is your favorite thing about ECHO? Knowing that I am able to assist ECHO in fulfilling its mission to meet the housing, food, and basic human needs for the needy in our community.

What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering? The great support from businesses, churches, and people!

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Buy a Bucky Book for $35
Watch for Holiday Specials!
All proceeds benefit ECHO.

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Please consider making a tax-deductible donation now to keep food on the tables and a roof over the heads of our neighbors who are struggling.

$30 □   $60 □   $120 □   $250 □   $500 □ Other □ $___________

Name: _____________________ Phone #: ___________ E-Mail: ____________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________    Zip Code: ______________

Donations can also be made online at www.echojanesville.org
For payment by credit card, visit our website above.

Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law. Thank you for your support.

Checks can made out to ECHO and mailed to 65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548
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 19 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 Friday, December 20 (Snow Day - Saturday, December 21) at St. John Lutheran Church, 302 N. Parker Dr. Pre-registration is required from Monday, October 28 - Monday, December 16 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
- Small Electronic Gadgets
- Perfumes
- Colognes
- Cars & Trucks
- Learning Games
- Board Games
- Bedding - cool sheets
- Barbies & Dolls
- Store Certificates

FREE ECHO CHRISTMAS DINNER

**Wednesday, 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!

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

MURDER BY THE BOOK

The Armory
January 17, 2020 | 6:00 PM

Tickets on sale December 1, 2019
at www.echojanesville.org

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS BROUGHT IN DONATIONS OF FRESH PRODUCE FROM THEIR ABUNDANT CROPS!
Client Thank You

To whom it may concern,

I sincerely wanted to thank you for your donations to ECHO’s program. Last year around this time they were able to assist me with helping to pay for my outstanding bill at the college where I earned my bachelors degree in art therapy. Since that time, I was able to use my education to implement a therapeutic art program at the Rock County youth services Center doing art with youth in corrections as well as creating lesson plans while teaching preschoolers. I am currently endeavoring to step into the mental health field where I can further make a difference. Your donations genuinely made a difference in my life and make a positive impact in the community by empowering the staff at ECHO to get assistance to people who not only need the support but also have dreams of giving back within the community like you have. I apologize for the delay in response but just wanted to genuinely convey my gratitude.

Sincerely, Patricia and Family

DECEMBER NEEDS

Pork N Beans
Peanut Butter
Oatmeal
Soup & Crackers
Beef Stew
Deodorant

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. The Homeless Intervention Task Force hosted 2 awareness vigils on November 12, 2019. They also received a proclamation from the City of Janesville declaring the week of November 18th as Homeless Awareness Week.

Donation Hours

Monday-Friday 9am-12pm
and Monday-Thursday 1pm-4pm
65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548
Thank you so much for your support!!

Shampoo
Laundry Soap
Toothpaste
Toilet Paper
The mission of the ECHO Transitional Living Program is to provide an opportunity for homeless families to establish independent, autonomous lives and move from homelessness to permanent housing.

The tax foreclosed home was donated to ECHO by the City of Janesville. The Housing Department at the City of Janesville provided a grant to remodel the home to bring it up to current code.

ECHO TLP will attempt to assist families with these goals by: (1) providing people with supportive services which include advocacy, support, and crisis services; (2) allowing families to guide programming decision making; (3) ensuring families identify and work toward clear short and long-term goals that will lead to family stability; (4) identifying, coordinating, and/or accessing resources which allow families to address numerous needs; (5) coordinating services among an array of providers; (6) connecting families to the community.

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!

Holiday Express

Sunday, December 1, 2019
from 2–5pm
Pontiac Convention Center

Feature Movie Starting at 2:30pm

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS

Please bring a new toy for the ECHO Toy Distribution!

Available for purchase: Photos with Santa, Holiday Books, Arts & Craft Projects, Refreshments, Raffles

JOIN THE 43rd ANNUAL JANESVILLE CROP HUNGER WALK/RUN/ROCK

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020

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.

- Tom Anderson
- Cheryl Altermatt
- Marilyn Baum
- Virginia Benson
- Mary Bickle
- Bill & Darlene Brown
- David Brown
- Jeanne Casper
- Mary Jo Commons
- Joe (Chief) Coulter
- Rosemary Cornell
- Beth Cunningham
- Margaret Disch
- Daniel DuBois
- Marilyn Finn
- Tom Flood
- Chef Chris Gebhardt
- Carol Gevaart
- Bob Goepfert
- Roger Goodger
- Harold Hendrickson
- Jon Derek Hermanson
- Donald Herr
- Eleanor Holtz
- Richard Houim
- Donna Hutter
- Karl Johnson
- Pauline Kant
- Judy Kneeece
- Jeff Krueger
- Becky Lami
- Richard Larsen
- Ron Lexa
- Irene Liszewski
- Joan Lord
- Bob McCann
- Carolyn Mowbray
- Elizabeth Murray
- Bonnie Ozburn
- Carol Perkins
- Carol Pregont
- Eleanor “Lora” Rek
- Fred Rhodes
- Phyllis Rice
- Rita Roherty
- Hank Schoeberle
- Wayne Shelton
- Charlie Smith
- Harry Spellman
- Ginny Spors
- Robert Sullivan

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.

- ECHO’s 50 Years of Service
  - Todd Anderson
  - Rhonda Armstrong
  - Margaret Clark
- Jennifer Denetz, 25th Anniversary of Ordination
  - Rejeana DeViana
- Nancy Hansen-Bennett
- Jerry and Deb Gerber’s 50th Anniversary
  - Betty Gilbert
- Connie Glowacki
- Jan Kinnaman
  
  - Steve Latka
  - Albert and Sue Liebetrout’s 60th Anniversary
  - Karen Lisser
  - Pat McDonald
- Bruce & Dianne McLinn’s 50th Anniversary
  - Randall Ryan
  - Nathan Schmidt, 8th Birthday
  - Michael and Judy Stoney
  - Joy Voegeli, 9th Birthday
  - Bruce & Anne Wanke’s 43rd Anniversary

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.)

Kids Helping Kids

Holiday Toy Drive on December 13, 2019

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>Asbury United Methodist Church</td>
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<td>Ashley Homestore</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>Butternut Bakery</td>
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<td>Cargill United Methodist Church</td>
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<td>Chambers &amp; Owen</td>
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<td>Community Garden Outreach</td>
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<td>Contemplative Prayer Group</td>
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<td>Crystal Farms</td>
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<td>Gardner Bakery</td>
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<td>Girl Scouts Troop #9045</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 Montessori Children’s House</td>
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<td>Ruby’s Pantry Food Bank</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 Calendar of Events

- **12/1** **ECHO Holiday Express** – 2-4 PM at the Pontiac Convention Center. (See page 9 for information)

- **12/20** **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)

- **1/17** **Murder Mystery** - 6:00 PM at The Armory

- **3/28** **Swing into Spring** - at Pontiac Convention Center

- **4/26** **CROP Hunger Walk** - at Cargill UMC

- **6/1** **Eat Out For Hunger** - at Participating Locations

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