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Winter 2019

The ECHO Times

LIFE IS AN ECHO - WHAT YOU SEND OUT, YOU GET BACK!

President's Message

By Gloria D. Huschka



Happy New Year! As a new year begins, the ECHO Executive Committee has a few personnel changes. Nancy Hansen-Bennett took over the President's role effective January 28. Nancy has recently served as Vice President of the board but has been active with ECHO for many; many years, having previously served as President. Please welcome Nancy back to the helm of President, I know she will do a wonderful job. Alicia Jenski is switching from Secretary to Member at Large with an emphasis on fundraising. Alicia has done an excellent job as secretary and we are very glad that she will continue to serve on the Executive board in her new

role. Maureen Birchfield, new to the Executive board last year, has agreed to step up to the role of Secretary. Maureen has been a big asset to the Executive board, and her secretarial skills will be an added addition as she continues to serve in a new role. Rick Mueller is entering his third year as Treasurer for ECHO. Having previously served as Vice President and President, Rick guides and assists with the many financial reports and budget as the year progresses. Continuing on as a Member at Large is Dori McFarlane, who has been a huge asset with fundraising. Dori was instrumental in organizing the Square Meal fundraiser in 2018 and is always willing to help where needed. Rounding out our Executive Committee and new to it is Heidi Jensen, who will be our new Vice President. Welcome aboard Heidi – we are excited to have you as part of our team!

On behalf of the ECHO staff and Board of Directors, I would like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** for your help to ECHO in the past year. We could not have kept the doors open without the support of the community. We also need each and every volunteer who donates countless hours, whether it is by assisting in the food pantry with stocking shelves or filling food orders, as well as the volunteers who promote and attend the varied fundraising events throughout the year. To school groups, community members, businesses that promote ECHO, and all the individuals who give faithfully: **THANK YOU!** I also want to say **THANK YOU** to the ECHO Staff! This faithful group of employees is always ready to assist clients with a smile, lend a helping hand to a fundraising cause and go above and beyond the call of duty as needed. We as a board are very grateful for the long tenure of our employees and their faithfulness to serve where and when needed. **Thank You!!**

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Leaving 2018 and Looking Ahead to 2019



By **Karen Lisser, Executive Director**
klisser@echojanesville.org

The services that ECHO provides do not eliminate poverty. They help people get through tough situations. We keep families in their homes, keep them fed, help them with other basic needs and provide case management. ECHO donors help us make Janesville a better place to live.

We never know for sure where our funds will come from. ECHO projects an annual budget, an estimate of donations that will come in and what services will be provided. If more comes in than projected, we will be able to meet more of the need. If the cash flow slows down, we have to cut services. Our projections take into account what happened previous years and project forward. We were off in our projections for 2018.

We fell \$141,000 short of our projected 2018 budget, when we exclude the grant to buy our new truck (the purchase of which is not reflected in our expenditures, but rather as a fixed asset). Breaking down that shortfall from what was projected: grants were ahead by \$15,000; local donations were short by \$156,000. Grants can only be used for direct housing assistance, not staffing or operating costs.

We don't know why we fell short. We hope that our mission and reputation encourages donations. For the fourth year in a row, we earned the coveted 4-Star Rating from *Charity Navigator*, for our commitment to accountability and transparency. *Charity Navigator's* goal is to provide donors with essential information needed to give them confidence in the charity they choose. The rating agency states that it demands rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness, and that ECHO's supporters should feel confident that their dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly. It is the right way to do things – with transparency, good stewardship, openness, and kindness.

Having food on your table is a basic need, and having a place to live is the core from which everything else is possible! Housing is the single largest cost for families. Low-income people pay over 50% of their gross income on housing. Keeping a roof over peoples' heads keeps them safe and makes our food service more useful to them!

We provided 3,785,637 meals in 2018! We paid for 439 months of rent assistance to keep families in their homes and provided 3,864 shelter nights in motels for people experiencing homelessness who couldn't get into shelters. I am still waiting to receive the magic Ruby Slippers I wished for on our 40th Anniversary ten years ago, so I can click my heels and every family will have a stable home. Perhaps that will happen in 2019 when we celebrate our 50th Golden Anniversary!

The number of unduplicated HHs served in 2018 was 3,439 HHs, almost 14,000 people. That's 3,439 different HHs coming through our doors in 2018 and most of them at least several times! Case Management to help these families with our various services came to 13,906 hours. For more information on our services, see *ECHO Services Report – December 2018, with YTD totals*. Look for this and other reports on our website. *ECHO Dollars & Sense Report 2018* will show you the value of donated goods, what we spent on services.

The bottom line every year is that 98% goes to Direct Assistance and only 2% Administration. ECHO staff has done an incredible job of helping clients, each of them having to be seen by a social services staff member. I would be happy to explain what each staff member does for anyone interested. Come for tours to not only see our site, but hear about the services we do.

The success at carrying out our mission leads to increased costs, because more successful programs serve more clients. The costs increase, for the rents we pay for clients, the food we provide, and the many other support services and staffing, which would require a proportionate increase in support.

Sustainability is a challenge and is determined by funders. Great programs don't appear out of thin air. It takes perseverance and financial resources. Together, we can change things. It is difficult for a program that literally changes people's lives for the better, to become self-sustaining. What we can do together is limitless. If it matters to you, it matters to us. It continues to be gratifying to me as I enter my 25th year at ECHO, that through the spirit and support of this community, ECHO helps keep a roof over people's heads and food on their tables, making it possible for people to tackle obstacles in their path toward achieving more self-sufficiency. ECHO donors give to help people they don't know, but care about, expecting nothing in return. That makes a difference at ECHO and in this community. Local support is our lifeblood.

Let's hope that 2019 is truly a new year, not just a new number, a year with new opportunities, new attitudes, new voices, new messages, and new visions. Best Wishes to all of you in 2019. Thank You for your support.



Celebrating 50 years of CROP Hunger Walks

*Join Us on Sunday, April 28,
to Help Fight Hunger One Step at a Time*

A total of 795 million people worldwide do not have enough food to lead a healthy, active life. For 50 years, CROP Hunger Walks have worked to change that statistic by ensuring that more people worldwide have access to nutritious, sustainable food sources.

In celebration of 50 years of CROP Hunger Walks, the planning committee of the Janesville walk hopes to raise \$50,000 to help end hunger one step at a time. Previous walks have raised almost \$1.15 million.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 28. That's when walkers—young and old and representing all faiths and all walks of life—will gather to fight worldwide hunger and raise money for ECHO. Registration will begin at 1 p.m. at Cargill United Methodist Church, 2000 Wesley Ave., Janesville, with the walk starting at 1:30 p.m. There is no registration fee, but walkers are encouraged to collect donations to support the cause.

ECHO again will be the recipient of 25 percent of the funds raised from this year's Janesville walk. The remaining funds will help fight hunger internationally through the efforts of Church World Service.

Join us to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors down the street and around the globe. You can choose to walk or run on a designated 1 mile, 5K, or 10K route. Consider forming a team of family, friends, or co-workers to make the walk more fun for everyone. A meeting for team captains is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 9, at St. John Lutheran Church, 302 N. Parker Drive, Janesville. Recruiting materials will be distributed at the meeting.

If you are not able to participate in the walk, consider making a tax-deductible online contribution at www.crophungerwalk.org/janesvillewi. Regardless of its size, your gift will help people in your neighborhood and around the world.

For more information on the April 28 walk, you can call event coordinators Carolyn Brandeen at 608-754-7004 or Kathy Holcombe at 608-752-8117 or email cropjanesville@charter.net. You can also visit www.crophungerwalk.org/janesvillewi or www.facebook.com/JanesvilleAreaCROP.

2019 ECHO Executive Committee

Nancy Hansen-Bennett, President
Cargill United Methodist Church

Heidi Jensen, Vice-President
Asbury Methodist Church

Rick Mueller, Treasurer
Community Representative

Maureen Birchfield, Secretary
All Saints Anglican Catholic Church

Alicia Jenski, Member at Large
Community Representative

Dori MacFarlane, Member at Large
Community Representative

Gloria Huschka, Immediate Past President
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church



*ECHO's mission is dedicated to meeting housing,
food and other basic human needs and addressing
the barriers to self-sufficiency.*



REUSE + RECYCLE

brown paper bags

Please drop off your brown paper bags
at 65 S High St., Janesville, WI

Easter Baskets for Children

ECHO will be packing and distributing Easter baskets to children who would otherwise go without during this most blessed holiday.

Items needed for the baskets are:

- ◆ Children's Easter baskets
- ◆ Individually wrapped candy
- ◆ Plastic eggs
- ◆ Plastic basket wrap

Items can be dropped off at the ECHO Office during regular business hours Monday-Friday 9am-Noon or Monday-Thursday 1-4pm or by appointment by calling 754-5333.

Volunteers are needed on:

- ◆ **Monday, April 15 at 9:30AM** to pack Easter baskets at the ECHO Office.
- ◆ **Tuesday - Thursday, April 16 to April 18 9AM - 4PM** to distribute baskets at the ECHO office.





Daniel’s Sentry “Funds for Friends” Program

Thank you to everyone who supported the “Funds for Friends” program. ECHO is very blessed to have Daniel’s Sentry on Court Street as a supporter of this program as we enter 2019. We are still in need of community support of this program. Please save your receipts from Sentry with a “Funds for Friends” sticker on each one. Mail or deliver the receipts to ECHO at 65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548. ECHO will receive 1% back based on the purchase price. Remember, you have to

ask the cashier for the sticker. It is a good habit for 2019 when grocery shopping. Thank you again for supporting ECHO and the “Funds for Friends” program.

2018 Service Highlights

- ◇ Provided services to 3,439 unduplicated households
- ◇ Provided 3,785,687 meals
- ◇ Provided 3,864 nights in a motel to the homeless
- ◇ Provided 439 months of rent to prevent homelessness
- ◇ Provided 490 households with transportation assistance

ECHO Needs

- Soup and Crackers
- Mac & Cheese
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned Meals
- Instant Coffee
- Feminine Supplies
- Diapers

We send out info about ECHO via eblasts around twice a month. You can sign up by going to our website at www.echojanesville.org and clicking on the News/Event tab.

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

Welcome Spring Intern - Justin Notto

Hello everyone. I’m very excited to have the opportunity to intern here at ECHO. I’m currently a senior at UW-Whitewater majoring in social work, with a double minor in psychology and criminology. This is my last semester as an undergraduate at Whitewater. I hope to attend Whitewater’s social work graduate program next fall, with an emphasis in addictions. Before going to UW-Whitewater, I lived in Janesville. While living in Janesville, I heard numerous amazing ways in which ECHO helps the community. This is what drew me towards ECHO for my internship.

I decided to become a social worker for many reasons. The most influential is that I have experienced several adversities growing up. Who knows where I would be today if it weren’t for that one person to believe in me and help me through difficult times. I knew from a young age that I wanted to help people through similar circumstances.



We are so proud to have earned
4 stars from **@CharityNav** for
the **4th** consecutive year!



ECHO's mission is dedicated to meeting housing, food and other basic human needs and addressing the barriers to self-sufficiency
Find out more about ECHO at www.echojanesville.org



ECHO is seeking volunteers for the Fundraising Committee.
Contact Jessica at jlocher@echojanesville.org for more information about joining the ECHO Fundraising Committee.

HOUSING/RESOURCE NAVIGATOR WANTED!



ECHO is looking for a Housing and Resource Navigator to assist homeless households who are participants on the Coordinated Entry Prioritization List with accessing permanent housing. The Housing and Resource Navigator consults with local service providers to identify appropriate housing opportunities for clients and conducts outreach with local landlords to inform them of local housing programs, including but not limited to Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing. The ideal candidate has excellent communication and multitasking skills, a positive attitude, and a strong work ethic.

Full job description is available at www.echojanesville.org/careers

Volunteer Take 5

Name: *Karen & Allan Helgestad*



How long have you volunteered at ECHO? *Karen has been volunteering here for 6 years and Allan has for 4 years.*

How did you get involved at ECHO? *We both wanted to volunteer somewhere after retiring.*

What do you do at ECHO? *Karen fills food orders in the pantry. Allan assists in the pantry as needed by stocking shelves, unloading trucks, assisting with the vertical lift, etc.*

What is your favorite thing about ECHO? *Karen likes doing her part to help the community she grew up in. Allan likes working with the other volunteers.*

What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering? *Karen and Allan were both surprised by the scope of services ECHO provides.*



ECHO needs volunteers to help out weekly in the pantry to pack the food orders during the hours of 9am to noon Monday - Friday. Please contact Fran at (608) 754-5333 if you would like to volunteer.

We have homeless and hungry families in our community that need a roof over their heads to prepare food we provide. **Will you please consider making a difference by donating to help those in need?**

\$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.

SWING into SPRING

Saturday, March 30, 2019

7:00-10:00pm

Pontiac Convention Center

Featuring music by



Cash Bar - Silent Auction - Raffle - Wine Pull

Tickets : \$15

Available at ECHO - 65 S High St or at www.echojanesville.org

**Free Swing Lesson by John Curran
of Madison Area Ballroom, Inc.
Starts promptly at 6:00 p.m.**



Thank You!

Thanksgiving Baskets - Thank you to the donors and over 200 volunteers who came out to help pack and hand out 600 baskets. The Thanksgiving Baskets provided food for 1,169 people.



Holiday Express - Thank you to everyone who helped out and came to the ECHO Holiday Express. Many individuals, young and old, viewed *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, visited with Santa, and made holiday crafts on November 26 at the Pontiac Convention Center. Many thanks to American Family Insurance - Colleen Frentzel, Nicole Nickols, and Heather Carmona Agencies for sponsoring the event and providing many volunteers for this great event! Put December 1 on your calendar for this year's Holiday Express.

Adopt a Family (AAF) - Once again the generosity of the Janesville residents was seen by the ECHO staff and clients during the Christmas season. SO many donors participated in the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program that ECHO was able to help 76 families with Christmas gifts. Drop-off day is always a bit overwhelming and chaotic. I'm sure you can imagine the volume of gifts coming in, and those of you who have delivered gifts to the ECHO office have seen first-hand the Community Room stuffed to the max due to the generosity of the ECHO donors. I was blessed with many thank-you's, hugs, and tears of happiness from the clients who participated in the Adopt-A-Family program, to pass along to their Donor Family. On behalf of the many Adopt-A-Family recipients, ECHO Staff, and ECHO Board, we would like to say THANK YOU to the donors who call ECHO every year to adopt a family, as well as the many first-time Adopt-A-Family donors. Your generosity makes it possible to continue this great program year after year.

Tonya Frerichs, Client Advocate



Christmas Toys - Many thanks to those who donated toys and/or cash to help provide a Christmas for 580 children in need with the Christmas Toy Program. Thank you also to the many wonderful ECHO elves who helped sort toys and assist parents on the day of the event.

Christmas Dinner - ECHO would like to thank the many volunteers who came to the Christmas Dinner and helped serve 850 meals. St. William Catholic Church graciously donated their space for the dinner. ECHO would also like to give a big shout-out to our new chef, Jon Gordon, and his many

volunteers who made all of the yummy food. We are very grateful that our previous chef found his own replacement and provided training, as it was such a smooth transition with no problems. We hope to see you at the Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, December 25, 2019 at St. William Catholic Church!



[www.facebook.com/
ECHOJanesville](http://www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville)



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.

Cheryl Altermatt
Arthur Arnold
Marilyn Bitter
David Brown
Amos Budahn
David Budahn
Ruth Budahn
Ken Corey
Cathy Engel
Gary Geller
John Hoopes

Pete Kealey
Beverly Koch
George Kuehne
Mary Mack
Mary Marshall
Loren Mayfield
Mike McCann
Tom McGrath
Bill Miess
Barbara O'Leary
Elizabeth Peterson

Marilyn Reinders
Mary Runaas
Norman Saia
Louise Shekels
Duke Siegfried
Graham Smith
Ginny Spors
Shirley Steinke
Cindy Starks
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.

Cathy & Carl Andren
Deb & Jim Brewer
Jack & Kristina Burnett
Jack & Martha Burnett
Jodi Clark
Jill Constantino
ECHO Staff
John Favreau
Mary Hayney
Gerald Herman
Joan Jimerez
Christine Johnston
Steve Latka
Karen & Rob Lisser
Mike & Kate Loftus
Lorson Family
Marion Ludwig 105th Birthday
Jim & Emily Lund

Jim Marchant
Skip & Sue McCrone
Moore Family
Donna Padilla
Sandy Peterson
Jane Reid
Scott Reid
Nadine Risley
Warren Rose
Don & Carolyn Seierstad
Dorothy Smith 95th Birthday
Helen Smith 95th Birthday
Tony Smithson
Karen & Bill Spae
Rebecca Stanek
TJ Maxx
Mrs. Torres
Linda & Doug Williams

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:

A&H Trucking	Hunger Task Force - Milwaukee
Abitec Corporation	Janesville Family Dental
All Saints Church	Jones Dairy Farm
Andes Candies	KFC
Aramark	Kids Against Hunger
Asbury United Methodist Church	Kryptonite Collectibles
Bimbo Bakeries USA	Kwik Trip
Bird's Eye	Little Debbie
Brownberry Bread	MacFarlane Pheasant Farm
Butternut Bakery	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Cargill United Methodist Church	Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
Catholic Charities	Nativity of Mary Catholic Church and School
Chambers & Owen	NHA-WIC
Contemplative Prayer Group	Olive Garden
Country Quality Dairy	Our Savior Lutheran Church
Crystal Farms	Peace Lutheran Church
CVS Pharmacy	Pepsi
Daniel's Sentry Food	Premier Oral Surgery
Delta Kappa Gamma	Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
Dollar General	Riverplace Senior Housing
Dunkin' Donuts	Rock County Jail Chaplaincy
Dupont Pioneer	Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church
E & D Water Works	Roscoe United Methodist Church
Emerald Grove United Congregational Church	St. John Lutheran Church
Faith Lutheran Church	St. John Vianney Church
Family Dollar	St. Mark's Lutheran Church
First Baptist	St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School
First Congregational Church	St. Patrick Catholic Church
First Lutheran Church	St. Paul Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church	St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Five Below	St. William Catholic Church
Frank Boucher	Sam's Club
Gardner Bakery	Schnucks
Girl Scout Troops	Seneca Foods
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Starbucks
Gordie Boucher	Texas Roadhouse
Hedberg Public Library	Trinity Episcopal Church
Hendricks Properties	Truck Serv
Hormel	Unitarian Church
Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin	WCBVI



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ECHO Calendar of Events

- ◆ **3/30 Swing into Spring** –
7 PM at the Pontiac Convention Center
- ◆ **4/16-4/18 Children's Easter Basket Distribution** – at the ECHO Office
- ◆ **4/28 CROP Hunger Walk** -
1 PM at Cargill United Methodist Church
- ◆ **6/3 Eat Out for Hunger** –
All day at participating restaurants
- ◆ **8/23 School Supply Distribution** –
at St. John Lutheran Church
- ◆ **10/26 Empty Bowl Soup Fundraiser**
- ◆ **11/23 Thanksgiving Basket Dist.**–
at the Rock Co. 4-H Fairgrounds
- ◆ **12/1 ECHO Holiday Express** –
at the Pontiac Convention Center.



*Important
DATE!*

**Monday
June 3**

**United
Way**



**United Way
Blackhawk Region
Funded Partner**