



Visit our website: [www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville](https://www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville)  
[www.twitter.com/ECHOJanesville](https://www.twitter.com/ECHOJanesville)  
 E-mail: [office@echojanesville.org](mailto:office@echojanesville.org)  
 Phone: 608-754-5333  
 Fax: 608-754-9199

Spring 2021

# The ECHO Times

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

## President's Message By Heidi Jensen



Welcome to spring! The snow has finally melted away and the flowers and trees are beginning to bloom. After this long, unprecedented year of isolation due to the pandemic, we are filled with the blossoming hope of normalcy with the advent of several vaccines. Our return to “normal” is still a way off but we are getting closer every day. The amazing staff and volunteers at ECHO continue to develop ways to serve clients and process donations while staying compliant with COVID restrictions. Besides being a food pantry, ECHO also provides a monthly community meal, senior stock boxes, pet pantry items, emergency lodging, rapid re-housing and emergency rent assistance.

Donations, grants and fundraising are the primary ways ECHO receives funds to provide the many services they offer. The pandemic has greatly altered fundraising. Most of the events over the last year have been virtual – in the form of auctions. Our new fundraiser is a calendar raffle. Tickets are available now for \$25 each. Starting in July, there will be a drawing every Tuesday for \$100 until the end of the year! You heard that right – 26 chances to win! Plus there will be a bonus drawing on December 1st for \$1000!! Winning tickets will be re-entered into the drawing for multiple chances to win. Tickets may be purchased from ECHO board members and from the following locations: Bucky's Lucky Bell Bar & Grill, Jax Custom Printing, Lark Market, MacFarlane Pheasant Farm, O'Riley & Conway's, Raven's Wish, Vert Café & Plant Gallery and of course ECHO.

**Visit [www.ECHOJanesville.org](http://www.ECHOJanesville.org) to view our monthly Needs Lists, along with our most recent audit documents.**

### IN THIS ISSUE

◆ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FANS.....2	◆ EAT OUT FOR HUNGER.....7
◆ CLIENT STORY, DONATION.....3	◆ CALENDAR RAFFLE.....8
◆ COVID-19 INFORMATION.....4	◆ KAREN LISSER HOUSE, SPECIAL PARTNERSHIPS.....9
◆ LODGING NEEDS, VEGGIES.....5	◆ MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS, NEEDS LIST.....10
◆ VOLUNTEER TAKE 5, STOCKBOX.....6	◆ FOOD PANTRY THANK YOU.....11
	◆ CALENDAR OF EVENTS, VOLUNTEER THANK YOU.....12



## First Quarter of 2021 Wrap-Up By Jessica Locher, Executive Director

The beginning of 2021 at ECHO has been super busy with homeless services! We have been working very closely with the City of Janesville’s Neighborhood and Community Services department since December 2020 to increase the capacity of our Emergency Motel Voucher program by receiving a special Community Development Block Grant Covid (CDBG CV) grant. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our local shelters have had to decrease their capacity. In a typical year, ECHO provides between 2,000-5,000 nights at local motels. In the first four months of 2021, ECHO has provided over 4,001 nights at local motels. That is almost as many as we served in all of 2020! The extra funding we received allowed us to increase our capacity during the cold winter months to ensure that any homeless household had a safe warm place to be. We made referrals to other programs that would assist clients on their other barriers to self-sufficiency that we could not help with.

At the beginning of April, we received a call from the Neighborhood and Community Services department asking if we would be interested in partnering again with them. There was an apartment complex fire that displaced over 30 households. The American Red Cross provided two weeks of lodging for those who had nowhere to go. ECHO was able to receive another CDBG CV grant to provide up to eight weeks of lodging for those displaced from the fire after their initial American Red Cross voucher expired until they found new housing or are able to move back into their old unit after repairs.

We were very lucky to have the assistance of two wonderful interns from UW-Whitewater’s Social Work program. Without their work during the spring semester, it would have been extremely hard to continue all of our other services along with the expanded Emergency Motel Voucher program. Thank you, Mahogany and Sydney, for selecting ECHO as your intern placement. ECHO has been very lucky to have had some great interns from UW-Whitewater over the years. As a UW-Whitewater alumni, it makes me proud that the ECHO staff is able to share and teach what we do with interns. We have a full spectrum of homeless and housing services that provides a well rounded experience.

And again I would like to thank all of you for being great supporters of ECHO’s mission of meeting housing, food and other basic needs and addressing the barriers to self-sufficiency. The housing and homeless services are still in great need here in our community as we rebound from the pandemic. Please considering joining us for one of our upcoming events. More information on them can be found throughout this newsletter.

Without you, we cannot be Everyone Cooperating to Help Others!



# New Fans Needed

*ECHO assists clients with fans to keep cool in warm weather.*

*Last year ECHO was able to provide fans to 59 clients.*

*Please consider donating a new fan for someone in need.*





# Client Story

Rob had a good job and had been in his apartment for quite some time. He was current with his rent, bought a car and was working at the same job for over a year. Things were going well for him.

Then the unthinkable happened. Although a relatively young person, Rob had a major stroke and a series of smaller ones, leaving him disabled and per his doctor unable to work. He applied for Social Security disability, but that process can take a very long time and how was he to survive until then? He had an apartment, but how would he pay his rent and remain stable as he healed and improved? Rob attended physical therapy three times a week along with other doctor appointments. He had physical and other disabilities that kept him from doing all the things he used to do. With the help of United Way, we have been able to keep Rob in his housing as he waits for his Social Security to start or until he will be able to go back to work.



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

---

*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: \_\_\_\_\_

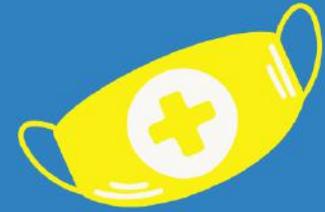
**Donations can also be made online at [www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org)**

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 be made out to ECHO and mailed to 65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548



# **NOTICE**

## **Face Masks Are Required In The ECHO Building**



**Properly wear a mask while receiving services from ECHO. Masks should cover one's nose and mouth completely. If a mask is needed or to receive no-contact service, call ECHO at (608) 754-5333.**



*By Jessica Locher, Executive Director*

I would like to thank everyone for their continued kind words and support of ECHO during this pandemic. The ECHO staff and clients are extremely grateful to the community as they have stepped up to help their neighbors in need and allowed us to keep services flowing to those who needed help.

ECHO has continually adapted and found new ways to provide our services while keeping clients, volunteers and staff safe. All services are being pre-

screened over the phone before an in-person appointment is set up. Housing and homeless service appointments are available based on client comfort in the office or via phone. Masks are still required on ECHO property.

Please watch our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville](http://www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville)) for updates on service delivery changes. And as I stated before, we would not be able to provide these much needed services without your generous support. We are so grateful to be a part of the Rock County community - Thank you!

*If you would like to volunteer at ECHO, please call Fran at 754-5333 to schedule a visit to fill out the volunteer application.*



**MICROWAVABLE  
FOODS NEEDED**

ECHO provided  
4,308 nights at  
a motel in 2020.

Every Household  
is provided with  
healthy prepared foods.

In 2021, ECHO has provided 4,001 nights in a motel in the first four months of the year. This is double what we provided in 2020! We need your help to supply the families we serve with healthy prepared foods they can cook in motels with limited cooking facilities. Here is our Motel Voucher Food Wish List:



- Hormel Compleats
- Ramen Cups
- Applesauce Cups
- Fruit Cups
- Veggie Cups
- Tuna Packs
- Barilla Ready Pasta Packs

## ECHO Honors Outstanding Board Members

ECHO honors a board member each year for “dedicated service and mission to ECHO”. It is with gratitude that we selected Greg Kraft, former vice president and current executive board member, for 2019 and Rick Mueller, former president and current treasurer, for 2020. Both gentlemen have served over six years on our board. Thank you, Greg and Rick!

Nancy Hansen Bennett, Past President



**ECHO NEEDS**

**FRESH VEGGIES.  
PLEASE PLANT EXTRAS.**



# Volunteer Take 5

Name: *Guy Thomas*

How long have you volunteered at ECHO?  
*Since November 2020 to current.*

How did you get involved at ECHO?  
*We donated some product from our business when we retired. Jessica gave us a tour and told us about ECHO and here we are.*

What do you do at ECHO?  
*I assist the Assistant Food Resource Coordinators with food donations coming into the pantry.*

What is your favorite thing about ECHO?  
*Helping those who need it.*

What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering?  
*The way all the different agencies and food pantries work together.*



Name: *Barb Thomas*

How long have you volunteered at ECHO?  
*Started in November 2020.*

How did you get involved at ECHO?  
*We donated soap when our soap business was dissolved. Jessica gave us a tour and we were hooked.*

What do you do at ECHO?  
*I work several jobs in the food pantry and help sort and distribute donations when they arrive. I also help with the fundraising as needed.*

What is your favorite thing about ECHO?  
*The positive attitude of the volunteers and employees, and the willingness to help those in need.*

What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering?  
*The large scope of programs available at ECHO.*



## Senior "Stockbox" Program

**Free Food** for income eligible seniors (60 & over)

Registration and distribution at ECHO  
Mon.-Thurs. from 1-3pm

Box contents vary, but may include cereal, pasta or rice, canned goods, canned meat, juice, and Wisconsin cheese.

**Wisconsin ID required** ■ Income limit: 1 person \$1,396; 1 person + spouse \$1,888

Sponsored by the Hunger Task Force in Milwaukee  
Call ECHO at 754-5333 for more info.

# Eat Out for Hunger



Fundraiser for



Important  
DATE!

**Monday  
June 7**

## Dine out at these participating Janesville restaurants:

- Basics Coffee & Deli
- Charlie's Place
- Citrus Café
- Drafthouse
- Firehouse Subs
- Hammy's Roadside Bar
- Hibachi & Sushi (June 8th)
- Japanese Express
- Luke's Deli
- Luke's Shave Ice
- Mac's Pizza Shack
- My Apartment Pub
- Panda Garden (June 8th)
- Riley's Sports Bar
- Sandee's Thai Fusion
- Sidelines Sports Pub & Grill
- Whiskey Ranch Bar & Grill

*Visit [www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org)  
for an updated restaurants list.*

**Restaurants will donate 10% of their June 7th's receipts as they take action against hunger.**

ECHO,  
65 S. High St.,  
Janesville, WI 53548  
(608)754-5333



Presented By

*MacFarlane*  
PHEASANTS, Inc.

**\$25 per  
Ticket**

**BIG DRAWING  
OF \$1000  
ON DEC. 1**

# Calendar

**R A F F L E !**

**WEEKLY \$100 DRAWINGS TUESDAYS  
JULY 6TH TO DECEMBER 28TH  
ON FACEBOOK LIVE**

## Tickets Available At:

Bucky's Lucky Bell Bar & Grill  
East Point Sportz Pub  
ECHO  
Jax Custom Printing  
Lark Market  
MacFarlane Pheasant Farm  
O'Riley & Conway's  
Raven's Wish  
Sneakers Bar & Grill  
Vert Cafe & Plant Gallery  
Wedge Inn Cafe

Proceeds Benefit



**EACH TICKET CAN WIN  
MORE THAN ONCE.**

**CASH OR CHECK  
TO ECHO ACCEPTED.**

**CONTACT 608-754-5333  
FOR MORE INFO**

# The Karen Lisser House Story

By Rejeana DeViana, Case Manager for Karen Lisser House

Homelessness strikes fear into anyone's heart. Homelessness with children is unimaginable. If you are lucky, a family member lets you have a couch or a spare room. If not, you may be at a shelter or a cheap motel. Worse yet is living in your car or a tent. There are countless homeless families in our country today. This experience affects the family unit, especially the children. Lack of stability and routine impacts growth and development on many levels. Our hope is to help families heal, set and then work toward goals that will ultimately lead to self-sufficiency and housing stability.



Part of Karen Lisser's legacy at ECHO is our Transitional Living House. From the beginning, Karen saw the possibilities the house could have for a formerly homeless family. She became a strong advocate for the house and the families that would live there – wanting everything to be as close to perfect as we could make it. In appreciation for Karen's hard work and dedication, the ECHO Executive committee decided to name the house after her. A beautiful inlay in the entryway honors Karen's vision.

Amid much transition last year, one thing remained a constant – our determination to continue progress on our transitional living house. Despite some COVID-19 delays, we have a garage, a driveway, front steps and sidewalk repairs. Next will come the yard beautification project.

We welcomed our newest residents just before Christmas last year. It had been a rough year for this mom and two little ones. Homelessness was just a part of the struggle. The (now) 5-year-old had shown some behavioral issues that led to counseling and assessments. He is still in the process of receiving a diagnosis, and challenges continue for mom as she learns to parent a child with a learning disability. The 2-year-old is talking and seems to be adjusting well to the house, to having a routine and being in a home. She is developing her own personality and seems to be very active. Mom, due to a past injury, was unable to work until recently. She has been focusing on healing, getting used to housing, working with us and her mentor (a supportive relationship that started in March) and continuing to develop with her children. While there is still work to be done, ECHO is excited to support this family's continued growth on their journey to self-sufficiency.

## Story of Partnership

Thank you to HealthNet of Rock County for organizing and providing COVID-19 vaccinations for all ECHO staff & volunteers!



**JOIN MOD IN SUPPORTING**

**Organization Name: ECHO, Inc**  
**Fundraiser Date: July 20, 2021**

Bring this flyer in or order online through the MOD app or website and use the GroupRaise provided coupon code and MOD will donate 20% of your bill to support their great work!

**MOD PIZZA**  
**Address: 3360 Milton Avenue,**  
**Ste 190**  
**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.

- |  |                       |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Tim Betz                                   | Mary Farley           | Anne Moench           |
| Lavern Bialek                              | Mary Jo Fox           | Virginia Mork         |
| Gloria Bollerud                            | D. Gentry             | Rolland Natter        |
| George Brandeen                            | Bob Goepfert          | Betty Olsen           |
| David Brown                                | Alex Horn             | Ronald Pike           |
| Richard Casper                             | Ardis & Rocky Iverson | Hubert Prochaska      |
| James & Leona Clark                        | Brent Kepp            | Devon Schlegel        |
| Ralph Cohen                                | Bob Kleinsmith        | Ginny Spors           |
| Barb Cullen                                | Edward Knutson        | David Squire          |
| Jamie Dickhoff's father                    | Al Langmeier          | Barb Subak            |
| Mike Dow                                   | Oscar & Violet Larsen | Edna Thorp            |
| Daniel Du Bois                             | Mary Elizabeth Lynch  | James & Norine Turner |
| Deceased members of the<br>Eckert Families | Jim Mancheski         | Edward Williams       |
| Don & Mary Eckert                          | Jean McCann           |                       |
|  | Vince McKeown         |                       |

### ***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.

- |                           |                 |                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Barbara DuBois            | Steve Latka     | Joy Spoden        |
| First Lutheran Church     | Donna Leu       | Shannon Zimmerman |
| Keta Gilliland's Birthday | Wayne Nuernberg | Vince & Tim       |
| Bishop Don Hying          | Laura Smith     |                   |

### ***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 Needs**

- Rice
- Tuna
- Oatmeal

- Hormel Compleats
- Hamburger Helper
- Fruit & Veggie Cups
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Dish Soap

- Deodorant
- Laundry Soap
- Diapers - (sizes 4-7)
- Shampoo
- Conditioner

## **Food Pantry Thank You**

**Special thanks to the following businesses and organizations that assist our food programs:**

All Saints Church	Janesville Family Dental Care
Amazon	Jones Dairy Farm
Anytime Fitness	KFC
Aramark	Kids Against Hunger
Asbury United Methodist Church	Kennedy Elementary School
Beta Alpha PSI	Kwik Trip
Bimbo Bakeries USA	MacFarlane Pheasant Farm
Bird's Eye	Menards
Blackhawk Community Credit Union	Mercy Meals on Wheels
Brownberry Bread	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Butternut Bakery	Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
Camping World	Nativity of Mary Catholic Church and School
Cargill United Methodist Church	NHA-WIC
Catholic Charities	Olive Garden
Chambers & Owen	Our Savior Lutheran Church
Church of Nazarene	Panera Bread
Contemplative Prayer Group	Peace Lutheran Church
Country Quality Dairy	Pepsi
Craig DECA	Premier Bank
Crystal Farms	Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
CVS Pharmacy	Rock County Jail Chaplaincy
Daniel's Sentry Food	Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church
Delta Kappa Gamma	Rotary Club
Dollar General	St. John Lutheran Church
E & D Water Works	St. John Vianney Church & School
Emerald Grove United Congregational Church	St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Faith Lutheran Church	St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School
Family Dollar	St. Patrick Catholic Church
Festival Foods	St. Paul Lutheran Church & School
First Baptist Church	St. Peter's Lutheran Church
First Congregational Church	St. William Catholic Church & School
First Lutheran Church	Sam's Club
First Presbyterian Church	Stop-n-Go
Gardner Bakery	Sauk Valley Bank
Generac	Schnucks
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Seneca Foods
GSM Transportation	Skelly's Farm Market
Hedberg Public Library	Texas Roadhouse
Hendricks Properties	Trinity Episcopal Church
Hormel	Unitarian Church
Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin	WCBVI
Hunger Task Force - Milwaukee	Walmart



**ECHO, Inc.**  
**65 S. High St.,**  
**Janesville, WI 53548**  
Phone: 608-754-5333  
Fax: 608-754-9199  
E-mail: [office@echojanesville.org](mailto:office@echojanesville.org)  
[www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville](https://www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville)  
[www.twitter.com/ECHOJanesville](https://www.twitter.com/ECHOJanesville)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage **PAID**  
Janesville, WI  
**PERMIT NO. 491**

**Return Service Requested**

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



## **ECHO Calendar of Events**

- 6/1-6/10 Online Silent Auction
- 6/7 Eat Out For Hunger
- 7/1—12/28 Calendar Raffle
- 7/20 MOD Pizza Fundraiser
- 8/20 School Supply Distribution
- 10/23 Empty Bowl Soup Fundraiser
- 11/20 Thanksgiving Basket Distribution

**For more information about these events,**  
visit [www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org)

# vol•un•teer

/,vælən'tir/

*agent of change*

The Staff and our Board of Directors of ECHO say thank you to our hundreds of volunteers. We appreciate all that you do to help, from our food pantry to fundraising events and everything in between. Your dedication and time in volunteering for ECHO are priceless. ECHO volunteers gave over 20,000 hours in 2020!

THANK YOU!