



Visit our website: [www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org)  
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Summer 2021

# The ECHO Times

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

## President's Message By Heidi Jensen



I first heard about this organization called ECHO at church. The church I belong to had a member on ECHO's board. This person spoke frequently about items needed for the pantry. Several years ago I was asked to take over the ECHO rep position for my church. Attending my first board meeting was very enlightening. I thought ECHO was a "just a food pantry". That, in itself, is a huge task, as the amount of food coming and going is staggering. Getting produce and other perishable items into the hands of those in need in a timely manner is another large undertaking. Besides the food pantry, I had no idea that ECHO also helps with rent, lodging, transportation, a monthly community meal, school supplies, Thanksgiving meals, Christmas gifts for children, Easter baskets and so much more. All the work done by the staff and volunteers is truly amazing. It is easy to get involved and become part of this great service organization to help those in need. Contact Fran at ECHO 608-754

-5333 to volunteer!

In order to provide these services to the community, it takes resources. Resources in the form of material donations to the pantry and money. One of the ways ECHO raises money is through fundraising. Check out the website for our two raffle opportunities. Currently there is a calendar raffle till the end of the year for cash prizes and a Las Vegas raffle for a week stay at the Club Wyndham Grand Desert (drawing Sept 15).

**GO GREEN. REQUEST YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL AT [www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org)**

***ECHO needs volunteers to help in the food pantry and unload food donations.  
 If you would like to volunteer, please call Fran at 754-5333  
 to schedule a visit to fill out the volunteer application.***

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## Thank You, Volunteers

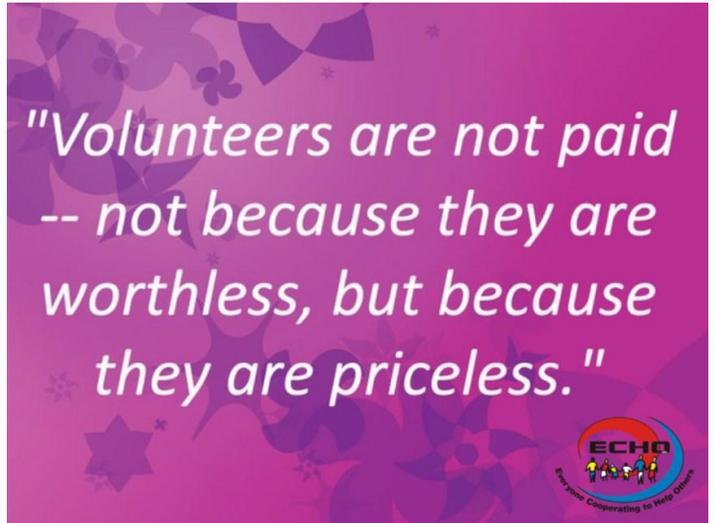
By Jessica Locher, Executive Director  
[jlocher@echojanesville.org](mailto:jlocher@echojanesville.org)



As someone who has spent their whole adult working career at ECHO, I am so impressed by the dedication from ECHO volunteers. We have over 450 volunteers at ECHO. Some are daily and others help out every year at a specific event or are somewhere in between with their volunteerism. They come here and donate their time because they know they are making a difference in someone's life.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, our volunteers stepped up and assisted ECHO so we did not need to shutter an essential service. The volunteers came in and dealt with daily changes as we worked to come up with the best way to provide our services and remain healthy and safe from COVID-19. Even though we are 18+ months from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are still making changes to our service delivery.

I want to thank all of our volunteers who have dedicated their time during the pandemic. We have had the same 20-25 volunteers working the food pantry and senior stockbox program. Some of them were here every day we have been open and we appreciate their commitment to our mission. We cannot be ECHO without them. As our acronym states, it takes Everyone Cooperating to Help Others! All of us at ECHO are very grateful for the dedication of our volunteers who assist in providing top-notch services to the low-income and homeless population that we serve.



Volunteers allow ECHO to be able to provide more housing and homeless services because we are able to use more of our donated funds on those services instead of employing more staff to help with our food pantry. In 2020, about 7,300 hours were donated by food pantry volunteers. This is one of the many ways we try to be fiscally responsible at ECHO. By being fiscally responsible, we were awarded for the 6th year in a row a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator in 2021. Charity Navigator aims to accentuate the work of efficient and transparent organizations. Donors can obtain essential information to give them greater confidence in the charitable decisions they make. Only 13% of evaluated charities have received at least 6 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that ECHO outperforms most other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets ECHO apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness. More information about our rating can be found at <https://www.charitynavigator.org/ein/391222279>

Thank you again for your support of ECHO's programs by donating and volunteering!

## ECHO Needs

Soup and Crackers  
Cereal  
Peanut Butter & Jelly

Motel Single Serve Foods  
Hormel Compleats  
Canned Meats

Instant Coffee  
Feminine Supplies  
Cleaning Supplies  
Diapers—Size 5 & 6  
Deodorant  
Can Openers



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**

# Thank You United Way Blackhawk Region!



ECHO is excited to announce renewed funding from the United Way Blackhawk Region for July 2021 - June 2023 for the ECHOWay Home Program and the Housing Navigator. Below is a synopsis of the ECHOWay Home Program and a few paragraphs from our Housing Navigator, Rachel, about her position.

ECHOWay Home, established with our first United Way funds in 2012, is a housing program serving Rock County low-income people who are experiencing homelessness or are at immediate risk of homelessness. They may be in ECHO's lodging program, at local shelters, living in a car, temporarily living with someone, or may have received a five-day notice. They must be willing to work to improve their situation by participating in case management. ECHO case managers help them work on budgeting, employment and education issues, and address other barriers to self-sufficiency. Seeing their case manager weekly while in lodging and at least monthly for rent assistance, they may receive security deposit, single or multiple-month rent, utility assistance and other wrap-around services.



Rachel

*“As the Housing Navigator I assist many homeless and low-income individuals in Rock and Walworth counties locate and secure stable housing. Most of the clients I work with have barriers including lack of housing, little to no income, previous poor rental history, or troublesome backgrounds. I always take this into consideration when searching for available units. Daily I embrace the challenges in locating affordable housing. I have found that meeting with landlords or management companies face-to-face provides an opportunity for them to feel the authenticity and commitment we have to our clients that are receiving services from us. I welcome them to learn more about our programs such as Rapid Rehousing, PATH and Housing Choice vouchers through the City of Janesville in hopes that they will gain knowledge on how we help these individuals or families not only with housing, but with case management and resources to stabilize them as a productive member of society.*”

*I believe motivation and incentive are huge when working with our clients. I want them to be part of the process and continue to be in contact for at least three months after being housed. I stay in constant communication with my active clients and work closely with interested property owners to assure everyone is on the same page. Not only am I an advocate for the individuals that I am working with, but I am also responsive to our landlords as well. Maintaining good, healthy relationships with both parties makes the process and interactions a lot more comfortable.*

*I also work very closely with our ECHO staff (all levels) to be consistent with our action plans and housing needs and opportunities that come our way. During the rental process, some items I assist with are helping fill out applications, speaking to the property owner on client's behalf, inspecting units for habitability, attending lease signings and move in walk throughs, as well as visiting the home following move in for up to three months post lease signing. This helps tenants gain security and self confidence in being a reliable and good renter. It is evident that most of our clients are coming out of homelessness, so I also accept donations of household items to furnish their new home.*

*The Housing Navigator position is part of a TEAM effort. Working with all agencies and interoffice resources provides a wonderful beginning to those we are able to assist.”*



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

**to find out more about what is going on at ECHO in real time.**

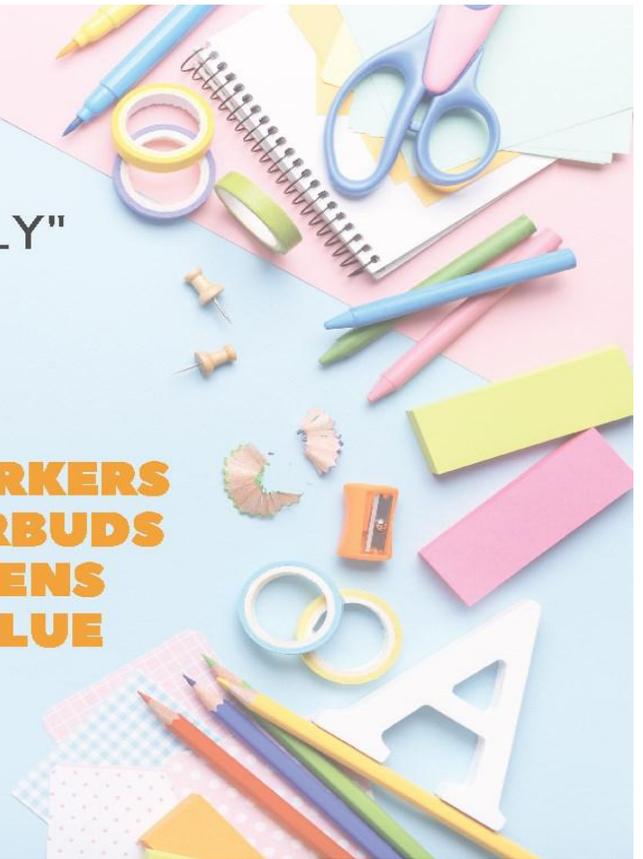


## "MCBUDDIES SCHOOL SUPPLY" NEED LIST

**NOTEBOOKS**  
**TWO POCKET FOLDERS**  
**DRY ERASE MARKERS**  
**COLORLED PENCILS**  
**SUPPLY BAG/BOX**  
**GLUE STICKS**  
**BACKPACKS**

**MARKERS**  
**EARBUDS**  
**PENS**  
**GLUE**

Donations can be dropped off at  
65 S High Street, Janesville by August 16.



This year we will continue doing things a little differently like we did in 2020 due to COVID-19. Sign up began on July 6th and will end August 16. We will be prepacking all the school supplies and distributing the school supplies to each family via a drive-thru distribution that worked out great in 2020.

We are so proud to have earned  
**4 stars** from **@CharityNav** for  
the **6th** 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](http://www.echojanesville.org)**

# WIN A VEGAS GETAWAY



**purehaven**  
independent  
consultant

Donated by  
Non-Toxic Living by Michele Ianni  
[www.1nontoxicmi.com](http://www.1nontoxicmi.com)



**ONE BEDROOM WITH A FULL KITCHEN (SLEEPS 4)  
AT CLUB WYNDHAM GRAND DESERT  
IN LAS VEGAS  
FROM JANUARY 22-29, 2022**

**Raffle Tickets are \$10 each or 3 Raffle Tickets for \$20**

**Proceeds Benefit**



Winner will be responsible for travel expenses  
including any Airfare, Security Deposit  
and/or Resort/Amenity Fees if applicable.

Raffle Drawing on September 15, 2021  
1:30 PM at 65 S High St., Janesville, WI  
Need not be present to win.

# EVERYONE COOPERATING TO HELP OTHERS

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

## Volunteer Take 5

Name: Gary Teubert

How long have you volunteered at ECHO? 15 years

How did you get involved at ECHO? I got involved through my church, First Congregational UCC, as a board member.

What do you currently do at ECHO? I currently assist with packing bags of produce and bring carts with food orders out to our food pantry clients.

What is your favorite thing about ECHO? Helping people that are down on their luck.

What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering? I was surprised by the number of elderly people needing ECHO's assistance.



## Summer Fund Drive

We need your help in reaching our goal to better serve families here, **in our community**, in need of housing, shelter, food, clothing, and other necessities that no one should be without. Please make a donation that will help families in need.



### The options are endless and so is the need.

Can you help by donating to ECHO to assist in paying for items and many not 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.
- \$250 – 1 week of lodging for a homeless family.
- \$750 – 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](http://www.echojanesville.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_



## Thrivent Member Network – South Wisconsin to host Thrivent Cans Hunger event with ECHO

The Thrivent Member Network – South Wisconsin is partnering with ECHO to organize a summer generosity event called *Thrivent Cans Hunger*. During this three-hour event, the Thrivent Member Network - South Wisconsin will donate \$3 for every non-perishable food item collected up to \$3,000.

Join us on Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 pm to help ECHO stock their shelves and meet their *Thrivent Cans Hunger* goal of collecting 1000 items. The collection event will be held at Asbury United Methodist Church at 1810 Kellogg Avenue, Janesville. All non-perishable food items are welcome but ECHO is specifically in need of Barilla Ready Pasta, peanut butter & jelly, ramen cups, motel single serve foods, and Hormel Compleats. ECHO is also in need of the following personal care items: diapers (sizes 4-6), toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, laundry detergent and miscellaneous cleaning supplies.



Are you in the market for a new or used vehicle? Why not visit our friends at Janesville Kia! With each car sold in August, Janesville Kia will donate \$50 to ECHO! Stop over and help the community in the process!



ECHO is looking for a Client Advocate who, as a member of the social services team at ECHO, determines clients' needs and provides appropriate services to assist them, or, if we cannot, refers them to other resources in the community. The ideal candidate has excellent communication and multitasking skills, a positive attitude, and a strong work ethic.

Please see full job description at [www.echojanesville.org/career](http://www.echojanesville.org/career)

Please email cover letter and resume to [jlocher@echojanesville.org](mailto:jlocher@echojanesville.org) by Friday, August 27, 2021.

WE ARE HIRING!  
**CLIENT ADVOCATE**

Visit [echojanesville.org/careers](http://echojanesville.org/careers) for a full job description

## Thank You, Eat Out for Hunger Participants

Thank you to our 2021 Eat Out for Hunger participating restaurants: Basics Coffee & Deli, Charlie's Place, Citrus Café, Drafthouse, Firehouse Subs, Hammy's Roadside Bar, Hibachi & Sushi Japanese Express, Luke's Deli, Luke's Shave Ice, Mac's Pizza Shack, My Apartment Pub, Panda Garden, Riley's Sports Bar, Sandee's Thai Fusion, Sidelines Sports Pub & Grill, and Whiskey Ranch Bar & Grill. Thank to these restaurants and their customers for supporting our mission.

## Letter Carrier Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated food and school supplies on Saturday, August 7th. In replacement of the annual National Letter Carrier Food Drive each May, the local Letter Carriers hosted a drive-through food and school supply for ECHO.



# JAN. TO JUN. 2021 SNAPSHOT

- 204 MONTHS OF RENT PAID TO KEEP FAMILIES HOUSED
- 6,103 NIGHTS IN A LOCAL MOTEL FOR THE HOMELESS
- 1,852 SENIOR STOCKBOXES PROVIDED
- 1,601,188 MEALS PROVIDED

*Thank you for helping ECHO's mission of meeting housing, food and other basic human needs and addressing the barriers to self-sufficiency.*

United  
Way



United Way  
Blackhawk Region  
Funded Partner

## Adopt a Family Sign-Up Begins

ECHO is again looking forward to assisting low-income families in need this year through our Adopt A Family program. Donors 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 charitable programs, many families would not be able to have the pleasure of seeing their children's excitement about having 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@echojanessville.org](mailto:jlocher@echojanessville.org) by Mon., November 15 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.



### *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.

Bryson Baumeister  
Ralph Berkley  
Alan Cashore  
Richard Casper  
Rick Deeney  
Mary Farley

Alex Horn  
Dottie Newton  
George S Parker II  
Pat Pember  
Hubert Prochaska  
Donald Richard

Joe Roberts  
Ginny Spors  
David Squire  
Dennis Venable  
Ed Williams

### *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.

Karla Nitz

Sue McCrone

Kathy & Pat McDonald

### *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  
Advia Credit Union  
All Saints Church  
Amazon  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
Best Events  
Bimbo Bakeries USA  
Birds Eye  
Blackhawk Community Credit Union  
Brownberry Bread  
Butternut Bakery  
Cargill United Methodist Church  
Catholic Charities  
Chambers & Owen  
Country Quality Dairy  
Crystal Farms  
Daniels Sentry Food Stores  
Data Dimensions  
Dollar General  
Dreier Family Dental  
Dunkin' Donuts  
E & D Water Works  
Emerald Grove UCC  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Festival Foods  
First Christian Church  
First Congregational Church  
First Lutheran  
First Presbyterian Church  
Gardner Bakery  
Girl Scouts  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Haye Dental  
Hedberg Public Library  
Hendricks Properties  
Hormel

Hunger Task Force - Milwaukee  
Jay's Big Rolls  
Jones Dairy Farm  
Kentucky Fried Chicken  
Kwik Trip  
Little Debbie  
MacFarlane Pheasant Farm  
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church  
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church  
Nativity of Mary Catholic Church and School  
New Life Assembly of God/Convoy of Hope  
NHA-WIC  
O'Leary Dental  
Olive Garden  
Palmer Dental  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Pepsi  
Riverplace Senior Housing  
Robinson Prijic  
Rock Prairie Presbyterian  
St. John Lutheran Church  
St. John Vianney Church  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
St. Mary's Hospital, Janesville  
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
St. Patrick Catholic Church  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
St. William Catholic Church  
Sam's Club  
Schnucks  
Seneca Foods  
Starbucks  
Tree House Foods  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Youth2Youth



**ECHO is seeking volunteers  
for the Fundraising Committee.**  
**Contact Jessica at [jlocher@echojanesville.org](mailto:jlocher@echojanesville.org)  
for more information about joining the  
ECHO Fundraising Committee.**



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**Janesville, WI 53548**  
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[www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville](http://www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville)

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## **ECHO Calendar of Events**

- 7/1-9/15 Las Vegas Raffle**
- 7/6-12/28 Calendar Raffle**
- 8/20 School Supply Distribution**
- 8/24 Thrivent Food Drive**
- 10/23 Empty Bowl To Go Fundraiser**
- 11/20 Thanksgiving Basket Distribution**

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



COVID-19 Style Fundraiser to support ECHO, fighting to end hunger in Janesville with handmade soups from local restaurants.

Soups by: To Be Announced September 15

Soups will be pre-sold in quart freezer-safe containers. Orders will be taken starting 10/1/21 at noon until sold out.

Pricing: \$10

Pickup will be done as a drive-thru at YMCA of Northern Rock County's back parking lot off of Court Street on October 23 from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

