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Summer 2022

# The ECHO Times

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

## President's Message By Heidi Jensen



ECHO has a long history of service in Janesville. In 1969, ECHO started as a food pantry. By 1975 it was a fully incorporated 501(c)(3). By the mid 1970's, ECHO provided help with rent, lodging, transportation, a monthly community meal and more. Today, ECHO still provides these services with the addition of senior stock boxes, cleaning and personal supplies, diapers and baby food, pet food, school supplies, Thanksgiving baskets, Easter baskets, Christmas toys, gas cards, bus tokens, PATH outreach and adopt-a-family program. ECHO continues to evolve to serve the Janesville Community.

One of several exciting new collaborations is a partnership with the City of Janesville. The Pay It Forward Grant was awarded from the City of Janesville to ECHO in collaboration with Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development (WPHD). The grant will provide funding to build six low-income housing rental units for those in need in our area. The plan is to build 3 two-bedroom units and 3-three bedroom units in a town-house style. The properties will be owned and operated by WPHD. ECHO will manage the rental of units to tenants and collect rent. Locations for the new units are being scouted. Anticipated occupancy is late summer/early fall 2023. These units will provide vital housing to those in need. Did you know that in 2021, ECHO provided 9292 nights in motels to keep individuals from sleeping in their cars or on the street? ECHO also provided 399 months of rent to keep individuals in their current rentals. Adding these six units through the Pay It Forward Grant will help six families on their path to self-sufficiency.

*ECHO provides vital services in our community.  
Please consider contributing to ECHO through financial gifts or volunteering.*

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



## Youth Initiatives

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

As the Executive Director of ECHO, I am proud that we have so many exciting partnerships and projects in the pipeline. One of my key goals when I started as Executive Director was to strengthen and increase our partnerships. I will share here about a few of the youth-centered partnerships. You will also read about a few others in different areas of this newsletter.

We are excited to announce that we will partner with the School District of Janesville for the 2022/23 school year to start a weekend food program for homeless students. The food program will provide snacks and meals for the weekend. This is an expansion of the weekend food program that we have supported since the summer of 2021 with the YMCA of Northern Rock County. Youth can visit the YMCA's Downtown Janesville location and pick up a bag of food for the weekend. The YMCA is seeing an average of 50 youth picking up the pre-packaged bag of food each week.

Continuing youth-centered partnership announcements, ECHO will partner with Project 16:49 to bring funding into Rock and Walworth Counties for additional case management and housing dollars for unaccompanied homeless youth. The funding will be from HUD that is specifically set aside to assist youth experiencing homelessness in a variety of ways. Each continuum of care had to create a Community Comprehensive Plan (CCP) with the assistance of a Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Project 16:49 led the creation of our local CCP and YAB. The CCP and YAB agreed that independent housing options with supportive services and case management were needed in our community. ECHO is the lead grantee and will assist with the housing options. Project 16:49 will provide case management and supportive services as a subgrantee of ECHO. The two-year grant funding will be available starting in October 2022. We hope to have a successful partnership and be able to renew the funding in 2024.

Thank you all again for being such great supporters of our mission. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or would like to have a tour of the ECHO office and hear more about our programs. Please enjoy the remainder of our beautiful Wisconsin summer!

### 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



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

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



Presented By

*MacFarlane*  
PHEASANTS, Inc.

**\$25 per  
Ticket**

**BIG  
Drawing  
of \$1000  
on Dec. 1**

# Calendar



Weekly drawings of \$100 or \$200  
September 6th - December 27th  
on Facebook Live

**TICKET SALES END  
SEPTEMBER 5!**

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

Proceeds Benefit

### **Ticket Sale Locations:**

ECHO Office, MacFarlane Pheasant Farm, Fib's North Orfordville, Jax Custom Printing, Bucky's Lucky Bell Bar & Grill, O'Riley and Conway's Irish Pub, Lark Market, Sneakers Sports Bar & Grill, Raven's Wish Gallery, Hair Force, Aten Orthodontics, Velocity Multi-Sport & Cycling, Basics Cooperative, Adorn



**CASH OR CHECK  
TO ECHO ACCEPTED.**

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

# Thank You, United Way Blackhawk Region!



ECHO is excited to announce expanded funding from the United Way Blackhawk Region for July 2022 - June 2023 for ECHO's Housing & Resource Navigator Program. The Housing & Resource Navigator assists homeless households with accessing permanent housing and consults with local service providers to identify appropriate housing opportunities for clients. The Housing & Resource Navigator also conducts outreach and recruitment of local landlords to inform them of the local service providers housing programs including but not limited to, Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing. With funding from United Way Blackhawk Region, ECHO is able to have two Housing & Resource Navigators.

## MEET OUR NEW STAFF



Hi everyone! My name is Rachael Rau. I am super excited to be the new Path Outreach Worker and Client Advocate. I was born and raised in Janesville and look forward to working with members of our community. I have always enjoyed working with people and have a passion for helping others. I respect and believe in ECHO's mission. I have an associate degree in criminal justice and bachelor's degree in social work with minor in criminal justice. I received my Master's degree in Social Work from UW-Whitewater with an emphasis in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. I have gained valuable work experiences as a Medication Technician with Community Support Program and as a Psychiatric Technician at Rock County Treatment Court. We all face challenges in life

and it's important to recognize everyone has their own story. I am amazed at everything ECHO does to help those in need of services. I am privileged to be part of making a difference in our community.

Hello! My name is Andy Snow. I am one of the new Housing and Resource Navigators. As a resident of Janesville for 44 years and a huge supporter of local nonprofits, I am ecstatic to serve ECHO in this role. Being able to help people learn how to overcome their barriers by using my people skills and networking is what brought me to this position. ECHO has been a staple for many in Janesville and it gets me excited to join this great team. I have a degree from UW-Platteville in Education, taught for seven years in Milton, WI, and worked with the homeless veteran population to find them housing in the area. When I am not at work, you can usually find me helping the Rock Aqua Jays as their Vice President.



Hi! I am Emily Arthur. I am thrilled to join ECHO as the new Public Relations/ Development Manager. I am coming to ECHO after six years with the Janesville Farmers Market and also working with downtown Janesville. Through both of those jobs I have worked alongside ECHO for many years. I am excited to help grow the awareness of what ECHO does for our community.





# SCHOOL SUPPLY NEED LIST

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

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

Donations can be dropped off at  
 65 S High Street, Janesville by August 10.



This year we will continue doing things a little differently due to COVID-19. Sign up will end August 5. We will be prepacking all the school supplies and distributing the school supplies to each family via a drive-thru distribution on August 19. This has worked out great the past two years.

## 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 these items and many not mentioned below?*

- \$ 20** – Gas so someone can go to work.
- \$ 52** – Monthly bus pass to get someone to work.
- \$150** – 1 week of groceries for a family in need.
- \$400** – 1 week of lodging for a homeless family.
- \$1000**– 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: \_\_\_\_\_





**HUNGER  
TASK FORCE**  
FREE & LOCAL



**ECHO**

**ECHO Partners with Hunger Task Force to give out their Stockboxes to local seniors in need. A Stockbox is a box of healthy foods that Hunger Task Force delivers free of charge to low-income seniors over 60. Each box contains nutritious items including rice, cereal, juice, beef stew, pasta and vegetables. Each month, nearly 9,000 boxes are delivered to seniors in Southeastern Wisconsin.**

**You can sign up and pick up stockboxes at the ECHO office Monday and Wednesday 1-3pm. Seniors are eligible to pick up one stockbox per month.**

**For questions, please call ECHO at 754-5333**



foods are provided by the Commodity Supplemental Food Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

## STATEMENT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In light of recent acts of discrimination towards ECHO Staff, I would like to reiterate that ECHO values and respects the diversity of our team members, program participants, donors and the communities we serve. We will always treat each other with respect and fairness and expect to be treated in the same way by program participants and donors. ECHO is committed to providing equal access to our services and opportunities to employment. We will continue to build a culture that encourages, supports, and celebrates the diverse voices of our employees and program participants.

*Jessica Locher, ECHO Executive Director*



# 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: Joslyn Juhl

How long have you volunteered at ECHO? Since April 2021

How did you get involved at ECHO? After I moved to Janesville, I wanted to get involved in the community in some way. I heard about ECHO from work, so I reached out to see if I could start volunteering. I now volunteer each week on Wednesdays.

What do you currently do at ECHO? I usually help in the pantry by checking expiration dates on donated food. I also help with odd jobs such as reorganizing shelves, labeling boxes of overstocked donations and assisting other volunteers with whatever needs to be done.

What is your favorite thing about ECHO? I have really enjoyed getting to know the volunteers that I work with each week. We have a good time and have lots of laughs.

What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering? I was most surprised by how volunteer-driven the pantry part of ECHO is. The volunteers are dedicated to what they do, and ECHO wouldn't be able to function and serve the community without the volunteers.

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.



VOLUNTEER MONTHLY  
OPEN HOUSE @ ECHO  
1ST TUESDAYS  
5-6PM



"THE BEST WAY TO FIND  
YOURSELF IS TO LOSE YOURSELF  
IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS."

GANDHI





A big thank you to the City of Janesville, WI's Neighborhood and Community Services staff for volunteering in May! They spent all day spiffing up the social services side of the building. We love the mural they created in our waiting room - it really brightens up the space!

## Thank You, Eat Out for Hunger Participants

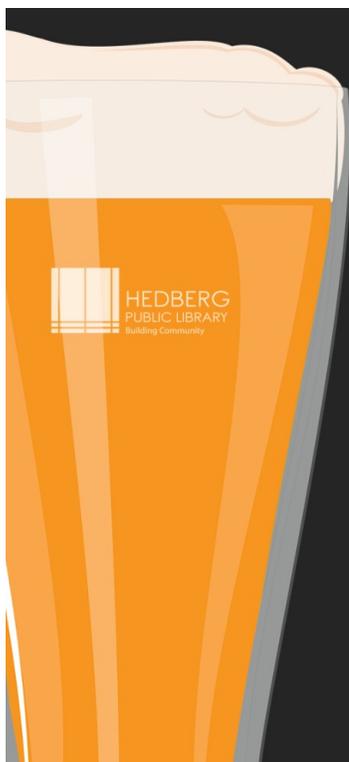
Thank you to our 2022 Eat Out for Hunger participating restaurants: The Looking Glass, Sandee's Thai Fusion, Whiskey Ranch Bar & Grill, Basics Cooperative, My Apartment Pub & Grill, HS Hibachi & Sushi, Culvers—Milton Ave. Culvers— Court St., drafthouse, Luke's Deli and Shaved Ice, Riley's Sports Bar & Grill, Firehouse Subs, Mac's Pizza Shack, Charlie's Place, Citrus Café, Genisa Wine Bar. Thank to these restaurants and their customers for supporting our mission.

## Letter Carrier Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated food for our annual Letter Carrier Food Drive

## SJV Gran Prix Bike Race

Thank you to the St. John Vianney Knights of Columbus for supporting ECHO with a food tent during this year's Janesville Town Square Gran Prix. They generated \$2500!



**BOOKS**  
— AND —  
**BREWS**

**HELP US RESTOCK THE ECHO FOODBANK SHELVES!**

**A LITERARY GAME NIGHT**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 6:30 P.M.**  
ROCK COUNTY BREWING COMPANY 10 North Parker Drive

**Enjoy three rounds of trivia, puzzles and games.**  
Bring a non-perishable donation and get a drink discount!  
*No registration or teams necessary.*

# 2022 January-June Service Snapshot



**1,464,310 Meals Provided**

**6,494 Nights Provided at Motels**



**329 Homeless Outreach Contacts**

**158 Months of Rent Provided**



- 176 Families Received Transportation Assistance
- 787 Pets Received Food

**United  
Way**



**United Way  
Blackhawk Region  
Funded Partner**

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

## 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@echojanesville.org](mailto:jlocher@echojanesville.org) by Fri., November 11 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.

Betty Baier

Sis Drew

Daniel DuBois

Lyle Eddy

Jeffrey Everts

Bob Goepfert

Jeanne Gould

Gen Gray

Michael Gunn

Thomas Hillebrand

Joyce Jenson

Bonita Kingsley

Shirley Knickerbocker

Florence Lamb

Palmer Larson

Patricia Marko

Marie Martin

Greg McDonald

Michael (Mick) McDonald

Alexander Paul "Scott" Owen Jr.

Elizabeth Peterson

Ruth Peterson

Hugh Prochaska

William Reinardy

Mary Lee Reuss

Rev. James River

Donald Robinson

Robert Sauer

Tom J. Scott

Charlie Smith

Dorothy Smith

Ginny Spors

Dorothy Streeter

John Tollefson

James & Norine Turner

Tom Winkler

Kathy Wuksinisch

## *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.

Leona's Birthday

Briana Bayer's Birthday

Dona Bolton

Elliot Brewer

Summer Huckstep

Peter & Janet Irvine

Karen Lisser

Jessica Locher

Laura Smith

Shelly Wendt

## *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:

All Saints Church	Little Debbie
Amazon	MacFarlane Pheasant Farm
Asbury United Methodist Church	Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Bimbo Bakeries USA	Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
Birds Eye	Nativity of Mary Catholic Church and School
Brownberry Bread	New Life Assembly of God/Convoy of Hope
Butternut Bakery	NHA-WIC
Cargill United Methodist Church	Olive Garden
Catholic Charities	Our Savior Lutheran Church
Chambers & Owen	Panera Bread
Country Quality Dairy	Peace Lutheran Church
Crystal Farms	Pepsi
Daniels Sentry Food Stores	Riverplace Senior Housing
Dollar General	Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church
E & D Water Works	St. John Lutheran Church
Emerald Grove UCC	St. John Vianney Church
Faith Lutheran Church	St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Festival Foods	St. Mary's Hospital, Janesville
First Christian Church	St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
First Congregational Church	St. Patrick Catholic Church
First Lutheran Church	St. Paul Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church	St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Gardner Bakery	St. William Catholic Church
Girl Scouts	Sam's Club
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Schnucks
Hedberg Public Library	Seneca Foods
Hendricks Properties	Sentry Foods
Hormel	Stop N Go
Hunger Task Force - Milwaukee	Tree House Foods
Jay's Big Rolls	Trinity Episcopal Church
Jones Dairy Farm	Walmart
Kwik Trip Stores	



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



**ECHO, Inc.**  
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**Janesville, WI 53548**  
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## ECHO Calendar of Events

- ◆ 8/18 Night on Festival– Raffle Ticket Sales
- ◆ 8/19 School Supply Distribution
- ◆ 9/6 Calendar Raffle Weekly Drawings
- ◆ 10/22 Empty Bowls TO GO Soup Fundraiser
- ◆ 11/16 Books and Brews Fundraiser
- ◆ 11/19 Thanksgiving Basket Distribution
- ◆ 12/25 Christmas Day Dinner- St. William Church

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



# Empty Bowls

**TO GO!**

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

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 22 from 11:00am to 1:00pm.



**United Way**  
**Blackhawk Region**  
**Funded Partner**