



#### President's Message By Dori MacFarlane

My husband was recently interviewed for an upcoming article and the interviewer asked him how gratitude factored into his work life. When we discussed his answers, I began to think about ECHO. I have an abundance of gratitude when it comes to my role at ECHO. I am grateful for Karen, Jessica, and Fran, who originally encouraged me to join the Fundraising Committee. I quickly learned how much effort goes into raising funds for a non-profit when there are so many wonderful organizations in our area, all competing for the same dollar. Once I got my feet wet in that capacity, I was encouraged to join the board. I am thankful for each and every board member, past and present. I think back to the people who saw a need and started ECHO, what visionaries

they were and still are. When I started on ECHO's board, I soon realized that our board members do so much more than come to monthly meetings. Our board members give their time to help ECHO maintain its excellence. Most of our board members come from supporting churches. I am so grateful that we have so many diverse churches being represented. We also have the best volunteers. If you stopped by ECHO every day this week, you would see different faces working in the garage unloading trucks, working in the hallway packing bread and delivering bags of groceries, and hustling and bustling in the basement packing groceries and stocking shelves. It takes a lot of coordination and effort to make ECHO move seamlessly. None of this would happen if we didn't have the fantastic staff that we do. I am so grateful for our caring and compassionate staff. They are concerned for our clients' emotional selves as much as they are for their physical selves, and they work on developing trust and building relationships. Each client is treated with respect and dignity. I am thankful for our clients, who teach me each time I'm at ECHO. Each person brings their own story, and their stories are worth hearing. I have a tremendous amount of gratitude for our partners, who keep ECHO running. This includes United Way, donors, friends who include us in their wills and trusts, the groups that provide us with grants, and all of you who are taking the time to read this newsletter and who often give to ECHO. There are so many other things that I am grateful for when I am looking at ECHO, such as, the building where we're housed, our vehicles and equipment, the computers, phones, the services that we provide, and a plethora more. My heart swells when I take the time to really appreciate all that ECHO is and does, and all of the people that sustain and support us. When it comes to ECHO, it's easy for me to be grateful.

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# ECHO

# **Executive Director Message**

By Jessica Locher, Executive Director

We are a few months into the retirement of our former Volunteer Coordinator, Fran Brien. Fran has been a longtime colleague and friend of mine. I met her one year into my tenure at ECHO. She became a close family friend over the years. It has been an absolute pleasure to create many memories with her over the past 18 years. She has been an avid supporter of ECHO for over 50 years - she was on the original board of directors and held various positions on the board before she started as Volunteer Coordinator in September 2005. I wish Fran the best in this next chapter of her life. She has given so much to others throughout her career that is now time she gives back to herself. If I know Fran, she will continue being a giver to her community and keep busy with all her friends who have become family to her she that she has made over

the years. I would also like to introduce you to our new Volunteer Coordinator, Ana Boden. She started at ECHO a few years ago as a bilingual Client Advocate on the social services side. She, like Fran, has a great heart for those we serve. Ana has transitioned into her new role very quickly. Come meet her at our monthly volunteer open house on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm to learn more about ECHO and all the volunteer opportunities.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I would also like to take this time to be appreciative of the many supporters of ECHO's mission. Firstly, I would like to say thank you to all our donors who give in-kind or monetary donations; you are the ones providing the goods necessary to meet our mission of providing basic human needs and funding the staff who help address our low-income and/or homeless neighbors' barriers to self-sufficiency. Secondly, thank you to our board of directors who help guide me and the ECHO staff and help ensure we are being stellar stewards of the donations and grants ECHO receives through policy and procedures. And lastly, I am thankful for the nineteen staff members and more than fifty weekly volunteers who are the boots on the ground that put their all into their positions at ECHO and are making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Together we are Everyone Cooperating to Help Others!



## **Staff Transition**



ECHO would like to share that Ana Boden has transitioned from being a Client Advocate to our new Volunteer and Food Resource Coordinator position. She understands our mission and services and will continue to be an asset to ECHO.

If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the volunteer form at https://echojanesville.org/volunteer/ and Ana will be in touch. She can also be reached at aboden@echojanesville.org

## **Meet Our New Staff**



Hello, My name is Emily. I am the new Client Advocate and I am excited to be working with ECHO and using my bilingual skills to help the community. I used to work for HealthNet so I am happy to still be working for a non-profit to help serve our community. Fun fact—my family owns La Kermes food truck.



Hi! My name is Steve. I am the new PATH Outreach Worker. After working twenty-eight years in carpentry in the Janesville area, I decided to take a different route in 2019. I did trauma training, got state certified in Peer Support, then worked for a mental health facility as a Behavioral Health Technician for the past three years. I worked with people with severe mental illnesses, substance use disorders and others that were also experiencing homelessness. The skills and knowledge I learned while working with this population will transition me perfectly into my new role here at ECHO. I am excited to be able to make a difference in our community by helping others in need. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my wife and kids.



www.facebook.com/

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



## **VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE**

1ST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH 5PM

# TOUR THE BUILDING AND LEARN MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT ECHO





Unfortunately, we have had multiple donations and packages stolen from our driveway.

Please, do not leave any donations when we are closed.

Donation Hours: M-TH 8:00am-4pm F 8:00am-12pm

# Volunteer Take 5

Name: *Gary* 

How long have you volunteered at ECHO? 2 years

How did you get involved at ECHO? *I'm retired and decided I would like to volunteer.* 

What do you do at ECHO? I am a bagger in the garage for the produce and other things that come in.

What is your favorite thing about ECHO? Helping people in their time of need.

What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering? *The generosity of the community shown by how many donations come in.* 



# Looking for ways your employees can volunteer and make a difference in the community? Let us know! earthur@echojanesville.org





# **ECHO Christmas Toy Distribution**

Once again, ECHO is requesting monetary donations or gift cards from Blain's Farm and Fleet and Target. Parents will receive a gift card(s) to purchase presents along with a pre-packed goodie bag full of stocking stuffers and holiday cheer for children in need in our community.

Donations accepted now through December 8 at the ECHO office, 65 S. High St.

9am-Noon & 1-4pm, Monday-Thursday, 9am-Noon, Friday, or call 754-5333 for appointment to drop off donations.

Holiday wrapping paper is needed and can also be dropped off along with the gift cards.



Any toy donations will be used for birthday presents throughout the year for children in need.

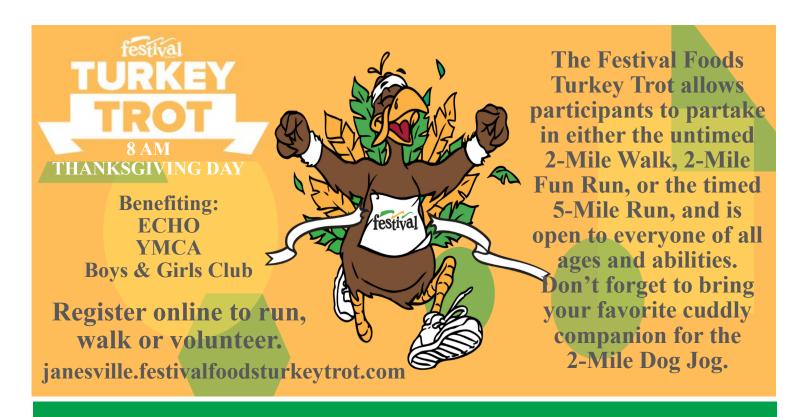
# **Thanksgiving Basket Distribution**

Saturday, November 18 8 AM TO NOON - Distribution at ECHO

**Cranberries Needed!** Please purchase one or more cans of cranberries when you are at the grocery store and drop off at the ECHO Office in the Cranberry Container for the Thanksgiving Basket Distribution.

A Donation of THANKSGIVING ECHO expects to assist 600 families who are low-income.
Yes, I would like to sponsor Thanksgiving Dinner(s) at \$30 each and/or I would like to make a donation to help feed families after Thanksgiving by sending in a check to the ECHO Office at 65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548, made out to: "ECHO Thanksgiving".
\$30 \to \$60 \to \$120 \to \$300 \to \$600 \to \$
Any donation is appreciated   \$\sumseteq \bigseteq \bigs
Please help make a family's holiday a thankful one!
Name:
E-Mail:
Address:
Donations can also be made online at
www.echojanesville.org







# 2024 SPONSORSHIP PACKET NOW AVAILABLE

Contact Emily: earthur@echojanesville.org



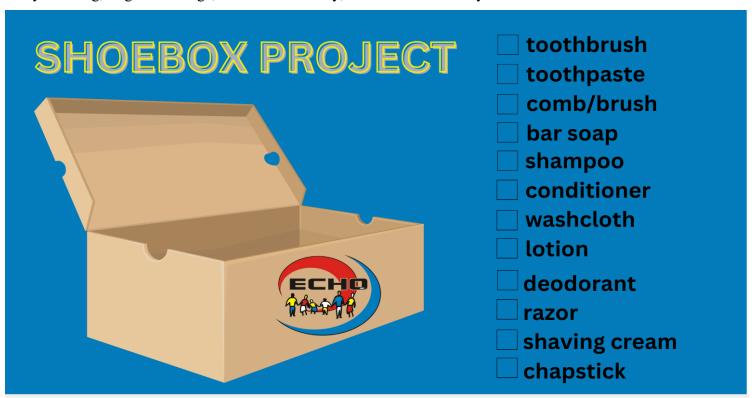
**DAY OF CARING-** Thank you to our United Way Blackhawk Region, Day of Caring volunteers from the Beloit Health System as well as from ABC Supply. They stuffed 10,000 envelopes with our fall Gazette insert and completed a few other tasks

**JANESVILLE JETS** Thank you to everyone who donated at the September 22nd, Janesville Jets game! We want to say a special thanks to section 104 who took up a special food drive and dropped off a LARGE carload of items! A total of 699 pounds were donated.

**BURTNESS** Thank you to Burtness Chevrolet, Inc. and everyone who donated during the Annual Burtness Car Show in Orfordville, WI. We received 499 pounds in donations.

**EMPTY BOWLS** We would like to thank all of the restaurants and sponsors who made this year's Empty Bowls To Go event a success.

**Sponsors:** Educators Credit Union, Generac, Mercyhealth, Blackhawk Community Credit Union **Restaurants:** Basics Co-op, Bessie's Diner, Blackhawk Tech Culinary Students, Buckhorn Supper Club, Culver's, Ding-A-Ling, Eagle Inn, Edgerton Hospital, Genisa, GR's Sandwich Shoppe, Iron Salamander, Jeff's Kitchen, Knutes, La Kermes, La Chucheria, Lark Market, Looking Glass, Luke's Deli, Mac's Pizza Shack, MacFarlane Pheasant Farm Chef Sarah, Milwaukee Grill, My Apartment Pub and Grill, O'Riley and Conway's, Panera Bread, Rhuester's Friendly Village, Russ Park Place, Sidelines, South Padre Sea Food, SSM Health, Texas Roadhouse, Gray Brewing, Sugar Exchange, Timberhill Winery, Homemade Bread by Cecelia



You can help those living on or just off the streets by supplying some of the basic necessities that most of us take for granted each day. This would be a great project for school, youth and service groups.

Simply collect the above items in a shoebox and bring them to the ECHO Office for distribution to those in need. Boxes can be personalized for men, women or children. Just make sure to mark the boxes so we know who should receive them.



#### In Memoriam:

Since our last newsletter, we received contributions <u>in memory</u> of the following ECHO friends. Their families and friends are in our thoughts and prayers.

Barbara Courtney
Norbert Danczyk
Tom Geise
Donna Grorud
Theresa Fletcher
Charlene Flury

Jacob Friesema
Tom Geise
Donna Grorud
Christine Scaccia Lubeck
Lewis Shelton
Joan Walleser

#### In Honor:

We join the families and friends in congratulating the following ECHO friends who were <u>honored</u> by donations in celebration of their birthday, anniversary, or special occasion.

Fran Brien Beth Mullen Tuck & Beth Webb Gary Jacobson Preston Smith Shelley 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.)



#### SENIOR "STOCKBOX" PROGRAM

Free Food for income eligible seniors (60 & over)

Registration and distribution at ECHO Monday and Wednesdays from 1-4 pm

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

Wisconsin ID Required - Please contact ECHO for more information, include the income limit 608-754-5333

Sponsored by the Hunger Task Force in Milwaukee

# Food and Fund Drives

Special thanks to the following businesses and organizations that held food, fund and other drives:

All Saints Church Amazon **Asbury United Methodist Church** Bimbo Bakeries USA **Birds Eye Cargill United Methodist Church Catholic Charities Chambers & Owen** Chick-Fil-A **Country Quality Dairy Crystal Farms Daniels Sentry Food Stores Dollar General** E & D Water Works **Emerald Grove UCC** Faith Lutheran Church **Festival Foods** First Christian Church First Congregational Church First Lutheran Church First Presbyterian Church **Gardner Bakery Girl Scouts Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Hedberg Public Library Hendricks Properties Hunger Task Force - Milwaukee** Hy-Vee Jay's Big Rolls Join Janesville Jones Dairy Farm

**Kwik Trip Stores** 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** Olive Garden **Our Savior Lutheran Church** Panera Bread **Peace Lutheran Church Pepsi Riverplace Senior Housing Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church** 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 Sentry Foods** Steve Caya, Personal Injury Law Stop-N-Go **Trinity Episcopal Church** 

Walmart



Would your business be willing to set out a donation bin on your counter?

Contact us:
earthur@echojanesville.org



ECHO, Inc. 65 S. High St., Janesville, WI 53548

Phone: 608-754-5333 Fax: 608-754-9199

E-mail: office@echojanesville.org www.echojanesville.org www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville www.twitter.com/ECHOJanesville

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Non-Profit

Organization

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

### **ECHO Calendar of Events**

- **♦11/15** Girls' Night Out-Timber Hill Winery
- ♦11/15 Books & Brews Trivia
- **♦11/18 Thanksgiving Distribution**
- ♦11/23 Turkey Trot
- ♦ 12/1-12/3 Janesville Jolly Jingle Weekend
- ♦12/1 S'mores and Cocoa at Town Square

#### Thank you to these generous business supporters



















#### **Funds for Friends Program**

ECHO is blessed to have Daniel's Sentry on Court Street as a supporter

Save your receipts from Sentry with a "Funds for Friends" sticker on each one

(ask for a sticker from the customer service counter)
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

