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www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville
www.twitter.com/ECHOJanesville
E-mail: office@echojanesville.org
Phone: 608-754-5333
Fax: 608-754-9199

Spring 2023

The ECHO Times



President's Message

By Dori MacFarlane

If you are taking the time to read this, thank you for investing your time in ECHO, Inc. I am honored to have the opportunity to reach out to you and share some of my thoughts about this wonderful organization that is serving your community.

I have so many topics running through my head that I want to talk to you about. We have so many successes and as many challenges and I want you to know all about them. This quarter I will take a moment to tell you about helping at the front desk. One morning a week I have the privilege of sitting at the front desk and helping Nicole greet our clients and figure out how best we can serve them on that day.

Meeting some of the people who avail themselves of our services has been an enlightening experience. Need has no boundaries, and the people that I am meeting are our neighbors, our friends, our associates who have experienced a setback, or are going through a difficult season. ECHO is there to provide them with whatever help we can while aiding them in maintaining their dignity. Our clients are looking for food, housing, bus tokens, hotel vouchers, gas cards, rental assistance, emotional support, financial planning, and basic needs. ECHO staff do their best to serve them in whatever capacity we can.

ECHO is not just a building with staff, clients, and volunteers – ECHO is you! People like you allow us to be able to carry out our mission and our mission cannot be fulfilled without you. We appreciate your donations, whether they come in the form of money, canned goods, paper bags, endowments, toys at Christmas, etc. I listen to public radio, and every quarter they have a fund drive that tells me their mission cannot be carried out without the support of listeners like me. I am piggybacking off that and letting you know that we cannot do the good work that we do without the support of people like you.

Thank you for all that you do for our clients and our community. I appreciate you.

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Growth and Partnerships

By Jessica Locher, Executive Director

Here at ECHO, we are lucky to have an amazing set of staff, donors, volunteers and board of directors who help us with our mission of meeting housing, food and other basic human needs and addressing the barriers to self-sufficiency. A staff member pointed out and I totally agree – we are like the animated series *Captain Planet*. Each of us (Planeteers) has our own powers and united as one we are ECHO (Captain Planet). *“By your powers combined, I am Captain Planet!”* — *Captain Planet, upon his every arrival to save the world.* Let’s talk about the different Planeteers that share their powers at ECHO.

Our donors and volunteers are the backbone of our strongest services – ECHO’s Food Program. Without them we would not be able to hand out over 2.5 million meals on an annual basis. In 2022, over 7,700 hours were donated by volunteers in our food pantry. These volunteers pack and hand out food to those in our community who are food insecure. They keep the pantry stocked and check dates to ensure we are handing out healthy, safe foods. They also help unload food that the ECHO truck picks up. Our donors help ensure that we have funds to fill the needs in the pantry that are not donated by local businesses and keep our utilities current so we can utilize our refrigeration units in the pantry. The donations also ensure we have trained staff to work with our neighbors in need and help them address their barriers to self-sufficiency. Donors also help keep the families housed or help the homeless access shelter in local motels through ECHO’s Housing Programs.

The ECHO Board of Directors provides needed guidance to ensure we are meeting our mission statement and have adequate resources along with effective organizational planning. With their help, ECHO has grown over the last 50-plus years. In 1969, ECHO was just a food pantry/clothing depot. With the board’s guidance, we have expanded to over 20 services, with many focusing on housing and homeless services. Some of our current board members have been a part of our board, on and off, since the 70’s. It is amazing to listen to them talk about how things were done many years ago.

Lastly, our staff at ECHO has over 200 combined years of experience in this field. Each of the staff brings a different perspective to how we do business here at ECHO. We follow guidance from grants that we receive, but when we create the programmatic pieces for our services, we sit down to get feedback from our staff. Our staff is dedicated to the mission of ECHO and these staff members are amazing stewards of what is donated to provide services. We currently have two social service staff to help meet the needs our expanding population of Spanish speaking neighbors. Our social service staff has evolved over the years from volunteers to paid staff requiring higher learning degrees in social work or human service or a work history in either field. This transition has led ECHO to have access to additional grant funding for housing and homeless services. To ensure our social service staff stays up to date on best practices, they attend monthly training on relevant topics such as cultural competency, unconscious bias, mental illness, domestic violence, crisis management, just to name a few.

All ECHO staff and volunteers have compassion and serve our neighbors in need with dignity and respect each and every time they come in. All of us together with our donors combine our powers to help our neighbors in need with food, housing and other supportive services! If you want to learn more about how you can share your powers with ECHO, please reach out to me directly or visit us on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm for a tour of ECHO and learn about volunteer opportunities. *Planeteers... The rings are not the source of your power. The real power to save Earth comes from within; inside you. It always has.* — *Gaia from Captain Planet.*



PHOTO: OBI, OUR VOLUNTEER SUPPORT DOG ON TUESDAYS

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE
1ST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH 5PM

**TOUR THE
BUILDING AND
LEARN MORE
ABOUT
VOLUNTEERING
AT ECHO**

New Fans Needed

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

Last year ECHO was able to provide fans to 62 clients.

Please consider donating a new fan for someone in need.



ECHO NEEDS

**Canned Meals
Cereal
Feminine Supplies
Toilet Paper
Instant Coffee
Mac & Cheese
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Soup and Crackers**



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.echojanessville.org

For payment by credit card, visit our website above.

Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law.

Thank you for your support.



Unfortunately, we have recently 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



Senior Stockbox Program

Free Food for income eligible seniors (60 & over)

Registration and distribution at ECHO
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1pm—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- \$1,580, combined income for 2 household members \$2,137

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

FUNDS FOR FRIENDS PROGRAM



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 your receipts to ECHO to
65 S High St. Janesville, WI 53548

ECHO will receive 1% back based on the purchase price

2023
APRIL

Service Snapshot



192,026 Meals Provided

430 Nights Provided at Motels



59 Homeless Outreach Contacts

18 Months of Rent Provided



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.



Presented By

MacFarlane
PHEASANTS, Inc.

**\$25 per
Ticket**

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

Calendar



Weekly drawings of \$100 or \$200
August 29 - December 19 on Facebook Live

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

Proceeds Benefit

 65 S High St, Janesville, WI License # R0023862-A-70463 Ticket # Calendar Raffle August 29 through December 19 2023 Sponsored by Calendars are \$25 each. All proceeds go to ECHO, Inc. Drawings will take place at ECHO (65 S High St, Janesville, WI) and via Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/ECHOJanesville at 10am. Winners will be notified by phone.	August 29, 2023 \$100.00	September 5, 2023 \$200.00	September 12, 2023 \$100.00
	September 19, 2023 \$200.00	September 26, 2023 \$100.00	October 3, 2023 \$200.00
	October 10, 2023 \$100.00	October 17, 2023 \$200.00	October 24, 2023 \$100.00
	October 31, 2023 \$200.00	November 7, 2023 \$100.00	November 14, 2023 \$200.00
	November 21, 2023 \$100.00	November 28, 2023 \$200.00	FRIDAY December 1, 2023 ***\$1,000.00***
	December 5, 2023 \$200.00	December 12, 2023 \$100.00	December 19, 2023 \$200.00

Name: _____ Ticket # _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email: _____
 Address for mailing winnings: _____



**CASH OR CHECK
TO ECHO ACCEPTED.**

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

TICKET SALE LOCATIONS:

ECHO OFFICE, MACFARLANE PHEASANT FARM, JAX CUSTOM PRINTING,
RAVEN'S WISH GALLERY, BASICS COOPERATIVE, ADORN



Important
DATE!



**Monday
June 5**

Dine out at these participating Janesville restaurants:

- Badger Bob's
- Basics Coffee & Deli
- Box Car's Pub & Grub
- Citrus Café
- Culvers - *Milton Ave*
- drafthouse
- Firehouse Subs
- GR's Sandwich Shoppe
- Hometown Hub
- H&S Japanese Express- (June 6th)
- Jeff's Kitchen— *Open Special*
- The Looking Glass
- Luke's Deli
- Mac's Pizza Shack
- My Apartment Pub
- Riley's Sports Bar
- Sandee's Thai Fusion
- Sidelines
- Whiskey Ranch

Visit www.echojanesville.org for an updated restaurant list.

**Restaurants will donate 10% of their June 5th's
receipts as they take action against hunger.**



Volunteer Take 5

Name:
Steve Engelbert

How long have you volunteered at ECHO?
About one year

How did you get involved at ECHO?
I have been aware of ECHO for many years and have admired its effort to help our community. When I retired I wanted to contribute and thought of ECHO.

What do you do at ECHO?
Put together bread bags and deliver them along with fruit and vegetables to clients waiting.

What is your favorite thing about ECHO?
The sense that we are providing an essential service to people in need and helping to make our community a better place.

What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering?
The sheer size of the operation and its varied missions.



**Looking for ways your employees can volunteer and make a difference in the community?
Let us know!**





New Staff Spotlight

By Shirley Van Horn

My name is Shirley Van Horn. I retired in November of 2013, after 17-1/2 years at the House of Mercy Homeless Shelter. I've stayed busy playing with my beautiful grandchildren, going up north to our family cabin with my sisters, thrift shopping with friends, gardening, part-time jobs and volunteering.

I started volunteering at ECHO a few years ago as a mentor for the TLP (transitional living program). I later added assisting Nicole at the front desk.

Jessica offered me the TLP/ RRH (rapid re-housing) program case manager position on the perfect day in January 2023. My heart has always been with the homeless, so I did not hesitate to accept this offer. Three months later, I can say it has not been an easy learn for me but it has been empowering and fulfilling.

This text to a good friend this morning sums it up, "Still loving my job and learning so much. It's very rewarding and I am thankful every day for it and amazed how it all came to fruition."

Thank you, Jessica, for thinking of me.

31st Annual
Stamp Out Hunger
Food Drive
**Saturday
May 13th**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF LETTER CARRIERS
**Stamp
Out
Hunger**
FOOD DRIVE

Place non-perishable food
donations in a bag by your mailbox.
Your letter carrier will pick it up.

THIS SPELLS
HELP FOR LOTS OF
FAMILIES THIS
YEAR!

FOOD

**LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE**

JANESVILLE TOWN SQUARE



GRAN PRIX
Presented by Blain's Farm & Fleet

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**ECHO WILL BE
CLOSED ON JUNE 15
FOR THE GRAN PRIX.
MORE DETAILS TO
COME ON WHERE TO
FIND US DURING THE
RACES.**



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.

Jill Bjork
Robert Blum
Colletta Cornelius
Daniel Burns DuBois
James DuCharme
Judy Figi
Bob Goepfert

Kathryn Gove
Mary Anne Herrick
Virginia Kowal
Wayne (Bob) Lewis
Bill Markee
Marie Menz
Jim Pakes

Hubert Prochaska
Sharon Schindler
Sheila Seibert
Gene Smith
Margaretmary (Rebout) Smith
James & Norine Turner

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.

Willa Bagley
Lonnie Coplien

Jon Fanis
Jan Leach

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.)

Thank-You!

Swing Into Spring Hangar Dance– Thank you to all of our generous sponsors of our 2023 dance. Educators Credit Union, Revv Aviation, Mercyhealth, Advia Credit Union, LRS, The Sugar Exchange, Timberhill Winery, Gray Brewing, MacFarlane Pheasants, Jeff’s Kitchen, Versatile DJ. Thank you to our fundraising team: Emily, Shirley, Rita, Andrea, Sue.

Rock Forward- Thank you, Anthony Swindell of Up the Ante Productions for assisting the LDA team, Rock Forward, for creating marketing videos about ECHO’s mission! Leadership Development Academy (LDA) team Rock Forward, is working with ECHO to raise funds and awareness of the homelessness issue in Rock County. Thank you to Mac’s Pizza Shack, Barkley’s, drafthouse, Texas Roadhouse, Culvers of Beloit, and Flannelfest 2023 for supporting them in their fundraising event efforts.

The Sugar Exchange- Thank you for letting us host a Sugar Night to raise funds for ECHO.

Woodman’s- ECHO would like to thank everybody at Woodman’s for choosing ECHO for the program “Check Out Hunger” last year. Their generosity, along with their customers, during November and December made it possible for ECHO to provide healthy non-perishable foods to individuals and families that were housed in local motels through our Emergency Motel Voucher program.



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
Stop-N-Go
Trinity Episcopal Church
Walmart



**Would your business be willing to set a
donation bin out 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
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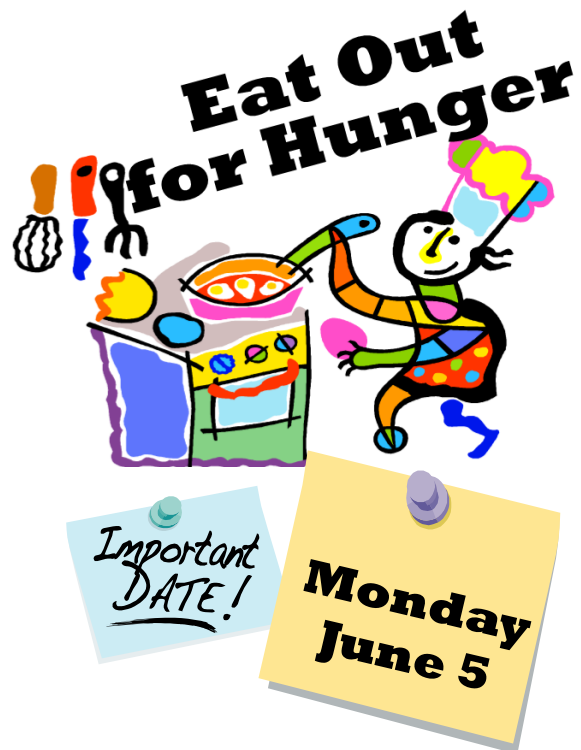
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ECHO Calendar of Events

- ♦ 5/13 Letter Carrier Food Drive
- ♦ 6/5 Eat Out for Hunger
- ♦ 6/15 Town Square Gran Prix- Bike Race
- ♦ 8/25 School Supply Distribution
- ♦ 8/29 Calendar Raffle Weekly Drawings
- ♦ 10/21 Empty Bowls TO GO Soup Fundraiser

Generous Business Sponsors



United Way
Blackhawk Region
Funded Partner