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Summer 2023

The ECHO Times

President's Message

By Dori MacFarlane



Volunteering at ECHO has opened my eyes to the way the organization serves as a type of clearing house for our community.

When a client needs help in an area that ECHO is unable to cover, they are directed to whatever community agency may be able to assist them. Many times our client advocates work with a client to find the services they need. We keep lists of other food pantries in the area, and the days that they are open, and share those with people who are not able to access our pantry at the moment. We direct people to other nonprofits that may fit their needs, for example, Pregnancy Helpline for cribs and other baby items, the Humane Society for pet supplies, HealthNet for medical needs. In turn,

ECHO also shares excess supplies with other local nonprofits. We often get items from retailers that could benefit other agencies. Rita, Andrea, and Sandy inventory those items, and then look for places that can use them. We've given: medical supplies to HealthNet; clothing, car seats, diapers, pack-n-plays, blankets, bottles, and nursing items to Pregnancy Helpline; pails, garden hoses, spray bottles, rugs, animal bedding, brooms, exam gloves, lawn chairs, mops, community room chairs to the Humane Society; potting soil, garden hoses, shelving, sunscreen, clothing, plastic garbage cans to RECAP; clothing, art supplies musical instruments, gym items to the Janesville School District; blankets, bedding, supply pails, vacuums, diapers, apartment start-up items to Project 16:49; and books, clothing, shoes, coffee pots and furniture to the Rock County Housing 4 Our Vets program. When we get extra produce or more food items that we won't be able to use in an efficient manner, we share those with other food pantries around the area.

It is so rewarding to volunteer for an agency that gives back to the community in so many ways.

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Executive Director Message

By Jessica Locher, Executive Director



Summer is a time for relaxation and charging our batteries back up before the busy fall and holiday season. This summer has been hard for the staff and volunteers to recharge their batteries because the need is great in Rock County. ECHO appreciates the community's support of our mission to provide housing, food, and other basic human needs and address the barriers to self-sufficiency.

Service highlights from the first 6 months of 2023:

- Served over 2,200 unique households.
- Provided over 1.1 million meals.
- Provided 3,154 nights in local motels.
- Provided 123 months of rental assistance.
- Street Outreached to 236 people experiencing homelessness.

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding to provide expanded services has come to an end. Inflation has caused the price of food and personal supplies to go up but wages or social security for our neighbors we help have not. ECHO services are the safety net many of our neighbors need to use so they don't become homeless. We provide case management and advocacy to help them with their barriers to self-sufficiency. We are a hand up not a handout. Without your help, the need in our communities would be even greater. Any size donation helps, cash, in-kind, or volunteering. With your support, so we can continue to meet the needs of those requesting food, rental assistance, emergency motel vouchers, and other supportive services such as transportation assistance, school supplies, and personal care products. Thank you!



**United Way
Blackhawk Region
Funded Partner**

ECHO is excited to announce renewed funding from United Way Blackhawk Region for July 2023 - June 2025 for the ECHOWAY Program and the two Housing Navigator positions, totaling \$360,000 for the two-year period. ECHO is extremely grateful to have the continued support of United Way Blackhawk Region and its donors as we continue our work to serve and support Rock County's most-vulnerable populations.

ECHOWAY was established with our first United Way Blackhawk Region funds in 2012, and 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 5-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 access, 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 a security deposit, single or multiple-month rent, utility assistance and other wrap-around services.

The United Way grant funds for ECHOWAY will be used for direct housing-related assistance for low-income people in Rock County, not just in the Janesville area. None of the funds will be used for staffing or operating costs. The funds will be used to pay security deposits; single- or multiple-month rent; utility assistance, including paying past bills if required to get the utilities turned on in the new apartment; and other direct costs related to stabilizing housing. The security deposit and rent funds go directly to the landlords or management companies, on the client's behalf. Utility and other assistance goes directly to the vendors, such as Alliant Energy. ECHO also uses other grants, as well as ECHO Donated Funds to get people out of homelessness and into stable housing.

The Housing Navigator position was created with funding from United Way Blackhawk Region in July 2019 and was expanded to include a second position in July 2022. The Housing Navigators assist homeless households with accessing permanent housing and consult with local service providers to identify appropriate housing opportunities for clients. The Housing Navigators also conduct outreach and recruitment of local landlords to inform them of the local service providers housing. They also provide client support, mentoring, and assistance with the navigation of community resources and services in the interest of aiding clients to progress toward greater self-sufficiency. They conduct assessments to determine clients' housing barriers, needs, and preferences to develop an action plan to secure housing. They assist clients with housing search mainly by contacting landlords and scheduling showings, but also by providing leads to clients and coaching clients on how to speak with potential landlords.

Again, we would like to thank United Way Blackhawk Region staff, volunteers, and donors for their faith in ECHO's ability to provide these much-needed services.



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

ECHO NEEDS

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



TOUR THE
BUILDING AND
LEARN MORE
ABOUT
VOLUNTEERING
AT ECHO

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

1ST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH 5PM

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.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.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Markers – Thick and Thin
- Dry Erase Markers
- Kleenex
- Crayons
- Erasers
- Pens – Black, Blue and Red
- Scissors
- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Folders
- Spiral Notebooks
- Highlighters – Yellow
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Post It Notes – Yellow
- Composition Notebook
- Water Colors
- Supply Case/Bag

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF TO
ECHO BY AUGUST 11TH - 65 S HIGH ST
*FOR OTHER DONATION DROP OFF SITES
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.ECHOJANESVILLE.COM*



United Way
Blackhawk Region
Funded Partner



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!**

 65 S High St, Janesville, WI License # R0023862-A-70463 Ticket # Calendar Raffle August 29 through December 19 2023 Sponsored by  MacFarlane Pheasants, Inc.			
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	

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.

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

Proceeds Benefit



**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



Empty Bowls

TO GO!

PRE-ORDER YOUR SOUPS
STARTING OCTOBER 1ST

\$10 PER QUART (frozen)

PICK UP ON OCTOBER 22
11-1PM

**OVER 20 SOUPS
ANNOUNCED
ON SEPTEMBER
15TH**



Volunteer Take 5

Name:
Mike Ash

How long have you volunteered at ECHO?
2 years

How did you get involved at ECHO?
I'm retired and a friend who is a board member told me about ECHO.

What do you do at ECHO?
A little bit of everything. I can work upstairs unloading the truck as it comes in or the basement in the pantry.

What is your favorite thing about ECHO?
Helping people and my fellow volunteers.

What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering?
The amount of work needed to be successful.



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





ECHO Partners with Alter Metal Recycling

This past April, ECHO partnered with Alter Metal Recycling during its annual Go Green for the Green campaign, raising over \$69,000 in cash donations. Donations came from residents and area businesses who donated end-of-life scrap metal materials for recycling by Alter. During the Go Green for the Green Spring Fundraising event for ECHO, Alter generously doubled the value for the metal donated. ECHO's metal recycling account remains open throughout the year, so if you have

end-of-life objects around your house that are ready for the recycler, consider dropping them at Alter and saying you'd like to donate to the ECHO account. Donations can be made at any one of Alter's many locations throughout southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. If you are new to metal recycling, feel free to call or stop in at Alter and someone will be glad to show you what metal recyclers do for the community and the environment and how you too can play a role in that. Recycling is good for everyone!

Did you know that unlike other recyclable materials, metal is infinitely recyclable? That is, if it stays out of the landfill and gets to a local metal recycler! And unlike other recyclables you might put into your recycling bin at home, metal recyclers pay you to recycle. Whether it's ferrous metal, like iron and steel which sticks to a magnet, or nonferrous metals, such as brass, aluminum, or copper which a magnet won't stick to, it's all recyclable over and over again. To think that old fence or beverage can you recycle today could have been a bridge in a previous life or a ship hull in its next!

If you are not familiar with metal recycling and what Alter does, Alter buys metal scraps and end-of-life consumer goods made of metal for recycling. Once purchased, the metal is prepared to customer specifications, which generally includes sorting it by type and reducing its size by cutting or compacting. Once prepared, the recycled metal is shipped to customers who use the recycled metal to make new products. From broken aluminum lawn chairs to rusted-out grills, metal recyclers like Alter keeps valuable resources out of our landfills, assuring they get the opportunity to be made into something new. "Recycling our end-of-life consumer goods preserves our natural resources and is a great way to support American manufacturing," says Sarah Schlichtholz, Vice-President of Environment and Community of Alter, which supplies recycled metal to hundreds of manufacturers and businesses throughout the US.

Alter's metal recycling facility located at 1753 Beloit Avenue has been serving the community's recycling needs for over 50 years. In addition to its Go Green for the Green fundraising program, Alter hosts an annual Earth Day celebration, offering food, beverages, prizes, drawings and premium pricing on aluminum cans. Many people who may be new to recycling see the facility, processed material and equipment up close, like its 1000-ton mobile shear which was the largest in the United States at the time of purchase. Other equipment includes grapples and magnet cranes to move the metal and a handheld tester to read chemical make-ups of different metals called alloys.

Founded in 1898 and celebrating its 125-year anniversary, Alter Metal Recycling, a division of Alter Trading Corporation, is a fifth-generation company with metal recycling operations located throughout the Midwest. Alter Metal Recycling is committed to making a positive impact in the communities it serves, and regularly partners with local organizations to support important initiatives. The recent metal donation drive for ECHO is just one example of Alter's ongoing commitment to giving back through its metal fundraising initiatives designed to promote the many environmental, social, and financial benefits of community-based metal recycling.



HOW TO: RECYCLE HOUSEHOLD SCRAP

 **ALTER**
TRADING CORPORATION
www.altertrading.com

follow us on



Metal is infinitely recyclable and one of the most valuable of all the recyclable materials. Many consumer products in our homes are made from metal—appliances, lawn furniture, cans, clothes hangers and more. Not only is recycling metal important to keep this limited resource out of landfills, but recycling can earn you money!

COMMON HOUSEHOLD METALS THAT CAN BE RECYCLED

The general rule is, if an item is at least 50% metal, it's worth recycling. If you have products with only a small amount of metal that is easily removable, separate the metal before coming to the scrap yard.

NON-FERROUS* METALS

**Aluminum • Brass • Copper • Lead
Nickel • Stainless Steel • Tin • Zinc**

Examples: beverage cans, siding, gutters, silverware, wires, pipes, auto parts, keys, faucets, fixtures, handles, knobs, hinges

FERROUS* METALS

Steel • Cast Iron

Examples: pots and pans, appliances, mowers, outdoor furniture, fencing, tools, vehicles, trailers, campers, ironing boards, bikes, file cabinets, grills

* Scrap metal is classified as either ferrous (containing iron, such as steel) and non-ferrous (everything else). You can identify whether your metal is ferrous or non-ferrous by using a magnet. Ferrous metals stick to a magnet; non-ferrous metals don't.

INSIDER TIPS

- >>> Call the scale office to find out current pricing (which can change daily) and if there's a minimum amount of material you need to bring. They can also let you know what may be required if you are scrapping an old vehicle, trailer or boat.
- >>> Bring personal identification. This is required by law to prevent theft of metals, such as street signs and manhole covers.

Alter Metal Recycling
1753 Beloit Ave.
Janesville, WI 53546
608-756-2555

Mon - Fri 7:30 - 3:30 and Sat 8:00 - 12:00



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.

Cheryl Altermatt
Priscilla Barfknecht
Gloria Bollerud
David Brown
Priscilla Chrobak-Gable
Father Bill Connell
Dewey Cooper
Lois Coulthard
Leroy Dietz
Thomas Fernan
Barbara Fisher
Karen Goelzer McKaig

Connie Haag
Barbara Helgeson
C. Allen Johnson
Clarence Johnson
Virginia Johnson
Sister Lucentia Klonecki
Judi Kneec
Idamae Knutson
Ron Miller
Alan Neugebauer
Roger Rude
Virginia Scarborough

Carol Anne Schucht
Charlie & Dorothy Smith
Ginny Spors
Larry Spors
Kate Stack
Ronald Swaim
Doris Teche
Deb Tollefson's Mother
Phil Trumpy
Lorraine Vanderlip
Janice Witmer

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.

Betty Gilbert
Sandra Kraft

Lucy Kurth
Grace Schauer

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's!

Eat Out For Hunger- Thank you to the following restaurants for participating in this year's Eat Out For Hunger event, benefitting ECHO, Inc. The funds raised from this event further the ECHO mission.

Badger Bob's, Basics Coffee & Deli, BOXCARS Pub & Grub, Citrus Café, Culvers - Milton Ave, drafthouse, Firehouse Subs, GR's Sandwich Shoppe, Hometown Hub, H&S Japanese Express, Jeff's Kitchen, The Looking Glass, Luke's Deli, Mac's Pizza Shack, My Apartment Pub, Riley's Sports Bar, Sandee's Thai Fusion, Sidelines, Whiskey Ranch

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



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

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

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 a
donation bin out on your counter?
Contact us:
earthur@echojanesville.org**



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ECHO Calendar of Events

- ♦ 8/25 School Supply Distribution
- ♦ 8/29 Calendar Raffle Weekly Drawings Start
- ♦ 10/1 Empty Bowls TO GO Soups Go On Sale
- ♦ 10/14 DAS Boot Run/Walk for ECHO
- ♦ 11/15 Girls' Night Out- Timber Hill Winery

Thank you to these generous business supporters



United Way
Blackhawk Region
Funded Partner