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Fall 2024

# The ECHO Times



## President’s Message: An Impact Story

By Dori MacFarlane

“Where would I be without the generosity of others?” Jayme\* asked me.

She had her life all planned out. She graduated with honors from high school, double majored in college, accepted a job in her field fresh out of college and married her long-time sweetheart. She accompanied her husband when his career path took them out of state, and ultimately, the marriage ended. Enduring a divorce outside of Wisconsin is costly. Jayme found herself deep in debt. Jayme found a position in Janesville which allowed her to move closer to her support system. Unfortunately, even working 50 or more hours a week did not meet her financial obligations, which included \$400 a week in childcare expenses, which Jayme felt was worth every penny. Jayme realized this situation was not sustainable and that she needed to find a different job. She is now working nights and her parents are able to help provide childcare. Her current job does not offer health insurance and due to an Emergency Room visit for one of her children, she now has an additional \$2,000 in debt.

Jayme’s observation to me was, “It’s expensive to be poor.” Fortunately, Jayme has been able to make connections with several non-profit agencies that provide her with hope and assistance. Her children are now enrolled in Badger Care, which helps with their medical needs. She is grateful to have been approved for child care assistance and hopes that she will be able to find a quality day care that accepts the funding and has openings for the ages of her two children. She receives food share and food from ECHO and anticipates meeting with one of our client advocates in an effort to find and maintain stable housing. She’s also been in contact with other area agencies for additional support. Although Jayme has a positive attitude, she told me that being in this position has really affected her mental health. It is humbling to be in the position of needing help when one is used to being the person who volunteers. I asked Jayme what she would want ECHO readers to know. She said, “Without a safety net, a lot of us are just a paycheck or two away from financial ruin. Maybe you feel like you or your loved ones will never be here. Neither did I.”

Eventually Jayme is going to land on her feet, but in the meantime she is grateful that helpful programs exist. Jayme appreciates the items she receives that meet the needs of her family, and the bonus items that come every once in a while. Her daughter especially remembers the time they got an entire cake that was decorated with frosting and fresh berries. It allowed them to feel like they weren’t struggling for a moment. Jayme said, “It was decadent.”

Where would we be without the generosity of others? Generosity can be decadent.

\*Name has been changed for anonymity purposes.

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## Executive Director's Message

By Jessica Locher, Executive Director

As we get closer to the holiday season, I can't help but think about all the amazing ECHO holiday celebrations I have been able to participate in over the years.

The great thing about the ECHO holiday programming is that we provide our low-income neighbors the opportunity to celebrate just like you and me. You, the community, come out to support these programs by making financial donations to help cover the costs of the programming and by volunteering your time.

The Thanksgiving Basket program allows our neighbors the opportunity to have a traditional Thanksgiving feast. Over 50 volunteers assist the ECHO staff by handing out or delivering prepackaged bags of food that are used to create a Thanksgiving feast.

The Christmas Toy program allows our youth to experience Christmas like their classmates. Parents are given a gift card to purchase an item that their child wants, along with a bag full of stocking stuffers and a game/puzzle for each family.

ECHO also offers an Adopt-A-Family program to a few randomly selected households each year. Businesses, churches, and families are given a wish list for a neighboring family who needs the extra support over the holiday season.

Finally, ECHO hosts the Christmas Dinner, a place where people can celebrate with others who may not have family or friends nearby with and enjoy a warm meal where all are welcome.

My husband and I attend each year and enjoy the wonderful company, food, and music. Even though ECHO has been running these programs for years, it takes time to plan and execute them efficiently each year. We want to be good stewards of the funding and time received from all of you.

Thank you for the support you have provided to ECHO that has helped so many of our neighbors over the years!



*Happy Holidays*



## TEXAS ROADHOUSE GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Consider purchasing Texas Roadhouse gift cards as Christmas gifts, using our fundraiser link.

**NOV 15– DEC 1**

TO PURCHASE: <https://txrhgiftcards.com/collections/txrh-5-100-no-brd?ref=198ECHOInc102824>

## 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 at  
65 S High St. Janesville, WI 53548

ECHO will receive 1% back based on the purchase price



## SENIOR “STOCKBOX” PROGRAM

**Free Food** for income-eligible seniors (60 & over)

Distribution at ECHO  
Mondays 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

## OTHER NEEDS

- Oatmeal
- Canned Soup/ Chili
- Jelly
- Pasta Sauce
- Boxed Meals (Hamburger/ Tuna Helper)
- Canned Cranberries (Thanksgiving)
- Shampoo/ Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Tampons/ Pads
- Toothbrush/ Toothpaste



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

**amazon** **wishlist**

<https://amzn.to/3SwGMTJ>



**Name:**

*Lory*

**Volunteer Take 5**

**How long have you volunteered at ECHO?**

*Just over 3 months.*

**How did you get involved at ECHO?**

*I moved to Janesville in April of this year. I had volunteered at a women and children's homeless shelter for 5 years, so I knew I wanted to volunteer again.*

**What do you do at ECHO?**

*I started at ECHO in July not sure what I would be doing since I'm handicapped. I have organized the storage room and all incoming donations for the homeless. I make hygiene kits, weekly food bags, school food bags and event prep like creating centerpieces for the Hangar Dance and labeling soup containers for Empty Bowls.*

**What is your favorite thing about ECHO?**

*I look forward to volunteering and have come to consider the other volunteers as my friends.*

**What is one thing about ECHO that surprised you when you started volunteering?**

*I was surprised to learn that ECHO has been here for 55 years!*



**2025 SPONSORSHIP PACKET  
NOW AVAILABLE**

Contact Emily: [earthur@echojanesville.org](mailto:earthur@echojanesville.org)

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Packing Food Orders

We are a closed food pantry, meaning our clients submit a food order with specific requests and the order is completed by an ECHO volunteer. There is a standard food order packing list that informs the contents of a food order.

*Volunteer hours: 8:45am-11:30am*

## Bagging Bread and Produce

Bread, fruits, and vegetables are stocked and stored in the garage. Bags of produce are packed and included with every food order. Bread is sorted, dated, and placed on the shelving. A bread bag is also packed with each order, including various types of bread and/or sweets such as: pastries, cakes, pie, rolls, donuts etc. This position will also process and stock produce and bread as it comes in during the shift.

*Volunteer hours: 8:45am-11:30am*

## Food Orders to Clients

After the client has been called and verified, the order is then taken out to the driveway. Ask the client's name to verify that it is their order. If the client is unable to pick up the food order in the driveway due to a disability, you may take the order and place it in the client's car. When the cart is returned, it is wiped down and put on the elevator and returned downstairs.

*Volunteer hours: 8:45am-11:30am*

## Afternoon Consolidation, Stocking and Donation Processing

Between the hours of 1-3pm, when the food pantry is closed, we are looking for volunteers to consolidate and discard expired produce, restock pantry shelves including our freezers and refrigerators, and check dates and stock incoming donations.

*Volunteer hours: anytime between the hours of 1pm-3pm*

## Holiday & Special Events

We host several programs and special events throughout the year that require volunteers to help make successful, including Empty Bowls, Thanksgiving Basket Distribution, Christmas Day Dinner, Christmas Toy Distribution and more! These opportunities are a great way to involve friends, family, co-workers & congregations. Please check this link for up-to-date holiday and special event opportunities:

<https://signup.com/go/qkSMUuk>

SCAN FOR SPECIAL EVENT OPPORTUNITIES



## **CONTACT:**

Maryam Enterline  
Food Resource & Volunteer Coordinator  
menterline@echojanesville.org  
608-754-5333

[echojanesville.org/volunteer](https://echojanesville.org/volunteer)



# We are in need of items for our Weekly Food Bags

given to homeless individuals

- Single serve peanut butter
- Single serve pastas/mac & cheese/soup/rice & beans
- Single serve cereals
- Cans of tuna or chicken
- Applesauce/fruit cups & veggie cups
- Bags of mixed fruit and nuts
- Beef jerky
- Cheese sticks (non-refrigerated)
- Granola bars/breakfast bars
- Protein drinks/shelf stable milk
- Bottled water



**Jessica is giving a hint at a new event coming to ECHO the summer of 2025!**



# 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  \$60  \$120  \$300  \$600

Any donation is appreciated  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please help make a family's holiday a thankful one!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations can also be made online at [www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org)

## Thanksgiving Basket Distribution



Saturday, November 23 8 AM TO NOON - Distribution at ECHO

Sign up to volunteer: <https://signup.com/go/qkSMUuk>



**Cranberries Needed!** Please purchase one or more cans of cranberries when you are at the grocery store and drop off at the ECHO Office.

#GIVINGTUESDAY



Donate Here

DECEMBER 3RD  
[www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org)

**festival**  
**TURKEY TROT**  
NOV 28

Benefiting:  
ECHO  
YMCA  
Boys & Girls Club

Register online to run,  
walk or volunteer.  
[janesville.festivalfoodsturkeytrot.com](http://janesville.festivalfoodsturkeytrot.com)



The Festival Foods Turkey Trot allows participants to partake in either the untimed 2-Mile Walk, 2-Mile Fun Run, or the timed 5-Mile Run, and is open to everyone of all ages and abilities. Don't forget to bring your favorite cuddly companion for the 2-Mile Dog Jog.



## MEET OUR NEW STAFF

Hello! My name is Kristin, and I am the new Rapid Re-Housing and Transitional Living Program Case Manager. I am very excited to be a part of the ECHO team and to be able to help serve our community.

I earned my degree in Human Services and worked previously with other non-profits in the area. I am grateful that I get to use the knowledge and skills I learned to help those that are experiencing homelessness and in need of services.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, and thrifting.



## 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 6  
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.*



## FREE ECHO CHRISTMAS DINNER

**Wednesday, Dec. 25 from 11AM to 1PM**  
**(Open to everyone in the community)**  
St. William's Catholic Church, 1820 Ravine St., Janesville  
Everyone's welcome! Please join us!

**Call 608-754-5333 to schedule a delivery.**

Sign up to volunteer: <https://signup.com/go/qkSMUuk>







# BOOKS — AND — BREWS TRIVIA NIGHT



HELP US RESTOCK THE  
ECHO FOODBANK SHELVES!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 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.

## S'MORES & COCOA

SPONSORED BY EDUCATORS CREDIT UNION

ON FESTIVAL STREET

DECEMBER 6TH 5:30PM-8PM

A fundraiser for:



Sign up to  
volunteer:



### 5th Annual

## Rock - N - Farm Toy Show

Saturday, December 7th: 9AM - 5PM

Sunday, December 8th: 9AM - 2PM

Benefiting: ECHO  
of Janesville



Holiday Inn Express Janesville, WI

3100 Wellington PL I-90 & US HWY 14

Across from the TA Truck Stop

Sponsored By:



Linda's  
Country  
Crafts

Mini Truck & Tractor, L.L.C.



Standi Toys - Farm Toys - DCP Trucks

Admission: **Free Admission Ages 13 & Up**

**\$5.00**  
(12 & under Free)

With the donation of 3 non-perishable  
food items for ECHO Per Person

Morganhil Toys



# *Honor and Memory*

Since our last newsletter, we received contributions in memory or in honor of the following ECHO friends.

Alan Neugebauer	Jo/ Kim & Kyle Lyttle/ Hillison	Ron Scobie
Barbara DuBois	Kay Deupree	Rosemary Kealy
Barbara Njus	Lillian Newmark	Rosemary McCann
Dorothy & Charlie Smith	Marilyn Fagan	Rosemary Schafer
Frank Fieschko	Mike Gagner	Shirley Gensler
James & Norine Turner	Richard B. DuBois	Shirley Lornson
James McCalmont	Richard F. Demler	Sue McCrone
James Rebman	Richard Pastula	Teresa Nguyen
Jermone LaBrie	Robert Kerman	Wayne Marko

*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.)

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# Thank You!

Summer Produce Donations– Thank you to everyone who donated extra produce from their gardens this summer. Our clients loved it.

Empty Bowls– Thank you to everyone who placed soup orders. This fundraiser raised \$8,000. Thank you to our event sponsors; MacFarlane Pheasant Farm, Educators Credit Union, Mercyhealth, Blackhawk Community Credit Union and SSM Health.

Thank you to our generous restaurant donors; Blackhawk Technical College– Culinary Students, Bricks and Stones, Buckhorn Supperclub, Culver’s Milton Ave., Ding-A-Ling, Edgerton Hospital, Genisa Wine Bar, Jeff’s Kitchen, Knutes, La Chucheria, La Kermes, Lark Market, Looking Glass, Luke’s Deli, Mac’s Pizza Shack, Milwaukee Grill, Mocha Moment, My Apartment Pub & Grill, Rhuester’s Friendly Village, Russ’s Park Place, Sidelines, South Padre Sea Food, Texas Roadhouse.



## **ECHO TRIVIA MOMENT:**

**How many quarts of frozen soup do we collect from restaurants during our Empty Bowls To Go event?**

ANSWER CAN BE FOUND ON THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 11.

# *Food and Fund Drives*

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

Amazon  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
Bimbo Bakeries USA  
Birds Eye  
Cargill United Methodist Church  
Catholic Charities  
Chambers & Owen  
Chick-Fil-A  
Cleaning Authority  
Country Quality Dairy  
Counting Stars Children's Consignment  
Crystal Farms  
Culvers—Milton Ave  
Daniels Sentry Food Stores  
Dollar General  
E & D Water Works  
Emerald Grove UCC  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Festival Foods  
First Congregational Church  
First Lutheran Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
Gardner Bakery  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Hacienda Real—Mexican Cuisine  
Harp's Coat Drive  
Hendricks Properties  
Hunger Task Force - Milwaukee  
Hy-Vee  
Jay's Big Rolls  
Jones Dairy Farm  
Kwik Trip Stores  
Little Debbie

MacFarlane Pheasant Farm  
Monroe Elementary School  
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church  
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church  
Nativity of Mary Catholic Church and School  
NHA-WIC  
Olive Garden  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Panera Bread  
Parker DECA  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Pepsi  
Riverplace Senior Housing  
Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church  
Rolling Hills Dairy Producers  
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's Lutheran Church  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
St. William Catholic Church  
Sam's Club  
Schnucks  
Seneca Foods  
Sentry Foods  
Skelly's Farm Market  
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](mailto: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](mailto:office@echojanesville.org)  
[www.echojanesville.org](http://www.echojanesville.org)  
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**ECHO Calendar of Events**

- November 20– Books and Brews
- November 23 - Thanksgiving Distribution
- November 28– Festival Foods Turkey Trot
- December 6– S’mores and Cocoa  
sponsored by Educators Credit Union
- December 7 and 8– Rock-N-Farm Toy Show
- December 25– Christmas Day Dinner

Thank you to these generous business supporters



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**Educators  
 CREDIT UNION**




101 Center Ave

**CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF  
 CENTER AVE—5 POINTS  
 WITH A FREE CAR WASH!  
 ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS PROVIDE A  
 NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATION.  
 BENEFITING,  
 ECHO AND THE SALVATION ARMY**




STAY TUNED FOR DATE AND MORE  
 INFORMATION. (AROUND NOV 16TH  
 DEPENDING ON CONSTRUCTION AND  
 WEATHER)

[www.mrsplashcarwash.com](http://www.mrsplashcarwash.com)  
[Facebook.com/mrsplashcarwash](https://www.facebook.com/mrsplashcarwash)



**United Way  
 Blackhawk Region  
 Funded Partner**