


BEMIDJI COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF NEWSLETTER

November 2019

give TO THE **MAX** 
NOV. 14, 2019

Give to the Max Day

Thursday, November 14, is “Give to the Max Day,” an online giving day to support the Minnesota nonprofit organizations that make our communities stronger.

BCFS certainly does just that. We provide food to families so that seniors can better afford their medication, college students can stay in school, and young children can learn instead of being distracted by hunger. You can help us provide the food that makes our community stronger by giving online through GiveMN. Just use your browser and go to:
www.givemn.org/organization/Bemidjifoodshelf
to make your donation. We cannot do it without you!

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28th Annual Stuff-a-Truck



Thanks to the work of Paul Bunyan Broadcasting, the Pioneer, and Marketplace Foods, kids from area schools will again have the opportunity to support area families and learn about the issue of food security.

Boxes in school classrooms will be filled with personal care and food items and will be delivered to the food shelf in late November. The wider community can participate by bringing donations to the truck at Marketplace Foods November 21-23. Pre-packed bags will again be available for purchase in the store.

In 2018, Stuff-a-Truck provided 20,879 pounds of food and \$6,466.60, which provided about 60,000 meals.

From the Farmer

Hello! It was a pleasure to be managing the Farm Project this past summer. Thank you all for supporting us and being involved. We would not be here without you and I feel so blessed to be a part of this organization. I want to thank the Farm Vision Committee - Jack Judkins, Larry Voltz, Chris Tower and Terry Nennich - for this opportunity, their encouragement, and everything they taught me.

I was honored to work with several different individuals, companies and organizations in the community, including: Schoolcraft and Voyager schools, North Homes of Bemidji, Karvacko, EAPC, Hazelton Family Dentistry, Delta Dental, Upward Bound, and nationwide organizations including Youth Works and AmeriCorps.

I was able to share my passion for working at the Farm with so many people. I believe that we made a difference in peoples' lives - not only those who had the opportunity to volunteer and work at the farm but also with the special group of people that we serve. Our customers are wonderful people. It was an honor and a privilege to grow food for them and I believe our harvests were truly blessed.
--Dorothy Barnes, BCFS Farm Manager



From the President of the Board

“Why Do We Serve?”

Thanks to all of you who serve at our Food Shelf. We have over six hundred people on our volunteer list. Our work would not exist without your dedication and support of our mission to provide food to those who need it. From time to time I ask volunteers why they do this. There are two responses that I hear most often. First of all, people say they have been blessed in many ways. Because of that they have a desire to help. Secondly, they have genuine empathy for those who are in great need. Their hearts go out to our clients as they hear their stories and words of appreciation.

Thanks to our Executive Director Mary Mitchell, our Volunteer Coordinator Debbie Johnson, and Farm Manager Dorothy Barnes for the leadership they provide to our team of volunteers.

I am proud to say that our Food Shelf is a place of mercy in this community.

--Jim Fretheim, BCFS Board President





What is a SuperShelf?

In late August, with the help of two amazing University of Minnesota Extension SNAP-ed coordinators, we began the process of transforming to a SuperShelf. The main goals are to create an attractive space where everyone feels welcome, and to help make the healthiest choice the easiest choice.

The transition to a SuperShelf usually takes several months, but because we had an AmeriCorps Team of 10 hardworking young people this August, we decided to accelerate our transition to take advantage of their help. In just four days we transformed our “store” area to look more like a grocery store and implemented new stocking standards and shopping procedures. Three trainings were offered to our volunteers to help them understand why we made the changes and how the new model will work. Our “grand reopening” was on Wednesday, August 28. We still have a ways to go to complete our transformation but we are hearing from our customers and volunteers that they really like the appearance and the choices. Please stop by and check out our bright and beautiful SuperShelf!



Meet Debbie Johnson

Debbie Johnson took over as our Volunteer Coordinator in early September and it already feels like she has been here forever. Her professional experience includes customer service at H&R Block and processing mortgage loans in the banking industry.

As the wife of a pastor, she has gained experience working with people from all walks of life and she has a passion for investing in the people of our community. She has been instrumental in helping our volunteers to transition to our new SuperShelf service model and we are thrilled she has chosen to share her time and talents with us.

Harvest Ball

Our 4th Annual Harvest Ball was a resounding success! About two hundred people attended the dinner, dance and silent auction. We are very grateful for our event presenters: Evelyn Schneider Law Firm and Sanford Health; our sponsors: First National Bank of Bemidji, Lueken’s Village Foods, North Central Door, and Paul Bunyan Communications; and the many individuals and businesses which supported the event through donations. Chi miigwech to all who came as volunteers and guests. Together we raised over \$15,000 for our Farm Project.

Save the Date for our Annual Meeting!

Please mark your calendar for our annual meeting Thursday, February 13 at noon in the fellowship hall of Bethel Lutheran Church. We will be serving a light lunch featuring homemade soups and desserts. The program will consist of volunteer recognition and a celebration of our work during 2019. Come celebrate with us!



1260 Exchange Ave SE
PO Box 3118, Bemidji, MN 56619
218-444-6580 (o)
218-556-3249 (c)

www.bcfsmn.org

Check us out on Facebook!

Hours of Operation:

MWF 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Bemidji Community Food Shelf Contribution Form
November 2019**

Mail completed form and your tax-deductible contribution to:
BCFS, P.O. Box 3118, Bemidji, MN 56619-3118

Here is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ to support the work of the Bemidji Community Food Shelf.
(Please make check payable to: BCFS)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Thank you for helping your neighbors!

- Please contact me about volunteering!
- I am interested in giving on line and/or becoming a monthly (sustaining) supporter.
(See www.bcfsmn.org, and click on "Donate".)
- I would like this donation to go toward the BCFS Farm Project.
- Please contact me with information about making a Legacy Gift to the BCFS.
- I wish to receive future newsletters via email.

Telephone/Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.