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Website: www.bemidjifoodshelf.org
Hours: M-W-F, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., every third Monday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

March 2012 Newsletter

Welcome to the March Newsletter. Bemidji Community Food Shelf publishes a quarterly two-page newsletter to inform member churches, community supporters, businesses and organizations about important events and issues. Readers are welcome to contact BCFS with feedback and suggestions for future newsletters.



March is our most important fundraising and food donation month. Minnesota FoodShare is an effort to support over 300 food shelves across the state. Monetary and food donations during March are matched prorated with grants through the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. Your generous support is urgently needed! We raise nearly half our yearly total during March. You may contribute food and/or cash through your church, by mail, online (www.bemidjifoodshelf.org), or in person.

March FoodShare gives you a perfect opportunity to get “more for your money” when you donate to your local food shelf. A direct cash donation helps the most because the BCFS can purchase food at a greatly reduced price. However, we appreciate other types of donations also. Other options are listed her for you. Any of these or similar activities will all help.

- Hold a food drive at your place of work, church, in your neighborhood or through an organization to which you belong.
- Invite your friends to a potluck at your home and have them bring a dish to share as well as food items or cash donations for the food shelf.
- Save your pocket change every day in March in a soup can and encourage your children to do the same. Donate the contents to the food shelf at the end of the month.
- Make a donation-in-kind of a service you could provide as a business such as carpet cleaning, office supplies, carpentry projects, postage, printing, or other such necessities we normally pay for during the year.

Applebee's to Host Annual FoodShare Pancake Breakfast

Attend Applebee's pancake breakfast on March 31, 8:00-10:00 a.m. For a \$5.00 donation to BCFS you will enjoy a pancake. If you cannot attend consider buying a ticket for someone in need. Tickets may be purchased at BCFS or at the door. **A hearty thank you to Applebee's staff for their support!**

2011 Statistics: Last year BCFS served a record number of families (8,527) and individuals (27,467) with almost 380,000 pounds of food. 2011 was the first year the US Department of Agriculture required publicly supported food shelves to serve families monthly.

2012 Projections: If we keep the pace set in the first two months of 2012 we will exceed 30,000 individuals served. **Your continued support is essential if we are to fulfill our mission in 2012.**

Visit our New Website: With the help of our volunteer web master, Avery Hays, our new website is taking shape. Viewers may access basic BCFS information and donate through PayPal. Thanks to Avery and his family for helping get our message out to the online community.

Search for Larger Facility: We have made an offer, which has been accepted, on a larger building, the former Occupational Development Center in the Industrial Park. BCFS is in the process of seeking a grant for a portion of the purchase and remodeling costs, and will know by late March if our proposal is accepted. In the meantime we are planning a capital campaign for April/May. Volunteers will be needed to approach individuals, businesses and organizations for support. Please say yes when you are asked to support this vital project. As many of you know who volunteer at BCFS, we have outgrown our present location. To better serve our growing client base and to provide a safe working environment for our staff and volunteers we desperately need a larger facility. Warehouse and retail shelving, shopping carts and pallet jacks from the Pamida store have been purchased for our new building.

Volunteers Make the Difference: With only five part-time staff, BCFS could not meet the emergency food needs of our community without our many volunteers. Teams of 4-5 volunteers from member churches, Sentence to Serve crews and other community individuals and organizations serve on our board, fill client food orders, stock shelves, unload deliveries, transport food from North Country Food Bank, move food to and from storage, clean the food shelf and do any other jobs that need doing. **Many thanks to our volunteers!**

BCFS Executive Board and Staff: BCFS is a registered 501c3 nonprofit corporation with the sole mission to meet the emergency food needs of families in Beltrami County, Minnesota.

Board President: Bill Beyer

Vice-President: Tom Gray

Treasurer: Edith Hoyum

Secretary: C.J. Fisher

Coordinator: Jack Judkins

Interviewers: June Roxstrom, Kathy Paulson, Deb Hawthorne

Bookkeeper: Mishele McKain

Need a Speaker? BCFS provides speakers to churches and community organizations. Contact Jack Judkins at 444-6580 or bcfs@paulbunyan.net.