



**Location:** 310 Fourth Street NW (across from City Hall)  
**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 3118 56619-3118  
**Phone/email:** 444-6580; bcfs@paulbunyan.net  
**Website:** [www.bemidjifoodshelf.org](http://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.

## June 2012 Newsletter

Welcome to the June 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.



### Building Project Drive Gains Momentum

With support from the George W. Neilson Foundation in the form of a \$100,000 matching grant, we are well on our way to acquiring the former Occupational Development Center property. As of June 7 nearly \$50,000 had been raised. We have until October 1, 2012, to make the match. We have submitted several more grant proposals and will continue requesting support from foundations until the property is paid for. Our immediate goal is to raise at least \$200,000 to supplement a \$300,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development low-interest loan we have applied for. We hope to close on the purchase agreement by August 1. We are storing all canned and dry goods in the building now. Our plans include a walk-in freezer and cooler, which will allow us to store all food on-site.

### Target Donates Retail and Warehouse Shelving

Part of Target's recent remodeling project was the replacement of all retail and bulk storage shelving. Approximately \$5,000 in shelves was donated to BCFS. The shelves, which are in excellent condition, will be used in our warehouse to store pallet-size loads and in the client service area where orders are filled. Target staff donated time to help us reassemble the shelves. Many thanks to an excellent corporate citizen!

**2012 Statistics:** Through June 11, 2012, we have served 206,422 pounds of food to 4291 families (14,431 individuals). At the current pace we will serve 460,421 pounds to 9571 families this year. This will mark a 12.24% increase over 2011, which was our busiest year on record.

**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.

**Deb Hawthorne Says Goodbye:** On May 15, after seven years as an interviewer, Deb Hawthorne submitted her resignation. She is pursuing her graduate degree at Bemidji State University and has other opportunities to participate in research and travel abroad. Thanks, Deb, for your years of faithful service. All the best in future endeavors.

**Welcome, Joyce Brown:** Nearly 30 people applied for Deb's position. Several were highly qualified, and of the three we interviewed we chose Joyce Brown. Joyce is a graduate of Oak Hills Bible College with many years of work in human services. She began her new job at BCFS on June 6. She is a welcome addition to our staff.

**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, Joyce Brown

Bookkeeper: Mischele McKain

**To Donate:** Send donations to PO Box 3118, Bemidji, MN 56619-3118, or drop your donation off at 310 Fourth St. NW during hours of operation. You may also donate on line at [www.bemidjifoodshelf.org](http://www.bemidjifoodshelf.org).

**Needed items:** Peanut butter, bonus items (refried beans, canned carrots, canned pumpkin, baby food, raisins, personal care items (soap, toothpaste)

**Need a Speaker?** BCFS provides speakers to churches and community organizations. Contact Jack Judkins at 444-6580 or [bcfs@paulbunyan.net](mailto:bcfs@paulbunyan.net).