



## September 2012 Newsletter

Welcome to the September 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 Reaches Goal!

BCFS is pleased to report that the \$100,000 George W. Neilson Foundation challenge has been met. Donations from individuals, businesses, churches and community organizations have exceeded \$120,000. Successful fund raising, in combination with \$300,000 in low interest USDA Rural Development funds, enabled us to take possession of our new facility on August 27. We have been busy cleaning and clearing the grocery area for assembly of retail shelving donated by Target. There will be many other jobs for volunteers and contractors that will be necessary for us to move in and open for business by mid-October. Special thanks are due Kathy Luepke, Area Specialist for Rural Development for her stellar work on this project. We could not have succeeded without her support. Thanks are also due Deb Heineman and Bob Wallner for their pro bono help with legal matters.

### Garden Task Force

In addition to three buildings, the new BCFS property includes 1.5 acres of open land. We are interested in exploring possibilities for a Food Shelf Garden that will not only produce fresh fruits and vegetables for hungry families, but also provide opportunities for volunteer service and client skill development. If you are interested in serving on a Garden Task Force please contact Jack Judkins at 444-6580 or [bcfs@paulbunyan.net](mailto:bcfs@paulbunyan.net)

**Local growers share their bounty:** Our warm summer weather has produced bumper harvests in local gardens. Many gardeners are sharing the fruits of their labor with BCFS. Tomatoes, corn, cucumbers and summer squash, apples and plums are among the many donated items. Donations may be dropped off between 8:00 and 3:00 on MWF, or by contacting BCFS at 444-6580.

**2012 Statistics:** Through August 31, 2012, we have served 315,078 pounds of food to 6542 families (22,381 individuals). In August alone we served over 900 families. Increased demand for our services is putting strain on our budget. Donations of food and cash are welcome. Visit our website to donate online through PayPal or Razzoo.

**Cargo Trailer Saving Time and Money:** For many years the Grimes Realty Agency has generously allowed us to borrow their cargo trailer for trips to the food bank in Crookston. There are times, however, when their trailer is unavailable. Delivery charges range from \$400-\$800 per trip, taking precious resources from our food budget. In July we purchased a similar sized used trailer from a Bemidji resident. Tires Plus provided a safety inspection at no cost and pronounced the trailer in "like new" condition. With the help of Sentence to Serve we have already made several trips. The trailer will pay for itself in no time.

**Welcome Patty Gabriel:** Unfortunately, Joyce Brown, hired to replace Deb Hawthorne, was unable to continue her employment at BCFS. Patty Gabriel has stepped in to replace Joyce and is doing an excellent job. Patty has volunteered, and has also served on our Board of Directors. Patty has sound knowledge of our operations, relates well with clients and staff and is a welcome addition to the BCFS family.

**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, Patty

Bookkeeper: Mishele McKain

Gabriel

**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).