



March 2013 Newsletter

RECORD YEAR! BCFS served a record number of families and individuals in 2012. Over 2700 families made at least one visit, an increase of 9% over 2011. Visits were up 16%, while individuals served rose by 22%, due primarily to increased family size. We served over 500,000 pounds in 2012, an increase of 33%. The larger increase in pounds served may be explained by three factors. First, we received a lot of fresh produce, especially pumpkins and squash last fall after we moved; second, we began weighing everything clients received in October; and third, we no longer served walk-ins, which meant there was more bread and produce available for clients. In 2012 we spent about \$155,000 for food, also a record. Increased food expenditures put pressure on our budget, suggesting we will need to raise our fund raising goals for 2013.

1260 INDUSTRIAL PARK DR SE: We have occupied our new facility for almost five months. Contractors are finishing up work on the kitchen and CO ventilation system in the warehouse. We are closely monitoring our utility bills. Ottertail Power, our electricity provider, will consult with us to determine ways we can operate more efficiently.

GARDEN PROJECT TAKING SHAPE: The College of Design at the University of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota Extension Service are working with BCFS and the DAC to develop gardens, composting, rainwater recapture and other practices that will allow us to use our resources to benefit our clients and our community. The next meeting is planned for Friday, April 19, 2013, at which time public input will be gathered to make sure the project fits well with community needs.

MARCH FOODSHARE: With the support of Jodi Wegge, sales rep for Nestle, we are having a food drive/fund raiser at Walmart on Thursday, March 21 from 9:00-2:00. We need a few volunteers to sit at tables by the doors to greet donors and answer questions. Scouts from Pack 80 and their parents held a food drive at Luekens North store on Saturday, March 9 and collected 475 pounds of food and \$180. During Lent Mike Flaherty, owner of Fade Masters barber shop, is donating his Friday proceeds to BCFS. Please encourage your friends and neighbor to support BCFS during this most important month of the year.

NEW KITCHEN NEARING COMPLETION: With a generous donation from Home Depot, we are installing a new kitchen in the client waiting area. Brian Ingalls, a local craftsman, is installing new cabinets and countertops. Suzanne Rabel, University of Minnesota Extension Nutritionist, plans to use the kitchen for recipe sampling and cooking classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

WELCOME RSVP: *BCFS welcomed the RSVP program to our front office in February. Since RSVP is a nonprofit, under IRS rules we are able to them rental space. Sharing our facility with RSVP will benefit not only their program, but ours as well. Many of our volunteers belong to RSVP. Their presence at BCFS will help us recruit new workers.*

DENTAL ACCESS CENTER TO OFFER SERVICES: *On March 15 Northern Dental Access Center and Community Resource Connections met with clients in our Guest Office. They plan to be on site Monthly through May, and hope to expand their services in the future. Other programs that will collaborate with BCFS include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Bi-CAP and the Veterans Services*

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: *(1) Mail to PO Box 3118, Bemidji, MN 56619-3118. (2) Drop off at 1260 Industrial Park Drive SE during hours of operation (MWF, 10:00-3:30). (3) Donate on line at www.bemidjifoodshelf.org.*

WISH LIST: *Peanut butter, canned soups (especially chicken noodle and cream of mushroom), canned beans (especially kidney beans), cold and hot cereal, canned meats*

NEED A SPEAKER? *BCFS provides speakers to churches and community organizations. Contact Jack Judkins at 444-6580 or bcfs@paulbunyan.net.*

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. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex, familial status, sexual orientation, and reprisal. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs).