

December 2010
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BUIST COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE CENTER



From the Director:

During the days leading up to Christmas, let's make this Christmas one long, extended gift of ourselves to others. No obligations, just a daily gift to someone. A few ideas:

Express appreciation

Release a grudge Listen Write out a note

Apologize if you were wrong Seek out a forgotten friend

Enter into another's sorrow Speak kindly to a stranger

Hug someone tightly and whisper "I love you"

Point out one thing you appreciate most about a friend

Celebrate with us this Christmas Season and the gift that continually gives, Jesus!

Blessings to you!

Shirley TenHarmel

Volunteer Spotlight:

Bob and Ginny DeHaan are wonderful volunteers and supporters of BCAC. Together, they serve on Wednesdays, a busy client day here at the pantry. Here is what they have to share...

"When we began volunteering at BCAC, it seemed like a wonderful opportunity to serve our community, and that it is. But it has become so much more, getting to know the clients, serving with like-minded people who renew and refresh our spirits, to say nothing of the fun we have doing it!"

"We have volunteered at our church and our children's schools, but that is different. Since we have been so blessed, we wanted to help those who have a need in the community and BCAC has provided that opportunity for us. We hope that if others have the time and a strong desire to give back, they too will give it a try and find out for themselves how much more they will receive than they give".

Thank you Bob and Ginny for faithfully serving with us!



8306 Byron Center Ave.
Byron Center, MI 49315
616.583.4080
www.buistcac.org



Pantry Hours:

Monday 2:00pm-6:30pm
Wednesday 9:00am-2:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-11:30am

Office Hours:

Monday 10:00am-2:00pm
Tuesday 10:00am-2:00pm
Thursday 10:00am-2:00pm

Blessings All Around!

We have received hundreds of pounds of onions from Wm. Bolthouse Farms in Grant, MI. Parents of a family from our community go to this farm each week and take home the “seconds” that the farm leaves outside. They lay them out, let them dry and then bag them up for us. When the couple’s son comes for a visit on the weekend, he picks them up and brings them to us on Monday mornings.

To receive a badge for GEMS, Hannah Jongsma donated personal care items for the BCAC.

We received a mountain of coats! The Byron Center West Middle School Honors Society held a competition to see which class could bring in the highest number of donated items. An ice cream party was awarded to the winning class!

Our sign works! We were out of new plastic bags that we purchase at Costco. Our volunteer was not able to shop for the bags until the following evening and we thought we would have to make do for one more day. Not an hour later, an employee from a local company stopped in. He had 2 boxes in his hands and said, “Could you use these new plastic bags?” When asked what prompted him to come in, he said that he had noticed the request we had on the sign—“Needed: Plastic Bags”. God is good! He not only provided for that immediate need, but now we have an ongoing connection with this company!



Thanksgiving Feast

Over 100 people enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving feast of turkey and all the trimmings. We are blessed to partner with 1st Reformed Church. They decorated the ROCK and provided messages of thanks for everyone to take home. Our cooks from Buist CAC did a spectacular job with the food. How wonderful to be able to share our abundance with many families from the community! Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with setup, serving and cleanup!



Upcoming date for the
Community Suppers @ The ROCK:
December 16
5:30-7:00 PM

Zumba Fundraiser:

Rhythm Fitness Studio, in Cutlerville, recently held a fundraiser to benefit the Center. Aimee, from Rhythm Fitness, was able to promote the event on eightWest, a morning show on Wood TV8. They held a class on a Saturday morning where they charged \$10 to participate. Almost \$2000 was raised during this event! A huge thank you to Rhythm Fitness and to all who participated...we have been greatly blessed by you!



2010 Totals:

3rd Quarter:

Year to Date:

Food Purchased at Feeding America:	178,642 pounds	530,229 pounds
Food Gleaned/Donated:	277,742 pounds	683,942 pounds
Total Incoming Food:	456,384 pounds	1,224,030 pounds
Gleaned Food We Donated to		
Other Local Pantries:	101,775 pounds	247,324 pounds
Total Families Served:	858	1212
Total Family Visits:	2,718	8,437