

CAER Connections

OUR NEW COMMUNICATION TOOL!

CAER has developed this newsletter to keep you informed of current activities and needs. Look for it quarterly as we attempt to keep you updated. CAER values our connection with you. Please do not hesitate to call with any questions you may have regarding CAER.

Go Green! If you would like to receive this by email, contact CAER.

Help us FOCUS on the statewide fight against HUNGER



Minnesota FoodShare is an annual campaign in March to restock food shelves across the state of MN. They have sponsored the March Campaign for 28 years.

Even though most food shelves benefit from substantial donations during the holiday season, many shelves are starting to go bare by March.

This year, MN FoodShare has put out the challenge to:

Fill 300 food shelves.

We believe this is a **MISSION POSSIBLE!**

It is an opportunity for food shelves state-wide to raise food & dollars knowing that all MN food shelves are doing the same. The March Campaign helps food shelves who participate to restock their shelves AND earn extra dollars from MN FoodShare.

The “free money” is

an incentive. MN FoodShare raises dollars statewide from individuals, corporations and foundations. All food shelves who participate in the March Campaign receive a percentage of those funds. The amount CAER will receive from MN FoodShare is based on how many dollars and/or pounds CAER raises in March.

FYI: All donations of food or money received at CAER do remain at

MARCH 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Introduction	1
MN Foodshare	1
Director's Notes	2
Greetings from Gretch	2
Did You Know?	2
Volunteer Corner	2

REMEMBER...

\$1 = \$9

EACH DOLLAR YOU DONATE TO CAER IS EQUAL TO \$9 IN BUYING POWER AT OUR FOOD BANKS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 12 ~ Volunteer Appreciation Event
- April 19 ~ Volunteer EXPO, 3-6 p.m.
- 5/14/11 ~ “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive
- CAER Classic Golf Tournament in June.

19279 Watson St NW Elk River, MN 55330
763-441-1020 fax 763-441-1377 e-mail: caer@izoom.net



Director's Notes

by Jenny Gray

I would like to welcome our new / returning slate of CAER Board Officers: Heather Olawsky, Chair; BillieJo Bishop, Vice-chair; Lorrie Franz, Treasurer & Kris Anderson, Secretary. Also returning Board Directors: Pastor Phil Strom, Pastor Terry Grzybowski, Rev. Bill Pieper, Deacon Fred St. Jean, Pastor Tom Koelln, Joanne Hartfiel, LaDonna Ahrens, Dennis Hove, Gwyn Schwanbeck, Mike Boelter, Jan Hidde-Hooker & Rev. Marty Mably. Our volunteer Board of Directors unselfishly give of their time and talents to oversee the

operations of CAER. And our grateful thanks to our outgoing directors: Marilyn VanPatten, Margaret Quill and Diane Madsen. We appreciate you!

2011 has started as a busy and productive year for CAER. We were the recipients of a HOP Grow-Strong grant through the Initiative Foundation. This grant is a yearlong capacity-building grant giving us funding for technology improvements.

Our HOP committee attends

trainings and seminars in Little Falls to help us grow stronger and better. We have worked on strategic planning, board and organization structure, best practices and more. As part of this process, CAER involved a community member, not on our board, to help implement these changes. Pat Dwyer, of The Bank of Elk River, has provided valuable insight and in-put. Thank you, Pat!

CAER will continue work on the HOP grant through September of 2011.

Greetings from Gretch

by Gretch Nordman

As the Volunteer Coordinator at CAER, I have the privilege of organizing a remarkable group of people who are so willing to help others on a regular basis.

We have over **400 volunteers** on our roster. With the constant media reminders to the public to "get out and volunteer," that number is increasing all the time.

Most of our volunteer base is made up of several churches

who have been a stable part of CAER's proven routine for several years. A recent trend we have seen is the increased interest in volunteering shown by organizations and corporations. Some groups are on a regular monthly shift.

As of January 2011, CAER is scheduling all evening volunteer hours on Mondays or Thursdays (5:45-8 p.m.).

If an individual/organization is interested in volunteering on an evening, please contact me on Mon-Wed-Fri from 10 a.m.~3 p.m. Call 441-1020 or email me at: **caer@izoom.net**

The **Volunteer Expo** will be held on Tuesday, April 19, from 3-6 at Elk River Activity Center. Call me for more info.

Visit the CAER website for an updated needs list: www.caerfoodshelf.org

Did You Know?

In the **last quarter** of 2010:

- ◆ **2,473 total visits**
- ◆ Total pounds of food distributed: 175,356
- ◆ Total pounds of food donated: 128,598

- ◆ CAER's evening hours are now the same: **6-8 p.m. on Mondays & Thursdays.**
- ◆ For their privacy, CAER uses a number system now to identify clients.

Volunteer Corner

Our Appreciation Lunch

Tuesday, 4/12

11 a.m. American Legion

Please join us!