

furnishing homes with a little help from our friends!

HOURS
Tuesdays & Thursdays
1:30-4:00pm
Occasional hours by appointment

theExchange
LA CROSSE AREA FURNITURE BANK

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**theExchange
Newsletter**

September
2020

★ **IMPACT DATA: August
(Year to Date)**

Total Recipients: 39 (315)
Donor Drop-Offs: 45 (398)
Donation Pickups: 18 (170)
Deliveries: 23 (141)

★ **MOST NEEDED:**

- ◆ Toasters
- ◆ Coffee pots
- ◆ Brooms & Dustpans
- ◆ Basic Cleaning Supplies
- ◆ Kitchen tables
- ◆ Beds in great condition
- ◆ More listed on Facebook or website

★ **QUOTE....**

"If you want more hope for your future, go help someone else and have more hope for their future."

Germany Kent

Why a Newsletter from theExchange?

Hello to our grass roots all time winning team of volunteers and friends that have made theExchange – La Crosse Area Furniture Bank a thing of reality!



This is our first official stab at putting out a newsletter. Many thanks to Kathie Tyser who has volunteered to take this on. Like so many of you, she comes with unique skill sets in addition to her great ability to fold and sort bedding and housewares.

During this time of pandemic ups and downs, we (Joan, Sheila, Cindy, Mary) have felt an extra special need to communicate our concerns, joys, plans and procedures. We also want to continue the friendships we have formed and hopefully share some of the life experiences that have either brought us here or are impacting us today.

So, because we are bursting at the seams and want to share this right off – here is the good news! Our statistics show that we are operating at levels similar or greater than before the pandemic started. We have established ourselves in the community for both donations and services and because of our mission and good work – we were awarded **\$30,000 by the La Crosse Community Foundation** during their 3rd quarter cycle!!!!!! This is a huge step forward for us and will help us in our future financial asks, as well as our ability to look for an Executive Director and become a sustainable program. They really like us. :)

In addition, we have recently had a few professionals lend their expertise. **Linda Schwartz** has been helping organize our digital records. She is working on our on-line Client Form which will help us document orders, collect fees, and capture statistics (which we need for grant requests and funding). **Stephanie Fraase** has generously offered to update our graphics (do you love our new logo?) and has been working on a FAST FACTS page we will use in fund raising, as well as our donation posters and slim sheet informational handouts.

DID YOU HEAR?...
Comments Around Town

- ◆ Your work is life-changing! Seriously. (caseworker)
- ◆ I can't tell you how much this helped me and my daughter. (recipient)
- ◆ Volunteering here has been flexible, fun, and meaningful to me. (volunteer)

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US!



And follow us on Facebook.

FUTURE ISSUES/IDEAS

Volunteer Profiles
Community Supporters
'Fresh Start' Stories
Wish Lists
Events
And more...

Send Ideas or Feedback
ktyser@me.com
Kathie Tyser
volunteer editor

Amongst our own, Joan Swenson and Joy Rumball have agreed to help with organizing us volunteers. Kathie has taken on this newsletter, and many of you have been ever so faithful in coming in to sort, clean and pack items. Our moving crew has been out at least twice a week every week! Our board has been diligently working on preparing us for our future with new phone lines, logistics, bookkeeping, funding and support. Our Facebook/Instagram presence is growing and we have over 800 followers that enthusiastically support us! Last week we had 5 Viterbo students come to wash windows, weed and clean the parking lot.

Needless to say, it's good to have a purpose, but it is especially good to share it with all of you.

Joan, Sheila, Cindy, and Mary

More good news—So grateful!

This summer theExchange was also awarded two additional grants to support our work: \$4,500 from **FSPA Ministry** and \$2,500 from the **Women's Fund**. It is humbling and gratifying to have these two leading local community organizations cheering on our efforts.

Seeking Volunteers for Deliveries & Pick Ups

What constitutes an awesome day for our movers? Recently we delivered a full load of furniture to a joyful young family of five starting over. They couldn't wait to help us unload their new furniture from our trucks.



These are the kinds of days that leave smiles on our faces and assure us that the work we are doing at theExchange matters and is impacting our community for good.

In order to reduce volunteer time inside homes and minimize contact for all, we have asked caseworkers, recipients and donors alike to help out and the response has been excellent. As we lose summer college and high school help, WE WILL NEED MORE HELP. Please spread the word and have interested friends or family email: theexchange@shelterdevelopment.org

VOLUNTEERS: What's New?

KITS! Kits like Baking Kits, Silverware Kits, Bathroom Kits, Hygiene, Knives, Cleaning, Dishes, Pots & Pans Kits that will all be listed with specific guidelines at theExchange when you volunteer. The kits are designed to keep things more efficient when picking out items for recipients. Next time you volunteer, please look for these new guidelines plus updates on "packaging" such things as towel and sheet sets, microwave dishes, etc. TheExchange is also working to accept and keep only the items we provide recipients. Ongoing organization and efficiency is one thing that makes us so effective in meeting needs. Thanks for all you do!