Note: I received this letter from an individual who has been both a patron of, and a volunteer with, our Food Pantry. I thought it was a wonderful note and does a beautiful job of highlighting the many ways that Project Concern can impact people, beyond emergency food supplies and clothing. We wish peace for everyone. Patrick

I have had the unique opportunity to become both a patron and a volunteer of Project Concern food pantry. I know that during the pandemic many of us have suffered loss, either financial, emotional, or spiritually, leaving many of us in a most vulnerable and fragile state. I have found Project Concern to be a kind, compassionate and most valuable resource during this time.

My profession takes me into people’s homes, many of them elderly. During the pandemic I was not allowed to work, under penalty of a substantial fine. After the lockdown was lifted, many people were too afraid to have someone come into their home. This was understandable and I most certainly did not want to endanger anyone so for many months I barely worked. Turning to Project Concern for assistance I was met with compassion. The food that was provided to me was nutritious and covered all the food groups. There was fresh produce and frozen meat, as well as canned and boxed food. There were even desserts! This helped me tremendously.

To add heartache to financial difficulties, my daughter and grandchildren were lost to me. I live alone and they had previously been a large part of my life, as we exchanged love and joy on a daily basis. I became perpetually sad and isolated. During this time I again received help from the food pantry in a quite needed and unexpected way. I had asked to have my name put on the waiting list for volunteers because I wanted to give back to the community. When I received the call to volunteer, I had sunken into depths of sorrow and isolation, unsure of myself and feeling useless. I found the other volunteers and pantry workers to be welcoming and friendly, patient with me while I learned how to fit in and what to do to help. Project Concern was sanitary and run efficiently; I became proud to be a part of it. Volunteering at the food pantry helped me to come out of the shell of isolation I had built and taught me that none of us, no matter how we feel, are ever useless.

Volunteering at Project Concern has become my favorite part of my work week. It is fulfilling to know that I am helping others, which makes this work joyful. We should always remember that we are all part of a community, and we ALL need each other.
Introducing Our Newest Team Member!

Earlier this year Project Concern learned that our former Director Debby Pizuro would be retiring in full from us at the end of 2022. We thank Debby for all the incredible work she has done for our organization and wish her all the best!

Please welcome our new Fund Developer Catherine Jozwik! Catherine is a lifelong Milwaukee resident and lives in Bay View with her supportive husband, Frans, and their mischievous but lovable tabby cat, Meatball. Catherine is a freelance journalist and writer, having worked with Shepherd Express, Key Milwaukee, MKE Lifestyle, and Point and Plover Magazine, among many others. She is passionate about Milwaukee, especially the south shore communities, where she also serves as a member of the Saint Francis Celebrations Committee. She is a wonderful addition to our caring and compassionate team.

Project Concern will be re-opening in May!!

Great news! After more than two years of operating our pantry services as curbside pick-up-only, Project Concern will be opening its doors to welcome our families back inside on May 2. Patrons will once again be able to choose all of their preferred food, clothing and household items. Please bring a recent piece of mail and your photo ID, as the TEFAP program requires, and we can’t wait to see you again!

And a huge shout-out and thank you to all of our volunteers who have dug in and battled through all of the challenges of the past two years, wearing masks always, doing jobs that we didn’t need to do previously, and ultimately, keeping our mission alive and well during the most trying of times. We have the greatest volunteer group anywhere!

Please NOTE: We will not be able to take clothes/household goods donations until we get into summer, as we have two years worth of donations to share with our families first! Thanks for your support!!

OLDER ADULT CONNECTION

As we hopefully move further towards coming out of the pandemic, we are looking for older adults of any age that are interested in connecting with other community members. We are working to connect people with other areas. Older adults who either share similar interests or who are looking for someone to help them with light cleaning or chores once in a while. If you are looking for help or a connection, or if you would like to help others or make a connection, please call us and ask to sign up.

SENIOR RESOURCE NUMBERS

- 211 - IMPACT 24 hour helpline
- Aging Resource Ctr of Milw County - (414) 289-6874
- Kelly Senior Center (Cudahy): (414) 481-9611
- SDC Senior Benefit Enrollment - (414) 906-2706
- JFS Counseling for Disabled Seniors (414) 390-5800

SOPHIA’S RECIPE CORNER

Sophia’s Easy-Roasted Veggies

One of my favorite things to look for at Project Concern is fresh vegetables, especially throughout the summer when more local items begin to harvest. Roasted veggies are quick and easy and only require a cookie/sheet pan and oil. You can add mild seasoning if you like, such as salt, pepper or a simple herb mixture, or just let the flavors of the veggies have the spotlight!

What you need: Vegetables (onion, any squash, asparagus, zucchini, broccoli, mushrooms, potatoes, etc.), any kind of oil, seasoning if desired, oven sheet pan / cookie pan

What to do: Rinse and cut all veggies into pieces (for squash, you’ll need to discard the hard outer shell), then place in bowl and toss with enough of any kind of oil to evenly coat the veggies (but they don’t need to take a bath in the oil, hahaha) and add seasoning if desired. Mix well and pour onto baking or cookie sheet. Bake in oven at 350-425 degrees for 20-35 minutes, or until veggies are done to your liking. Remember to give the veggies a flip or turn halfway through cooking. Enjoy over pasta, rice or in a taco shell! Bon Appetit!! Sophia
Your Donations

When making a donation in honor of or in memory of a friend or loved one, if you would like it listed in this newsletter, please make sure you provide honoree’s name and donor’s name.

Also, if you wish to make a donation to celebrate someone’s birthday, anniversary or any other event, please be sure to include all pertinent information so we can properly recognize them in this newsletter.

DONATING ONLINE

If you wish to donate to us online, please visit our website:

www.projectconcerncudahy.org

You can quickly make a one-time donation, or sign-up for recurring donations, by utilizing the “DONATE NOW” button on our website.
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