

Dear Members and Friends of ECHO,

As 2018 begins, we at ECHO are grateful for the generosity our community has shown for the people who struggle every day to care for their families and to achieve their dreams. We are grateful that you have trusted ECHO to distribute your generous donations with fairness and dignity.

This month, I have included a photo for those of you who might want to use it. Our community helped us with the Christmas gift program, and we want you to see how that looks at ECHO after the elves have set it up for parents to come in and choose gifts for their children.

We are also grateful that you share ECHO's news and needs with others in the community. Please find paragraphs below that you can use for your bulletins and newsletters. Thank you.

Gratefully,
Jane Curtis
Community Relations Chair

This month, ECHO's most urgently needed food and personal hygiene supplies are: vegetable oil, flour (2#), spaghetti sauce, laundry detergent, deodorant and shaving cream. The most needed clothing items are: larger kids' sneakers- sizes 3 to 6, winter pajamas for children, men's coats in Small or Medium. The Housewares Department needs flatware (does not need to be in sets), large pots, and comforters. We are still giving out school supplies as families express a need, so we could use donations of #2 pencils, crayons (24 box), pointed tip student scissors, and new 3-ring binders (1-1/2" and 2" only). ECHO, 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, is open to accept donations Monday through Friday from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00. Receipts are happily given.

Please be aware that ECHO follows the Fairfax County Public Schools inclement weather closing protocols and also closes on most of the national holidays.

If your New Year's resolutions include using some of your time to make your community a better place to live, consider volunteering at ECHO. You can learn more about volunteer possibilities on our website, www.echo-inc.org, under "Volunteer Opportunities." It takes many kinds of tasks to make ECHO operate successfully. Some volunteers work directly with clients, while some work only with donations, and some care for our building and grounds. Some volunteers work as mentors and tutors at local schools. Time commitments vary, with some people working weekly while others come in only one or two evenings a month, or even work on temporary projects such as packing school supplies for our Back-to-School program. Potential volunteers can visit to see how ECHO works before making a commitment. If you are interested, e-mail volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org.

ECHO volunteers send their heartfelt thanks to members of this community who donated food, school supplies, money, toys and labor to help people in need in 2017! ECHO was able to make Christmas truly merry for more than 600 children whose families struggle financially. Through the work of volunteer organizers and many elves, ECHO assembled a room full of toys and made them available for parents to come in by appointment and choose for their families. We wish we could share the smiles and hugs.

Food Drives

January - Kirkwood Presbyterian, Sydenstricker United Methodist
February - Abiding Presence Lutheran, St. Mark's Lutheran

Upcoming Dates to Note

January 2 - ECHO reopens after holiday
January 6 - Saturday opening
January 15 - Closed for Martin Luther King Day
January 17 - Exec. Committee meeting, conf. room, 7:30
February 3 - Saturday opening
February 19 - Closed for Presidents Day
February 21 - Bd of Directors meet, 7:30, St. John's UMC

