



A Child's World
a childcare center

The following are the primary needs for the Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing programs offered at the YWCA Cass Clay:

- Any food donations are appreciated!
- Toilet paper
- Diapers (size 4)
- Sunscreen & aloe
- African American hair products (hair grease)
- New or gently used vacuum cleaners
- Ibuprofen (adult & children's)
- Disinfecting wipes
- Gas & grocery gift cards
- Shaving cream/razors
- Hand soap refills
- Gently used furniture
- Glass & bathroom cleaner
- New women's underwear (all sizes)
- New mattress pads & sheet sets
- Jumper cables
- Slippers (women's & children's)
- New children's socks
- New or gently worn summer clothing & shoes (all sizes)

A complete list of needs is available at www.ywcacassclay.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Fitness / Yoga Instructor

- Days and times are flexible
- Teach fitness to women at the Emergency Shelter
- Could include: yoga, pilates, aerobics, etc.

Hair Stylist

- Days and times are flexible
- Licensed stylists needed for cuts, colors, and perms for shelter residents and their children
- Stylists must provide own sheers; all other supplies will be provided

Donation Sorting & Organizing

- Days and times are flexible
- Sort donated items that arrive at the shelter daily, check for quality, and store/organize donations
- Great for those who love to organize and are self-motivated

For a complete listing of volunteer opportunities, visit impactgiveback.org and search for "YWCA."

Have a volunteering idea? Just ask Amber! Call her at (701) 232-3449 or email at adahl@ywcacassclay.org.



July 2011 Edition

July

- Cherries for Charity!
- UV Safety Month
- National Parks Month
- Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

July 4

Independence Day

August

- National Women's Month
- National Immunization Awareness Month
- Children's Eye Health & Safety Month

August 1

Ramadan begins

August 7

Friendship Day

August 26

Women's Equality Day

September 8

Chocolate Fantasy @
Holiday Inn, 11am - 7pm

Finding Joy through education & support
YWCA offers unique and empowering program

Joy is full of life. She has an amazing personality; friendly and easy to talk to. Her zest for life is contagious, noticeable from the first second you meet her.

But, Joy's story has a darker side that she openly talks about. She'll tell you how her husband used to choke her with a baseball bat. She might share about the night he drug her through the apartment by her hair. Then, she'll likely tell you about the morning she found her freedom.



Teisa and Joy working together in the Microsoft computer lab
Photo courtesy of Justin Eiler Photography & Design

Because her husband had already taken her bank cards, cash, passport, cell phone, and driver's license, Joy took her empty purse and ran across the street to the local auto body shop. By a stroke of luck, she had written down the number for the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center the night before and still had that number in her purse. From the body shop, Joy called the center and was soon forwarded to the YWCA Emergency Shelter. She spoke with a case manager and knew that the YWCA could help her. The next step was finding a ride for the 115-mile trip to Fargo. A generous mechanic at the body shop made a call to a friend who was willing to provide transportation.

Joy was overwhelmed with the thoughts running through her mind when she arrived at the shelter. One of the first people she spoke with was Teisa Taylor, the YWCA's Education & Employment Coordinator.

"When I first saw her," said Teisa, "she seemed so lost."

Continued on page 4

YWCA awarded grant to prevent homelessness

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the YWCA's Permanent Supportive Housing program a \$59,850 two year grant, which will provide two additional housing units in the Fargo area. This grant was awarded through HUD's *Continuum of Care* program. The *Continuum of Care* competitive grants fund a wide range of transitional and permanent housing programs, as well as supportive services including job training, case management, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and child care. Local matching dollars are required to receive HUD funding, which was provided by the United Way of Cass Clay.

"We are thrilled to expand our Permanent Supportive Housing program by 50% through this grant," said Erin Prochnow, YWCA Executive Director. "Offering women and children their own permanent, safe housing is our primary goal."

Locally, the first strategy in the City of Fargo 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness is to, "Increase the availability of permanent supportive housing." The YWCA Cass Clay has a history of success in providing shelter and housing in the Cass-Clay communities; our Transitional Housing program was recognized by the President of the United States for offering a Model Program.

Thank you to our 2011 Community Collaborators



Community Partners



“Sponsor a Student” enters its fifth year of creating smiles Provide clothing and confidence for a homeless student this school year

Going back to school is an exciting time for most children, but for the children in our community who are experiencing homelessness, the first day of school isn't always so fun. Instead of excitement, many homeless youth experience worry and fear. Not fitting in, having their homeless situation discovered by their peers, being targeted by bullies and even getting hurt by their classmates are all very real situations that many homeless children face.

This school year, we would like to send as many homeless students as possible back to school with one less worry. During our “Sponsor a Student” event last year, 47 homeless students were sponsored by caring members of our community. Each sponsored student received a gift bag that included a new outfit, a package of underwear and socks and a pair of shoes in their size. The smiles on their faces when they received their gift bags were priceless, and the confidence that the new clothing inspired was beyond measure!

Would you please consider putting that smile on a homeless student's face this year? If you or a group of friends or coworkers would like to “Sponsor a Student” please email Emma Schmit at eschmit@ywcacassclay.org. She will email you the gender, age, and sizes of a child, as well as their favorite color and interests to help make the selections a little easier. Arrangements will then be made for each child's package to be presented to them at a back to school party. If you would like to “Sponsor a Student”, but would rather not shop, we can do the shopping for you!! Gift cards to area stores are also greatly appreciated.

Here are some comments from children who received the gift bags last school year.

When you received your “Back to School Gift Bag” how did you feel?

- How did they know I like purple?!
- I was so surprised that someone did this for me.
- I am going to rock these shoes!
- Happy to have gotten a bag. I didn't think I'd get one, too.
- Really happy. Please tell my sponsor thank you for the gift!

What's one thing you'd like to tell your sponsor?

- Tell whoever got this for me that it's perfect! Thanks so much!
- I think I'm a princess now.
- I'm happy I got something for school, so thank you very much!
- Thank you so much for getting this stuff for me, I feel special!
- I could have never done this for my son - he deserves it! (mom)
- I like the things that you gave me!
- My baby has never had new shoes for school! (mom)
- I like to learn and I love school.
- I've never had new clothes for school before. This is awesome!



Wild Rumpus carnival thanks A Child's World fundraiser a success



Even a loss of electricity couldn't stop this year's Wild Rumpus carnival fundraiser! Adults and kids alike enjoyed tasty concessions, a fun-tastic variety of games, and great silent auction items. The chance to splash a favorite teacher at the dunk tank was a huge hit again this year!

A Child's World would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their generous donations to the Wild Rumpus:

- Kathy Benson
- Cashwise
- Christopher Family
- Chuck-E-Cheese
- Clarke Family
- Clay Your Way
- Cole Papers
- Becky Cote
- Kevin Davis
- Eide Bailly
- F-M RedHawks
- Food Services of America
- Games Galore
- Sindy Keller
- Li Family
- Peterson Family
- Plain People Entertainment
- Prochnow Family
- Red River Zoo
- RentAll
- Kim Rud
- Sakrismo Family
- Shawn Family
- Kim Shuckhart
- Space Aliens
- Sysco
- Thunder Road
- Carolyn Trana
- YWCA & ACW Staff

A Child's World, one of ten nationally accredited childcare centers in North Dakota, provides high quality childcare for children in an environment that supports all families, regardless of income, diversity, or family structure.



Chocolate Fantasy and Chili, too! Annual fundraiser is September 8



The 28th annual *Chocolate Fantasy and Chili, too!* will be held Thursday, September 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Fargo Holiday Inn. This annual fundraiser offers participants the opportunity to sample hundreds of chocolate desserts as well as all-you-can-eat chili with all the fixings. In addition, an excellent assortment of silent auction items will be available for bidding.

All proceeds from this unique event benefit the Emergency Shelter. To volunteer for *Chocolate Fantasy* or to donate a dessert or silent auction item, please call (701) 232-2547.

Stand Against Racism 2011 YWCA partners with Bar Association

The Cass County Bar Association provided a grant to help further educational efforts in local schools, coordinating with the YWCA's Stand Against Racism on April 29. Pictured below are program facilitator District Judge Wick Corwin and Carl Ben Eielson Middle School eighth graders. Stand Against Racism was held in conjunction with the Bar Association's Law Day.



Lobster & Lefse Festival is August 18-20 at FARGODOME

The 2nd annual Lobster & Lefse Festival provides a fun atmosphere of food and entertainment with the added appeal of the uniquely creative combination of fresh Maine lobster and Norwegian style lefse. Where else but in the Red River Valley could you experience this wacky combination? The festival will run from 4:00-8:00 p.m. August 18 and 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. August 19 & 20. Admission is \$3 at the gate, with free admission from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Thursday and from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Friday. Kids under 12 always get in free!

The Lobster and Lefse Festival is coordinated by the Fargo Moorhead AM Rotary Club. Portions of the proceeds from the event will go to the YWCA Cass Clay, Rape and Abuse Crisis Center, and local Rotary projects.



No easy task, no ordinary organization

Thank you to all of our wonderful donors who support us; whether it be financially, with in-kind donations, or with the gift of time. We are grateful for the significant community support and truly are strong alone, but fearless together! It is our goal to continue to bring peace to women and children facing homelessness by providing a safe haven and supportive services through our emergency shelter.

Listed below are those who have financially supported the YWCA Cass Clay through membership or by sponsoring a day of shelter. Also listed are those who provided a gift in honor or in memory of someone special. We would also like to acknowledge the many donors who have chosen to remain anonymous - their gifts are greatly appreciated even though not publicly recognized.

April 14, 2011 - June 13, 2011

Laura Oster Aaland & Cash H. Aaland
 Connie & Paul Abrahamson
 Elaine Ackerman
 Jane Ahlin
 Marlene Ames
 Monique Ammi in honor of Julius Johnson
 Cindy Anderson
 Gloria Anderson
 Hallie Anderson
 Rosalie Anderson
 Sue Andrews
 Judy Arneson
 Karen Arneson
 Patricia Belknap
 Kathryn Benson
 Yvonne Bethke
 Barbara & Mark Bibelheimer in memory of George Rohde
 Barbara & Mark Bibelheimer
 Linda B. Bjornstad in memory of Fay Hillerson
 Helen Bolton
 Dorothy Brakke
 Audrey Bueide
 Tracee Buethner
 Matt & Jo Ann Butler
 Loretta Cantieri
 Laura & Cole Carley
 Rachel & Josh Clarke
 Sherri Cooper
 Patty Corwin
 Becky Cote
 Callie Dady
 Margaret & Ken Dahl
 Lynn Dahleen
 Deb Dahlseng
 The Honorable Jack Dalrymple & First Lady Betsy Dalrymple
 Virginia & Robert Dambach
 Byron & Virginia Danielson
 Mary Davies in memory of Rose Andersen
 Laura Davison
 Debra Dawson
 Georgia & Thomas Dawson
 Nancy Decker
 Clare Degerness
 Sarah & Mike DeVries
 Jon & Kylie Dickson
 Jennifer & Chris Dorsey
 Gini Duval
 Shelley Earsley
 Diane Elkin
 Donna & Nicholas Ellig
 Lauri & Robert Engen
 Velma Feasel
 Norma Finnie
 First Congregational United Church of Christ Fargo
 Jessica Foss
 Ramona Fraase
 Ruth Franzen
 Clotine Frear
 Marilyn Froelich
 Marvel Froemming
 Leah Fujimoto & Mark Jensen
 Janice Gabriel
 Jeannine Galbreath
 Margaret Gaynor
 Janet Gemar in honor of Donna Nelson

Janet Gemar
 Janet Geston
 Carol Gettel
 Kay Gorder
 Delene Gunderson
 Carol & Thomas Gustad
 Gary Haaland
 Frances Hage
 Shelly & Jeff Hakanson
 Kathi Halvorson
 Kyle Handegard
 Jean Hannig
 Barb Hart
 Kathryn & Matt Hasbargen
 Debra & Joel Haugen
 Brian Hayer
 June & Harold Hayer
 Marion Helbling
 Marilyn Helgeson
 Dorothy Hoffelt
 Elaine & Don Holm
 Andree Horst
 Sue Huguélet
 Carlton Hunke
 Willy & Arland Jacobson in memory of Ida Forbord
 Willy & Arland Jacobson
 Dana & Steve Johnson
 June & Roger Johnson
 Laurie Johnson
 Lyle & Irene Johnson
 Ramona Johnson
 Sandra Johnson
 Lilah Jondahl
 Janet & Donald Kaspari
 Ramona & James Kautzman
 Betty Kerns
 Rhonda King
 Lucille Kingsley
 Patricia & Arthur Kinsella
 Jackie Klein
 Audrey & Richard Kloubec
 Becky Koch
 Barb & Tim Kraft in memory of Amber Bastian
 Barb & Tim Kraft in memory of Dale Brandt
 Joan & Craig Krause
 Beverly Krein in memory of Elizabeth Leroy
 Pam & James Kriz
 Susan & Michael Krueger
 DiAnna Kudelka in memory of Lillian Marsaa
 Kulm Baptist Woman's Ministries
 Jill Kurtz
 Herman Kutz
 Daniel & Carol Labernik
 Carol & John Ladwig
 James Leith in honor of Donna Nelson
 Donna Lemar in memory of Lillian Marsaa
 Jodie Lichtsinn
 Mildred Lindgren
 Shelly Lindlauf
 Agnes Liudahl in memory of Lee Otto
 Rhonda Lybeck
 Harold & Dorothy Madson
 Ellen Mahli
 Orilla Maier
 Lisa & Norman Mark
 Mary Markland & Brian Wooton
 Sharon Markland

Verle & Karen Marsaa in memory of Lillian Marsaa
 Harriette & Kevin McCaul
 Marcia McMullen
 Andria & John Messelt
 Myrna Mettler
 Janet Miller
 Malvina Moe
 Shirley & Robert Montgomery
 Carolyn Nelson
 Donna Nelson
 Dorothy Nelson
 Mary Ellen & Don Nilles
 MaryJane & Scott Nipstad
 Sandra Nipstad
 Kathleen Oksendahl
 Donna M & Bob Olson
 Gloria Pechtel
 Eunice Plunkett
 Debra & Daniel Pullen
 Chitra Ramanathan & Shashank Jolly
 Phylis Rehling in honor of Paulette Rastedt
 Noell Reinhiller
 Carol Reitz
 Carol & Kent Rogne
 Janet Rostad
 Vonnie Rostad
 Faye Sample
 Glenda Sanford
 Marion Sansted
 Connie Santwired
 Sharon Secor
 Carmen Seifert in memory of Emma Hutchison
 Carmen Seifert
 Kimberly & Noel Shuckhart
 Kimberly & Noel Shuckhart in honor of Gloria Pechel & Mary Shuckhart
 D Yvonne & Gary Smith
 Marsha & Lyle Songstad
 Mykal Sonstelle
 Judith & Stephen Spellman
 Virginia Stewart
 Carol Stoudt
 Lulu Sve
 Pamela & Jake Swanson in memory of Lillian Marsaa
 Sandra Swanson in memory of Robert Swanson
 Sharon Swenson
 Bruce Tellefson
 Gin Templeton
 Rosemary & Frank Thomas
 Rachel Tompt
 Cathy & Jon Tufte
 Dawn Tyson
 Elizabeth & Mark Vinz
 Gary Watne
 James Wee
 Kay Weisgram
 Ruth Wibe
 Wanda Wilcox
 Linda & Jim Wilkie
 C. D. Wray Williams
 Lorna Williams
 Robyne Carol Williams
 Carolyn Wright
 Gloria Wrigley
 Helen Youngs
 Marie & William Zitzow
 Ronda Zupi

North Dakota tax credits expanded by legislation Consider making a gift to the YWCA Endowment Fund

The 2011 North Dakota Legislature expanded the legislation for tax credits that have been in place since 2007. This legislation allows significant income tax credits for certain gifts to "permanent, irrevocable" endowment funds of qualified North Dakota charities. These expanded credits pertain to certain gifts made by individuals and businesses for taxable years beginning in 2011.

The YWCA Cass Clay has established a ND Tax Credit Endowment Fund which can receive gifts qualifying for the North Dakota credits. The purpose of our endowment fund is to provide ongoing financial support in furtherance of the mission of YWCA Cass Clay. The operating policies of our endowment fund allow for only limited distributions from the donors' gift contributions. The income and net appreciation from the fund's invested assets may be used to support the mission of YWCA Cass Clay.

Eligible "Business" Donors

Gifts from the following entities may benefit from these credits:

1. "C" corporations
2. "Pass-through" entities including Subchapter "S" corporations, Partnerships and Limited liability companies

The 2011 North Dakota Senate Bill 2160 has allowed contributions from banks to qualify for the tax credit allowed to other business entities.

How the Tax Credit Works

"Business" gifts: An income tax credit for "business gifts" is 40% of the value of a gift made to a qualified (permanent, irrevocable) endowment fund of a ND nonprofit organization, provided that the gift is deductible for Federal tax purposes. The tax credit allowed in any one year may not exceed the current year tax liability; unused credits may be carried forward for up to three additional tax years.

The annual limitation on this tax credit is \$10,000, determined at the entity level. Therefore, eligible gifts totaling up to \$25,000 per year will bring about the maximum annual credit.

Individual Donors: The 2011 legislation allows a 40% tax credit for gifts by individuals to a qualified endowment fund held by a qualifying ND non-profit organization. If an individual makes a gift(s) to such an endowment fund, the aggregate of the year's gifts to a particular fund must be \$5,000 or more. The maximum credits that may be claimed under this subsection are \$10,000 (\$25,000 in gifts) for an individual or \$20,000 (\$50,000 in gifts) for married individuals filing jointly.

An Invitation

Gifts to this new endowment fund will enable us to look to the future with increased confidence as we continue to fulfill our vital mission of empowering women and eliminating racism. If you are a ND individual taxpayer or an owner of one of the qualifying businesses listed above, we hope that you will consider a gift to the YWCA Cass Clay ND Tax Credit Endowment Fund. Your gift would be highly valued and appreciated!

Disclaimer: The above article is intended to provide information of a general nature only. It should not be construed as legal, tax and/or financial advice. Readers are urged to consult their own professional advisors for their specific situations.

Gifts to YWCA Cass Clay ND Tax Credit Endowment Fund are tax deductible under Federal income tax law. For more information, please visit ywcacassclay.org or call (701) 232-2547.

Why I Give

In this issue we feature Ramona Johnson, a Partner at Eide Bailly in Fargo and chair of the YWCA Endowment Committee.



Q. How are you involved with the YWCA?

A. I am currently a member of the

board of directors and I have been on the finance committee for approximately nine years.

Q. Is there a specific area of the YWCA that is most important to you?

A. The Transitional Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs are of most importance to me. It is immensely beneficial to offer this assistance to women and their children so that they have the opportunity to improve their lives and become independent.

Q. What does supporting the YWCA mean to you?

A. I feel very honored to be involved in the YWCA and am thankful that I can support the YWCA and its programs. I have been given many blessings and opportunities in my life and my career and I'm glad that I can share some of this in order to give future opportunities to other women. It is also great to know that this type of organization exists in case my daughters ever need this kind of support.

Due to space constraints, as of January 1, 2012 we will only list donors who give a gift in honor or in memory of someone special. We look forward to bringing you more stories and pictures with the additional space!

“...my life has become more colorful since I got here.” continued from front page

Teisa was able to offer her support through the many classes she coordinates at the shelter, either teaching women herself or finding volunteers who are experts in their field. Joy was one of the 1,617 women in 2010 who participated in classes, including empowerment and stress management, budgeting, nutrition, resume writing, mock interviews, computer basics, time management, support groups, fitness classes (Joy loved Zumba!), and “we even played bingo, too!”

“The classes I took,” said Joy, “I loved them! I tell people that this place is amazing. You can find so many resources.”

Joy has since left the shelter and is living in her own apartment. She secured a job at a local bank, “thanks to Teisa’s help during a mock interview,” said Joy. Her goal is to finish her bachelor’s degree, get a master’s degree, and become a counselor.

“My life has become colorful since I got here,” explained Joy. “I’m living for myself. I know what I want and have goals for my life. I make my own friends. I feel like I’ve got everything.”

The YWCA Education & Employment program offers comprehensive employment and educational readiness training to assist unemployed and under employed women residing at the Emergency Shelter. Additionally, Steps to Success, an intensive hands-on job readiness course, is offered monthly to YWCA housing participants. Skills learned prepare women to enter/re-enter the job market while bolstering self confidence and self-esteem. To find out more about the Education & Employment program or to volunteer to teach a class, contact Teisa at (701) 232-3449 or ttaylor@ywcacassclay.org.



Teisa helps women like Joy every day
Photo courtesy of Justin Eiler Photography & Design

Your membership makes a difference for women & children Every day - right here in our community

We are currently in the middle of our annual Membership Drive. You should have recently received a letter asking you join us. Your membership gift of \$35 or more will directly impact the lives of women and children in our community and offer hope for the future where there is currently uncertainty; women just like Joy.

With your help, the YWCA will continue to fulfill its mission of eliminating racism, empowering women and children and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. This is **no easy task**, but we are **no ordinary organization**.

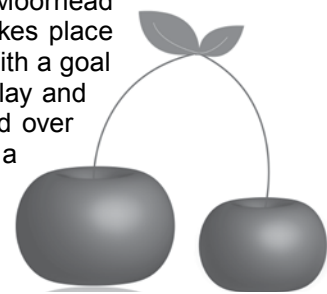
Your membership gift supports women and children as they work towards a better life. Make a difference and join us - respond to the membership mailing, call our office at (701) 232-2547, or go online to ywcacassclay.org and click the “Donate Now” button.

The YWCA is currently under a match grant with Dakota Medical Foundation. Gifts between \$50 and \$1,000 will be matched to support the YWCA!



Cherries for Charity is coming soon!

Entering its twenty-ninth year, *Cherries for Charity* is an annual fundraiser of the Fargo-Moorhead Cosmopolitan Club, held in conjunction with Hornbacher’s grocery stores. The event takes place in July at all six local Hornbacher’s locations - watch your local store for specific dates. With a goal of raising \$25,000 in 2011, proceeds from the sale of cherries benefit the YWCA Cass Clay and the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center. To date, *Cherries for Charity* has raised over \$250,000. The F-M Cosmopolitan Club is part of Cosmopolitan International, a service organization that was founded on March 12, 1918. The organization focuses contributions to community well-being through charitable donations and volunteer service. **To volunteer, please call Amber at (701) 232-3449 or email her at adahl@ywcacassclay.org.**



YWCA earns Dakota Medical Foundation’s Seal of Distinction Executive and board leadership demonstrates commitment to improvement



The YWCA Cass Clay is one of fourteen nonprofit organizations in the region to be awarded the Impact Foundation’s *High Impact Seal of Distinction*.

The High Impact Seal of Distinction recognizes nonprofit organizations whose executive and board leadership has demonstrated a sincere commitment to producing superior results for the people of our region by improving their performance in five key areas of nonprofit management – *Purpose, Platform, People, Resources and Results*.

This innovative program, initially funded by the Bush Foundation, was piloted by Impact Foundation from 2009-2011, to build the capacity of nonprofit leaders to take their organizations from functioning well, to superior performing, high impact organizations.

To attain the High Impact Seal of Distinction, nonprofit executives and board members devoted hundreds of hours to complete a series of rigorous trainings, conducted an in-depth organizational assessment, developed measurable plans to improve their organizational effectiveness, and implemented key practices to dramatically improve results for the people they serve.

The nonprofit executives and board members who participated in the program are better equipped leaders,

highly capable of engaging their organizations and their communities to more effectively address important societal problems.

Erin Prochnow, executive director, and YWCA Cass Clay board members received individual High Impact Seal of Distinction awards for perfect attendance at all program sessions. Once awarded, this High Impact Seal of Distinction travels with the individual, serving as a testament to both their dedication and their understanding of what it takes to be a truly *high impact* organization.



Pictured l to r: Julie Haugen, Erin Prochnow, Becky Cote, Denise Magness, Lisa Yoney, Shelley Earsley, Pat Traynor

Hope Lutheran exceeds goal for Shelter Faith Community Nurse Church members raise over \$17,000 for healing partnership



On Palm Sunday, April 17, members of Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo raised a total of \$17,728.39 to support the Shelter Faith Community Nurse (SFCN) at the YWCA Emergency

Shelter. Surpassing their original goal of \$16,000, Hope Lutheran members gave generously to cover the YWCA’s portion of the SFCN salary for 2011; the SFCN is employed through a partnership with Sanford Health, with the YWCA paying a portion of the salary each month.

“The SFCN program has proven beneficial to both the shelter and the health care community,” explained Erin Prochnow, YWCA Cass Clay Executive Director. “Hope Lutheran’s backing of this program is a testament to their ongoing commitment to our community and its members and we are fortunate to have their support in serving women and children in a holistic way - mind, body and spirit.”

Thank you Hope Lutheran Church!

Rise to the challenge - Help close the hunger gap this July YWCA to participate in \$100,000 food shelf challenge grant

What if you had to decide which of your children will eat today because there’s not enough food in the house for everyone? What if you had to choose between feeding your children or putting gas in your car to make it to your job? These are the choices facing 1 in 5 Minnesota families – your friends, co-workers and neighbors.

The more that you donate to the YWCA for this challenge during July, the larger our food shelf’s Open Your Heart grant will be. The challenge funds will proportionally match your donation. The YWCA can leverage your donation because

of our buying power; we can purchase food from our food bank at a fraction of the cost.

For 25 years, Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless has targeted millions of dollars to strategically fight hunger in Minnesota. Open Your Heart funds the purchase and transfer of more than one million pounds of fresh produce, meat and dairy products every year through Hunger Solutions Minnesota.

For more information on how to make your dollars go farther this July, please call (701) 232-2547.