



Summer is Coming and That Means...Empty Pantry Shelves!

A number of factors, including a pause in organized food drives, make summer a lean season for ECHO's Food Pantry, but the need in the community remains the same. Please consider participating in one of these Food Drives:

May 7, Noon to 3:00, Anna Ghen, a local Realtor, will hold a Shred Event at Surrey Hill Pool on Surrey Hill Place, in Cardinal Forest, Springfield. Please bring non-perishable food and personal hygiene supplies to donate and get your documents shredded securely.

May 14, the National Association of Letter Carriers will be collecting non-perishable food donations along their routes for the nationwide Stamp Out Hunger campaign. Food collected out of the Burke, West Springfield and Central Springfield Post Offices will come to ECHO. This drive is vital in keeping our pantry shelves stocked through the summer. Please consider leaving a bag of food at your mailbox early that morning.

June 18, Shred and Share Event, 11:00 to 2:00 at Kirkwood Presbyterian parking lot, 8336 Carrleigh Pkwy, Springfield, sponsored by Kathleen Pester, Team Integrity . Get old documents securely shredded and donate food. Especially needed now are: granola bars, flour, Masa flour, peanut butter, coffee, honey, sugar, bagged rice, dried black beans, dried red beans, canned fish (such as sardines), canned milk, deodorant, toilet tissue, razors, shaving cream.

Many Volunteer Opportunities at ECHO!

The ECHO Yard Sale returned last month to the delight of shoppers and volunteers alike, but in order to carry on this tradition, ECHO needs some folks willing to lead aspects of future Yard Sales. Great notes from previous yard sale leaders are ready as a guide for new volunteers. Most of the work starts about six weeks prior to the date of the sale, and there are always many enthusiastic helpers just waiting for a leader. If leadership is your personal skill, consider helping our community by helping ECHO with this fun event that raises money for our mission.

ECHO needs a “shutter bug”! We often need a photographer to record special events both for ECHO’s historical record and for publication in newsletters and social media. A volunteer who enjoys photography and could attend one or two day or evening events per month would be most welcome to join our Communications Team.

ECHO needs volunteers in the following areas on specific days or evenings: Clothing Room, Administrative Support, Fix-It Desk, Client Counseling, and Facilities Maintenance. If you want to know more about how your skills might be used to serve our community (and if you want to work side by side with some of the nicest people anywhere), [email Volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org](mailto:Volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org).

Donating Clothing and Household Items

In addition to clothing, ECHO collects and then distributes home goods that are clean and in good repair, such as pots and pans, bed linens and towels. For a complete list of items that ECHO can use when you can’t use them any more, see our website, www.echo-inc.org. Click on “Donate Goods.” Right now, our Clothing Room needs men’s (new) short socks, men’s t-shirts size medium or small, sneakers for teen girls and boys, men’s sweatpants and athletic shorts in small or medium sizes. ECHO is open to receive donations Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00, as well as one Saturday morning a month (check echo-inc.org for the date each month). Receipts are cheerfully provided by our Donation Door volunteers.

Upcoming Dates to Note

May 7 - Shred Event/Food Drive, Surrey Hill Pool

May 14 - Postal Carriers Food Drive

May 16- Bd of Dir Meet

May 30 - Closed for Memorial Day

June 18 - Shred and Share Food Drive, Kirkwood Presbyterian

Congregational and Other Food Drives

Westwood Baptist- June

St. Mark's Lutheran- June

For more information about ECHO on the following topics, please click the links to our website:

[Find us on Facebook](#)

[Donate Money](#)

[Needed School Supplies](#)

[Tips on Holding a Donation Drive](#)

[ECHO's Amazon Wishlist](#)