

The Sharing Tree-2011

The Sharing Tree had another successful year in 2011, providing school supplies and backpacks to more than 200 Hudson students. Every year since the inception of the program in 2002, the number of students has increased, and we expect the same to happen in 2012.

In addition to all of the efforts involved in providing the school supplies, The Sharing Tree focused on process improvements and fundraising in 2011. Regarding process, we established a website (www.TheSharingTree.org), which allows anyone to gather information about The Sharing Tree, make donations, and to obtain registration materials. The WESTconsin Credit Union allowed us to use their conference room and storage areas, greatly reducing the time and effort required for Backpack Stuffing and Distribution Nights.

Finally, we received numerous individual financial donations, as well as grants from area foundations (at least one of which we hadn't applied for in 2011).

2011 Goals:

- 1) **Create website:** www.thesharingtree.org established and maintained.
- 2) **Redesign registration materials:** the new one-page registration form is available on the website, and asks for the student's school (to allow us to get the specific supply list for that teacher/grade).
- 3) **Initiate fundraising earlier in the year:** began in January and completed by early March.
- 4) **Refined processes:** Storage of school supplies, Backpack Stuffing Night, and Distribution Night all were held at the Hudson branch of WESTconsin Credit Union. On Backpack Stuffing Night we collected the school supplies for each student and on Distribution Night the students/families got to choose their own backpack and then collect their prepared supplies.

Student Stats & Demographics

201 Hudson school district students assisted:

• Preschool/Head Start	2
• K-5th grade	107
• Hudson Middle School	42
• Hudson High School	46
• Private school students	4

Volunteers

- Shopping: 6 individuals, 300+ hours
- Backpack Stuffing Night: 19 individuals, 63 total hours
- Distribution Night: 17 individuals, 51 total hours

Financials

Income

Source	Amount	Total
Ann Marie Foundation	\$ 1,000.00	
People's Congregational Church	\$ 1,375.00	
St. Croix Electric	\$ 200.00	
White Pine Fund	\$ 1,000.00	
Total Church/Foundation		\$ 3,575.00
Individual Cash Contributions	\$ 1,465.00	
Total		\$ 5,040.00

School Supplies

- School supply purchases: \$ 4,728.01
Includes:
 - 29 Scientific calculators: approx. \$ 290.00
 - 12 Graphing calculators: approx. \$1,140.00
- Savings realized from coupons, sales, and special purchases: \$2,501.67
- Estimated monetary value of in-kind donations: \$1,989.76
- 7 students sponsored community members (who purchased those supplies themselves and donated the completed backpack/supplies)

2012 Forecast/Plan

- Explore new funding sources
- Identify similar programs in neighboring districts (for referral of non-Hudson school district inquiries): Accomplished
- Coordinate with Hudson schools food backpack program: in process
- Investigate local church opportunities to donate
- Forecast expected 2012 expenditures, income, and processes