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January 7, 2011



To: Bill Weissert, Executive Director

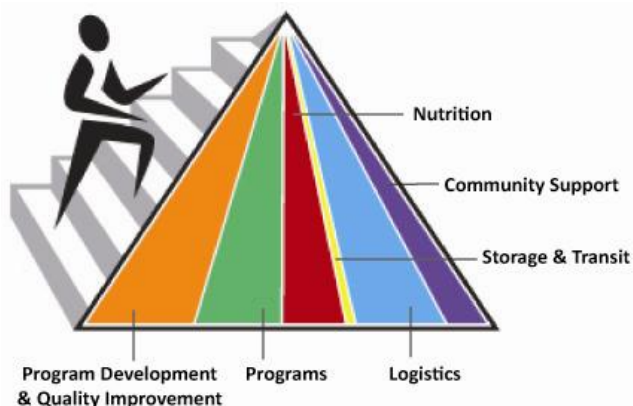
From: Ann M. Wondergem, Project Manager

Subject: *Food for Tomorrow*: A Tri-County Food Initiative serving Fond du Lac, Manitowoc & Sheboygan Counties – Final Report

Thank you for the opportunity to work with United Way on this important and greatly needed project - the Tri-County Food Initiative. The building blocks recommended in this final report when fully implemented will address significant community needs and positively impact on the residents of Sheboygan County as well as the residents of Fond du Lac and Manitowoc counties.

It is important to note that the final report recommends development of a system which will build on strengths within the current system, improve efficiencies and sustain a food system across three counties not only for today but also for tomorrow. The data and research at this point in time, does not support purchasing or long term leasing of a physical plant for a clearinghouse. Over the next 18 months or more, storage needs can best be met through utilizing donated storage space or short term rental of space, which will provide a better assessment of actual future needs. The final report includes 'Food for Tomorrow' building blocks. Through the implementation of the proposed building blocks, it is probable that within the next 2 to 3 years a public and private sector partnership will be developed to support a multi-purpose food structure which would likely include a community kitchen, storage for dry, refrigerated and frozen foods, community meeting rooms and housing for other food related programs and services.

Food for Tomorrow



These building blocks, based on the food pyramid, may be implemented by county and/or across the three counties. These building blocks begin to address the changing nature of the economy and the food pantry/food supply system which has become even more integral to the support of low income, working individuals and families and for many has become their primary source of food.

The final report recommendations are also in line with other national and state initiatives and programs that focus on food security including increasing the food supply to low income, working individuals and families in need with an emphasis on improving nutrition, economic development through buying locally, improving collaboration and coordination among existing resources and developing new programs and services. Implementation across all three counties will lead to improved efficiencies, provide for distribution and coordination across a larger geographic area and offer access to a larger variety of food resources/producers. The first year budget for all six building blocks is just over \$100,000.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to work on this valuable project.