

LIVING LAKE COUNTRY

[Home](#)[Lake Country Reporter](#)[Oconomowoc Focus](#)[Sussex Sun](#)[Kettle Moraine Index](#)[Mukwonago Chief](#)[Classifieds](#)

Start Your Local Search Here

[Main](#) | [News & Features](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Police & Courts](#) | [Columns](#) | [Announcements](#) | [Community](#)

Search

FOG 43°

FOGGY | 12MPH

EXTENDED FORECAST

NEWSROOM * CIRCULATION * ADVERTISING

[CONTACT US](#)WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 25[SS News](#)[Home](#) » [Sussex Sun](#) » [SS News](#)

Saving money with SHARE

By [Paige Smaga](#)

Posted: Nov. 23, 2009

[enlarge photo](#)


SCOTT ASH/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Warehouse manager Greg Glubka speeds past with a pallet of frozen food to be delivered by volunteers for Thanksgiving at the SHARE headquarters in Butler on Saturday, Nov. 21.

In years past, you might not have paid much attention to how much it cost to cook Thanksgiving dinner. In fact, it's likely you paid less attention to the final sum total of your weekly grocery bill, but today, we are all paying a lot more attention to how our money is spent.

Newspaper articles today trend toward ways to save money, stretch your dollar, eat for less ... but for local volunteer-run, food buying club SHARE Wisconsin, saving money is something members have celebrated for 25 years.

"It works like an old school food co-op," explained Communication and Public Information Manager Ben LeFort.

Headquartered in Butler, the 30,000-square-foot SHARE warehouse stores food that is purchased through the national wholesale market - the same place your local grocery store gets its products. Each month, you can go online and place your order from what's available. You then pay for your purchase and pick up your food later that month. SHARE has

pickup locations all over the area, including Menomonee Falls, Mukwonago, Muskego, Oconomowoc, Waukesha and more, LeFort said.

To prove its savings each month, SHARE shops at a local grocery store for products similar to what is included in its "BIG Value Package," which is comparable to a week or more worth of groceries.

According to SHARE's Web site, [sharewi.org](#), in October a \$25 SHARE bag included meats, vegetables and fruit items that would cost \$46.90 in a local grocery store - about 47 percent more.

How it began

SHARE was created as a self-help approach to meeting the food needs of the community. Its creation was a collaboration of work by members of local hunger project, including SHARE Executive Director Paulette Flynn and a Catholic deacon who was called to serve the hungry.

"From the very beginning, nurturing volunteerism was central to SHARE's approach. The program is driven by the efforts of volunteers, and all participants are asked to give two hours of their time each month to some form of community service. This volunteer time is an essential part of the resource exchange that makes SHARE different from a social service type of organization," reads Paulette's message on the Web site.

In 1984, SHARE came to Wisconsin with the help of money and leadership from the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

"Deacon Don Borkowski was the founding executive director, serving the organization until his retirement in 1995. The program had modest beginnings, working from borrowed facilities with a skeleton staff ..." reads the site.

But today, SHARE's Butler headquarters sees up to 1,500 volunteers a month who do everything from outreach to recruiting to packing grocery bags, said LeFort.

"Our main goal is to help people save money on food. The lower we can keep the operating costs" the more people can save LeFort explained.

Holiday meals

When the Sun spoke with LaFort last week, SHARE was packing up 14,000 Thanksgiving dinners that will be distributed throughout Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Northeastern Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Volunteers met early Saturday morning to load trucks get the turkeys on the road.

Tools

TEXT SIZE

[print](#)
[e-mail](#)[Yahoo! Buzz](#)[Newsvine](#)[reddit](#)[Digg it](#)[Delicious](#)[Technorati](#)[facebook](#)[Mixx](#)

Milwaukee Marketplace

FINDITFAST. FINDITLOCAL.

Keyword, Business Name, or ZIP Code

All categories

go

[Tickets](#) [Promo Codes](#) [Coupons](#) [Gift Certificates](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Yule Feed Families

Yule Feed Families updates



How can you help serve families in need during the holiday season? Contribute to the Yule Feed Families food drive in your area. Click on the links below

for more information about the drive in your community.

Reporter/Index: [Annual yule food drive begins](#)Chief: [Yule feed families kicks off](#)Focus: [It's time to fill the need](#)

Community Blogs

Lake Country residents share their views on news, happenings and current events.



'Hears' to Life!

By Tami Klink

If facilities in OshKosh can install loop systems, what is the excuse for SouthEastern Wisconsin?



It's Hemmer Time

By Amy L. Geiger-Hemmer

The Real Story of Thanksgiving (1)



Youth; Forgotten Voice

By Dustin Klein

In regards to civility, and a select few fundamentalists. (6)



Lake Country Liberal

By Victor Poneis

Reminder to 2 Bloggers: You are Idiots, and I Ignore You (19)



Fighting Liberal Lies!

By Jim Hayett

Why do liberal democrats protect terrorists? (45)

For \$25, a family of six can sit down to a 12- to 14-pound turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and a fresh produce (potatoes, celery, acorn squash, apples, oranges and seasonal produce).

"The numbers are up 27 percent from last year," LeFort said of program participation. "The fact that the numbers are up speaks for the program. Not only do people purchase the food, but the volunteers have come out of the woodwork."

The organization, which serves more than 8,000 families a month in the area, could be a valuable resource for many still struggling in the aching economy. But LeFort also pointed out the way SHARE operates is entrenched in a strong sense of community.

"It's pretty much run by people who want to contribute to the community," he said. "That is the core of what we do; the food part is important, and the savings is what we do, but the core of the mission is about volunteer service and bringing people together."

BIG Value

Here are the items that were in October's BIG value bag, which went for \$25:

Chicken roaster drums, Tyson steak stroganoff, chicken breast filets, pork chops, imitation crab, deli-sliced beef, pork sausage links, applesauce cups, instant mashed potatoes, stir-fry frozen vegetables, potatoes, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, green onions, apples, tangerines and cantaloupe.



Community Splashes

By Kurt Roskopf

November 30th: Come celebrate with me!

(1)



Alien Relay 2.0

By Jacob Pickard

Eliminationist Rhetoric: Exhibit A

(34)



Be the Change

By Jeff Blackwell

Ahh, Capitalism. You are so benevolent...

(52)



Capitalist Child

By Jacob Fricke

What I've Learned So Far

(8)



Eagle's Eye

By Al Neuhauser

Humane or Cost-Effective?

(23)

LivingLakeCountry.com features more than a dozen community bloggers - a group of volunteer conversation leaders who are up on the latest topics and never short on an opinion. Just a few are pictured here. Check out the rest and see what they have to say!

[View All Blogs](#)

[Discussion Guidelines](#)

Do you want to become a Community Blogger?
LivingLakeCountry.com welcomes your thoughts and opinions.
Contact us for more information:

[I want to blog](#)

Your Photos



Roberta Schaefer - Oconomowoc , WI

MORE: [See full gallery](#)

SUBMIT: [Post Your Photos now](#)

Your Stories



Do you have news or an event that you would like to share with the community? Whether it's a community organization, a business, a local school, or a notable neighbor, we'd love to hear about it!!

- ▶ [Lake Country Campus holds Open House for New Centers in Summit Community](#)
- ▶ [Lights For A Cause](#)
- ▶ [Templeton teams do well at Lego League contest](#)
- ▶ [Waukesha County Park 2010 Annual Entrance Stickers go on sale beginning December 1st.](#)
- ▶ [Motorcycle Medicine](#)
- ▶ [Please Help Three Pillars with Toys for Tots Drive](#)