



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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Comfort Food

Community Foundation Grants \$75,000 to Local Food Programs

JACKSON, WY December 5, 2011 – In 2009, the Community Foundation cancelled its 20th anniversary dinner so that others in our community could eat. Rather than asking donors to sponsor a table, the Foundation invited them to fund the Economic Response Initiative (ERI). Established to address the critical needs of emergency financial assistance, housing, hunger, safety, unemployment or healthcare in Jackson, the Initiative has received \$521,000 in contributions since inception. To date, \$414,000 has been granted to local organizations.

This holiday season, the Foundation distributed \$75,000 in ERI funds for food programs. This windfall came as a total surprise to the organizations. As the checks exchanged hands, a few tears were shed.

Children's Learning Center feeds over 100 children 2 meals and 2 snacks a day. While each meal is designed and created by the Center's chef, the program is unique for other reasons, too. Children are fully immersed in the experience of meal time. They learn about the importance of a balanced diet, how to prepare food and how to set the table. Rather than the typical daycare meal, children experience the ritual of dining.

Through the Friday Feast program, the Senior Center serves 180 free lunches to area seniors each month. Many elderly people will do without rather than ask for help. The Senior Center reports that without the program, some of its clients would have only tea and toast for multiple meals each day.

But the program offers more than a healthy meal. Each senior in attendance fills out an assessment so that staff can determine whether they would benefit from other services such as the Wyoming Tax Refund for the Elderly and Disabled, free grocery cards and access to the Community Resource Center's programming. Additionally, many seniors are motivated by the twice-monthly lunches to make the effort to get out of the house and interact with peers.

"At this time of year, we all need a little comfort food," said Katharine Conover, President of the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, "and nourishment for both body and soul. Each of the organizations that received this holiday gift provides an invaluable service to our community, and we feel humbled to help."

The following organizations received a portion of the \$75,000 in grant funding:

- Children's Learning Center – 2 meals and 2 snacks a day
- Community Resource Center – Albertsons Food Cards
- Community Safety Network – Shelter Meals
- Good Samaritan Mission – Meal Program
- Jackson Cupboard – Fresh Food Vouchers
- Our Lady of the Mountains Church – Community Lunch Program

- Presbyterian Church – Wednesday Dinners
- Senior Center – Friday Feasts
- Teton Youth and Family Services – Red Top Meadows and Van Vleck House

About the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole

For over 20 years, the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole has worked with donors and nonprofits to enrich all aspects of our community. The Foundation enables donors to establish personal philanthropic funds including donor advised, endowment, field of interest and legacy funds to facilitate their giving. Annually, the Foundation organizes Old Bill's Fun Run for Charities, which has raised \$82.5 million since inception for local nonprofits.

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