

Wells Area Food Shelf recognizes Kwik Trip for donations

by **Jean Steinhauer**

President of the Wells Area Food Shelf Board of Directors

Compassion isn't the first word that comes to mind for most people when they think of convenience stores. But that's the word volunteers at the Wells Area Food Shelf now use to describe the Blue Earth Kwik Trip. Other Faribault County residents will feel the same way when they hear this story.

The Wells Area Food Shelf serves people who come from every Faribault County community to their location at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wells that is open every Tuesday afternoon. It's a well-used service. Take July, for example, when a total of 343 people representing 104 households took

home a total of 5,140 pounds of food to ease their hunger.

The food shelf complies with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines and receives free USDA commodities as well as other food priced well below market because of its USDA-approved status. That's done through Channel One Regional Food Bank and Food Shelf, a non-profit organization that helps feed people in need. Channel One assists countless food shelves in 14 counties throughout southeastern Minnesota, delivering food via truck to each of them on an every-other-week basis.

The Wells Food Shelf supplements its offerings from Channel One with a wide variety of other food stuffs, some donated and others purchased with monetary dona-

tions from caring area residents who all have a common goal, alleviating hunger.

The look of the shelves stepped up a notch or two about a year ago, however, when it was announced at a Channel One annual meeting that Kwik Trip had developed a program to donate food to local food shelves. Not coincidentally, Channel One's board chair is Jim Bressi of LaCross, Wisconsin, where Kwik Trip's corporate headquarters are located and where Bressi works.

And so for the past year, a Wells Area Food Shelf volunteer stops by the Kwik Trip in Blue Earth and picks up free food donations, which are then given to food shelf patrons. The food meets all standards for safe eating.

The Kwik Trip is making a won-

derful difference in the lives of many Faribault County residents. Children visiting the food shelf with their parents are thrilled to see frozen pizzas and fresh cups of melon and bagels galore. The fabulous pies available make for very special occasions when they're put on the table. There's frozen beef, too and salads and energy drinks and bananas. The list is endless.

We can't find the exact words to share with Kwik Trip telling them how much difference their donations are making our friends and neighbors in need in Faribault County. We hope that if you read this, you might give the Kwik Trip a word of thanks for all they're doing to help. They are just the very best, it's that simple.