



February 20, 2024

City of Breezy Point
8319 County Rd 11
Breezy Point, MN 56472



Dear City of Breezy Point,

I am writing today to highlight the upcoming **Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign** provided by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC). As you are likely aware, this is a 43-year-old initiative to raise funds for, and donate food to, Minnesota's food shelves. Every financial and food donation received by the Lakes Areas Food Shelf (LAFS) February 26th - April 6th will be used to determine the share of the **GMCC FoodFund** that LAFS will receive. The larger our community donations, the larger the donation we will receive from GMCC. For more details, please visit <https://gmcc.org/minnesota-foodshare>.

The food needs right now are significant as the demands are increasing:

- Lakes Area Food Shelf has seen a 54% increase in food shelf visits and a 39% increase in households served (*January 2024 vs. January 2023*).
- In 2023, a total of 7.5 million visits were recorded at Minnesota food shelves, compared to 5.5 million in 2022 and 3.5 million in 2021, according to [Hunger Solutions](#).
- One in seven people, including one in five children, in the U.S. live in food insecure households, according to a [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)'s Economic Research Service 2022 report](#). This is an increase of 31% and 44% respectively from the previous year, the highest rate and number of people and children since 2014.

Every time I go to the grocery store, it seems there is yet another item that the price seems to have jumped considerably since I purchased it last – butter, beef, poultry, cereal, fresh fruits and vegetables. The “friends and neighbors” who visit the Lakes Area Food Shelf are struggling with those rising prices even more as they are having to make the difficult choice– buy food; OR pay their rent or put gas in their cars to go to work. Their utilization of LAFS, helps them stay in their homes and continue to work.

The March Campaign in the Brainerd Lakes Area (BLA) has a long history of creativity, competition and generosity. Local BLA churches compete in the **Lenten Food Shelf Challenge**. Many individuals, clubs, businesses and nonprofits **send us checks in the mail, donate on our website or bring in food donations**. In 2023, we raised over a third of our annual operating expenses through this campaign.

Thanks in advance for helping us provide healthy, nutrient-rich food to those needing it in the Brainerd Lakes Area and for your continued support of the Lakes Area Food Shelf.

With gratitude,

Tamara Larsen

Executive Director
Lakes Area Food Shelf
Lakesareafoodshelf.org
218-568-8474

Mailing address:
PO Box 423
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

Physical address:
29316 Patriot Ave
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472