



To: Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustees  
From: Library Director Ashley Thiem-Menning  
Date: 10/18/2023  
Re: Community Partnerships

I recently had a meeting with the JJ Keller Foundation regarding food insecurity in Kaukauna. JJ Keller is hosting a holiday themed box-packing event with Feeding America and have chosen our Library as the recipient of 50 boxes. The boxes will be delivered on November 16 and in the time leading up to delivery, we will figure out how we plan to distribute the boxes to those in need before the holiday season. The boxes are non-perishable and do not require refrigeration.

I was also informed by an Alderperson about the Monthlies Project this week, and the very next day I met the person that administers the program! I have since filled out an application for us to be able to provide free menstrual products for our patrons. I also shared the information with the school district, as they are also eligible for the project.

The KHS Civic Engagement Class is also collecting food and hygiene products for us again! Over the next month, the group will be putting in flyers in different sections of the City and then picking up food. Students will organize the food and check it for expiration dates and then we will be bringing the items back to the Library.

Peter's Pumpkin Patch has donated 20 pumpkins to Library staff, who are going to get creative in decorating them as a Library fundraiser. Staff may not carve their pumpkins, as we do not want to smell rotting pumpkins here, but they are allowed to paint and adorn them as they see fit. Staff received pumpkins on 10/18 & 10/19 and have until 10/23 to bring in their final product. The pumpkins will be displayed and patrons can vote for their favorite pumpkin by contributing financially to it. The winner will be the pumpkin that earns the most money. To include our internet friends, we will also have an individual donation link for each pumpkin. So, patrons here in person can scan a pumpkin code to contribute online if they don't have cash and for our friends on the internet that don't come in, each pumpkin will also have a link for donations. With the discontinuation of Planters for a Purpose, we recognize the need to fundraise creatively near year-end to make up for the loss. We have also collaborated with Round House Manor residents, who are hand making donation request cards for us, to be mailed out for Giving Tuesday in November.