

Dear WVC FABFAN Supporter

The Workplace Volunteer Council (WVC) 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Fill A Backpack Fill A Need (FABFAN) event is in the books. 2,465 children received a colorful new backpack filled with basic school supplies.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a heart-felt thank you to some of our unsung heroes of the FABFAN project. Without their assistance, the project would not be sustainable. Special thanks to WOW Logistics, J&D TubeBenders, UMR, Eastbay, Ministry Health Care, United Way of Marathon County, and K-tech Kleening Systems. Each of these organizations is a WVC member and goes "above and beyond" for WVC endeavors. As a council, we do as much as we can for our projects internally – organizations such as the above make it possible!

Special thanks to Crystal Finishing, Wausau National Guard Armory, our public donation sites too numerous to mention individually, the organizations that donated water, soda, food and snacks for our volunteers, Stuff the Bus, and all of the wonderful organizations and individuals who collected and delivered school supplies to us at the armory. Every effort, no matter how big or how small makes an impact on this project! We are beyond grateful for your support.

Donations rise and fall as does the economy. Corporate donations are harder to come by, but more individuals are stepping up to the plate. New organizations have stepped in to hold events on our behalf (Mickey's Billiards and Pizzeria, Texas Roadhouse, Thrivent Financial, Buska Financial Services to name a few) because they believe in what we are doing and wish to help. We find this all a little overwhelming but extremely gratifying.

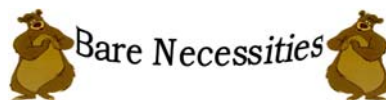
I truly believe that one has to be present at the armory for more than dropping off supplies or volunteering a couple hours to "get" what it is we do. For that one week, the armory becomes a shopping center. We have a warehouse of supplies to put in order and ready supply bags for the children that will arrive to select a backpack and get the needed supplies. One cannot fathom 76,800 pencils, 6,400 boxes of crayons, 30,720 pens and 16,000 notebook and folder sets plus all of the other supplies that go into each bag. Organized chaos at it's finest!

The hardest thing we do for each FABFAN is to take the number of qualified participants and "guesstimate" how many will attend. We need that info to plan the amount of supplies needed and staff our time at the armory. We have kept statistics since 2004. No matter how many students qualify, the reality is that only 40 – 65 percent will attend. Our statistics show us that. We do what we can in working with the schools, the media and the community to publicize the date months in advance and strongly recommend it be a priority event for those who qualify. We hold FABFAN one day a year for a set number of hours and then it is gone. We have to believe that those who truly need our assistance made it a priority and were served on August 20. Our line went completely around the armory and east more than five blocks at one point. We saw first-hand the excitement in children's faces as they waited and the grateful thanks in the eyes of the parents.

"There but for the grace of God go I." The economy is struggling. Any one of us could find ourselves in a position of needing an extra hand. Our community is very giving. If you truly need the help, and you are not too proud to ask – you shall find it! I truly believe that and I see it happening first-hand. The WVC motto is "Making A Difference in Our Community...One Project at a Time." **We very much appreciate your support which allows us to do just that!**

Sincerely

Karla M. Zygowicz  
WVC President



*"A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows."* St. Francis of Assisi