

Will donors meet challenge of increased need?

The number 5 must be significant. There are \$5 foot longs, \$5 pizzas, and Workplace Volunteer Council's Fill A Backpack Fill A Need sponsorships increased by \$5 due to rising prices. (The cost to sponsor one filled backpack is approximately \$45).

FABFAN has distributed more than 5,533 tickets to eligible students for the Aug. 20 event. We have seen an increase of 1,141 students over the previous year. Just two years ago, I vividly recall stating that I never thought I would see the day when tickets topped 4,000!

This is my seventh year chairing FABFAN and as president of the WVC. I probably could write a book with all the stories I have heard



KARLA ZYGOVICZ

over the years from donors, volunteers and participants as well as my own experiences. The one that most readily comes to mind from the 2010 event is a gentleman who told the folks at registration that in one year he went from a six-digit income to zero income. He was incredibly grateful for the program. Life changes on a dime. There but for the grace of God go I. How true that statement is.

It never ceases to amaze me how giving our community is. People give so much of themselves to others, be it money, goods or time. I often wonder if we

know how truly blessed we are to be living where we do. The Midwestern ethic is something to be admired. I am proud to be from an area where "giving" is the norm.

Every year, there are challenges to overcome as FABFAN draws near. Will we have enough money for the purchases we must make throughout the summer? Will we have a "slush fund" left for next season's advance bulk purchases that sustain the project? Will we get enough donations of colorful backpacks to add to the rainbow of colors the children select from? The past couple of years, I've worried most over whether we will get enough red, yellow, green and blue notebooks and folders.

Somehow, it all works

out. Once again, I am looking to this amazing community to help the WVC make FABFAN successful in 2011.

How can you help us ensure that each and every qualified student will have an opportunity to be excited about going back to school with a colorful, new backpack full of brand new supplies?

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Consider a personal or corporate donation.
2. When shopping for school supplies, please consider purchasing and donating items of greatest need (backpacks, wide-line notebooks, wide-line filler paper, folders, markers).
3. Be a part of the volunteer army at the National Guard Armory Aug. 15 to 20.

WVC's FABFAN project assists kindergarten

through eighth-grade children who qualify for the state free lunch program. Children who qualify for reduced lunch are not eligible.

To make such an undertaking happen, it takes an "army" of volunteers. More than 1,755 hours go into that one day, six-hour distribution event. It also takes financial and supply support from caring community members such as you.

Monetary donations can be sent to FABFAN, 137 River Drive, Wausau, WI 54403. For more information about the WVC and/or FABFAN, visit our website www.unitedwaymc.org/workplacevolunteer-council.htm.

Karla Zygowicz is president of the Workplace Volunteer Council.