



Help Keep Kids Warm and Nutrition on Weekends



Many non-profits exist in Marshfield to help make sure people have food and shelter. But some people are falling through the cracks. We are seeing all Marshfield. Our 2014 *Vital Signs* reports on the socioeconomic health of our community:

- The number of children who qualify for free or reduced lunches is increasing in Marshfield; currently there are over 1300 kids who need help.
- We know we have over **68** homeless children.
- Our median income has declined for the last four years, declining **3.2%** since last year.
- **1** out of every **5** children, right here in Marshfield, is living in poverty.
- **20%** of our 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students reported that they did not have enough food to eat within the last 30 days.

Last year, in honor of our 20th Anniversary, we undertook a new project. We wanted to insure that children have a warm winter coat, boots, mittens, snow pants and the things all students need to be successful. We gave out new or gently used coats, boots, snow pants, and mittens to about 350 children.

Thanks to you these children were warm last winter- the coldest winter on record! Because of how successful the program was and knowing that the need continues, we will supply children with warm coats again this year. We funded a pilot program at Marshfield United Way to provide nutrition on weekends for students who didn't have enough food to eat at home. The need has grown by leaps and bounds for this service.

The Marshfield Area Community Foundation was established 21 years ago by the Adler sisters, Anne and Bette. Their goal was to make a long-term impact on their home community of Marshfield. And what an impact this Foundation has made! We now have \$9.9 million in assets and more than 133 funds. To date we have given back **\$4.1 million** to our community. We have funds that support the arts, education, the environment, animals, sports and leisure, youth development, human services, and community development.

Might you be willing to help make sure school age children have a warm coat and have meals on weekends?



Amber Leifheit is the Executive Director of the Marshfield Area Community Foundation. Her column appears monthly in the News-Herald. She can be reached at 715-384-9029 or amber@marshfieldareacommunityfoundation.org