Local Resiliency

Katherine Rakowski Serving at School District of Bayfield



Across the Chequamegon Bay, we see the hard work of people in our communities. From local farmers, community gardeners, and teachers to healthcare workers, food pantries and kitchen workers. Times of crisis and pandemic demonstrate the resiliency and strength of local communities. At the School District of Bayfield community, we unite around health, food, and connection - together we create resiliency.

Despite a pandemic, the kitchen staff at the School District of Bayfield work hard to ensure students eat lunches and breakfasts and provide extra fresh fruit and veggies snacks. The biweekly distributions occur at sites throughout the district. Bayfield School Garden produces food for donation. With the help of the AmeriCorps member and community volunteers of Bayfield CORE Resources, the food pantries and summertime meal programs enjoy fresh summer produce. The Food Distribution Center of the Red Cliff offers community food boxes, open to everyone. These boxes featured WI potatoes and onions, milk, cheese, even pheasants.

Meeting the needs of online engagement, community partners connect with students in the virtual classroom. UW Extension FoodWlse joined Bayfield Elementary in celebration of the Virtual Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch in October. Farmers like Regina Laroche of Diaspora Gardens on Madeline Island, share virtual garden tours. Bayfield's AmeriCorps member shares garlic planting videos and virtual Farm to School lessons. Red Cliff's Food Distribution shares recipes with cooking videos.



The current health crisis shows us we value health and we value each other. The basis of health is the food we eat and connection to our community. We strengthen our bodies' immune systems with good nutrition - eating foods close to Earth and diverse fruits and vegetables. We strengthen our community's immune system with increased connection to each other. We support resiliency through diversity and connection. We support each other in small ways just as we support our bodies one apple at a time. Because we are stronger together, we can grow a resilient, loving community. We have the power to help each other.