

PSAs Week of 8 / 1 / 22 A

BLOOD DRIVES:

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule a donation time or to find a drive near you. NO WALK-INS at this time...

The American Red Cross continues to experience *an emergency blood shortage* that has caused the blood supply to drop to the lowest level in at least six years. Donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to make an appointment to give now.

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**MAKE SURE TO CHECK THE SEPARATE
DAILY / WEEKLY PSA LIST IN THE STUDIO, TOO!**

8/1 – 8/7

Coco Moon Coffee Bar in downtown Brainerd will showcase the **collage work of Brainerd artist Lisa Ackerman** throughout the **month of August**. Ackerman creates her collage paper through a process called mono-printing. This method employs a gel plate, acrylic paint, and a variety of tools to create a singularly unique, or mono, print. She then creates designs by cutting the paper and affixing them to a surface. Ackerman's work seeks to capture details and scenes inspired by nature, often in a naive style. She also works in wool felting and painting. By day she is the Director of Crossing Arts, located in downtown Brainerd, and teaches there regularly. Coco Moon is located at the corner of Laurel and South 6th in downtown Brainerd. For more info, visit CrossingArts.org.

Residents of Crow Wing County are reminded that **Absentee Voting for the August 9th PRIMARY is now open (through Sat Aug. 8th)**. Voters who wish to vote early may go to the Historic Courthouse in Brainerd during regular business hours. Residents can vote by absentee ballot in person at the Elections Office on the second floor from 8:00-5:00 Monday – Friday. There will be an additional day, Sat. Aug. 6th, that voting can be done from 10:00-3:00 as well. For more information, call CWC Elections at 218-824-1051 or send an email to Elections@CrowWing.US.

Essentia Health is hosting an afternoon of **job interviews** for all positions in the Brainerd area on **Tues., Aug. 2**, at St. Joseph's Medical Center. Talent recruiters and department managers will be on-site from 2:00-7:00. Candidates from all backgrounds are encouraged to attend — nurses, nursing and clinical assistants, surgery technicians, radiology technicians, respiratory therapists, human resource professionals and those interested in environmental services or nutrition services. For more info. Visit EssentiaHealth.org.

The **Baxter Police Department** and the **Baxter Lions** invite the community to their annual **Night To Unite** event on **Tues. Aug. 2nd** at Baxter's Oscar Kristofferson Park from **5:00-8:00**. Stop out and meet those who live and work in your community. There will be face painting, a bouncy house, kids activities and free root beer floats! Other food will be available for sale. Guests will see a K-9 demo at 6:15 and there will be prize drawings at 7:15. The event is free to attend.

The **Pequot Lakes Police Department** will celebrate **2022 National Night Out** on **Tues. Aug. 2nd** from **5:00-8:00** in Trailside Park in Pequot Lakes. The Department invites the public to this event to get to know your neighbors, have some fun and enjoy some treats.

The **Breezy Point Police Department** invites the public to its annual **Night To Unite** event on **Tues. Aug. 2nd** from **6:00-8:00** at Breezy Point City Hall. Guests will get to meet with the city's police officers, DNR, EMS, fire crews and more. A number of emergency vehicles will also be displayed for kids to see. Stop by and say hello! For more info, log on to Facebook and search City of Breezy Point.

Brainerd Community Theater continues its presentation of the musical "**Sister Act**" on **Tues. Aug 2 continuing through Thurs. Aug. 4th** at 7:00 at the CLC Brainerd Campus' Chalberg Theater. Follow the story of a woman who is hiding in a convent as she helps her fellow sister find their voices as she rediscovers her own. Get tickets at CLCPerformingArts.com.

The 2022 Crow Wing County Fair will take place **Tues. Aug. 2-Sat. Aug. 6th** at the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds in Brainerd. Be sure to stop by (*this station's*) **Watering Hole** for a fee glass of cool, clean, Culligan Water. Look for the Firehouse Subs Mobile Studio near the south gate of the fairgrounds for your free cup of water! Visit CrowWingCountyFair.com to learn more about the fair, exhibits, midway schedule and entertainment!

Date:	Day:	Evening Grandstand Shows:
Wed. 8/3	Military Day	Wojo's Rodeo in the Grandstand
Thurs. 8/4	Senior Citizens Day	Demo Derby & Rollover Contest
Fri. 8/5	Teen/Talent Show Day	Baja Rally Races
Sat. 8/6	Kid's Day	Baja Rally Races

As part of the **Crow Wing County Fair**, a handful of **Crow Wing County Correctional Officers** will be on hand at the fair to offer **free fingerprinting** for children or grandchildren, which would come in handy to have in case the unthinkable happens. Officers will do the fingerprinting on **Wed. Aug. 3rd** and **Fri. Aug. 5th** from 10:00-6:00 in the Crow Wing County Building (formerly, the Natural Resources building). For more info, visit CrowWing.US.

Dunmire's on Highway 210 in Brainerd encourages everyone to dine at their restaurant on **Wed. Aug. 3rd** as they support **The Brainerd Lakes Area Walk To End Alzheimer's** (which takes place Sat. Sept. 24th in Baxter). 50% of the profits from sales that day will go toward the fight against Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. (210 location only).

Lakewood Health System, in partnership with the **Alzheimer's Association**, will be offering a **Support Group For Caregivers** of those with loved ones diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's disease. The group meets the first Wednesday (**Wed. Aug. 3rd**) of every month from 11 to 12 in the Burlington room, located through Door C at Lakewood's Senior Campus. The group is designed to provide emotional, educational and social support for those who care for a loved one with dementia or Alzheimer's. Participants will develop coping methods, and encouragement to help maintain their person, and their physical and emotional health, as well as optimally care for the person with dementia or Alzheimer's. For more info, call 218-894-8818.

Second Harvest North Central Food Bank and the **Lakes Area United Way** will host a Brainerd Pop-Up Pantry on **Thurs. Aug. 4th** at Central Lakes College in Brainerd from 10:00-11:30. The pantry is a drive-thru-style pick up and there is no cost for the food. To learn more, visit UnitedWayNow.org.

The Minnesota Trappers Association is bringing its **Annual Convention** to the Wadena County Fairgrounds **Thurs. Aug. 4 – Sat. Aug. 6**. The weekend includes food vendors, a flea market with vendors and camping available on-site. On Thurs, there will also be indoor vendors and trapping demos from 12-5. Friday, the demos will be taking place from 8:00-5:00 with a free-will donation dinner with live music to follow and Saturday, demos from 8:00-5:00, Kids games starting at 10:00 and a trap setting contest at 11:30. The public is invited to attend! For more information, visit Facebook and search Minnesota Trappers Association.

The Backus Lions Club will host its annual **Peach Sale** on **Fri. Aug. 5th** at the Backus Liquor Locker in Backus. You can pick up your fancy, juicy, ripe Colorado peaches starting that morning at 7:30, first come first served. The price for peaches is \$35 per lug (@35 peaches).

The **Crosslake Recreation Area** will host a **Free Youth Fishing Derby** for kids age 14 and younger on **Sat. Aug. 6th** from 8:30-1:30. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Fishing gear is NOT provided. All fishing must be done from the shoreline. With questions, call 651-290-5793.

The **3rd Annual DANGIE ("DAN-jee") 5K** will be held on **Sat. Aug. 6th** starting at 9:00 at Kiwanis Park and going along E. River Road in Brainerd. The event is held in support of the **American Cancer Society**. Dangie is a Relay For Life team and was created in honor and memory of Daniel Davis and Angela Guderjohn. Every dollar raised will be donated to the American Cancer Society. Online registration is open until Friday, Aug. 5th and will open at the event the day of the 5K at 8:00. Learn more and find the link to register on the Dangie 5K Facebook page.

Don't miss the **14th Annual Choke Cherry Festival**, hosted by the Pequot Lakes-Breezy Point Lions Club, on **Sat. Aug. 6th** in downtown Pequot Lakes. Guests will enjoy an arts/crafts fair, food vendors (including the almost famous "shish-ka-Bobbers") from 10:00-4:00, Kids games from 10:00-2:00, the Back Street Drivers game, the Chokecherry Culinary Contest, pit spitting contest and more! Visit Facebook and search the events page, or go to ChokeCherryFestival.com.

Residents of Crow Wing County are reminded that **Absentee Voting for the August 9th PRIMARY is now open** with **ONE SATURDAY to absentee vote** on **Sat. Aug. 6th** from 10:00-3:00. Voters who wish to vote early may go to the Historic Courthouse in Brainerd and vote by absentee ballot in person at the Elections Office on the second floor. For more information, call CWC Elections at 218-824-1051 or send an email to Elections@CrowWing.US.

Riverboat Heritage Days will be celebrated on **Sat. Aug. 6th** in Aitkin! Community events will take place all weekend long, including Aitkin's All Class Reunion. The Aitkin Chamber will host the Dump Run Quarter Marathon and 5K starting at 8:00. Then enjoy the Sip & Stroll Street Fair from 11:00-3:00. The Riverboat Days Parade will happen at 3:00. For a full list of weekend happenings, visit Facebook and search Riverboat Days 2022 or visit Aitkin.com.

Pequot Lakes Community Action will host its **5th Annual Street Dance** on **Sat. Aug. 6th** from 7:00-10:00 on Patriot Avenue in Pequot Lakes! Stop by and dance the evening away with hometown band Wyld Ryce! The event will also feature Barajas Mexican Food Truck with drinks, Snarky Loon Brewing Company beer and 50/50 Raffle and more! All proceeds from the event will go back into the community.

The Outreach Program Brainerd Lakes Area will host its **2nd Annual Clays To End Hunger** on **Sat. & Sun. Aug. 6 & 7** at the Lake Shore Conservation Club at Mount Ski Gull. The Trap-Skeet event will have \$13,300 in payouts, with four categories (overall, female 18+, Seniors 65+, and youth 17 and under). Raffles, prizes, a banquet and more. The entry fee is \$200. For more information, call 218-831-9374 or visit ClaysToEndHunger.com. The event will raise funds to support the **Outreach Program Brainerd Lakes Area**.

Jack's Big Bass Bash Fishing Tournament will be held on **Sun. Aug. 7th** on the Whitefish Chain from 7:00-12:00, headquartered at Moonlite Bay in Crosslake. Entry fee is \$200 per boat with two person teams. A \$7,500 payout is based on a 50 boat field with 75% paid out to anglers and 25% paid out to **Jack Hennies Memorial Fund**, which helps educate and support **Suicide Awareness** through The Lighthouse Project and toward Jack's Jumps at Mount Ski Gull. For information, contact Kevin at 623-687-0243.

The **Brainerd Ski Loons** will host a free, family-friendly water ski show on **Sun. Aug. 7th** at 5:00 and guests are invited to Lum Park to watch the show! Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on, concessions will be available for purchase and you can learn more online at SkiLoons.com. You can always stay up-to-date by following The Ski Loons on Facebook and Instagram.

8/8 – 8/14

Area seniors are invited to attend a **Medicare 101 Presentation** at a free **Cuyuna Area Connections Lunch & Learn** seminar on **Thurs., Aug. 11**, from 12:30 to 1:30 at Heartwood Senior Living Community in Crosby. Kathy Krueger, a Senior Advocate at the Senior Linkage Line and State Health Insurance Assistance Program Counselor, will speak about Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D. She will also share information regarding how and when to enroll in Medicare and its costs. Discussion will follow about programs that can help with Medicare costs and additional information provided regarding Insulin programs. Those attending are asked to use the door to the right of Heartwood's main entrance and wear a face mask. A boxed lunch will be provided. Space is limited. **Registration is required by Monday, Aug. 8**, by calling KariLee Pietz at 218-545-5361.

Lakes Area Music Festival will host a downtown **Block Party** on **Mon. Aug. 8th** from 7:30-9:30 in the heart of downtown Brainerd. A string orchestra will play pop music and familiar classical favorites. Bring a chair and enjoy music outdoors! The event is free and open to the public. No tickets are required. Presented in partnership with Brainerd Restoration.

The Brainerd Lakes Chamber, as part of their **Blue Ox Success Series**, will host a **workshop** about **Handling the Hybrid Work World** on **Tues. Aug. 9th** at the Brainerd Lakes Chamber offices on W. Washington Street in Brainerd. The workshop will run from 9:00-10:30 and is free to chamber members, who can join in person or via Zoom. Those who attend will better understand the complexity, benefits, and planning needed to create a hybrid work experience for your office and employees. Send an email with your preference to join in person or on Zoom to Paula Chapulis at BlueOx@BrainerdLakesChamber.com.

The **Brainerd Public Library** invites the public to join them via Zoom on **Tues. Aug. 9th** for a presentation entitled "**Our Majestic Monarch: History, Mystery & Milkweed**" with Master Gardener Paula Schwartz. Why is the Monarch butterfly so loved by all? Find out about its mystery travels, amazing life cycle and how you can attract and support a friendly Monarch environment. The webinar will run from 12:00-1:00. Contact the Brainerd Public Library for a link to the Zoom event at 218-829-5574.

Join the **Businesses of Crosslake Town Square** as they host **Business After Hours** on **Tues. Aug. 9th** from 4:30-6:00. Guests will enjoy networking, delicious treats and beverages at each store! Stop by the Townsquare gazebo to receive a list of participating businesses then enjoy the afternoon strolling from business to business! As a courtesy to the hosts, please RSVP at BrainerdLakesChamber.com.

Ruby's Pop Up Pantry will be up and running on **Tues. Aug. 9th** at the Northern Pacific Center in Brainerd, hosted by The Journey North Church. The drive thru-style food distribution will start at 4:30 and go until 6:00. For just \$25 per share, you will receive up to \$120 worth of food (or more). The variety and amount of food varies each month. To learn more, visit RubysPantry.org.

Join **Mount Ski Gull** for a family-friendly adventure as they host a **Guided Night Hike** on **Tues. Aug. 9th** from 7:00-8:30 at Mount Ski Gull. The hikes include stops to do fun, educational night activities. Topics COULD include using your senses at night, learning about nocturnal animals, predators/prey, astronomy and more! The hike is about 1 mile (1.5 hours) with stops along the way. MUST register in advance at MountSkiGull.com. The cost is \$10 for adults.... \$2 for youth.

A **2022 Community Celebration** will be held on **Wed. Aug. 10th** from 12:00-7:00 in the parking lot of **Cygnature Title Solutions** on Evergreen Drive in Baxter. The FREE event will have games, bouncy house, food from Bob's Backyard BBQ, live music, kids activities and mini horses from Gabriel's Home, giveaways and more! A dunk tank fundraiser will also happen with proceeds going to the Pohl Children's Foundation. Learn more at CygnatureOnline.com.

Central Lakes Community Performing Arts will present the bluegrass music of the group **Monroe Crossing** on **Wed. Aug. 10th** on the outdoor stage at CLC Brainerd Campus starting at 7:00. Tickets for adults is \$25... CLC Students and those under 18 is \$20. [Learn more at CLCPerformingArts.com](http://CLCPerformingArts.com).

The **Brainerd Ski Loons** will host a free, family-friendly water ski show on **Wed. Aug. 10th** at 5:00 and guests are invited to Lum Park to watch the show! Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on, concessions will be available for purchase and you can learn more online at SkiLoons.com.

The **Northern Pacific Center** in Brainerd will host a **Farmer's Market** on **Thurs. Aug. 11th** in the parking lot of the NP Center from 4:00-8:00. The market will feature a wide variety of vendors from around the Brainerd Lakes area. To learn more, go online to NorthernPacificCenter.com/FarmersMarket.

The **City of Crosby** presents **Music In The Park** the SECOND and FOURTH Thursday in June, July and August from 5:00-8:00, with the next concert scheduled for **Thurs. Aug. 11th**. Everyone is invited to grab a lawn chair or blanket, friends and family, and head to the shores of Serpent Lake at Crosby Memorial Park for these free concerts which will also feature food, giveaways and fun.

The **Brainerd Police Department** invites kids ages 17 and under to its **Bags With Badges** event on **Fri. Aug. 12th** from 10:00-5:00 at the Northern Pacific Center in Brainerd between buildings 1 & 2. Kids are invited to sign up to play Bag Toss with local law enforcement and firefighters for a chance to win prizes! There will be two age brackets – Ages 12 and under will play bags from 10:00-1:00...then ages 12-17 will play from 2:00-5:00. Space is limited. Registration is required. Call the Brainerd PD at 218-829-2805 to register! For more info, visit the Brainerd Police Department's Facebook page.

Deerwood Summerfest presents a **Benefit Concert** featuring the Chicago tribute band, **Duluth Transit Authority** on **Fri. Aug. 12th** at the Deerwood Auditorium. The concert starts at 7:00 with the doors opening at 6:00. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served by The Deerstand and the proceeds from the event will go to upgrade Elmer Park and to raise money for an electric community sign. Get tickets at DeerwoodSummerfest.org/tickets.

Area youth are invited to try their skill at a giant target station, bear pong, and hole in one; throw a bean bag through an Operation Game patient; and paint rocks with positive messages at **Deerwood Summerfest** on **Fri. & Sat. Aug. 12-13**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prizes will be awarded. Staffed by **Cuyuna Regional Medical Center** employees, in addition to the activities, clinicians will expertly fit bike helmets for safety and give away free helmets to youth on Friday, Aug. 12, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more info, visit CuyunaMed.org.

Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center invites the public to an **outdoor movie** showing of Disney's *FROZEN* on **Fri. Aug. 12th** on the outdoor south lawn of the CLC Brainerd Campus. Activities start at 7:00 and the movie will start around 8:30 (darkness permitting). The cost is just \$5 for a family of 4. Learn more online at CLCPerformingArts.com.

Deerwood Summerfest will take place on **Fri. & Sat. Aug. 12 & 13** in Deerwood and everyone is invited for the fun! This family-friendly two-day event is designed to celebrate Deerwood by offering fun activities, terrific food, arts n' crafts and many activities for kids! Proceeds from the weekend benefit the area community. There is also a raffle taking place with \$3,500 in cash prizes (DeerwoodSummerfest.org/raffle) and you can also check out the online auction (DeerwoodSummerfest.org/auction.) Learn more about it all by searching Deerwood Summerfest on Facebook.

The **Central Lakes Rotary Foundation** presents the **REHT Music Festival** the weekend of **Aug. 12-14th** at the Lakes Music & Events Park in Pine River. (REHT stands for Rotary Ends Human Trafficking). Live music by 32 Below, Corey Medina & Brothers, Kent Dudley and Bended Knee, The Rush Tribute Project, Tim Eggerbraaten and many others will perform. Event speakers will include Dawn Heath-Fiedler, Shantel Dudley and Stacy Schaffer. All profits will be used to bring awareness and education to central Minnesota about human trafficking and also to support survivors with their healing. Learn more at REHTMusicFestival.com. Sponsored in part by Hubbard Radio Brainerd and 2060 Digital.

A **Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser** will be held on **Sat. Aug. 13th** at the Pelican Lakes Conservation Club in support of **Northern Lakes Lightning High School Girls Hockey**. The breakfast will be served from 7:30-11:00. The breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, biscuits & gravy, orange juice and coffee. The cost is just \$7 per person. The Pelican Lakes Conservation Club is south of the Breezy Point Resort Gates on Thrane Drive. Learn more by visiting Facebook and searching Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser.

The **Northwoods Art and Book Festival** in Hackensack will celebrate its 27th year on **Sat. Aug. 13th** as the longest running art and literature festival in the country. The festival (9-3pm) and feature 60+ artists, 26 authors & author presentations in Hackensack! Fun will include live music, pies, children's art tent, food trucks, & beer!

The town of **Palisade** will host **RiverFest** on **Sat. Aug. 13th** and the public is invited to take part in the fun! Take part in open-play pickleball from 9-11... then visit the HQ Tent for food, drinks, local apparel and raffle tickets (10-10) They will also have a vendor market, a bean bag tourney, music and more! Plus don't miss the Centennial Parade that will start at 12:00. Outdoor music will feature the classic rock performed by Scot-Free! All are welcome!

The annual **Dru Sjodin Purple Elephant Walk/Run** will take place on **Sat. Aug. 13th** in Pequot Lakes starting at 9:00. Created to raise awareness of violence against women and children, the funds raised will go towards bringing RadKids to the Pequot Lakes area. The 10K will start at 9:00, the 5K starts at 9:10 and the 1K will follow the last finishers of the 10K and 5K. The earlier you sign up, the lower the entry fee. To register for the race, OR to just make a donation to the cause, go online to RunForDru.ItsYourRace.com/event. Or go to Facebook and search The Dru Sjodin Purple Elephant. ((RadKids provides educational tools and resources that enhance the ability of children, parents and families to utilize knowledge, skills and power to protect themselves from violence and harm.

Camp Knutson will host its **36th Annual Quilt Auction** on **Sat. Aug. 13th** at the camp in Crosslake. The ONLINE SILENT auction bidding will begin Wed. Aug. 10th and will continue in person AT camp on the 13th starting at 9:30. At that time, the live auction quilt viewing will start. That goes until 11:30 and the LIVE AUCTION BIDDING will start in-person at 12:00. Visit CampKnutson.org/Quilts for more information and to preview some of the quilts prior to the auction. The event raises funds for campers who have disabilities and/or other medical needs.

Join the **Crossing Arts** on **Sat., Aug. 13** from 10:00 to 12:00 noon, as they give out **creativity kits** to anyone who wants a little bit of creative fun. Kits will be available on tables inside of Crossing Arts. Kits include two art projects, a coloring sheet, and more! This month's kit will feature Bookbinding & Stick People. Creativity Kits are free to the public. Kits are limited. First come, first served. For more information contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416 or visit CrossingArts.org. Crossing Arts is a 501c3 nonprofit in downtown Brainerd at 711 Laurel Street.

The **Experimental Aircraft Association Brainerd Chapter 1610** presents **FREE Youth Eagles Flights (rides)** for youth ages 8-17. The event will be held on **Sat. Aug. 13th** at the Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport from 8:00-11:00, weather permitting. To sign up in advance, email your name and phone number to TrudiAmundson@yahoo.com. Walk up registration will be welcome, on a first come first served basis.

Join the **Northland Arboretum** for its **Firefly Festival** on **Sat. Aug. 13th** at the Northland Arboretum. This outdoor music event will run from 5:00-9:00 and will feature One Night Stand and Bruce Archer. While there, be the first to try Jack Pine Brewery's "Firefly Light" – the Arb's limited NEW release! Advance general admission tickets are \$20. A limited number of V.I.P. tickets are also available for \$45. Call to reserve your tickets – 218-829-8770 or learn more online at NorthlandArb.org.

MISC...

A new **mental health crisis line** is now available to Minnesota residents as part of a nationwide effort to make the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** number easier to remember. Now, Minnesotans can **CALL or TEXT 988** any time of any day to access resources. There are currently four call centers across the state of Minnesota.

The **Lakes Area United Way** is proud to announce that the annual **Chili Cook-Off** is returning to the Westgate Mall in Brainerd on **Wed. Oct. 5th** from 11:30-1:00. The celebratory theme is "Together Again!" The UW is looking for businesses to register, with booth sponsorships starting at \$100. Tickets for the event will be \$10, which will include entry into the event and a bowl for tasting! Visit UnitedWayNow.org for info.

The Brainerd Lakes Area Chapter of Let's Go Fishing serves seniors living independently or in a care facility, families, disabled adults and veterans on Gull Lake or Bay Lake who want to go fishing or simply go on a lake cruise from May through September 1st. All pontoon trips have two trained volunteers on board to guide the fishing and provide a safe, enjoyable trip. Outings are offered morning and afternoon and last about 2.5 hours. Call to reserve a trip or get more information, 218-851-6028 or go online to Brainerd.LGFWS.com.

Crow Wing County DWI Task Court is **looking for monetary donations** so it can continue its efforts to work with people who are repeat offenders of DWIs and are in need of long term support as they work to keep those who drive drunk from repeating the offense. (80% success rate!). The funds raised are used to purchase incentives such as gas cards, food cards, small reductions in fees and to host two annual events with all of the members and their families in an effort to build community. Checks can be made out to Brainerd Community Action and mailed to 321 S. 7th Street, Suite 105 in Brainerd or online at BrainerdCommunityAction.org.

Earn extra income, stay connected, give back and impact the lives of children and youth in your community as a **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota Foster Grandparent Volunteer**. Foster grandparents are adults age 55 and older that provide one-to-one mentoring a few hours a week to at-risk children and youth to help them boost their self-esteem and overall academic success. No prior experience is required and training is provided. Get started today by calling 888-205-3770 or by going online to LSSMN.org/Volunteers/FosterGrandparent. (Run through end of Aug).

Every month during 2022, **The Crossing Arts Alliance** is hosting a **Second Saturday Creativity Kit Giveaway** at its downtown Brainerd location. These kits are free to the public on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in **donating to the Creativity Kit Program**, they are in need of certain new, unused supplies for the kits like Elmer's Glue Sticks, Q-tips, boxes of extra-fine Sharpies, pieces of colorful fabric (cut into strips 1"-2" wide), bags of balloons, misc. patterned scrapbook paper and student Fiskars scissors (in the package). If you are able to make a donation, you can drop them off at Crossing Arts on Laurel Street in Brainerd during their business hours, or visit CrossingArts.org/donate for more ways to help.

The **Crow Wing County Highway Department** is in its second year of the **Pick A Mile Program**. The program asks residents to pick a mile of county roads to **assist in roadside cleanup**. An easy to use app allows residents to reserve an available stretch of road to cleanup as a family, business or organization. The Pick A Mile app allows resident to choose a specific two-mile section of county roads to cleanup, see what roads have already been chosen and what county roads remain available. More information about the Pick A Mile county road program and easy to use app is available online at CrowWing.US/PickAMile.

If you are looking for **volunteer opportunities** here in the lakes area, the **Lakes Area United Way** has a bunch of choices for you! Visit UnitedWayNow.org and click on the Get Connected banner. From dog walkers, to crisis line volunteers, to handyman services... game players, wheelchair transport drivers... the list goes on. If you want to volunteer, visit that site. Non-profits are also encouraged to register if they are in need of volunteers!

The **Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen** in Brainerd offers free meals to those in need every **Mon.-Sat. from 5:00-6:00 p.m.** and on **Sun. from 12:30-1:30 p.m.** If you are in need of a meal during the week, please stop by during these hours and food will be served free of charge. Sharing Bread can be found at 923 Oak Street in Brainerd. Visit SharingBread.com for more. Volunteer opportunities are available.

Brainerd Lakes Area residents are encouraged to **turn in your empty toner and ink jet cartridges** at either of **The Office Shop** locations (Brainerd or Aitkin) for recycling. By doing so, you will be helping the **Zachary Johnson Kids with Cancer Fund**. The fund offers grants to surrounding area families with a dependent child (age 21 or under) who has any form of cancer. It can be used for anything that the patient or caregiver wishes. If you are interested in applying for a grant, contact Riverwood Foundation or stop at either Office Shop location. Or to donate, visit RiverwoodHealthCare.org/foundation/giving or call 218-927-5158.

Find your next career in the **Brainerd Lakes Area as local businesses** are **searching for employees** in a wide variety of sectors. Retail, healthcare, finance, construction, hospitality, manufacturing, and more! **The Bridges Career Depot** is a one-stop shop for exploring careers. Visit Chamber.BridgesConnection.org and click on Jobs. (There are currently over 300 job postings for 14-18 year olds – so LIKE the Bridges' Facebook Page and updates will be immediately sent to your FB page!).

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department's Household Hazardous Waste Program is now **open Monday – Friday** from 8AM-5PM. County residents can bring in all types of household chemicals for disposal such as cleaning products, pesticides, herbicides, paints, stains, and automotive chemicals. Upon arrival at the landfill site, residents must stop at the Landfill Office where you will get instructions on how to proceed. Visit CrowWing.US for more information.