

# PSAs Week of 12 / 6 / 21 A

## BLOOD DRIVES:

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://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 post-summer level in at least six years. Donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to make an appointment to give now

12/15	Wed.	9:00-3:00	Immanuel Lutheran Church in Crosby
12/17	Fri.	12:00-6:00	St. Mathias Community Center in Fort Ripley
12/21	Tues.	12:00-6:00	Shoe Sensation in Baxter
12/21	Tues.	12:00-6:00	Knights of Columbus in Brainerd
12/22	Wed.	9:00-3:00	Pierz Healy High School in Pierz
12/28	Tues.	9:00-3:00	Vitality Wellness building in Long Prairie
12/29	Wed.	9:00-3:00	Northland Arboretum
12/30	Thurs.	8:00-2:00	Camp Ripley in Little Falls
12/30	Thurs.	10:00-4:00	Crosslake Community Charter School

**Catholic Charities Senior Dining** has organized **frozen meal distribution** pop-up locations for the month of December across central Minnesota, with meals for seniors 60 and over available at many locations. These healthy and nutritious frozen meals are packaged in oven-safe containers that are easy to heat and eat. Meals are available in quantities of 10 and up to 30 per calendar month. Must be at least 60 years old to qualify. There is no cost, but donations are appreciated. Learn more online at [CCStCloud.org](http://CCStCloud.org). Dates and Times for distribution:

12/9	Thurs.	1:00-2:00	Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena
12/9	Thurs.	2:00-3:00	Alliance Church in Milaca
12/10	Fri.	8:30-10:00	Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls
12/14	Tues.	11:00-12:00	Lakes Area Food Shelf in Pequot Lakes
12/16	Thurs.	12:00-1:00	Pillager Area Family Center
12/16	Thurs.	2:00-3:30	Lakewood Health System in Staples
12/17	Fri.	10:00-11:00	Fellowship Bible Church in Pierz
12/20	Mon.	11:00-12:30	Deerwood Auditorium in Deerwood

# **12/6 – 12/12**

**Port Group Homes** will be home to about 20 children this **holiday season** who will not be with family or friends for celebrations. The children range in ages from 10-18 and enjoy simple gifts like hygiene items, socks, underwear, shoes, sweatshirts, pajamas, clothes, hats, mittens, puzzles and games. Financial **donations** can also be made to contribute to their special needs and recreation fund via the website [PortGroupHomes.org](http://PortGroupHomes.org). Port is accepting physical donations at its administration building at 115 North First Street in Brainerd. Port is located behind the Dairy Queen on Washington Street. Contact them for pick up in town at 218-454-7219. Port is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

**Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's Care Center** is now **accepting donations of Christmas presents for its residents**. Please bring unwrapped donations in bags or boxes marked male or female to the Care Center **by Tues., Dec. 14**, so gifts can be personalized for everyone. A collection bin is set up outside the Care Center's main entrance. On Christmas, staff will deliver all gifts to residents based upon need, cognitive ability, diet, and dexterity. Clothing gift suggestions in sizes medium to XXL are night gown/pajama sets, men's short-sleeved undershirts, women's long-sleeve and sleeveless undershirts, slippers with rubber soles, slipper socks, sweatshirts, sweatpants, shirts, and cardigan sweaters. Other gift suggestions include: stuffed animals to provide comfort, colored pencils, markers, electric razors, cologne/aftershave, lotions, body sprays, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, deodorant, individually wrapped snacks and candy, universal headphones for televisions or music, postage stamps, iTunes gift cards, and gift certificates to Wal-Mart, Amazon, or local restaurants. For more information, contact Mary at 218-546-4353.

As isolation continues to impact local seniors, **Home Instead** renews the important **Be a Santa to a Senior®** program promising another season of holiday cheer. *Be A Santa to a Senior* supports older adults who may be overlooked, isolated or alone during the holiday season. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year for the local program that gives back to older adults and reminds them they are cherished by our community. The gifts collected, which are often necessity items such as toiletries, clothing, and blankets, make a big impact and help area seniors combat the holiday blues. This year, the Brainerd office is partnering with LAMAA (Lakes Area Memory Awareness Advocates), Crow Wing County and local senior communities to provide gifts to 690 seniors in the area. Individuals can visit one of the participating locations and look for the *Be a Santa to a Senior* tree on display from **NOW to Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**. Each tree will be decorated with ornaments featuring seniors' first names and gift suggestions. Holiday shoppers can choose an ornament, buy the requested gift and return it unwrapped to the store with the ornament attached. For a list of the tree locations, visit [BeASantaToASenior.com](http://BeASantaToASenior.com)

**Cub Foods in Brainerd, Cub Foods in Baxter and the Pequot Lakes SuperValu** – along with the **Salvation Army** – want to thank everyone who has already donated to this year's **Food Basket Program** which will supply local families with a simple **holiday meal**. If you have not already made a donation, please consider doing-so, as the program **ends on Wed. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**. Any amount will help. A \$25 donation will provide a full meal for a family. Just tell your cashier at check-out that you would like to donate to the cause and they will add that amount to your bill. Thank you!

**Sertoma's Winter Wonderland** at the **Northland Arboretum** is up and running starting **Now through New Year's Eve**. It will be open each week following Wed. – Sat. through Dec. 18, then every night starting Wed. Dec. 22 through New Year's Eve from 5:30-8:30 nightly. General Admission is \$20/vehicle (\$25/small buses and limos).... And advanced tickets are only \$10 and available at Cub Foods (Brainerd AND Baxter), SuperValu in Pequot Lakes and at the Northland Arboretum. For more info, visit [SertomaWinterWonderland.com](http://SertomaWinterWonderland.com).

Join **Crossing Arts** for its annual **Kringle Market**, a fun holiday shopping experience! Doors are open to the public now. Enjoy shopping in the Gallery & Gift Shop, with an amazing selection of local artist-created art and fine craft, art supplies, holiday gifts, and so much more! The Kringle Market **runs through Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**, with normal hours of **Tues, Thurs, Fri**, 10:00 - 5:00.... Wed 10:00 - 7:00... and **Saturdays**, 10:00 - 2:00, with the exception of **Fri, Dec 24, 10:00 - 12:00**. For more information contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416 or visit [CrossingArts.org](http://CrossingArts.org).

Calling all **tuba, baritone, euphonium and trombone players!** Community members are invited to participate in **Central Lakes College's Tuba Christmas** show on **Wed., Dec. 8** at the college. Anyone is welcome to bring their instrument and join in on the fun. Feel free to wear holiday colors. Meet in the Rehearsal Hall E471 at 5:30 pm to prepare for the performance at 6:30pm at the college. **Please R.S.V.P. by Mon. Dec 6<sup>th</sup>** to: Via email at [Jonathan.laflamme@clcmn.edu](mailto:Jonathan.laflamme@clcmn.edu)

**Essentia Health** is hosting a free **Advance Care Planning (ACP) virtual class** on **Tues. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** from 3:30-4:30. Advance care planning is a process that helps you think and talk about your choices for health care in the future. It's important for every adult to have an advance directive, also known as a living will or health care directive. Everyone is invited to join in thought-provoking conversation to discover the value of ACP, reflect on your values, choose a health care agent, explore goals for treatment and take steps toward completing a health care directive for yourself. By having these conversations proactively, you can ensure that your preferences are understood if you become unable to make medical decisions for yourself due to an accident, injury or sudden illness. For the safety of our communities, this class will be offered virtually. Visit [EssentiaHealth.org](http://EssentiaHealth.org) for registration information

Community members are invited to **Central Lakes College's** first **Holly Jolly Musical Event and Fundraiser** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on **Wed., Dec. 8** in the Brainerd campus cafeteria. Attendees will be able to enjoy holiday music provided by the college's band, orchestra and choir, while enjoying treats. In lieu of paying admission, attendees will be able to donate to the following charities at the event: The Salvation Army, Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, Bridges of Hope Warming Shelter, U.S. Marines Toys for Kids and the CLC Giving Tree.

The 7th annual **Live Drive-Thru Nativity** sponsored by area churches will be presented in Pillager on **Wed. & Thurs. Dec. 8-9<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00-8:30 each night. Enjoy the complete Christmas story portrayed in live drama as you drive around the Cass County Fairgrounds in Pillager...you never leave the car. Bring the whole family. The event features four living scenes including camels, sheep, horses, donkeys, and nearly 100 people in costume each evening.

**Brainerd Community Theater** presents **"Elf-The Musical"** at the Chalberg Theater on the CLC Brainerd Campus **Thurs. – Sat. Dec. 9-11** and **Sat. Dec. 11** at 2:00 (& 14-16) starting at 7:00! Tickets are \$17 for adults... \$15 for seniors... \$10 for those under 181 and CLC students. Family packages for \$50 are also available. Call the box office at 218-855-8199 or visit [CLCPerformingArts.com](http://CLCPerformingArts.com) to reserve your tickets!

**The Brainerd Lakes Chamber's Blue Ox Success Series** presents a webinar entitled **"Make Better Business Decisions with Google Analytics"** on **Thurs. Dec. 9** from 11:00-12:00 and it is a free webinar for chamber members. Google Analytics is a web analytics service that provides statistics and basic analytical tools for search engine optimization and marketing purposes. Among other things, you will learn about the best practices and analyze trends about how your customers (and potential employees) engage with your business online, then turn the insights into well-informed, actionable decisions. To register, visit [BrainerdLakesChamber.com](http://BrainerdLakesChamber.com) or call 218-822-7113.

**Santa and The Grinch** are coming to the **Northland Arboretum** in Brainerd and the kids are invited to come meet them! On **Fri. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**, from 5:00-8:00 there will also be free crafts for kids, a free treat from Santa, pictures with Santa (bring your own camera), plus kids can bring their Letters To Santa (or create them there) and place them in his special mailbox! Lots of fun! For more info, visit [NorthlandArb.org](http://NorthlandArb.org).

Join **Crossing Arts** on **Sat., Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**, from 10:00 to 12:00 noon, when they will be giving 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! Creativity Kits are free to the public. Kits are limited. First come, first served. For more information contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416 [info@crossingarts.org](mailto:info@crossingarts.org). Crossing Arts is a 501c3 nonprofit located in the heart of downtown Brainerd at 711 Laurel Street.

Support the **Mounted Eagles Therapeutic Horsemanship** group by joining them for a **Pie & Project** event on **Sat. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00-11:00 at the Brainerd VFW. Enjoy a delicious piece of pie while creating a fun little table gnome to bring home! The cost is \$20. Register at [MountedEagles.org](http://MountedEagles.org).

**Community Action of Pequot Lakes** invites everyone to the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa's Bobbin' Into Town** event on **Sat. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** in downtown Pequot Lakes! It all starts at 3:00 at the Cole Memorial building with a spectacular hula hoop show and dance by "The Amazing Hoopsters." Then head over to Trailside Park from 4:00-6:00 for a bunch of fun, including a bon fire and refreshments, a snowman contest, a kids bobber hunt, and visit with Jingles the Elf with animal balloons for the kids! Free horse and wagon rides and pictures with live reindeer! Then stick around for the Light Up The Night PARADE that starts at 6:00.... FIREWORKS at 6:20! For more info, visit Facebook and search Community Action of Pequot Lakes!

**Brainerd Elks Lodge 615** will host their **50th annual hoop shoot** for youth ages 8-13 on **Sat., Dec. 11** at Forestview Middle School in Baxter. Registration opens at 12 noon and the contest begins at 1:00. This event is open to all boys and girls in the Brainerd Lakes area and entrants will compete in one of six age groups. The age groups are Boys 8-9-year-old, 10-11-year-old, and 12-13-year-old plus Girls 8-9, 10-11, and 12-13. Ages are determined by what the Shooters age will be by March 31, 2022. Winners at the local level will advance to the Central District Hoop Shoot January 22, 2022, at Lake Region Christian School in Baxter. Winners from the District will advance to the State Hoop Shoot in Hutchinson, the Regional Hoop Shoot in Iowa City, and the National Hoop Shoot in Chicago. Questions may be directed to Dick Lycio (218) 851-1753 or the Elks (218) 829-2643.

## **12/13 – 12/19**

**Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's Care Center** is now **accepting donations of Christmas presents for its residents**. Please bring unwrapped donations in bags or boxes marked male or female to the Care Center **by Tues., Dec. 14**, so gifts can be personalized for everyone. A collection bin is set up outside the Care Center's main entrance. On Christmas, staff will deliver all gifts to residents based upon need, cognitive ability, diet, and dexterity. Clothing gift suggestions in sizes medium to XXL are night gown/pajama sets, men's short-sleeved undershirts, women's long-sleeve and sleeveless undershirts, slippers with rubber soles, slipper socks, sweatshirts, sweatpants, shirts, and cardigan sweaters. Other gift suggestions include: stuffed animals to provide comfort, colored pencils, markers, electric razors, cologne/aftershave, lotions, body sprays, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, deodorant, individually wrapped snacks and candy, universal headphones for televisions or music, postage stamps, iTunes gift cards, and gift certificates to Wal-Mart, Amazon, or local restaurants. For more information, contact Mary at 218-546-4353.

The next **Ruby's Pantry Pop-Up Pantry** will be on **Tues. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>** at The Northern Pacific Center - Building #2, 1511 Northern Pacific Rd, Brainerd, MN 56401. Food distribution begins at 4:30 p.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. Ruby's Pantry is a non-profit food ministry serving our community on the second Tuesday of the month. There are no income guidelines to participate; Ruby's Pantry is for everyone who eats. For a \$22 cash donation, participants will receive a "share" with an abundance of groceries. The variety and amount of food varies each month. Contact The Journey North Community Church at 218.824.5617 about volunteer opportunities at Ruby's! ((To comply with COVID-19 guidelines it will be an outdoor, drive-thru distribution. *You must stay in your vehicle.*))

Cub Foods in Brainerd, Cub Foods in Baxter and the Pequot Lakes SuperValu – along with the Salvation Army – want to thank everyone who has so far donated to this year's **Food Basket Program** which will supply local families with a simple **holiday meal**. If you have not already made a donation, please consider doing-so, as the program **ends on Wed. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**. Any amount will help. A \$25 donation will provide a full meal for a family.

Head to Jack Pine Brewery on **Wed. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** for **Pints for a Purpose** from 4:00-8:00 where \$1 from every pint sold will be donated to the **Northland Arboretum!** Entitled "Tinsel Tussle Fundraiser" guests will also enjoy wings from Buffalo Wild Wings in Baxter.

**Cuyuna Regional Medical Center** Psychologist Kristin Furan will lead an interactive **discussion about anxiety** and share practical tools to cope at **CRMC's Virtual Cancer Support Group** on **Thurs., Dec. 16**, from 12 to 1 p.m. Dr. Furan will focus on participants learning some practical tools to cope with anxiety such as abdominal breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, using a thought record to replace anxious thoughts, and imagery. Those attending will have the opportunity to practice a brief mindfulness meditation using the breath to cope with anxiety about cancer. Virtual Cancer Support Group meetings are held the third Thursday of each month with a new topic each month. Registration for the support group is not required and there is no cost to attend. Send a message requesting a meeting link to [dustine.parks@cuyunamed.org](mailto:dustine.parks@cuyunamed.org). Call 218-546-4319 or 218-546-4302 for more information.

**Brainerd Community Theater** presents the final times to see **"Elf-The Musical"** at the Chalberg Theater on the CLC Brainerd Campus **Tues. – Thurs. Dec. 14-16** starting at 7:00! Tickets are \$17 for adults... \$15 for seniors... \$10 for those under 181 and CLC students. Family packages for \$50 are also available. Call the box office at 218-855-8199 or visit [CLCPerformingArts.com](http://CLCPerformingArts.com) to reserve your tickets!

Join the **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** at a special **Business After Hours Holiday Extravaganza** on **Tues. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>** at Madden's Resort's Town Hall. The cost to attend is \$5. This is a unique opportunity to connect with exhibitors and individuals in a relaxed setting. Reservations are requested at [BrainerdLakesChamber.com](http://BrainerdLakesChamber.com). This event is open to chamber members and non-members.



**Stage North Theatre Company** will present the play "**A Christmas Story**" at the Franklin Art Center stage in Brainerd **Thurs – Sat, Dec. 16 – 18** at 7:30...and **Sat. Dec. 18 and Sun Dec. 19** at 2:00. Dramatized from the popular 1938 movie, the play is set in the 1940s, a young boy named Ralphie attempts to convince his parents, his teacher and Santa that a Red Ryder BB gun really is the perfect Christmas gift. Tickets are \$10. Get them online at [StageNorthTheater.com](http://StageNorthTheater.com).

It's time for the annual **Rock & Roll Xmas Spectacular** which will take place **Fri. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>** at Brainerd's Gichi-zibi Center for the Arts at 8:00. Tickets are \$30 and available online at [CLCPerformingArts.com](http://CLCPerformingArts.com) or by calling 218-855-8199.

Register now to participate in a **Full Moon Snowshoe Hike** at the **Northland Arboretum** on **Sat. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** from 7:30-8:30..... [NorthlandArb.com](http://NorthlandArb.com)

## MISC...

Tickets are on sale now for the **Brainerd Public Schools Foundation's BIG EVENT** coming to Gather on 3 at The Woods on **Sat. Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>**. This year's event will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual options, but either way, it will be fun! This year's theme is **Turn It Up! Your Backstage Pass to ROCK Your Generosity**. There will not only be great food, games, raffles and fun, but an online auction will open on Tues. Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> with the proceeds benefitting BPSF. (Items still being sought). If you choose to join the event virtually, you will receive a "party in a box" that will include a gift card for a meal, swag and other goodies. Tickets for the VIRTUAL Big Event are \$50... Tickets to the in-person Big Event are \$60. Get tickets now online at [BPSF.org](http://BPSF.org).

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](http://RiverwoodHealthCare.org/foundation/giving) or call 218-927-5158.

**Walk with the Doc, Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's** free health program that brings doctors and individuals together to walk, will continue in Crosby throughout the winter months. Depending on the weather and per the group's preferences, the walks may be held indoors or outdoors. The goal of Walk with Doc is to improve the health of participants. Walks are held **every Wednesday** starting at 4:30 p.m. at the Hallett Community Center. Participants hear a brief presentation on the benefits of walking and wellness and then walk at their own pace. Indoor walks will be held around the Hallett's ice-skating rink and the outdoor walks will be along the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area trails near the Croft Mine. For more info, visit [CuyunaMed.org](http://CuyunaMed.org).

**COVID-19 vaccinations for 5 to 11-year old** children are now being offered by appointment at **Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's** Crosby Clinic **Monday through Friday afternoons**. Parents may call 218-546-7462 to schedule a COVID vaccine appointment for their children. The Pfizer vaccine will be administered so a second appointment will also be required for a second dose to be administered three weeks later at the same appointment time. Youth must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to provide consent. After obtaining the vaccination, children will be asked to remain at the clinic with their parent(s) for 15 minutes so they may be monitored by medical personnel for any reaction. The vaccine is free but a charge for vaccine administration is billed to insurance. CRMC will enter the vaccination information into each patient's Minnesota Immunization record.

**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](http://CrowWing.US) for more information.

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 served free of charge. Sharing Bread can be found at 923 Oak Street in Brainerd. Visit [SharingBread.com](http://SharingBread.com) for more.

**Youth** on their own who are **experiencing homelessness** are less visible in our community. Most are sleeping on a friend's couch, in their cars or camping in tents for shelter. This can be lonely and scary. Fortunately, **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** provides transitional housing, crisis shelter, street outreach and more for youth age 24 or younger experiencing homelessness. November is National Runaway & Homeless Youth Prevention Month. If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness and are 24 or younger, please call 888-828-4383 for support.

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](http://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!

Are you a caregiver for a loved one? Do you have a plan for if you were suddenly unable to care for them? **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** can help you build peace of mind through **Emergency Care Planning Services**. LSS can work with you to answer questions like: Who will care for my spouse if I no longer could? What resources would be available to my family? Work with an experienced care provider to develop a plan at no cost to you. Get started by calling 1-800-488-4146.