



Dear Community Partner,

As we prepare for the holiday season, the **BEAR'ly Open Online Auction** committee is hard at work planning our popular Online Silent Auction for 2024. We are back again this year with lots of great prizes that are donated from wonderful local businesses like yourself. Before we ask if you are interested in donating, read below on how your donation helps the **White Bear Area Food Shelf**.

BEAR'ly Open is committed to fulfilling its mission that began 17 years ago, to provide awareness and a dependable source of healthy and nutritious meals for all our neighbors in need. Food insecurity has increased significantly since the pandemic, and there has been **unprecedented growth in demand this year** due to inflation and a return to pre-pandemic levels of food assistance by the SNAP program.

- In 2016 the Food Shelf served 7,643 of our neighbors' households. In 2019 that number had increased to 22,009. In 2023, there were 43,705 households served, and that number is expected to DOUBLE in 2024.
- This year 134,692 individuals were served, and 41% were children.
- The Food shelf now sees 3,642 visitors/month, with 168 new visitors/month.
- Every \$1 donated to the Food Shelf can provide up to \$6 worth of healthy groceries for our neighbors struggling with food insecurity.

Consider a donation to the Online Auction.

We respectfully ask for your help. Together we can put ALL efforts into fundraising what we can, and now more than ever, we could use your support! All net proceeds benefit the White Bear Area Food Shelf – where the need has never been greater. To date we have contributed over \$307,257 to the food shelf - that's an estimated \$2,458,056 worth of food!

We need items for our auction and will showcase your item and business as a supporter of this community event. **Please take a moment to consider donating an item, gift basket, cash, experience or service to the BEAR'ly Open Online Auction.** All gifts, no matter how great or small, are welcome.

Attached is a donation form that contains the details. The online action fundraiser starts January 31 and ends February 3, 2024. **We ask that your donations be sent in before January 25th, 2024.**

Thank you for anything you can do for this important event! Feel free to call or email with any questions.

Lisa Beecroft, BEAR'ly Open Event Chair
2179 4th Street, Suite 1-C
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
bearlyopen@gmail.com



ONLINE AUCTION DONATION FORM

Name (First and Last): _____ Phone: _____

Donation Organization Name (if applicable): _____

Organization Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: (required): _____

Description of donation:

Approximate value: _____ Suggested minimum bid: _____

Instructions for submitting donations:

Submit form via email: bearlyopen@gmail.com

Call for item drop-off: Lisa Beecroft @ 612-250-4991

Drop off location:

BEAR'ly Open Online Auction

2179 4th Street, Suite 1-C

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

To insure your donation information can be displayed online, please return this form before January 25th, 2024.

