**Christmas in June**

**A Day of Action on June 21st**

**The What**

We are embarking on our 75th anniversary serving southwest Michigan. This event is themed with our 75th in mind. We are asking local businesses to help us stock the local food pantries with items in groups of 75 to help them through the summer months. This may be 75 paper towel rolls, 75 cans of beans, 75 boxes of pasta, and MORE!

**The How**

We have contacted all of the food pantries throughout Berrien and Cass counties to get a list of needs and will have it together soon so you can begin collecting items. In the meantime, please contact Mariane Faria at United Way if you wish to participate: mariane.faria@uwsm.org. We will provide you with a list of items once that list is available. We will be collecting all the items on Wednesday June 21, 2017 and will have drop-off locations in St. Joseph, Niles and Cassopolis. Many more details to come.

**The Why**

On June 21, thousands of people in more than 300 communities across the world will be volunteering through United Way to make their community a better place through our annual Day of Action. Every year, across Southwest Michigan, food pantries see themselves fully stocked in the winter months and holiday season. However, when summer hits, food donations go down and their shelves are harder to keep stocked. This can leave low-income, hard working families with very few options. Our participation in this global Day of Action will bring some much needed cheer to local families, and those in our community who serve them.

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