



Barry-Eaton District Health Department

Be Active • Be Safe • Be Healthy

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Health Department Staff Donate Funds to Support Local Schoolchildren and Pets

The vision of the Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD) is a community where everyone has the opportunity to live a long, health, and active life. To help fulfill that vision, BEDHD employees recently donated a total of \$3,000 to local schools and humane societies in order to improve the health and wellness of schoolchildren and animals in our local communities. Health department employees routinely contribute throughout the year to a charitable donation fund and then vote on local charities and organizations to distribute the funds to.

In support of one of BEDHD's strategies to improve health, which is to provide every child with a strong, healthy start in life, employees chose to donate \$200 each to the 12 school districts covering Barry and Eaton counties to contribute towards healthy foods and activities. These funds might be used to pay for school lunches when a family may not be able to afford them, cold lunch packs that are sent home with students who otherwise might not have a meal at home, gym or exercise equipment, or even a school garden or greenhouse.

In addition, the Barry County Humane Society and the Eaton County Humane Society will each receive a \$300 donation from BEDHD employees. Pets can contribute greatly to our mental health and well-being. Furthermore, helping to protect the public from possible diseases that can come from stray cats and dogs aligns with BEDHD's strategy of protecting the community from potential health hazards. Our local humane societies make a large impact in decreasing our stray animal populations through spay and neuter programs and connecting pets with loving homes.

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Caption for photo lower right: Kathy Pierce from Maple Valley Schools accepts a donation from the employees of the Barry-Eaton District Health Department to assist with healthy eating and activities for Maple Valley students.

Caption for photo lower left: Tim Berlin from the Hastings Area School System accepts a donation from the employees of the Barry-Eaton District Health Department to assist with healthy eating and activities for Hastings students.

