

# How your Congregation or Group can be involved in the Rhubarb Festival!

May 2015

With such a successful event in 2014 raising \$66,500 for CHUM programs, we are looking forward to another great event due to your involvement! The CHUM Rhubarb Festival Coordinating Committee is busy planning for this year's Rhubarb Festival, to be held on Saturday, **JUNE 27th**.

Our goals for this event are:

1. To host a truly community event in which anyone, regardless of socio-economic status, may participate,
2. To involve as many community groups and congregations as is possible,
3. To raise funds for CHUM programs and
4. To increase awareness of CHUM's impact on our neighbors.

The Rhubarb Festival is successful in large part because of the involvement of our community and congregations. Here are some areas of involvement to consider. **Baking, Silent Auction, Rhubarb Harvesting, and Volunteering!**

## **Baking (Char Juntunen Chair; [charjuntunen@hotmail.com](mailto:charjuntunen@hotmail.com) or 218-728-3828)**

We are looking for more groups and congregations willing to bake pies and/or rhubarb treats, or jams, jellies or relish. We will provide recipes. If you and your group are interested in baking or canning, please contact Char Juntunen. She will soon be calling last year's baking coordinators.

This year First United Methodist Church is increasing what they are baking, so we will have frozen pies available to be BAKED. This is not to replace your previous baking, we still need that! But, if you have freezer space and time with your ovens to bake, please contact Jean Walsh at [jmbwalsh@gmail.com](mailto:jmbwalsh@gmail.com).

## **Silent Auction (Jean Esler Chair; [jesler67@gmail.com](mailto:jesler67@gmail.com) or 218-624-3539)**

In addition to our regular Silent Auction, last year we had a **Bucket Raffle** for the first time. It was quite successful so we will be hosting that again this year!

**We are again asking business and congregations to provide a basket for the bucket raffle.** We hope to have at least 25 bucket raffle items each valued at \$75 or more. Please find at the end of this letter a list of Ideas for Basket Themes as you create your Basket.

We will continue to host our traditional **Silent Auction**, so we are looking for a few, high-quality items. If someone you know has an artistic talent and they would like to donate an item to the Silent Auction, please ask them contact Jean by May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Volunteer (Courtney Cochran Chair; [ccochran@chumduluth.org](mailto:ccochran@chumduluth.org))**

Three hundred volunteers worked over 4,000 hours to make the 2014 CHUM Rhubarb Festival a success! Join us in making this year's festival even better.

Over the next few weeks we will be sending out requests for volunteers. Please save the date of **June 27th** or a few days during the week of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, to help harvest rhubarb, chop rhubarb, make and bake pies, or be involved in a variety of other activities.

Following the Festival our take down crew can always use more help. If you have a truck, that is helpful.

Right now we are looking for a few dedicated people willing to take on a **coordinator's position, which include Pre/Post-Events, Sustainability, and Activity Booths**. These are key volunteer roles who work with the overall Coordinating Committee. If someone you know or you have a special talent in one of these areas that they are willing to share, please have them contact me.

**Rhubarb (Jeff VanStraaten Chair; [jeffvanstraaten@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffvanstraaten@yahoo.com))**

We are looking for rhubarb, lots of rhubarb! If you or your neighbor or your mother or... have a rhubarb patch and they would be willing to donate rhubarb, please help us out!

If your congregation is baking, they will need rhubarb. Please harvest and drop off at a your congregation kitchen. Watch your congregation communications regarding when and where. **If you can clean and pre-chop that would be especially helpful!** For early harvesters, please clean and chop the rhubarb in ½" pieces and freeze in gallon freezer bags. If you have rhubarb but your congregation is not baking, please bring your rhubarb to First United Methodist Church starting June 9<sup>th</sup>, or to First Lutheran Church starting June 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you know of a place with a large rhubarb patch, that we can harvest, or need additional information, please contact Jeff.

**Thank you for your support in making this year's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual CHUM Rhubarb Festival the best ever!!**

Sincerely  
Mary Schmitz  
CHUM Development and Rhubarb Festival Director  
[mmschmitz@chumduluth.org](mailto:mmschmitz@chumduluth.org)  
218-720-6521 Ext 204

**Ideas for Themed Baskets**

*Money Tree* - Google 'money tree' for ideas.

*Fishing*

*Kid's Birthday*

*Kid's Art Supplies*

*British Themed Basket*

*Wine and Chocolate*

*New Baby*

*Beach or Tropical*

*Food/Groceries*

*Children's Classic Books*

*Minnesota Authors*

*Dog Lover's*

*Cat Lover's*

*Car Care*

Contact Jean if you need help with ideas that work!