



---

For Immediate Release  
December 16, 2011

## **Beartooth Electric Cooperative, Inc. employees donate “Jean Day” proceeds to the BareTooth Cupboards food bank**

RED LODGE —Beartooth Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BEC) employees are celebrating the holiday season by giving to people in need. This year the company’s employees chose The BareTooth Cupboards as the recipient of their annual Jean Fundraiser proceeds.

Jean Day was launched a few years ago at BEC. For a \$1 donation on Fridays the staff can leave their normal work attire at home and wear jeans. “The prevailing “Jean Day” employee attitude was full of fun, optimism and hope knowing that each contribution would help fight hunger throughout the County,” said BEC employee, Connie Teachout. Adding that, “No one in our community should have to struggle to find a meal, our employees are so passionate about this issue and found a way to work together to help the BareTooth Cupboards.”

"During these extremely tough economic times far too many families do not have the basics, giving back to our community is extremely important to us," said BEC employee, Linda Dukart. "We are pleased to be involved with the BareTooth Cupboards that feeds thousands of people in our community each year." Dukart added, "As our neighbors face many challenges, it is crucial that individuals and businesses do their part in addressing needs such as hunger. When we learned that our donation would assist BareTooth Cupboards in the funding of Holiday Baskets, the decision to choose them was an easy one for our employees to make."

The BEC employee cash donation was presented to Kathy Sommerfield, president of BareTooth Cupboards on Friday, December 16, 2011.

### ***About BareTooth Cupboards***

#### **Eligibility:**

The food bank has no income minimums, nor are questions asked. It is a *supplemental* resource for people having temporary financial problems or the burden of sudden unexpected expenses and cannot make ends meet. Anyone residing in Carbon County, and in need, is eligible for and, has access to, the food bank twice a month. Again, there are no income minimums, nor questions

asked.

### ***Frequently Asked Questions:***

#### **1. Is there really a hunger problem in Montana?**

BareTooth Cupboards uses the word food insecurity to describe individuals who sometimes during the year were uncertain of having, or unable to acquire, enough food to meet the needs of their families. According to a 2008 report for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture **36.2 million people lived in food insecure households in the United States**. That translates to approximately **12% of Americans were food insecure**. Think about that statistic for a moment. In other words—one in eight Americans are hungry or more aptly, **one in eight residents of Red Lodge are hungry**.

#### **2. How many dollars are spent on payroll for employees at BareTooth Cupboards?**

"0" dollars are spent for payroll; we are all volunteers.

#### **3. How many times can a family come to the Food Bank in a month?**

Customers can come to the Food Bank up to twice a month.

#### **4. For a family of 1-2, who take everything that is available to them ~ what is the dollar amount that they take out the door with them one time?**

The approximate dollar amount is \$57.32.

#### **5. How many people did BareTooth Cupboards feed last year?**

In 2010, BareTooth Cupboards fed 4,176 people.

#### **6. What percentage of every dollar that BareTooth Cupboards receives goes directly to purchasing food and processing meat?**

90%, or 90 cents of every dollar goes directly to purchasing food and processing meat.

#### **7. How long has the Food Bank been involved in the Red Lodge community?**

The Food Bank has been in the Red Lodge community for over 25 years.

#### **8. How would you sign up to volunteer at the Food Bank?**

By calling Judy Streets at 446-1255 and leaving her a message. She will get back to you.

###