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Three Lakes School District Opens FORK Pantry

Three Lakes, Wisconsin — Three Lakes School District and Feed Our Rural Kids are excited to announce the opening of a FORK food pantry cabinet at the Three Lakes campus. The pantry was officially opened on Jan. 25, 2023, and it will give Three Lakes students and area families easy access to needed food items. The food pantry cabinet is located in the Three Lakes main entrance by the large gym and is available to the public whenever the school building is open. The cabinet was built by students at TLSD, and the construction was overseen by Tech Ed Instructor Brad Volkmann.

"The program will be a difference-maker for many of our district's children and their families," said Three Lakes District Administrator Teri Maney. "We know that convenient access to food will aid our families while the availability of the pantry will be used as a resource by our teachers in support of the children in their care."

The Three Lakes pantry is the seventh FORK food pantry to open in the Northwoods. Other locations include: Phelps School District, Conover Town Hall, Plum Lake Public Library and Northland Pines elementary buildings in Eagle River, Land O'Lakes and St. Germain.

"We are excited about adding Three Lakes to the list of communities we serve," said FORK Children's Pantry Committee Chairperson Jean Arndt. "The concept is simple: The more accessible food is to children, the higher the probability that they will receive the nutritional support they need. If a family needs help feeding their kids, the pantry is open to them for dinner that night or lunch over the weekend."

This is the second FORK program at Three Lakes School District. The district also participates in FORK's Weekend Backpack Program, which supplies students-in-need with food on Friday afternoons. In the future, the district plans to extend the food pantry cabinet program to Sugar Camp Elementary.

TLSD families who are interested in signing up for the Weekend Backpack Program should contact High School Guidance Counselor Ryan Bock or Elementary Guidance Counselor Cristin Opall. Families interested in using the food pantry cabinet are encouraged to take what they need. The pantry cabinet will be managed by Three Lakes resident and FORK volunteer Jennifer Statz.

ABOUT TLSD - Three Lakes School District is located in Oneida County, Wisconsin, in the heart of the Northwoods. Our district includes Sugar Camp Elementary, Three Lakes Elementary and Three Lakes Jr./Sr. High schools and the communities of Hiles, Monico, Piehl, Stella, Sugar Camp and Three Lakes. Our award-winning district has received a 2017 Magna Award Honorable Mention and has been recognized as a Title 1 School of Recognition.

ABOUT FORK - Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK) is a registered 501C3 nonprofit organization that provides nutritional support to children from food insecure homes within the Northland Pines, Three Lakes and Phelps School districts. To learn more about FORK and the FORK Pantry Program, visit FeedOurRural Kids.org/FORK-Pantry.