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Human Nutrition & Health

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Specialty Products

Press Release

Preble County Food Pantries to Receive Refrigeration Units

Kooler Kids of Preble County program created to supply dairy products and produce to local families

EATON, Ohio. June 2, 2021. Perishable food items such as dairy products, fresh produce and meat are some of the most highly requested items at food pantries. But with the need for refrigeration, these items are difficult for many food pantries to handle. Balchem is working with the seven food pantries in Preble County to purchase three industrial refrigerators and kick off a program to keep them full of dairy, produce and meat.

“The pandemic has drastically changed the food needs for many families in Preble County,” says Jenny McCarty, director of The Common Good of Preble County. “The Kooler Kids program will really help, not only with the food items we need, but long-term with the refrigerators that will allow us the flexibility to accept perishable items. It’s a game-changer for our pantries.”

Balchem began a nationwide program in 2020 with an initial pledge of \$25,000 for local and grassroots projects. Balchem’s local field teams were empowered to work with partners and customers to identify local food pantries and coordinate additional sponsors. Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), through its DFA Cares Farmers Feeding Families Fund, committed funds to keep the refrigerator full of milk. Through the creation of the [Farmers Feeding Families Fund](#), which DFA created in April 2020, DFA and its farm family-owners and employees have been raising money to help provide support and deliver dairy products to community food banks across the country.

“Balchem’s core principles are focused on sustainability and that includes food security,” says Dr. Eric Altom, technical nutritionist at Balchem. “The Kooler Kids program is designed to provide the infrastructure that allows our local communities to provide the dairy and produce products that are so important for health.”

The Cooler Kids of Preble County is coordinating support from other agriculture companies to supply food donations that will keep the refrigerator units stocked. The seven food pantries participating in the program include:

The Common Good of Preble County Food Pantry

Lewisburg Food Pantry – Operated by LACC

Camden FISH Food Pantry Inc.

Higher Heights Church of God Food Pantry

Monroe Township Food Bank

New Paris Community Food Bank

West Alexandria Food Bank

“Milk is one of the most requested items at our pantries,” notes McCarty. “We estimate it would cost about \$40 to supply a family with milk for the year and about \$25 per year to give milk to a senior in our community.”

Community donations are also accepted at Twin Valley Community Bank and Somerville Community Bank. Monetary donations will be used to purchase additional milk, meat and produce. Just reference the Cooler Kids of Preble County when making your donations.

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About Balchem Corporation

Balchem Corporation develops, manufactures and markets specialty ingredients that improve and enhance the health and well-being of life on the planet, providing state-of-the-art solutions and the finest quality products for a range of industries worldwide. The company reports three business segments: Human Nutrition & Health; Animal Nutrition & Health; and Specialty Products. The Human Nutrition & Health segment delivers customized food and beverage ingredient systems, as well as key nutrients into a variety of applications across the food, supplement and pharmaceutical industries. The Animal Nutrition & Health segment manufactures and supplies products to numerous animal health markets. Through Specialty Products, Balchem provides specialty-packaged chemicals for use in healthcare and other industries, and also provides chelated minerals to the micronutrient agricultural market.

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