Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

**(Neb.)-"Bountiful Baskets" Coming Soon To Chadron**

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 10/31/2012 07:17 AM

(CHADRON)-Chadron resident Diana Lecher is currently working to bring a new food opportunity called Bountiful Baskets to the community of Chadron. Bountiful Baskets Food Co-op (BBFC) weekly distributes baskets of produce and organic produce, as well as artisan and sandwich bread to participants in the program. Lecher says this is a grassroots, all volunteer, no contracts, no catch cooperative where people work together for mutual benefit. Since there are no employees, the group pays lower prices on food. Baskets are ordered each week online and picked up on Saturdays. Another important concept of Bountiful Baskets is that in being a co-op, it functions by help from volunteers. Volunteer opportunities include helping prepare baskets, breaking down boxes, assisting with basket distribution, and packing up. Bountiful Baskets is a participatory experience. Participants all save a substantial amount of money on healthy food. In exchange, there are no employees to guide participants through the experience.

Sherri Blome with the Dawes County Joint Planning Committee says the Bountiful Baskets program is one that has been discussed at recent Joint Planning meetings and "is a wonderful opportunity."

Lecher says all she needs is 30 people who are interested in participating at a Chadron site, to send her their e-mail addresses. She says there is no obligation; she just needs to demonstrate an interest. E-mails can be sent to dialech@q.com. For more information, visit www.bountifulbaskets.org. Their web site has recipes and cooking ideas for the fresh foods they offer.

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