

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 17, 2024

### **Alcona Community Schools Awarded Salad Bars to Schools Grant**

[Harrisville, MI] – Alcona Community Schools is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a Salad Bars to Schools equipment grant, an initiative founded by the Chef Ann Foundation, National Fruit and Vegetable Alliance, United Fresh Start Foundation, and Whole Foods Market in support of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Initiative. This grant will bring a salad bar to Alcona Elementary School, providing students with daily access to fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and healthy proteins.

The Salad Bars to Schools program is a partnership between the Chef Ann Foundation and the Whole Kids Foundation. Their mission is to ensure that every school in the United States has a salad bar as part of their school food service program. This initiative is a critical step in addressing the nutritional needs of the over 38 million primary school children in the U.S.

The Salad Bars to Schools initiative aims to promote healthy eating habits among school children by providing access to nutritious foods. By integrating salad bars into school food service programs, the initiative supports the overall well-being of students and helps instill lifelong healthy eating habits. The Alcona Middle/High School received a Healthy Meals Incentives for Schools Grant last year, which will bring a salad bar to middle and high school students this upcoming school year once the greenhouse is producing.

"We are incredibly grateful for this grant," said Kasey Cordes, Food Service Director of Alcona Community Schools. "This salad bar will be a vital addition to our school, offering our students fresh and healthy food options. We are committed to fostering a healthy school environment, and this grant significantly advances our efforts. Additionally, once this equipment grant is received we will have a salad bar for all kindergarten through 12th grade students at Alcona Community Schools."

The Salad Bars to Schools equipment grant takes approximately one year to fund. This is because the grant is donation based from local, state, and national individuals/organizations. Alcona Community Schools is in their queue to receive a salad bar, but hopes to accelerate the funding of their grant through direct donations to their project. The total grant amount needed to fund a salad bar at Alcona Elementary School is \$4,518. Once received, the Salad Bars to Schools will send all the equipment

needed to start a salad bar, including a portable salad bar with tray slides, pan chillers, various pans with covers, divider bars, buffet chilling pads, serving tongs, and two free enrollments for the School Food Institute's Salad Bars in Schools Course.

Donations to Alcona Community Schools Salad Bars to Schools grant can be made online at <https://www.saladbars2schools.org/grant/alcona-community-school-district/> or mailed with Alcona Commuty Schools listed in the memo line of all checks to:

Salad Bars to Schools  
5485 Conestoga Court, Ste 110F  
Boulder, Colorado 80301

For more information about the Salad Bars to Schools program and Alcona Community Schools initiative to ensure all students have access to healthy means, please contact Kasey Cordes at [cordesk@alconaschools.net](mailto:cordesk@alconaschools.net).

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Picture Caption:

Kasey Cordes, Food Service Director, and Tim Lee, Elementary Principal, are excited about the opportunity to bring a salad bar to elementary students at Alcona Community Schools.

Download picture at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T7F5Jk\\_cmjiwobsfYWneNfeXViyx0kgB/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T7F5Jk_cmjiwobsfYWneNfeXViyx0kgB/view?usp=sharing)