



# Birchwood area food pantry

# NEWS!

Fall 2022

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Roger Menk  
612-247-4591

### Vice President

Tom Goodwin  
612-868-4857

### Secretary

Terryl Heinlein  
414-254-3885

### Treasurer

Bob Herscher  
715-354-3514

### Procurement

Bonnie Johnson  
715-651-5650

### Statistics

Rich Weingartner  
651-308-0590

### Public Relations

Randy & Dixie Plowman  
715-323-2021

### Backpack

Holly Herland  
715-790-5052

### Constr./Maintenance

Dan Farber  
715-579-0495

[birchwoodareafoodpantry.com](http://birchwoodareafoodpantry.com)

### SERVING

#### THE VILLAGE OF BIRCHWOOD & TOWNS OF:

Birchwood • Cedar Lake • Doyle  
Edgewater • Long Lake • Oak Grove  
Wilson • Stone Lake • Atlanta  
Sand Lake • Exeland • Couderay  
Radisson • Meteor • Weirgor

## THE SHARING TABLE IS BACK IN ACTION



We had ten families plus one little 4 year old at our first cooking session. We always encourage children because we know that nutritional eating starts at a young age. The more we can have fun, educate and enjoy good company we can create a fuller life. We are using griddles and grins for six sessions. We made grill cheese sandwiches and homemade tomato soup. We enjoyed cheese cake for dessert.

Our next session will be done in stations. Homemade pancake batter will be made by

each participant. We will make different flavored mini-pancakes at the stations and provide tasting centers for all to enjoy.

**The Make and Bake Program will continue. This program was developed to provide an educational program at home, during the pandemic.** Becky George, has been sending home a bag with a recipe and ingredients at each of our distributions. It has been very well received. We are thrilled that we can continue this worthwhile program.

We are so grateful to our board members who support these programs. We are enjoying making homemade meals with friends.

**Terri Wallace and Bonnie Johnson**



## BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Backpack teams are up and running! The best news is that we have the students working with us again. I think all the volunteers are delighted about that! We're currently at 32 students, but I believe we'll see that number rise throughout the year. We have reduced the weight of the backpacks, but will continue to improve the quality of the items we provide for the kids. We are using a new plastic, biodegradable bag from Aldi, which has netted a big reduction in our budget! We have four great teams of volunteers and several substitutes who fill in as we need them! Looking forward to a great year!

**Holly Herland**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you can see by the articles in this newsletter, there is currently a lot of excitement at the Birchwood Area Food Pantry. Here's a sampling:

- We were awarded a grant of up to \$10,000 from the Rice Lake Community Health Foundation. See details on the back.
- Under the leadership of Bob & Mary Grosenick, our summer bake sales generated more than \$3,500. Special thanks to our bakers!
- Brian & Karin Grzanek have assumed the leadership of the Feed My People truck deliveries.
- We reopened the building for distribution shopping on September 19<sup>th</sup> and served 31 families.
- Many farmers and gardeners kept the produce flowing into the pantry throughout the growing season.

Our board of directors thanks volunteers and donors for their generosity. You are making a difference in our mission to reduce food insecurity!

**Roger Menk**



**Birchwood**  
area food pantry

P.O. Box 201  
Birchwood, WI 54817

October 2022

Greetings to our friends and benefactors,

The Birchwood Area Food Pantry is happy to report that our grant application to the Rice Lake Community Health Foundation (RLCHF) was recently approved. The grant matches \$1.50 for every \$1.00 that we raise to a maximum of \$10,000 – meaning that if we can raise \$6,666.67 by year-end, we will receive \$10,000 from the RLCHF. If you can help us with a donation, now is a perfect opportunity to make a huge impact. Please refer to the coupon at the bottom of this letter for instructions to help us achieve our matching-funds goal.

Many organizations, such as ours, have struggled throughout the pandemic and now face the depressed economy and inflation that is a challenge to those we serve. The need of food for our clients continues, and the demand will only grow larger. Currently, 1 out of 9 people in NW Wisconsin are food insecure. Over the past 46 years, we have continually provided nutritious food ensuring balanced meals to those we serve. Most recently, we have created programs that educate our families on creative ways to best utilize the food we provide.

We feel blessed to be able to provide food to those in our community(s) in their time of food insecurity. We couldn't accomplish this task without your generous support and our legion of volunteers who give of their time and talent.

Thank you so much for your generosity!

***The Birchwood Area Food Pantry***

(Cut here and return with your check)

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To contribute to the RLCHF matching funds grant, please:

- Make your check payable to **R.L.C.H.F.** [Rice Lake Community Health Foundation]. *We will forward your check to the RLCHF for their match.*
- Mark on the memo line: **Birchwood Food Pantry.**
- Mail your check **before December 31, 2022**, in the envelope provided.

**Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: If you make a donation after 12/31/22, please make your check out to the Birchwood Area Food Pantry and mail it to PO Box 201, Birchwood, WI 54817.*