



Birchwood area food pantry

NEWS!

Fall 2023

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birchwoodareafoodpantry.com

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BACKPACK PROGRAM



After a short, but hot summer, I believe our backpack volunteers were ready to come back to school and put the bags together for the kids! Team 4, better known as the Schnacky Road team, is pictured here. I'll try to feature each one of our four teams in future articles. They all do a terrific job and we couldn't function without the hard work and cooperation that each team puts forth. We are continuing to supply the school office with nutritious snacks and it's with the help of Jess Christianson that kids in need receive them during the school day. Jess also coordinates the distribution of the bags at the end of the day. Thanks Jess! Thanks to ALL of the volunteers who keep this program running smoothly! **Holly Herland Backpack Program Director**

THE SHARING TABLE

A Child. Yes, it is in a child that we care, change with ourselves and give love. We do this to create a loving caring child that may someday turn into a grown-up that can help nurture our world and create a loving society. It has been extremely rewarding to work with children and their parents at the Sharing Table. We encourage parents to bring their children to class. Because we install, in the family a desire to cook together, we teach much more than making a meal. It bonds the child in a loving relationship with their parents and creates a love for finding togetherness in the art of preparing food. We talk about making mistakes usually makes a great cook. The children love to come and feel bad when they are unable to attend, and we miss them when they are not present. Each class allows us the opportunity to show love and nurture a family to help establish a caring society. The menu is a plus and a much-needed part of the program. We thank you for this wonderful opportunity. SOUPS, will be starting in February. If there is anyone interested in demonstrating to the class their favorite soup, please give me a call. **Kristi Lalan, Terri Wallace and Bonnie Johnson**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently, I woke up in the middle of the night and felt hungry. I walked to the kitchen and surveyed the pantry and refrigerator for the many choices I had. It was then that I (again) realized the reason that the Birchwood Area Food Pantry exists. How many of the families we serve would have few, if any, choices to appease their hunger if we did not exist? But we do exist and we are making a difference in the lives of those we serve! A heartfelt thanks to our generous contributors and our dedicated volunteers who share our passion for reducing food insecurity to the families we serve!

- We recently received approval of our \$10,000 grant request from the Rice Lake Community Health Foundation. See details on the back.
- As Covid funding has expired, we have experienced increasing demand for food. We regularly distribute food to more than 30 families (37 on October 7) at each distribution.
- We have added a second truck delivery each month to accommodate the increase in food demand.

Roger Menk

October 2023

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, struggled throughout the pandemic and now face economic challenges brought upon by ever-increasing food prices. The need of food for our clients continues, and demand is increasing significantly. Currently, 1 out of 9 adults and 1 out of 7 children in NW Wisconsin are food insecure. Over the past 48 years, we have continually provided nutritious food ensuring balanced meals to those we serve. And, we are always seeking to improve our current programs and develop new programs to 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)

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 Area Food Pantry.**
- Mail your check **before December 31, 2023**, in the envelope provided.

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Date _____

Note: If you make a donation after 12/31/23, please make your check out to the Birchwood Area Food Pantry and mail it to PO Box 201, Birchwood, WI 54817.