



Birchwood

area food pantry

NEWS!

50 Years of Service 1975-2025

Fall 2025

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715-323-2021

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Patty Reiten
715-234-1291
Pat Zemaitis

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715-579-0495

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
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NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are pleased to introduce our three newest board members. Patty Reitan and Pat Zemaitis have been elected to lead the Backpack program following Holly Herland's retirement. Holly has served the program since its inception. Patty and Pat are off to a great start. See their report elsewhere in this newsletter. Sue Samlaska was recently elected to fulfill the remainder of Bonnie Johnson's term on the board. Sue is in charge of the procurement and distribution of food and brings a wealth of experience to the board.

BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Backpack Program has been busy all summer with a transition of leadership, and we are excited for the upcoming year. Holly Herland and Peg McLaughlin are in the process of turning over their duties to new backpack coordinators, Patty Reiten and Pat Zemaitis. We want to thank both Holly and Peg for their years of commitment to the program and know their shoes are going to be hard to fill. Both have agreed to stay on as team leaders and will be around to answer any questions during this transition period. Our backpack teams are well staffed for the upcoming year, but we can always use more subs! Please contact Patty R. if you want more information about joining our team at 715-234-1291. Thank you to everyone who contributed this year so that we can help those students who are food insecure on weekends and school breaks. It's so important for the students and their families to know that we are there for them! Also, a big thanks to all team members and to the school secretary, Jessica Christianson, for making this program run so smoothly. **Patty Reiten and Pat Zemaitis Backpack Program Dir.**



SAVE THIS DATE!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 6th. In conjunction with Birchwood's Christmas Fest, the BAFP will be hosting a holiday bake sale from 9 am – 2 pm at the food pantry. This is our largest bake sale of the year, and Bob and Mary Grosenick are always looking for new bakers. Contact a board member to volunteer holiday bakery items.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The entire Birchwood Area Food Pantry (BAFP) is saddened by the passing of current board member, Dixie Plowman, on September 21st. Together, Dixie and Randy have been mainstays for our Public Relations effort over the past several years. Dixie will be missed by all who interacted with her. On a happier note, we are excited that the Rice Lake Community Health Foundation has recently approved our grant application for \$10,000. This is a matching grant which has specific requirements. Please read the letter on the back of the newsletter for details. Last, but certainly not least, food insecurity continues to increase. We are regularly serving 40 or more families at each distribution. The continued support of our generous donors and our passionate volunteers is much appreciated!

Roger Menk





Birchwood
area food pantry

P.O. Box 201
Birchwood, WI 54817

October 2025

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, are struggling during the current 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 50 years, we have continually provided nutritious food ensuring balanced meals to those we serve. 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, 2025**, in the envelope provided.

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Date _____

Note: If you make a donation after 12/31/25, please make your check out to the Birchwood Area Food Pantry and mail it to PO Box 201, Birchwood, WI 54817.