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birchwoodareafoodpantry.com

SERVING

**THE VILLAGE OF BIRCHWOOD
& TOWNS OF:**

Birchwood • Cedar Lake • Doyle
Edgewater • Long Lake • Oak Grove
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MAKE & BAKE PROGRAM with BECKI

It is fall and fun is in the air! We are excited to introduce a new educational program for our clients. We were encouraged by all the families that attended our "Sharing Table Program". But, because of the pandemic, we needed to find other avenues to provide educational and nutritional programs to our families.



The "Make and Bake Program" is being developed through Becki George, a retired Librarian Media Specialist. The program provides a bag of groceries and a recipe. It gives our families the opportunity to have a new recipe and a bag full of the ingredients, from the pantry, to make in their own kitchen. We are so grateful that Becki is willing to give this new program a try and with all her organizational skills and her big heart, we are sure she will do an outstanding job. *Welcome Becki!*



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Bonnie Johnson

SPECIAL EVENTS

You are all aware that, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, we have cancelled all special events and fundraising activities since February of 2020. We have been able to continue our mission seamlessly with the broad and generous financial support we have received. Rest assured that the Board of Directors is monitoring the environment around us and will resume these events and activities when we are confident that we can ensure the safety of everyone involved. We are hopeful that in the Spring of 2022 we can return to roasting that pig, selling those baked goods, and providing pie and ice cream in Mikana. Stay tuned!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sometimes I get so wrapped up in the details of the operation of the food pantry that I lose sight of our broader mission. I have to remind myself to take a deep breath, take a step back, and reflect on what we are all about ... providing food to the families and students who are food insecure in our area. I sometimes use the three-legged stool analogy to remind me what is really important. In no particular order, the 3 legs are: the families we serve, the volunteers who make our organization effective, and the donors who provide the support. All are equally important if we are true to our mission of making a difference in the lives of others! Please note on the back side of this newsletter that we have a unique opportunity to leverage the funding of our organization from now through the end of the year. The Rice Lake Community Health Foundation (R.L.C.H.F.) has graciously approved our grant request for \$10,000. Details can be found in the letter. Together we can truly make a difference!

Thanks for your support!

Roger Menk



Birchwood
area food pantry

P.O. Box 201
Birchwood, WI 54817

October 2021

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 we can 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 to adapt to the 'new normal' as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic. We are fortunate to have creative and passionate volunteers who have been willing to carry on our mission in these trying times. We have made many adjustments to our processes to assure that we continue to provide for those who are food insecure.

The need of food for the families we serve continues, and the demand will only grow larger. Currently, 1 out of 14 of our senior population is food insecure. Over the last eighteen months, we have continually provided nutritious food with a focus on increasing protein and fresh produce, ensuring balanced meals, and educating 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 Food Pantry.**
- Mail your check **before December 31, 2021**, in the envelope provided.

Check # _____ **Amount \$** _____ **Date** _____

Note: If you make a donation after 12/31/21, please make your check out to the Birchwood Area Food Pantry and mail it to PO Box 201, Birchwood, WI 54817.