



Birchwood area food pantry

NEWS!

Spring 2021

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

Doug Fischer
651-276-0297

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

VOLUNTEERS MAKE OUR PANTRY WORK

Smile, Peace and Love: These are the attributes of our wonderful volunteers.

They rise in the morning with a smile because they have a real purpose for life.

They join their friends in the community and find peace because they are making a difference. They live their life in love for others and themselves. They know they can and do make a difference, because they help in supporting others in their time of need.

Helping with the truck is always a great way to start your adventure as a volunteer. Other ways to volunteer include:

- Shopping for the pantry
- Seeing things that need attention and saying "I can do that!"
- Please, always feel secure in contacting a board member if you have something you would like to do.



The Birchwood Area Food Pantry works so well in helping others, because of YOUR desire to help YOUR neighbors. Thank you for all YOUR dedication and faithfulness to the pantry.

Bonnie Johnson

BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are wrapping up the end of the school year with great pride in all the volunteers who made it another successful year despite the many obstacles we were confronted with. We made the necessary adjustments in the program to insure the safety of our volunteers and well being of our students. I think the biggest complaint I heard was that the volunteers missed the direct interaction with the students. One of our goals for next year will be to interact more with the kids, slowly but safely. Jo Henk and her student helpers did a fantastic job in distributing the packages each Friday; their job being much more involved than in past years. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this a great year in spite of the Covid 19 virus. See you all next year!

Holly Herland

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Someone once told me that "life would occasionally throw you a curveball." What they didn't tell me was that curveball could move in four different directions at the same time. That's what it has felt like for our board of directors over the last 14 months. While we haven't hit a home run, we also haven't struck out!

Many decisions had to be made and many processes changed. The board was consistent and deliberate in negotiating our way through myriad challenges. For guidance, we always considered our mission, the best interests of those we serve, and the safety of our amazing volunteers. Rest assured that we will continue to closely monitor all aspects of our environment and will make adjustments so that we can continue to make a difference to those who are food insecure.

Finally, we are continually amazed and extremely grateful to you, our donors. During the pandemic, we were forced to suspend virtually all fundraising activities. Our financial stability could have been at risk. Instead, the number of contributors has expanded and the average donation has increased. You have made our jobs a lot easier with your generosity. From the bottom of our collective hearts, THANK YOU for your continued support!!

Roger Menk

ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

For the second consecutive year, we conducted our annual meeting via mail. All volunteers were sent a summary report of our annual activities and a ballot to vote on our proposed 2021/2022 budget and for board member positions whose terms expired on April 30, 2021. Forty five ballots were returned and the board of directors affirmed the results at their May meeting. The budget was approved and the following board members were elected to two-year terms: Roger Menk, president; Tom Goodwin, vice president; Terryl Heinlein, secretary; Randy & Dixie Plowman, public relations; and Rich Weingartner, Statistics.

SELECTED STATISTICS

Primarily a result of federal and state stimulus packages, demand for food has declined over the past 14 months. We expect this trend to reverse sometime this fall as these government programs expire. Despite fewer families seeking our services, we distributed 101,488 pounds of food over the past twelve months or 8,457 pounds per month. During this period, each person within our families received an average of 52 pounds of food each and every distribution. The Backpack Program provided 14.9 pounds of food per student each week throughout the school year. We feel proud that we were able to distribute food uninterrupted throughout the pandemic.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

The BAFP Board of Directors has named Doug Fischer to fulfill the final year of Tom Goodwin's term, with responsibility for construction and maintenance activities. Doug is a retired physician's assistant and a former board member of the Loch Lomond Beach Club. Doug and his wife, Barb, have lived on Red Cedar Lake for approximately 8 years.

Welcome, Doug!

CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

The building continues to be in great shape. Project that will be completed over the summer include; repairing the backdoor so that it is easier to operate, insulating and finishing interior walls of back entryway, and adding gutters to the side of building next to Bluegill Bar. In addition, we will be conducting routine maintenance on the walk-in freezer, air conditioner, heating system and repairing a few interior lights.



Two large commercial refrigerators have been purchased and replaced three older household refrigerators. The new commercial refrigerators have greater capacity and run much more efficiently. **Tom Goodwin**

