



Birchwood area food pantry

NEWS!

Spring / Summer 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Roger Menk
612-247-4591

Vice President

Carla Neuenschwander
715-354-3650

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

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

ANNUAL MEETING



Thirty five volunteers attended our annual meeting on May 8. The event featured a recognition luncheon for our volunteers which was sponsored by an anonymous donor. Our 2023/2024 FY budget (May 1 – April 30) was approved

and the following board members were elected to a two year term: Roger Menk, President; Carla Neuenschwander, Vice President; Terryl Heinlein, Secretary; Randy & Dixie Plowman, Public Relations; and Rich Weingartner, Statistics.



THE SHARING TABLE



The Sharing Table and The Take, Make, and Bake Bags: Becki fills bags with recipes and ingredients for each distribution and the clients are truly enjoying all her recipes, hard work and dedication. Isn't it great that we can provide ways to make things better for our neighbors! The Sharing Table is working on healthy meals through the "air fryer". We are working on using our products from the pantry for a healthier lifestyle and having lots of fun. We always sample our products and share in good conversation and laughter. A fact I found out through conversation time is that 3 of our Sharing Table participants do not have running water. I wonder how many others are facing the same types of hardships. We are so thankful we can be of some help to families in need. Thank you to our thoughtful donors that provide us with the opportunity to help.



Kristi Lalan, Terri Wallace and Bonnie Johnson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are two months into our fiscal year and it is time to bring you up to date on the many activities taking place at the Birchwood Area Food Pantry (BAFP). The demand for food is increasing as Pandemic relief has been drastically reduced and the price of groceries has risen. We are also continually welcoming new clients into our facility and we are currently serving more than 33 families at each distribution. To ease volunteer workload, we are returning to twice-a-month truck deliveries in July and will add a third monthly distribution (4th Monday of each month) as soon as we can find someone to coordinate the distribution. We are always looking for new leaders and this might be an opportunity for you. Finally, we have recently named a committee to complete a grant request to the Rice Lake Community Health Foundation. As always, the BAFP board of directors thanks all our donors and volunteers for their efforts to help reduce food insecurity in our area.

Roger Menk

BACK PACK

As I reflect back on the last twelve years, I find that our earliest students in the Backpack Program were picking up their high school diplomas and are moving on to meet the world! I hope that in some way, we were there for them to make weekends a little easier! I wish them all the best in their future endeavors. We still have some of our original volunteers with the program, but much has changed over the years. We hope things have improved along the way and that they will look back and smile at their involvement with the BP program. I look forward to serving the incoming class in the fall of 2023!

Holly Herland Backpack Director

BAKE SALE

Our summer bake sales are off to a great start! Under the leadership of **Bob & Mary Grosenick**, and with all our super bakers, the first two bake sales netted approximately \$1,200. Sales will continue on July 1, August 5, and September 2.



"Thank you to all our volunteers for the delicious baking goods for a worthy cause."



MAINTENANCE

The furnace, walk-in freezer, and fire extinguishers have all been serviced and are in great shape. We are in the process of choosing paint for some of the pantry's inside walls. This past winter was tough on the back parking lot, so we are looking into resurfacing it.

Dan Farber