



Birchwood area food pantry

VOLUNTEER NEWS!

51 Years of Service 1975-2026 Winter 2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Roger Menk
612-247-4591

Vice President
Jeff Miller
919-451-2495

Secretary
Terry Heinlein
414-254-3885

Treasurer
Rich Hokanson
715-354-3912

Procurement
Susan Samlaska
612-418-2822

Statistics
Rich Weingartner
651-308-0590

Public Relations
Randy Plowman
715-323-2021

Backpack
Patty Reiten
715-234-1291
Pat Zemaitis

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



BACKPACK PROGRAM

Thank you volunteers for helping us transition into our new roles as coordinators of the Birchwood Backpack Program. Our numbers each week have been pretty consistent at 24 to 26 students. We also appreciated the help with putting together the extra packs at Thanksgiving and Christmas. This helps our families get through the long breaks. Once again, Our Savior's Lutheran in Campia and Grace Lutheran in Brill created stocking full of art supplies, puzzles as well as hygiene articles for each backpack. Many thanks to them. We continue to focus on providing healthy, easy to prepare foods. If you have any ideas on making this program better, please let us know. We move into 2026 with hope for success in providing a little extra for these students. It all happens because of kind people like you.

Patty Reiten and Pat Zemaitis Backpack Program Directors

BAKE SALE RESULTS

On December 6, we held our last bake sale of 2025 in conjunction with Birchwood's Christmas Fest. Thanks to our great volunteer bakers and all our volunteers, the bake sale provided income of \$2,441 (\$1,862 in baked goods and tips + \$579 in proceeds from the Lions club coupon book). A special thanks to Bob & Mary Grosenick who coordinated all of our 2025 bake sales which generated income of \$4,250!



SAVE THIS DATE

Our 2026 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will be held at noon on Monday, May 11, 2026. We will enjoy a special luncheon, have a short business meeting, approve our next fiscal budget, and conduct the election of board members.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First and foremost a HUGE thank you to all our volunteers! Thanks for shelving food, working at our distributions, packing food for our Backpack students, picking up or delivering food, and participating in any of our vital activities. Nothing happens without YOU and YOU are making a difference in the lives of so many who are food insecure! We started 2025 averaging 39 families at each distribution. The last 3 months of the year, we averaged 55 families. Given the current state of the economy, we expect that number to continue to grow. Like any other challenge we have faced, with your help, we will continue to do our part to reduce food insecurity. We wish you all the best in 2026! **Roger Menk**



TRUCK DELIVERY DAYS

DISTRIBUTION DAYS

BOARD MEETINGS

BAKE SALES DAYS



Birchwood
area food pantry

VOLUNTEER CALENDAR

*Check our website for future events and updates at:
birchwoodareafoodpantry.com/volunteer

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	27	27	28	29	30	31

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		