

# Birchwood area food pantry



#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President Roger Menk 612-247-4591

Vice President "Open Position"

Secretary Terryl Heinlein 414-254-3885

**Treasurer** Rich Hokanson 715-354-3912

**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



### **BACKPACK PROGRAM**

We closed out the 2024 calendar year with two big packages for the kids – one for Thanksgiving week and one for the Christmas/New Years two-week break! The backpack volunteers worked hard to make sure the students had plenty to eat over the long breaks when school breakfasts and lunches are not available. And, again this year, two of our local churches joined together to add a festive Christmas

stocking to the package. Members of Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Campia made the stockings and Grace Lutheran Church of Brill purchased the items and filled the stockings with treats, coloring books, puzzles, and other surprises! Thanks to all of you who had a part in that endeavor! We move into 2025 with hope and excitement! Holly Herland Backpack Program Director

## **HOLIDAY DISTRIBUTION**

We provided Thanksgiving dinners to 56 families on November 25<sup>th</sup> and Christmas dinners to 51 families on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.



HOLIDAY OF ANNUMON Monday DECEMBER 2 3rd 10AM to Noon

**HOLIDAY BAKE SALE** The holiday bake sale at the food pantry on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> (in conjunction with Birchwood's Christmas Fest) produced \$1,617 of revenue. Thanks to all who contributed to this successful event!





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I usually don't like to be the bearer of bad news, but in this case, I feel I must. First the good news. Thanks to our generous donors, the Birchwood Area Food Pantry is in very good financial condition! Further, we have the best, most dedicated and passionate volunteers that we could ever hope for! So, what's the bad news? Two things are on my mind. Food insecurity is still a very real issue in NW Wisconsin. We are currently serving more than 40 families at every distribution and the demand continues to increase. Even more importantly, our ability to serve these families is at risk. Not because of lack of funds or lack of volunteers. We need LEADERS to replace those of us who are unable to continue in our current capacities. The board of directors is currently operating without a Vice President. And, Bonnie Johnson has stayed on to manage Food Procurement/Distribution until we can find a replacement. Likewise, Holly Herland is in an interim position as BackPack coordinator. Both have served us for many years and find they can no longer fully commit to additional terms of service. We are also managing the bi-monthly food distributions with temporary volunteers until we find someone to do this on a regular basis. In short, we need people to step up and LEAD. So, what can you do? Contact us if you, or someone you know, are willing to take up the challenge and help us reduce food insecurity in our area. Thanks for any help you can provide! *Roger Menk* 

TRUCK DELIVERY DAYS

DISTRIBUTION DAYS

BAKE SALES DAYS

SHARING TABLE DAYS



BOARD MEETINGS

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

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