



# Birchwood area food pantry

# NEWS!

Spring 2024

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Roger Menk  
612-247-4591

### Vice President

Carla Neuenschwander  
715-520-3761

### 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](http://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



On Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, the Birchwood Area Food Pantry (BAFP) hosted 28 volunteers at their 2024 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Luncheon held at the BAFP. Again this year, an anonymous donor provided funds for an excellent luncheon which was enjoyed by all. During the business meeting, the 2024-25 budget was approved and the election of board members was conducted. Dan Farber, Building/Maintenance and Bonnie Johnson, Food Procurement were reelected to two year terms. Rich Hokanson was elected Treasurer to replace Bob Hirscher. (Note: Bob is staying on as our accountant, but Rich will assume day-to-day duties). The Backpack Coordinator position remains open following Holly Herland's resignation. Holly will stay on until the board appoints a replacement.



## THE SHARING TABLE



**Soup is on!** The Sharing Table Program is working on Soups for 6 months. We are always interested in volunteers that would like to demonstrate their cooking skills. If you have a desire to help us, please give me a call: Bonnie 715-651-5650. We always have very interesting conversations and lots of ideas from all our participants. It is a time for learning and sharing and planning for simple meals. I usually bring a dessert and Terri and Kristi serve our guests. After our prepared meal and sweet dessert, the group critiques the items. We share many ideas of different varieties of how we could change it, to make it just right for each family. A fun and wonderful time to laugh, learn and share. Thanks for this wonderful opportunity.

**Kristi Lalan, Terri Wallace and Bonnie Johnson**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Food insecurity is not a new phenomenon. It may not have been called that in 1975, but people were hungry then (as now) and couldn't afford to buy sufficient food. Five area churches and the Birchwood Lions Club began collecting food and distributing to people who were in need. Over time, their efforts evolved into the Birchwood Area Food Pantry (BAFP). Today, 1 in 9 adults and 1 in 7 children are food insecure in NW Wisconsin. To call attention to this issue, the BAFP board of directors is forming a committee to celebrate 50 continuous years of providing food to those in need throughout 2025. If you have ideas or want to participate in planning activities, please contact one of our board members listed on the front of this newsletter. And, as always, the board thanks you for your continued support!

**Roger Menk**





## BACK PACK

We are coming to the end of the 13th year of the Backpack Program and it's been another great year! Our numbers were a little lower this year. I choose to believe that it's a good sign and our community is better off than it was in previous years. We had another year of 100% distribution thanks to our very capable team leaders and their awesome teams. I want to thank everyone who's involved in the program and a special thank you to Peg McLaughlin who has helped me through thick and thin; shopping, major computer issues, moving products, setting up the products for distribution, and the list goes on and on! I couldn't have done it without her! I hope everyone enjoys their summer and returns again next fall!

**Holly Herland**



## BAKE SALE

When this newsletter reaches you, we will have conducted two bake sales. Aply led by Bob and Mary Grosenick, the first sale resulted in more than \$500 in revenue, despite the rain. Mark your calendars for the remaining bake sales on July 6<sup>th</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and August 31<sup>st</sup> (Labor Day weekend). All bake sales will be held at the Birchwood Area Food Pantry.



"So many goodies, yet so little time!" Come on down and enjoy all the treats and friendship.



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



## DID YOU KNOW?

The largest expense item (85%) in our budget is the cost of food. The remainder of the budget supports the purchase, delivery, storage and distribution of food.

**Thank you all for your support!**

