



Birchwood area food pantry

NEWS!

Spring 2020

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612-247-4591

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Backpack

Holly Herland
715-790-5052

Constr./Maintenance

Tom Goodwin
612-868-4857

birchwoodareafodpantry.com

SERVING THE VILLAGE OF BIRCHWOOD & TOWNS OF:

Birchwood • Cedar Lake • Doyle
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GENEROSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY

The generosity of many has helped us get products needed for our distributions. Will Wallus, a Birchwood resort owner, has been working diligently with many individuals and organizations to donate over 2000 pounds of food. We could not get bread or eggs, however Rande and Judy Purdy from Cheers have been supplying them. In addition, Holsum bakery in Rice Lake heard we needed bread, so they donated 105 loaves. The Cargill Cares Fund has reached out to us and we recently applied (and received) a grant from the Marshfield Clinic Health System Covid-19 Community Support Fund. We have continually been blessed to live in such a caring community. We are so grateful to everyone.

Terri Wallace and Bonnie Johnson

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES CHANGES

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the board has had to make many changes to our calendar of events and activities. Below is a partial listing of the changes:

- The Special Easter Distribution to our food recipients was cancelled and holiday food items were added to our first Saturday and Monday distributions in April.
- The annual Pig Roast at Cheers has been postponed. Hopefully, we can reschedule later this year.
- The Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Luncheon has been postponed. It will be rescheduled approximately 30 days following the 'all clear' from the State of Wisconsin.
- Our summer bake sales and 4th of July Pie and Ice Cream Social have been put on hold.
- The monthly Sharing Table has been put on hold.

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Our Backpack Program is alive and well in this craziest of times. We have had to restructure our distribution, but the important thing is to keep the kids fed. Instead of distributing on Fridays, we have started sending our bags out on Mondays when the school is distributing their breakfast and lunch program. We assemble our packages on Saturdays with a small group of volunteers and then any perishable products are added Monday morning just before distribution. Parents are able to drive through the specified area and have the bags brought to their car. This has been working very well and we will continue doing this at least until the school year ends. Our number has jumped from 43 to 55 currently. A BIG thank you to all who are making this work!

Holly Herland

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yes, the Birchwood Area Food Pantry is open! As with most businesses and organizations, we have had to make many changes to our procedures, but we are happy to report that we continue to provide food to those in need. When you read through the various articles in this issue, you will recognize that, more than ever, we need to 'work together to make a difference.' The demand for food is increasing and our fundraising activities have been curtailed, but it is our intent to continue our mission!

Roger Menk

SAFETY FIRST

New restrictions on handing out food have our volunteers working many hours prepacking food and putting them into 30-gallon totes. The totes are then wheeled out to waiting families. All volunteers are steadfast in wearing a mask and gloves for the safety of themselves and others. Laura Ekstrom and Sharon Ryberg have been sewing masks for the pantry to make sure everyone is safe.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

After 19 years as a dedicated volunteer, Lucille Evertson has recently resigned her position at the BAFP. Lucille has served many years on the board and has had multiple stints as President. She has been a tireless volunteer and most recently has served as the supervisor of our Saturday distributions. When you see Lucille, please thank her for her leadership and support. She will be missed!

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

We are required to provide statistical information on a monthly basis to Feed My People Food Bank, which provides us food at a greatly reduced cost. We have recently seen an increase in the number of families requesting food. At our first distribution in April, we served 51 families in one day, which is the fourth highest distribution of all time. In the first three months of this year, we distributed a average of 9,894 pounds of food per month. This is an average of 30.6 pounds of food per person a month. In March of 2020, 13,633 pounds of food were distributed. **Mike and Kathy Hass**

CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

The Food Pantry building is in great shape. Inside and out, we have updated our building and it looks great! We've completed most of the major maintenance items that have been required. This year, we will be tackling a few additional key projects.

- Having a new back door threshold fabricated and installed. The new threshold will be designed to handle the heavy loads involved in our food deliveries from Feed My People.
- Paint the fascia and soffit on the north side of the building (next to the Blue Gill Bar). This side of the building had aluminum fascia and soffit installed, but the color does not match the rest of the building. We will get this painted to match the rest of the building.

Tom Goodwin

HELP WANTED



As previously noted in this issue, we are currently in need of a leader(s) for our Saturday distributions. We also are seeking an individual to serve

as Vice President on the Board of Directors. If you are interested, please contact a member of the board.

Thank you

