

Food for Thought

February 2023



939 Norton Avenue, Barberton Ohio 44203 (330) 745-3693 www.BACM.org www.Facebook.com/bacmfoodpantry

Barberton Area Community Ministries Mission

To extend household resources in our communities through programs targeting food insecurity and basic needs.

Office Staff

Dorothy Suchka-Somerville
Executive Director
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Dawn Cobb
Pantry Operations Manager
dcobb@bacm.org

Nancy Vinez
Pantry Aide

2023 Board Members

Dave Stephens, President
Teri Dwyer, Treasurer
LaVerne Yousey, Secretary
Jennifer Bragg
Ralph Dowling
Carrie Herman
Peggy James
Dolores Juriga
Bethany McKenney
Rev. Dr. Michael Petrochuk
Rob Pursley
Robert Ryan
Pat Shultz
Anne Sweeney

Exciting News!

We are so excited to announce that BACM has acquired the Summit Mennonite Church! Our vision is to transform BACM into a resource center by allowing other non-profit groups to share our space and offer services to our clients. We plan to renovate the building to better suit the needs of the pantry with wider doorways, more shelving, extra storage, bigger freezers, better designed parking lot, etc. This transformation will take time, energy and funds. We are creating two new committees; building renovation committee and building fundraising committee. If you would like to participate on either of these committees, please contact Dorothy at (330) 745-3693.



We are so thankful to the **Summit Mennonite Church** congregation for their many years of partnership with BACM. We are thrilled to be able to continue our mission in our permanent home at 939 Norton Avenue. Once our committees have established a clear plan of action, we will invite the community into BACM for an Open House.

There you will be able to see what we have planned and how you can be a part of our future.

Volunteer Spotlights

Iron Chef

Our thanks to **Nancy Vinez** for representing BACM at St Vincent de Paul's annual Iron Chef competition. New volunteer **Jeanne Frase** and 8 others attended to show their support.



Our thanks to **Becky & Misty Gowin** for volunteering on Tuesdays by working during the pantry, packing orders, distributing food, filling senior bags and donating food and toiletries.

Monthly Raffle

Every day of service to BACM earns volunteers one raffle ticket. One winner is chosen at the end of each month. Congrats...



With Sympathy

Our beloved volunteer **Barb Gercken** recently passed away. She was a big supporter of BACM and the Barberton Public Library. Barb was known for creatively dressing for the holidays, offering gifts to brighten everyone's day and her kindness. She will be missed by the Barberton community.



Home Delivery

Welcome new volunteer, **Megann Eberhart**. Megann has joined the crew of volunteers that delivers groceries to homebound seniors on Thursdays.



Young Volunteers

Manchester Girl Scout Troop #90859 has been assisting at BACM for 4 years. The girls recently came in on their day off school to help stock shelves. While they were there, avid donor **Jimmy Stewart** arrived with a donation. The girls helped unload his car.



Past Events Wrap Up

Norton Kiwanis/BACM

\$23,000 for 2023

Helping with Hunger

We exceeded our goal of raising \$11,500 from the community! Added to **Norton Kiwanis** donation of \$11,500 BACM started 2023 with over \$23,000! Our sincere appreciation to everyone that contributed.



Thanks to everyone that dropped off their **Acme** Cash Back receipts that helped us raise \$806.70 for the food pantry.

The After Thanksgiving Giving Event sponsored by **Wayside Furniture** raised \$5,850 for BACM. Wayside matched donations to BACM up to \$100 per check. We are grateful to all 33 community members that hand-delivered donation checks to Wayside.

Barberton Christmas Walk

raised nearly \$5,000 for BACM from their Christmas Crawl event and 50/50 drawing at downtown bars and restaurants.



The new **Christmas Giveaway** was a huge success! Fifty-four families with 122 children joined BACM for an evening of free, fun activities. The kiddos went home with new pajamas, books, coats, shoes, toys, crafts & snacks following a visit with Santa. Our thanks to **Akron Canton Regional Foodbank, Barberton Big Lots, Bob Ryan, Children and Books, Dollar General, Janice Carter, Jennifer Bragg, Operation Warm, Pajama Program, Pat Shultz, Patty Tilson, Peggy James, and Teri Dwyer** for supplying all of the goodies.



BACM has a few change jars around town allowing customers to donate their spare coins to the food pantry. Last year, we raised \$1,317.30 thanks to staff and customers at **Leach's Meats & Sweets, Hookers Towing, and the Barberton Farmers Market.**

Shoppers that started at smile.amazon.com earned .5% of their purchases



for BACM. **Amazon** donated \$269.47 during 2022. We appreciate the years of giving from Amazon and its customers. We believe this program has come to an end.

Upcoming Events

We encourage everyone to fill a bag full of toiletries for a neighbor in need. **Bags of Love** is going on until February 28. Feel free to decorate your bag to show your love. Drop off Mon-Thurs 9am-noon

- ## BACM BAGS OF LOVE
- 4 Rolls of Toilet Paper
 - Dish Soap
 - Deodorant
 - Laundry Soap (up to 64 oz)
 - Hand Soap
 - Body Wash (or Bar Soap)
 - Shampoo
 - Toothbrush
 - All Purpose Cleaner
 - Toothpaste

Community of Christ will host a Swiss Steak Dinner with a portion of proceeds to benefit BACM on Wed. March 29 at 265 W Summit St in Barberton.

Save the date for the 3rd Annual Poker Run, **Bikers for BACM** on Saturday, July 29. Hungry to Ride – Riding for Hunger.



BACM Bingo is back. Tickets go on sale February 21. Same low price, but new bigger location. Tickets must be purchased in-person at BACM from Monday-Thursday, ideally 9AM-noon. Due to the popularity of the event, we can't hold tickets. New this year, we are offering evening ticket sales on February 22 from 5:30-6:30pm at BACM. Drive-thru style, stop by & a Board Member will meet you at your car. Cash, check or credit card (with fee).



Wed. March 29, 2023
Barberton Moose Annex
Dinner 5-6pm, Games 6:15pm
\$25 Ticket, Pre-Sale Only
No Ticket Holds, Stop In
Mon.-Thurs. 9am-12pm @ BACM
Cash, Check or Card (with fee)
www.BACM.org

Volunteers, Join us for the **Volunteer Luncheon** on Friday, April 21 at 1pm at the Norton Community Center. Leach's Meats & Sweets will be catering. RSVP to the BACM office by April 14. Awards will be given to our Volunteer of Year, Board Member of the Year, and Martha Jamison Award.

Thank You Donors

Much appreciation goes out to **Rotary Club of Barberton** for their annual donation to BACM.



Upper Crust joined the Barberton community by offering 2 days of free pizzas, with a donation to BACM. The promo raised \$300. Welcome to Barberton!



Leach's Meats & Sweet surprised our clients with 40 fresh chickens last week. Our thanks to Ray & his staff for always thinking of BACM clients!



The generous employees of **Compass Systems** donated cart loads of food and funds to help with clients' holiday dinners.



US Renal Care of Norton organized a holiday food drive collecting boxes of essential food items for their Neighbors in Need.

Mayor Bill Judge and the City of Barberton hosted a Non-Perishable Food Collection Drive for BACM and the Salvation Army. Thank you to all that donated.



Barberton Public Library and **City of Barberton** employees both participate in Casual for a Cause, where employees' donate a dollar to BACM on jeans day.

Norton Schools donated their extra milk to BACM. If ever your company has a surplus of food or items near its expiration, that need to be distributed quickly, BACM may be able to accept your gifts & hand out on Tuesdays or Thursdays during pantry hours.

BACM received 48 bags of food from **APV Engineered Coating** located in Akron. Thank You for thinking of us.



Our thanks to the **Masons** who did a wonderful food distribution to 40 clients on a Saturday in December.



*Executive Director
& President's
Comments*

Our thanks to **Pat Shultz** for leading BACM as president of our Board for the last 4 years and Welcome **Dave Stephens** as our new president. Treasurer **Teri Dwyer** and Secretary **LaVerne Yousey** will continue their positions. The office of Vice-President remains open.

I would like to **thank all of our donors & volunteers** for all the hard work, time and funding they have given to BACM over the last 5 years. It's hard to believe I will soon be here for that long. My 5-year goal when I was hired was to increase the awareness of BACM to the community, and take us to the next level. We are able to do that with our expanded food pantry space and provide a Resource Center to give our hand up to those we serve. Stay tuned for which organizations will join us in the future. Please feel free to reach out to me with any ideas, as we are in the planning stages. May God Bless you all for your generosity to BACM.

Sincerely, **Dorothy Suchka-Somerville, Executive Director**

The Board of BACM has worked extremely hard for more than a year in making sure BACM will be here to minister to the residents of the communities it serves. Working in conjunction with the **Summit Mennonite Church and generous donors**, the facility in which BACM operates has been acquired. This is pivotal in making sure BACM will be available well into the future. In addition to being a food pantry, BACM anticipates implementing the visions of Dorothy, which entails access to more critical needs of the residents served.

I think it is also equally important to share with you how BACM has endured through the economic challenges of the past year. The cost of food has risen significantly and to no surprise the number of those in need has simultaneously risen. BACM has done extraordinarily well in managing and meeting the needs of those we serve. We hope we can count on your continued support.

Thank you to our volunteers, BACM staff and Board, service clubs, donors, foundations and businesses who have so faithfully supported BACM. As we venture into the new year of 2023, please be assured BACM is stronger than ever. Thanks to all of you! Kind regards, **Dave Stephens, 2023 BACM President**

BACM Donation Form

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Donor Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Make check payable to BACM

Mail to 939 Norton Ave, Barberton 44203



To the families of
**Nancy Bucksar,
Barb Gercken,
Ellen Kepler,
Lauren Krizovski,
Emily Meckes, JR Price, Kathleen
Schrader, and Marthe School-Cowan**

BACM 2022-2023 Stats

<u>Service Provided:</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>
Food Boxes Delivered	92	92	92	92
Senior Home Deliveries	74	74	86	78
Families Visited Pantry	1,095	881	797	947
Individuals at Pantry	3,225	2,746	2,556	3,098
Meals Provided	47,509	44,648	41,860	49,990
Non-Food Services	89	88	92	68
Volunteers Hours	836.25	800	778.25	795
Grocery Bags Donated	424	599	653	542

BACM Hours

Office Hours

Mondays & Wednesdays
9am – 4pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays
9am – 5pm

Pantry Hours (Pick Up Food)

Tuesdays & Thursdays
1pm – 5pm

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