Summer Food Service Program!

OVER 5,000 MEALS SERVED!
This past summer, the Backus Summer Food Service Program served over 5,000 meals to kids and parents who participated in the summer meal program. The count of 5,272 lunches surpassed the previous summer’s total of 3,500. The average daily meal count in 2010 was 49 with last summer’s count averaging 86 per day. Over 100 meals were served on a number of days! Kids, ages 1-18 can always eat free and their meals are reimbursed by the MN Dept. of Education. Although parent meals are not reimbursed through the program, they are encouraged to eat with their children and those that can afford to, are asked to make a $3 donation. The Falls Hunger Coalition supports the program by contributing the cost of adult meals not covered by the donations. The Coalition also supplied kids with a healthy “snack pack” to take home. The program is funded through the USDA and the MN Department of Education. Backus is required to adhere to the same standards as the regular school lunch program in regard to nutrition and portion requirements. Additional support comes from the Otto Bremer Foundation, Boise, the Vikings Children’s Fund and Hardee’s Restaurant.

Backus Kids Club

Backus Kids Club has had some exciting events take place over the last few months. The first being that we are now officially licensed by the state of Minnesota Human Resources Department. Among other things, this allows us to accept families into our program who may receive financial assistance from the county.

The other new addition has been having Jackie Krueger teach Tae Kwon Do to BKC kids, as well as other children from the community who wish to learn more about this martial art. The kids who choose to join have enjoyed learning various kicks, punches, as well as ways to show respect and become more focused. Both of these new ventures will provide BKC with more avenues to reach families across Borderland.

We have averaged about 6 children per day, with our maximum being 12-14 on Mondays for Tae Kwon Do, and 12 on our last no-school day. Recently, the children have enjoyed carving pumpkins, making milk jug bird feeders, and creating a beautiful “Thankful” wreath together. They continue to go to the public library on Tuesdays to enjoy crafts and check out books. Diane Adams has also been kind enough to allow our children to attend gaming time at the library once a month.

Finally, we have a nice, new rug from Ballan Furniture for the children to play on, as well as new storage and Lego people, which the kids play with daily! I look forward to hopefully getting more quality toys for the children as well as a couple of computers we can put some educational games on for the kids to enjoy. I anticipate good things coming our way for the new year, and I hope for the same to you and your families.

A Wonderful Holiday Season to all!
Julie Talmage
BKC Coordinator
From the Director’s Desk...

October – December -1941: Seventy Years Ago

By the fall of 1941 the seventh grade class that had been the first to move into the new Backus J.H. School in the spring of 1937 was now in their senior year at Falls High. Looking back through the yellowed copies of the Daily Journal reveals war headlines dominating every edition of the newspaper. The war in Europe was the focus of Americans in the fall of 1941. Nazi armies were approaching Moscow and Leningrad with daily headlines detailing death tolls and miles covered by the invaders. The Neutrality Act, Lend Lease, Nazi executions of civilians, arming of merchant ships, Nazi submarines, and draft calls were subjects common to the front pages.

The national sports scene focused on the Minnesota Gopher football team led by halfback and team captain, Bruce Smith, who would be awarded the Heisman Trophy later that year. The team was riding an unbeaten winning streak that had begun in 1939 and would be named “National Champions” for the second straight year by the Associated Press. Local Falls newsboys traveled by train to watch the Gophers defeat Wisconsin on November 22.

Locally, the Falls football team was doing well and still known as “The Purple.” Just prior to the basketball season Walt Scheela won the contest to name the Falls athletic teams with his entry of “Broncos.” The Sports Stadium had been completed that fall and boasted seating for 1,400 and a “loudspeaker to make prep games better.” The “cagers” were coached by Fred Williams, who as a member of the Naval Reserve was likely to be called to service if need be.

As October began that year, much attention was focused on the” Eighth Annual Daily Journal Homemaker’s Institute” which featured a three-day cooking school taught by Olga V. Hanscomb – “conducted again at Backus School Auditorium with 3 evening sessions beginning at 8pm. Admission of 10 cents with receipts to the PTA.” Photos show the Auditorium packed with over 950 women in attendance. A special “matinee” session was scheduled on Thursday at 2pm to accommodate the “farm and rural” women who wished to attend. As anticipation of the event mounted, an October 4th article stated, “Women cast longing eyes at cooking school prizes.” The top prize was an electric GE Damp-Dryer washer. On October 8 a headline proclaimed, “Journal cooking school opens tonight – value of prizes will exceed $400.” The stage was filled with a “dream home” set that featured furniture provided by local merchants with rooms separated by Insulite walls. “Backus stage transformed into a veritable “dreamhouse” with furniture, equipment and arrangements of the kind expected to incite the admiration and envy of every homemaker.” The center of attraction” was Mrs. Hanscomb’s GE “model kitchen” dominating the front of the stage. On the final night a capacity crowd of more than 1,000 packed the Auditorium to witness the prize drawings. Mrs. Andrew Jesperson won the GE washer (her farm home on Rainy Lake had just recently been electrified). Another photo featured Mrs. Gerald Vold of Holler, who won a year’s electric service from Rainy River Improvement Company. My great-grandmother, Clara Merrill was pictured as the winner of a 49 pound sack of Pillsbury’s Best Flour.

Today, $400 in prizes may not seem like much, but to a community not yet recovered from the Great Depression, these items were of tremendous worth. A comparison of 1941 prices reveals the following: Corrin’s ad listed an “Easy” washer for $79.95 (with important $100 washer features), Diamond Taxi – 25

Dresses at Stevenson’s: $4-$9, sweaters 97 cents, a Coke cost 5 cents and teachers paychecks got a boost of $10/month for a yearly salary of $1,260 - $1,530 (principals earned $2,300/year).

Another event that October was a huge Columbus Day Celebration with “thousands of American-Italians expected to attend.” Headquarters would be the Community Building. 17 bands were expected with a parade to take place at 2pm followed by a public banquet that evening at Backus Auditorium. Local officials were: Angelo Gust, Pasquale Pulicicchio, Onesimo Toninato, Eugenio Mio and Marguerite Pulicicchio. The Journal speculated that 6,000-10,000 people were expected for the celebration. The October 11 edition splashed four photos atop the front page of the massive parade. A photo taken in the Backus Gym showed the head table and listed local speakers as Mayor C.C. Craig and County Attorney J.J. Hadler.

As October gave way to November women were urged to sign up for a “Nurse’s Aide Corp”, Defense Training classes opened in the industrial arts shops of Backus, and on October 31 the U.S. destroyer, Reuben James was sunk off the coast of Iceland by a Nazi submarine.

November events at Backus included a Boy Scout Northern Border District Jamboree, the Junior Class play “Footloose” directed by Miss Emily McCracken. Rev. R.O. Evans addressed students during an Armistice Day program. Nationally, a coal strike was on and the headlines began to highlight the Japanese more frequently: “Jap Official Confers with Hull,” “U.S. Won’t Compromise with Japan,” “Japan Masses Troops in Indo-China,” “Roosevelt Studies Japanese Reply as Tokyo Envoys Stall for Time,” and on December 7 – “JAPS ATTACK!” followed by “U.S. AT WAR” and “IT’S REAL WAR” – Japs Extend Assault to Philippines.” On December 8 Congress declared war and the President’s war message was carried through the school’s entire sound system. There was complete quiet at the close. “The National Anthem played and every person, student, teacher, clerk, janitor and principal rose in a fine example of patriotism”.

As Japanese attacks continued on the Philippines, Guam, Midway and Wake Island, Army Reserve guards were placed at the Falls airport, planes were grounded, amateur radio transmissions were forbidden, a new 92’ flag pole was installed at the Court- house, MANDO workers who enlisted would keep seniority, Immigration officers at the International Bridge were ordered to keep watch for Japanese nationals who might try to cross the border: “up to noon, none had been reported.” Patriotic ads for the Red Cross and War Bonds began to appear, young men enlisted and the County’s only “Jap” was detained.

In spite of the headline, “Grim Christmas Week Faces American Nation at War”, a free kids party and movie with Santa was held at the Border Theater, a city-wide Christmas lighting contest was held, a Christmas scene in the Municipal Bandshell was illuminated and the shopping days until Christmas were counted down. The Daily Journal was full of Christmas greeting ads from local businesses and ads for gifts and shopping ideas appeared daily.

By December 31 Wake Island’s defenders were overwhelmed by the Japanese invaders, Manila would be bombed and the last headline of the year would read, “Manila Stronghold Likely to Fall Today”. The World, the Nation and International Falls were at war. The youngsters who comprised the first class to occupy Backus would soon be thrust onto the stage of history and later become known as “The Greatest Generation.”

As this current Holiday Season approaches and then recedes into memory, we might reflect on what those people experienced seventy years ago. Just as the Backus Junior High figured prominently in their lives and the life of our community, it continues to do so today. Perhaps one way to honor their contributions and sacrifice is in the preservation, renovation and re-use of the two historic buildings. Generations of our families have benefitted from the learning, performing, entertainment, culture, fellowship and sense of community that takes place in these buildings. Please join us in this effort by attending an event, becoming a member, donating or just stopping in for a tour and visit. We welcome your participation.

Ward Merrill
Executive Director
2011 Backus Community Center Memberships (as of December 13, 2011)

Barb Albert
Allan & Beth Anderson
Ellsworth & Mary Lou Anderson
Gary & Terri Anderson
Paul & Gail Anderson
Robert & Carol Anderson
Ruth Anderson
Sarah Antanies
Janet Arai
Gary & Sharon Arnold
Kay & Dale Arnold
Lloyd & Mae Arveson
Dave & Jill Austin
Ralph & Kathryn Awe
Millie Ballan
Donna Mae Barg
Joan Barkovic
Ed & Joan Baron
Tom & Jane Barthell
James & Lou Bartkowski
Jay & Julie Bartkowski
John & Mary Bartlett
Larry & Elaine Beach
Lynn & Carol Belanger
Bill & Cheryl Berg
Marilyn Berlin
Leslie & Joanne Bjorkquist
Marvel & William Blais
Holdings, LLC Boise Paper
Ervin & Muriel Boyum
Allan & Susie Braaten
Patti Ballan & Darell Bradley
Jerome & Lois Brekke
Michael & Tricia Brennand
Corrine Brindos
Marcia Bringedahl
Martha Buchholz
James & Laurie Bujold
Alan & Miriam Burchell
Don C. & Dorothy J. Carey
Clifford & Sharon Carlson
Lorraine Carlson
Mabel Carlson
Carole Cassibio
Floyd & Jackie Christianson
Carol & Wallace Clement
Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Inc.
Myrtle Constantine
Leanne & Bob Crompton
George M. Crow, MD
Audrey Dahl
Jessie Dahl
Gary & Carolyn Davison
Marguerite Davison
Aldo & Shirley DeMarchi
Donald & Marjorie DeRaad
Don & Rhoda Dickson
Jim & JoAnn Dornhecker
Steve & Christy Earley
Ethel Einarson
Francis & Joyce Einarson
Charlene Erickson
David & Bonnie Erickson
Donna R. Erickson
Gordon & Pat Ettestad
Joan Evanoff
Bill & Kitty Ewald
John & Lynda Faith
Katherine Fluke
Dennis & Sharon Frank
Donna Frederickson
Donald & Joan Frick
August & Susan Ganzenmuller
Roger Geddes
Gordon & Jennifer Gelo
Leah & Wally Gilbert
Jackie & Tom Glowack
Pauline Grandaw
Mary Graves-Budak
Bunny Green
Rebecca Larsen Griffin
Lee & Carol Grim
Kirk Skallman & Georgia
Growette
Patricia Hamalainen
Signe Hardwig
Tom & Clara Hardy
Myron Hawrylak
Tim & Joan Heinle
Charles & Kristen Helleloid
Peter & Greta Hemstad
Agnes Henrickson
Tom & Victoria Hepperlen
Ronald & Marlan Herivel
Manny Herzig
Gerald & E. Jean Hilfer
Randal & Robin Hilfer
Bob & Mary Hilke
Randy Hodel & Donna Hodel
Thomas & Phyllis Holm
Edith Holmstrom
Robert & Jean Houska
Oral J. & Barbara Howland
Kenneth & Evelyn Hultman
Int'l Dental Arts, Inc.
Duane & Nola Jacobson
Mike & Cynthia Jaksa
Charlene Jensen
Dennis & Pam Jenson
Arnold & Arlys Johnson
Byrne & Carole Johnson
Duayne & Nancy Johnson
Paul & Margaret Johnson
Violet Johnson
Dennis & May Ann Kalar
Leo & Phyllis Karsnia
Wayne & Mary Ann Kasich
Gene & Patricia Kjellgren
Virgil & Rose Kluge
Jon & Florence Knutson
Shirley K. Kocinski
Lil (Lillian) Koranda
Norma Krats
Marvin & Barbara Kruskopf
Marit Lee Kucera
Phyllis Kuluvar
Albert & E. Jean Larson
Marilyn Larson
Ron & Jessie Laurion
Rick & Robbie Leersen
Barb & Arvid Leinum
Charles & Bev Leistico
Juanita Leolich
Jim & Sherrie Lessard
Jane LeVene
Larry & Ruth Lewis
Jim & Margie Iraci Lucachick
Raoul & Loraine Lufbery
James & Diana Lutz
Julie Ann Manley-Hartje
Larry & Alyce Mannausau
Glen & Melissa Marcotte
Arden McKnight
William H. McPherson
Al & Myrna Meadows
David Melville & NelMarie Melville
Ward & Linda Merrill
Howard & Virginia Milette
Maurice & Clarice Miller
Leila Naucker
2011 Backus Community Center Memberships  Continued (as of December 13, 2011)

John & Yvonne Nevanen  
Paul & Denise Nevanen  
Sue & Stuart Nordquist  
Judith Nelson & Soren Olesen  
Clarence & Darlene Olsen  
Jenell Feller & David Olson  
Stephen & Victoria Olson  
Dave Parmeter  
Margarett Patnode  
Onida Paulbeck  
Carol & Wade Pavleck  
Richard & Ruth Pavleck  
Marvin & Mary Lou Pearson  
Ron & Wanda Pelland  
Marilyn Pelowski  
Ralph Peterson  
Gene & Judy Pierce  
Doris Pullar  
Renee Radford  
Joyce Rasmussen  
Bernice Reynolds  
Rita Savard Rindfleisch  
Jim & Gail Rognerud  
Gordon L. Routier  
Darrell & Kathy Ruelle  
Charlotte Saari  
Darlyss Samuelson  
Edie Sandstrom  
Gary & Pam Saunders  
George Schlief  
Tim Schmelz  
Roman & Janet Schultheis  
Joseph & Janet Schulz  
Harold & Julie Schumacher  
Diane Sennler  
Alton & Linda Shannon  
Mike Busch & Karen Shickell  
Orin & Bette Simon  
Charles Skrief  
Jennie Skrien  
William & Helen Smerika  
B.E. June Smith  
Neil A. Smith  
Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski  
Stan & Mary Sobczynski  
Frank & Renee Soboleski  
Helen (Holly) C. Sparby  
Cheryl A. Stemm  
Ivan & Marcia Stewart  
Laura Stoiber & Darlene Stoiber  
Adele Stone  
Floyd & Geraldine Streiff  
Lillie Strong  
Florence Strukel  
Dick & Karen Sundberg  
Bonita Swenson  
Richard & Dee Dee Thompson  
Ted Thompson  
Joyce Toninato  
Kathryn Tornes  
Larry & Doris Trask  
Brad & Terri Trickel  
David & Barbara Trompeter  
Paul & Marcia Turenne  
Clarice Turry  
Thomas Turry  
Lorne & Marlys Tveit  
Stephen (Ray) Usiak  
Grace Verrill  
Elizabeth Villalta  
Dennis & Carol Vohler  
Donna Walls  
Elizabeth & Michael Ward  
Malcolm Watson  
Jim & Kathy West  
Helen Weum  
Tom & Randi Wherley  
John & Karen Wilson  
Thomas & Dixie Worth  
Samantha Crossley & James Yount  
Brian & Cindy Youso  
Jack & Betty Zeienp  
Genevieve Ziemba

Non-Cash Donations from:

- A&L Restaurant Supply, Bemidji - 96 Food service trays
- Ballan Furniture - Six 90" white round tablecloths
- Marcia Bringedahl - Food Processor, Subscriptions, and Gift basket for silent auction
- Janine Burtness - Holiday arrangement for silent auction
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company - Beverages for Soup Supper and Icebox Days
- Friend's Garbage Services - Pick up garbage
- Chuck Lepper - Ice Cream Machine
- Glen & Melissa Marcotte - Toys for BKC and Open Gym
- Ward & Linda Merrill - Gift basket for silent auction
- Nate Mouseman - Labor to fix Backus office computers and activate wi-fi system
- Naturally Unique - Rain gauge & Bud vase for silent auction
- Mark & Pam Rooney - Bowl for Chili Challenge Prize
- The Sports Shop - Plaque for Chili Challenge Prize
- International Falls Library Board - Projection screen and projector for Auditorium
The Backus Community Center continues to thrive and grow under the direction of its talented and dedicated Board of Directors. As we near the end of a very successful year, it seems appropriate to comment on some highlights of the past twelve months which included a variety of programs, renovation projects, youth activities, grant writing and community services.

A major highlight of the past summer was the dramatic increase in the use of the free “Summer Food Service Program”, providing free meals for children ages 1-18, which served 3,500 meals in 2010. This past summer 5,272 meals were provided to kids and families – an increase of 66%! The summer food program was supported by the MN Department of Education, the Otto Bremer Foundation, Boise Paper and the Vikings Children’s Fund. Although we were glad to see the increase in participation, these numbers may indicate an even greater need for food services in our community. Statistics indicate that almost 20% of Koochiching County’s children live in poverty and the number of people living in poverty in the United States is the highest it’s been since 1962.

Other Backus youth programs included continuation of the Summer Arts Program, development of a new After School Art Program (beginning in December), and licensure by the MN Department of Human Services of the Backus Kids Club Program which provides after-school care for children in grades K-6. Backus will also open the gym on select Saturday afternoons for a new Open Gym program. Another major success was the collaboration between the 4-H Program and Backus on an after-school program grant through the Otto Bremer Foundation which will bring $109,857 in programming dollars to Koochiching County.

Several significant improvements were made to the building including the addition of a 16’ x 24’ projection screen and projector which was donated by the Falls Library Board. The Basketball Booster Club donated a commercial floor sander which will be used for annual refinishing of the Gym floor. Volunteers from United Health Care re-painted the old wood shop room on the first floor. With the addition of new carpet and window treatments – the room now serves as a great venue for meetings, luncheons and social events. A fundraising effort has helped add eleven new round dining room tables and 88 chairs providing much improved seating for dinner events. Boiler repairs were completed on the original 1912 boilers, with assistance from Boise and Stebbins Engineering. A quality portable sound system is being purchased with funding from the Marshall N. Knudson Family Community Fund.

With funding through the MN State Arts Board Backus has been able to bring musicians to our community and school classrooms including guitarist Tim Sparks in October and the acappella group, Tonic Sol-fa this coming February. A rock concert is being planned with the assistance of “Chopper” McBride and the City of International Falls, which will present “Arch Allies” on stage also in February.

Economic development is a major piece of the Backus agenda. In an effort to assist local producers, we completed our fifth summer of Community Markets with an increased number of vendors and the addition of Wednesday evenings to the traditional Saturday market.

Backus has expanded its staff from three part-time employees in 2007 to two full-time staff (Director and Business Manager) and seventeen part-time staff (Event Coordinator, Custodian, Cook, 8 licensed
Teachers and 6 Teacher Aides).

With over $1.6 million in building improvements already completed, planning still continues for the “AB Project” with apartments being number one on the list. Use of the first floor by the school district and Headstart was explored some months ago and although that did not materialize, a number of tasks were accomplished. Among the project tasks already completed are: a housing market survey, hazardous materials study/report, architectural/engineering study of the AB Building, tentative plans and cost estimates, evaluation of the heating/boiler system and a development process outline. Meetings continued in November with the Backus Board, Building Committee and a project consultant with the goal of beginning the renovation of the AB Building within the next 24 months.

The Board will also engage in developing a new strategic plan as well as a business model for the operation of the AB Building. In an effort to become more effective, the Board recently adopted a reorganization plan which will divide responsibilities into an “Arts and Programming Committee” and an “Operations Committee.” Several grants are pending with the Blandin Foundation and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council which assist with funding these efforts.

As the winter season approaches the building is bursting with activity. Basketball season brings both girls’ and boys’ teams into the gym every day after school. The 4-H program, Darcie’s Dance Studio and Backus Kids Club fill the building with more kids of all ages. Perhaps no other building in the community houses such a variety of services and activities including: adult education, music, art, dance, radio theater, child care, counseling, driver license testing, sports, yoga, massage therapy, exercise, recreation, teen dances, culture, entertainment and dining.

None of this would be possible without the tremendous support provided by members, citizens, patrons, local businesses, foundations and local government.

Alumni and citizen support is always encouraged through membership, donations and auditorium seat sponsorships. Please call the Backus office at 218-285-7225 or check our website at www.backusab.org for more information on events and programs.

Ward Merrill, Executive Director

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**Grants**

- **From: Arrowhead Regional Arts Council**
  - **To:** Ernest C. Oberholtzer Foundation
- **From: Otto Bremer Foundation**
  - **To:** Backus Youth Programs: Afterschool Art, All-School Music Festival, Basketball Supervisor, Backus Kids Club, Borderland Musical Showcase, Open Gym, Prairie Fire Theatre, Summer Food Service Program, Summer Art Classes
  - **To:** U of M Extension (4-H), International Falls, Indus, Littlefork-Big Falls, Northome
- **From: Midcontinent Communications**
  - **To:** Citizens for Backus A/B for dining room tables and chairs
- **From: Second Harvest Heartland**
  - **To:** Citizens for Backus A/B for Summer Food Service Program
- **From: The Marshall N. Knudson Family Community Fund**
  - **To:** Citizens for Backus A/B for Conference Room’s sound system
- **From: Bosie Paper Holding**
  - **To:** Citizens for Backus A/B for Open Gym equipment and CPR training for staff

See how beautiful our dining room can look!
Lisa Hauke: Event Coordinator

Lisa Hauke – begins work this month as our new Event Coordinator. Lisa brings years of experience as a volunteer and substitute teacher and has been self-employed in designing and drafting. She is a proud Boilermaker graduate of Purdue University in Interior Design and was raised in the Lake Michigan sand dunes of Valparaiso, Indiana. She and her family are new Minnesotans, having recently relocated to the area after 10 years in Gladstone in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Lisa’s husband Mark is the Production Manager of Riverside at Boise Paper. The couple has two sons, Nathan, age 13, an 8th grade hockey player, and Alex, age 16, a Junior at Falls HS and a varsity basketball player, as well as one furry “kid”, an Australian Shepherd named Reeses.

What would be your perfect day?

Spending time with my family, preferably on the lake or sitting around the campfire.

As a new resident, what do you like most about International Falls?

Mmm . . . We do like to explore new areas and I’d have to say that Rainy Lake is the jewel of the area along with Voyageurs National Park. The people have been wonderful in welcoming us to the community and for that we are grateful. And, of course, learning about and enjoying all that Backus has to offer is a real asset to International Falls.

Where do you see Backus in 5 years?

I am still learning about all that Backus has to offer and all of the ideas and visions that people have for the center, but I hope to see Backus grow and continue to be a focal point of this community.

Mary Ann Lien – has joined the Backus staff as our Volunteer Event Supervisor. She will assist in supervising and organizing volunteers for Soup Suppers, evening events, concerts, and other events at the center. Mary Ann keeps busy with her 4 children and 10 grandchildren! And if that doesn’t keep her hopping, Mary Ann also volunteers at Good Samaritan Center and Rainy Lake Medical Hospital, as well as working part-time at River’s Edge Villa.

What do you like best about volunteering at Backus?

I like working in an historical building and meeting different people. I’m always busy with so many events and concerts.

Volunteer’s Corner with Lisa!

I have only been here for a few days, so I am just beginning to realize all that Backus has to offer to the community of International Falls. In coming to these realizations, I am astounded at the sheer number of people who are willing to volunteer their time and talent to benefit the community. I can see that countless hours of volunteering are what shapes Backus into a vibrant community center able to follow its mission of celebrating the arts, culture, recreation, and lifelong learning. I have met a few wonderful volunteers already, but I look forward to meeting everyone very soon. Just don’t quiz me on names just yet!
Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

In November 2008, Minnesotans passed the clean water, land, and legacy amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. As a result, over twenty-five years, three-eighths of one percent of the state’s sales tax will be dedicated as follows:

- 33% to a clean water fund
- 33% to an outdoor heritage fund
- 14.25% to a parks and trails fund, and
- 19.75% to an arts and cultural heritage fund

Proceeds from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund “may be spent only on arts, arts education and arts access and to preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage.”

Backus Community Center has benefitted from the “Legacy Amendment” funds in several ways. Two MN State Arts Board Tour grants are responsible for bringing guitarist Tim Sparks to community schools and the Backus stage last October and Tonic Sol-fa, an acapella group which will perform on-stage February 28 and conduct a two-day school residency at both ISD 361 and St. Thomas Catholic School. In addition, Legacy funds of approximately $6,300 were used to complete the security camera system in Backus during 2010. Due to its listing on the National Register of Historic Places, Backus is able to access funding through both the MN State Arts Board and the MN Historical Society.

Soup Supper & Dinners Sponsors:

- City Drug
- City of International Falls
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Curves of International Falls
- Duty Free Americas
- First Baptist Church
- Friends Against Abuse
- Green-Larsen Mortuary
- Kantor Electric
- Minnesota Monument
- Northern Lumber Yard
- Randy Pozniak, CPA
- Rob’s Janitorial Service
- Streiff’s Floral & Gifts
- VFW Post 2948
- VFW Post 2948 Auxiliary
- Waschke Family GM Center

Sponsor a seat in honor or memory of your loved one by calling the office 218-285-7225

Seat Sponsorships:

* Backus Community Center < In memory of Janet Wagner >
* Backus Community Center < In honor of Chopper & Nancy McBride >
* Mildred Ballan < In memory of G. Ballan >
* Patti Ballan
* Judith Baratta < In memory of Vic & Opal Mannila >
* Joan Barkovic < In memory of Robert Barkovic >
* Joan Barkovic < In honor of Jim Barkovic >
* Janice Berg < In memory of Ray Berg >
* Alan & Miriam Burchell
* Marguerite Davison < In memory of Donald Davison >
* Steve & Christy Earley < In memory of Bernard Earley >
* Steve & Christy Earley < In honor of Vera Earley >
* Joan Evanoff < In memory of Sam M. Evanoff >
* Donna Frederickson < In memory of Alma & Rev. Leo H. Buechler >
* Donna Frederickson < In memory of Franklyn T. & Margaret G. Frederickson >
* Pauline Grandaw < In memory of Peter Grandaw >
* Mary Graves < In memory of Michael Kent Budak >
* Georgia Growette < In memory of Evelyn Growette >
* Degree of Honor #251
* Violet Johnson
* Helen Louden < In memory of Effie Hanover >
* Duane & Marilyn Mitchell < In memory of Kevin Mitchell >
* Rodney Otterness
* Rainy River Recovery (former Rational Alternatives)
* Charlotte Saari < In memory of Martha Hess >
* Sherron Law Office
* Ruth Sumner < In memory of Gerald Sumner >
* Frank & Doreen Swensden < In memory of Joe Swensden >
* Peggy Thomas < In memory of Lee Thomas >
* Pam Wenberg < In memory of Marvel Dode Woods & Edmund Woods >
* Roger & Mary Weum < In memory of James R. Liebe >

It’s Not Too Late!

Please think of Citizens for Backus/AB for any “end of the year” charitable contributions you may be considering. Your donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Citizens for Backus/AB is an IRS 501-c-3 non-profit corporation and your donations help support programming, planning, grant-writing, maintenance and preservation of both the Backus and Alexander Baker Buildings.

You are also invited to become a Backus Member. Membership levels begin at just $60. Call the Backus office at 218-285-7225 for more information. Membership forms may be downloaded at www.backusab.org.
Memorial Contributions  (as of December 14, 2011)

As of December 14, 2011 Backus Community Center has received contributions in memory of:

- **Dennis Anderson** from Dennis & Carol Vohler
- **Chuck Armstrong** from Ralph & Susan Johnson
- **Marion Bertram** from Ken & Kathy Perala and Elvira Earley
- **Elwyn Boe** from Jessie Dahl
- **Marge Brunette** from Dale & Kay Arnold, and Joseph & Janet Schulz
- **Leo & Alma Buechler** from Robert & Leanne Crompton, Donna Frederickson, and Helen Louden
- **Evelyn Crompton** from Barbara McDowell and Jessie Dahl
- **Joe Doris** from Marlys Stenberg
- **Mrs. Dworski** from Wayne & Mary Ann Kasich
- **Robert Earley** from Elvira Earley
- **Elaine Graf** from Ralph & Susan Johnson
- **Bea Harala** from Joseph & Janet Schulz
- **Dale Himes** from Joseph & Janet Schulz
- **Lori Hendrickson** from Don & Dorothy Carey and Gordon & Pat Ettestad
- **Betty Herzig** from Donna Frederickson, Barbara McDowell, Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski, and John & Karen Wilson
- **Tammy Holler** from Marilyn Larson
- **Joan G. Jaakkola** from Mona Hunter and Wayne & Mary Ann Kasich
- **Valto Johnson** from Ralph & Susan Johnson
- **Ron Laurion** from Thomas & Jane Barthell, Patti Ballan & Darell Bradley, Marcia Bringedahl, Jessie Dahl, Gordon & Patricia Ettestad, John & Lynda Faith, Donna Frederickson, Robert & Jean Houska, Marilyn Larson, Helen Louden, Barbara McDowell, Ward & Linda Merrill, Margaret Patnode, and Tuesday Musicale
- **Tom Manka** from Lois Manka
- **Lois Milette** from Sage Hardwig
- **Johanne Moe** from Dale & Kay Arnold, Craig & Mary Moe
- **Jack Murray** from Jessie Dahl
- **Louise Nelson** from Barbara McDowell
- **Muoi Van Nguyen** from Sue & Stuart Nordquist
- **Ervin “Kerby” Olestad** from Joseph & Janet Schulz and Jim & Carol Wherley
- **Jackie Olson** from Dennis & Carol Vohler
- **Phil Olson** from Joseph & Janet Schulz, John & Karen Wilson
- **Ruth Plummer** from Delores Arason, Shirley Boeckers, Bonnie Roberts, John & Karen Wilson
- **Ron Rising** from Ralph & Susan Johnson, Marilyn Larson, and Jim & Carol Wherley
- **Len Shannon** from Jessie Dahl
- **Scott Skifstrom** from Donna Frederickson, Laurie Skifstrom, and John & Karen Wilson
- **Campbell Smith** from B.E. June Smith
- **Lilly Smuda** from Joseph & Janet Schulz
- **Darlene Stoiber** from Dale & Kay Arnold
- **Norma Stone** from Dee Bigler, John & Lynda Faith, Donna Frederickson, Ralph & Susan Johnson, and Joseph & Janet Schulz
Thank You for Contributions:

- **In Honor of Karen Shickell & Mike Busch’s Wedding**: Jenell Feller and Donna Frederickson
- **In Honor of Shirley Kocinski’s 90th birthday**: Carol & Lynn Belanger, Elizabeth Ericson, Patricia Hamalainen
- **In Honor of Donna Mostad & Family**: John & Karen Wilson
- **In Honor of Frank Schanus & Family**: John & Karen Wilson
- **In Honor of Harry Johnson & Family**: John & Karen Wilson
- **In Honor of Lois & George Lambut & Family**: John & Karen Wilson
- **In Honor of Ralph & Susie Johnson & Family**: John & Karen Wilson
- **In Honor of Bruce & Teresa Ness’s 40th Anniversary**: John & Karen Wilson
- **In Honor of Teresa Ness’s 60th Birthday**: John & Karen Wilson
- **In Honor of Bruce Ness Retirement**: John & Karen Wilson
- **In Honor of Clarice Turry’s 80th Birthday**: Bunny Green
- **In Honor of John & Rose Rasmussen’s 50th Anniversary**: John & Karen Wilson
- **General Operating Fund**: Marcia Bringedahl, City of International Falls, First Lutheran Church Women, Koochiching County, Donald & Connie Jensen, Bob & Michelle Misner, Diane Semmler, and Schwab Charitable Fund
- **Snow Plowing**: Jim & Lou Bartkowski and Anonymous
- **Arts Program**: Borderland Arts Alliance
- **Purchasing Dining Room Tables & Chairs**: Ameriprise– matching fund from James Hamalainen’s contribution
- **Purchasing Floor Sander**: Bronco Basketball Boosters
- **Reconnection of Water Heater**: International Falls Economic Development Authority, International Falls Chamber of Commerce, Jim Klobuchar, and Rotary Club of International Falls
- **Summer Food Service Program**: The Boyle Law Firm
Historic Backus/AB, a community center in the heart of International Falls, where past, present and future come together to celebrate the arts, culture, recreation and lifelong learning.

Upcoming Events/Programs

JANUARY

**Soup Supper** - Thursday, January 5  4:30-7:00pm

**Ice Box Days Chili Challenge**
Saturday, January 21  1-3 pm

**Film Festival** sponsored by Falls Public Library
Thursday-Friday, January 26-27 @ 7:30 pm

**Spaghetti Dinner**
Sponsored by Arrowhead 135 Ultra Marathon
Sunday, January 29 @ 5:00 pm

FEBRUARY

**Soup Supper** - Thursday, February 2  4:30-7:00pm

**All-School Music Festival**
Wednesday, February 8 Concert @ 1:30 pm

**Backus/AB Annual Meeting**
Thursday, February 9 @ 6:30 pm (Dining Room)

**A Chocolate Affair**
Saturday, February 11  11:30 am—1:30 pm

**“Arch Allies” Rock Concert**
Saturday, February 25  @ 7:00 pm

**“Tonic Sol-fa” Concert**
Tuesday, February 28  @ 7:30 pm

MARCH

**Soup Supper** - Thursday, March 1  4:30-7:00pm

**St. Thomas Silent Auction** - Saturday, March 3  6-10 pm

**Top the Tater Dinner** - Saturday, March 10  4:30—7 pm

**Border Concert “Kenya Safari Acrobats”**
Saturday, March 10 @ 7:30 pm

**Ethnic Food Festival**
Thursday, March 15  5-7 pm

**Borderland Musical Showcase**
Friday, March 17 @ 7:00 pm

**Top the Tater Dinner** - Monday, March 19  4:30—7 pm

**Border Concert “Fry Street Quartet”**
Monday, March 19 @ 7:30 pm