

MISSION STATEMENT:

*“Historic Backus Community Center,
the heart of International Falls,
where all generations celebrate arts, culture,
recreation, wellness and life-long learning”*



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Backus Community Center

BACKUS

Community Center



Lois Lundin, Executive Director
Hoa Sobczynski, Business Manager

Harry Batdorf, Building Manager
Lenard Bobst, Cook
Alyssa Crawford, Office Assistant
Joe Kenny, Janitor
Mary Ann Lien, Kitchen Supervisor
Wanda Linder, Cook
Jill Malone, Kitchen/Event Staff
Judy Medeiros, Event Coordinator
Darcy Sullivan, KCC-TV Program Director
Linda Sutch, Cook
Jerry Vohler, Custodian
June Wilson, Kitchen/Event Staff

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
900 Fifth Street
International Falls MN 56649
Phone (218) 285-7225
Fax (218) 285-7118
www.backusab.org



A number of Backus projects have been supported through Minnesota's Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund

Activities made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



February 10, 2021

6:00 p.m.

1. Call to order
2. Introduction of Board Members and CBAB Members
3. Approve minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting (pages 4-5)
4. Nomination and election of new Board Members (page 6)
5. Review/discussion of Director/Treasurer/Committee reports:
 - a. Executive Director (pages 8-9)
 - b. Finance/Treasurer (pages 10-16)
 - c. Building Use by Numbers (pages 17-18)
 - d. Operations (page 19)
 - e. Endowment Fund (page 20)
 - f. Building & Grounds (page 21)
 - g. Arts & Programming (pages 22-23)
 - h. Event Coordinator (page 23)
 - i. Borealis Bards (page 24)
 - j. KCC-TV Program (pages 24-25)
 - k. Ruby's Pantry (pages 26-27)
 - l. Community Café (pages 28-31)
 - m. Summer Food Service Program (pages 32-33)
 - n. Membership (pages 34-35)
 - o. Contributions & Donations (pages 36-39)
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjourn

Annual Meeting Minutes

Citizens For Backus/AB Annual Meeting - February 12, 2020 Minutes

Present: Kay Arnold, Patti Ballan, Julie Bartkowski, Harry Batdorf, Tim Fairchild, John Faith, Sherrie Lessard, Tracy Lunser, Bob Marquardt, Dianne Maxey, and Gail Rognerud

Absent: Derek Foss and David Griffith

Staff: Robin Bjorkquist, Ward Merrill, Hoa Sobczynski, and Darcy Sullivan

General Members Present: Elaine Beach, Lynn Belanger, Les & Joanne Bjorkquist, Joan Christensen, Joanie Ecklund, Pat Ettestad, Lee & Carol Grim, Eddie Blaha and Robert Hilke, Roger & Betty Jackson, Byrne & Carole Johnson, Gene & Pat Kjellgren, Lois Lundin, Linda Merrill, Anne Nordstrom, Gary & Maureen Rosato, Terry Schulz, and Ivan & Marcia Stewart

1. Call to order at 6:05 pm by Gail Rognerud, President. Gail introduced Tim Fairchild who will be Board President in 2020 and asked Tim to run the meeting.
2. Introduction of Board Members and Citizens for Backus/AB Members
3. Approve minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting. Motion by Patti Ballan; second by Bob Marquardt. Motion carried.
4. Nomination and election of new Board Members Nominees Kay Arnold (incumbent) and Sherrie Lessard (incumbent) are presented for election to the Citizens for Backus/AB Board of Directors for a three-year term. Motion by Diane Maxey, second by Julie Bartkowski. Motion carried.
5. Review/discussion of Director/Treasure/Committee reports:
 - a. **Executive Director** - Ward Merrill reviewed the status of the AB Project, Backus improvement projects funded by a USDA Rural Development grant, Community Café, Ruby's Pantry, Summer Food Service programs. Introduced the Backus Endowment Fund and gave special thanks to Ivan & Marcia Stewart for their gift to initiate the fund. He expressed appreciation for the support and partnership of the Backus Board of Directors and Staff.
 - b. **Finance/Treasurer** - Patti Ballan presented the financial review, operating income statement, and the list of government support and grants received in 2019. The Backus staff and others have worked diligently to raise extra dollars to fund programming.
 - c. **Building Use/Volunteer Numbers** - The building is currently full, there are no open rental spaces at this time.
 - d. **Program & Events Summary** - Report as submitted.
 - e. **Operations Committee** - Report as submitted.

Annual Meeting Minutes (continued)

- f. **Building & Grounds Committee** - Report as submitted.
 - g. **Arts & Programming**, - Diane Maxey asked for fundraising ideas. Please bring thoughts or suggestions to her attention.
 - h. **Event Coordinator** - Robin Bjorkquist expressed her thanks for the opportunity to serve here and looks forward to many more years. Report as submitted.
 - i. **Borealis Bards** - Due to continued community and member support that has led to program growth, in 2019 the Bards has performed: One Acts and Episode 2 by Junior Bards, Room to Act, and The Little Prince. Plan for 2020 will include Junior Bards production/performance in March and Bards production/performance in October.
 - j. **Ruby's Pantry** - Report as submitted. Volunteers are needed. Lee Grim: people and funding are needed to continue helping people through Ruby's Pantry.
 - k. **Community Café** - Report as submitted.
 - l. **Summer Food Service Program** – Report as submitted.
 - m. **Membership** - Membership is very important to Backus and we are grateful to all of our members.
 - n. **Contributions & Donations:** Report as submitted.
6. **Old Business** - None presented.
7. **New Business** – None presented
8. Meeting was adjourned 6:45 pm by coming President Tim Fairchild

Submitted by Julie Bartkowski

Door Prizes:

- ◇ Backus T-Shirt: Lynn Belanger
- ◇ Two Church of Cash Performing Tickets: Lois Lundin
- ◇ Two 2020-2021 Series Tickets: Joanie Ecklund
- ◇ Gift Bag including envelopes and stamps: Pat Kjellgren
- ◇ \$20.00 Sammy's Pizza Gift Certificate: Byrne Johnson

Nominating Committee

2020 Board of Directors

Term Expires

Kay Arnold	2023
Patti Ballan	2022
Harry Batdorf	2021
Julie Bartkowski	2022
Tim Fairchild	2023
John Faith	2021
Derek Foss	2021
David Griffith	2020
Sherrie Lessard	2023
Tracy Lunser	2021
Bob Marquardt	2023
Diane Maxey	2022
Gail Rognerud	2022
Donna Frederickson (Emeritus)	

Citizens For Backus/AB Officers 2020

President: **Tim Fairchild**
Vice President: **Bob Marquardt**
Secretary: **Julie Bartkowski**
Treasurer: **Patti Ballan**

Board of Directors The following nominees are presented for election to the Citizens For Backus/AB Board of Directors for a three-year term

John Faith	(Term: 2021 - 2024)	Incumbent
Tracy Lunser	(Term: 2021 - 2024)	Incumbent
Jim Lyman	(Term: 2021 - 2024)	
Nomination from the floor	(Term: 2021 - 2024)	_____

Bylaws

Citizens for Backus/AB Bylaws sections

Article IV, Section 4.1 **Board Role, Size and Compensation:**

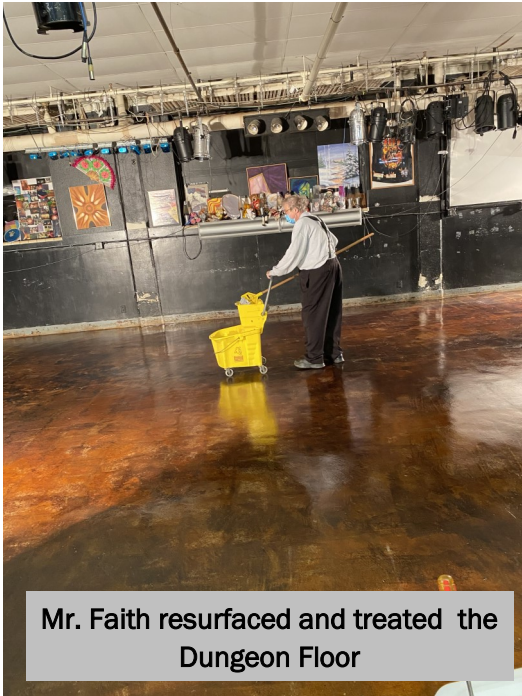
The Board is responsible for overall policy and direction of Citizens for Backus/AB, Inc. The Board shall have up to 15 and not fewer than 11 members. No Director may receive compensation for his or her service as Director. However, nothing contained shall be construed to preclude any Director from serving the corporation in any other capacity, or receiving reasonable compensation therefore.

Article IV, Section 4.3 **Board Elections:**

Election of new directors or re-election of current directors to a second or third term will occur as the first item of business at the annual meeting of the corporation. Directors will be nominated by a majority vote of the current Board of Directors. Directors may also be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting.

Article IV, Section 4.5 **Terms:**

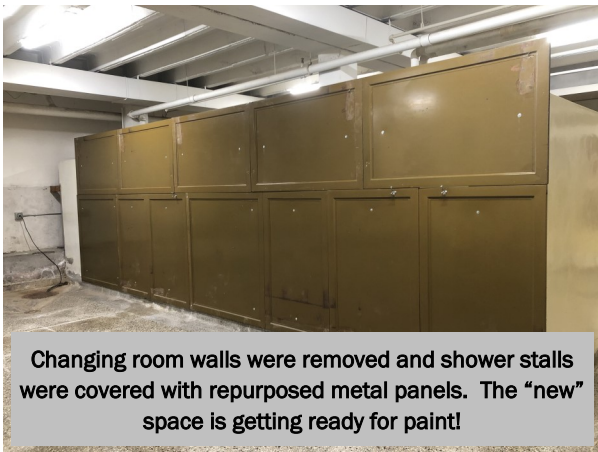
All Board members shall serve three-year term, and are eligible for re-election. The initial Board of the corporation will have staggering numbers of terms to prevent an entire turnover of the board at one time.



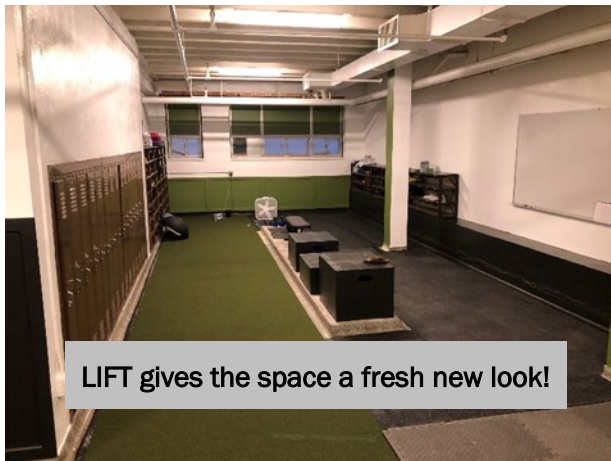
Mr. Faith resurfaced and treated the Dungeon Floor



Future home of LIFT, a privately owned fitness center is the former Girl's Locker Room on the lower level. This is the start of the renovation.



Changing room walls were removed and shower stalls were covered with repurposed metal panels. The "new" space is getting ready for paint!



LIFT gives the space a fresh new look!



LIFT, just prior to opening

Executive Director's Report

Most of us are probably glad that 2020 is over and hopeful for a better year in 2021. For Backus, 2020 began in January with a flurry of activity. Work continued on the Alexander Baker Affordable Housing Project with Isaac Meyer, Planning and Development Director for KOOTASCA leading the way. Community Housing Development Corporation (now *Trellis*), signed on as co-developer with a Tax Credit application submitted to the MN Housing Finance Agency in July to help fund the \$11.4 million project. The Housing Collaborative continued to meet monthly focused on ideas to meet housing needs in the county.

January also two quality performances on stage with the male chorus Cantus and the James Sewell Ballet. Work continued on major maintenance projects installing LED lighting in the basement, new flooring in the east hall and correcting a drainage issue in the locker rooms. A new cycle of grant-writing began which would result in 23 grants being written with almost \$300,000 in funding during the year.

February continued at a fast pace including the Annual Meeting, projects and programs culminating in an enthusiastic audience of over 700 for the "Church of Cash" performance on the 28th.

In early March my wife Linda and I vacationed with friends in Pam Springs, CA for a week. During that time, the Coronavirus began to take over the news with the health crisis building by the day. Our flight home was filled with anxiety and concern for what lay ahead. After returning to work on March 16, and with news of the virus growing worse by the hour, I decided to work from home. That continued for the remainder of the year.

The Backus Board of Directors met on March 12, and with input from board member Derek Foss, Public Health Supervisor, discussed a plan of action. From March 16 onward strict health protocols were implemented; masks, sanitizing, deeper cleaning, curtailment of clients, working from home, cancellation of performances, events, altered work schedule and programming, all became the norm. Board and committee meetings were held by phone and later online; new technologies were purchased and implemented; a Coronavirus Action Plan was developed and some staff would eventually miss work due to COVID-19 exposure or being ill. New grant opportunities were immediately pursued with the assistance of Jenny Herman County Administrator and local bankers. Jay Bartkowski, local Coca-Cola distributor, secured an invitation from the Coca-Cola Foundation for a grant application that resulted in a \$25,000 award.

During this period numerous changes in our operation took place:

- Most volunteers were asked to stay home
- Additional staff were hired over the course of the pandemic as it was now called
- Our dedicated long-time Event Coordinator Robin Bjorkquist left to pursue other opportunities
- Lois Lundin was hired as Event Coordinator
- Judy Medeiros and Alyssa Crawford were hired later in the year
- Backus implemented technologies to provide Zoom meeting capacity with meetings, court proceedings, and building tenants using the system
- Traffic in the building dropped almost to zero
- Custodians cleaned and sanitized more thoroughly to protect the health of tenants
- We welcomed the Falls Hunger Coalition as our newest tenant and member of the "Backus Family"

The eleventh year of the Backus Summer Food Service Program saw a massive increase as a "pick

Executive Director's Report (continued)

-up" only service in June, July and August. The program saw a 62% increase over the previous summer serving 9,072 free meals to children and clients of the Falls Hunger Coalition /Servants of Shelter. Parents appreciated the ease and convenience of the new format. The previous five summers averaged 5,000-6,000 meals per summer.

Perhaps the most dramatic change at Backus occurred in mid-March when the Community Café adapted to a "pick-up" meal service only. Use of the Café's twice-weekly free meals exploded from 50-60 meals/night to 166/night in April. The Café staff has adapted and done a magnificent job of meeting the need for meals in our community. The last three months experienced nightly averages of 240 meals in October, 280 in November and 293/night in December. A total of 16,913 free meals were served during 2020 compared to an average of 5,911/year since 2013! Many people picked up and delivered meals to neighbors, seniors, grandparents and those unable to come in person. People looked after and cared for each other. "Reducing hunger and building a stronger community" became a reality thanks to our dedicated staff and generous funders.

During the year of the pandemic everyone at Backus stepped up to the challenge including our tenants, many of whom worked from home counseling clients remotely; others unfortunately cancelled classes, programs and events. Our Junior Bards were forced to cancel their stage-ready play Pinocchio"; live concerts lived with audience restrictions; office and kitchen staff, custodians and limited volunteers held faithfully to COVID19 safety protocols with the board members adopting health directives and adapting as the pandemic continued.

In December members of the Community Café Committee, Ashley Hall, Executive Director of the Falls Hunger Coalition and Jenell Feller, Executive Director of Friends Against Abuse led an online fundraiser "Feed Just One" to help fund the increased need and cost of the Café. With a goal of \$20,000 in just 15 days - \$50,865 was donated by a generous group of 251 donors. Our thanks to Jenell and Ashley and all those who support the Community Café.

2020 also represents my final year as Executive Director at Backus. I count this phase of my working career as the best job I've ever had. My loving wife Linda has been a large part of my Backus experience. She's made many friends with Backus staff, volunteers and the community. Volunteering two partial days in the office, volunteering at Ruby's Pantry, events and programs and working to help raise over \$1,300 during the "Feed Just One" campaign have been highlights. As it turned out, I was fortunate to spend every day with her once I began working from home in March.

On December 29, a trip to the emergency room revealed masses on her pancreas and liver with a diagnosis of stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Our plans for retirement have now taken a new direction and we begin an unplanned journey on a different path.

Friends and family both near and far have been unbelievably supportive with prayers and assistance. Linda has been my source of support and love since we began dating in high school 55 years ago. Without that, I couldn't have undertaken or completed thirteen years doing the "best job I ever had." Thank you all for your support in that endeavor.

Ward Merrill, Executive Director (retired)



Treasurer's Report

Operating Income/Expense

2020 Income \$692,292 101% Compared to Budget
2020 Expense 644,149 99% Compared to Budget
2020 Net \$ 48,143

In 2020 Citizens for Backus/AB has Received:

Government Support:

\$55,000 City of International Falls for Arts & Culture
\$22,000 Koochiching County for General Operating
\$10,000 City of International Falls for Koochiching County Community Television
\$ 5,000 Koochiching County for Koochiching County Community Television
\$ 2,500 Koochiching County for Community Café
\$ 1,500 Koochiching County for Ruby's Pantry

Grants

\$55,757 Koochiching County for Food Programs - CARES Act Funding
\$50,000 Otto Bremer Trust for General Operating (\$10,000 for 4-H Programs)
\$39,065 Paycheck Protection Program
\$25,000 Coca-Cola Foundation - A Coronavirus Charitable Contribution for food programs
\$24,999 Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging for Community Café
\$24,295 USDA Rural Development - Backus basement projects
\$16,500 Northland Foundation - Bridge funding between Bremer Trust Grants
\$12,500 Otto Bremer Trust Emergency Funding in Response to the COVID-19
\$ 7,750 Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging for Community Café and Ruby's Pantry
\$ 5,000 Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund for Community Café
\$ 5,000 Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund for Summer Food Service Program
\$ 5,000 Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund for KCC-TV
\$ 5,000 Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund for 2020-2021 Performing Arts Series
\$ 5,000 Northland Foundation for Summer Food Service Program
\$ 4,830 Arrowhead Regional Arts Council for Borealis Bards - Charlottes' Web Production
\$ 4,488 Koochiching Economic Development Authority - CARES Act Funding for set up
 Home Office equipment and supplies
\$ 4,000 Koochiching Community Development Association - Matching fund for USDA Grant
\$ 4,000 Koochiching Community Development Association for new floors for Falls Hunger
 Coalition Space
\$ 1,000 Midco Foundation for Community Café
\$ 500 North Star Electric for Ruby's Pantry

\$299,685 Total Grant Support

Patti Ballan, Treasurer

Hoa Sobczynski, Business Manager

Treasurer's Report (continued)

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	\$ 412,684
Account Receivable	4,959
Defer Income	(172,712)
Petty Cash	92
Prepaid Bills	3,161
Inventory Asset	1,666
Endowment Fund	(79,885)
Other Current Assets	1,603
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 171,568</u>

Property and Equipment (at Cost)

Buildings	\$835,684
Furniture and Fixtures	69,055
Kitchen Equipment	216,140
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(433,534)</u>
Total Property and Equipment (at Depreciation Cost)	\$687,345

Total ASSETS **\$858,913**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$4,707
Credit Cards	3,182
Grants/Restricted Funds	26,148
Other Current Liabilities	8,207
Long Term Liabilities	<u>440,827</u>
Total Liabilities	\$483,072

Equity

Retained Earnings	\$397,723
Net Income	<u>(21,882)</u>
Total Equity	\$375,841

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$858,913**

Statement of Activities

	2020 Revised Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual	2018 Actual	2017 Actual
Income:					
Performance Arts Income	\$ 31,500	\$ 19,791	\$ 28,065	\$ 36,965	\$ 58,880
Learning Arts Income	650	717	20,286	54,908	15,889
Fundraising Income	14,500	11,722	17,596	24,262	19,746
Administrative Income	4,660	3,775	2,868	7,832	3,437
Capital Improvement	22,000	49,521	14,144	11,000	57,875
AB Project	-	-	62,510	2,500	-
Membership	35,000	39,828	38,014	39,325	33,250
City Support	55,000	55,000	55,000	50,000	60,000
County Support	22,000	39,500	21,300	21,000	17,000
Contributions	17,000	6,141	12,992	23,438	16,407
Miscellaneous Income	5,250	3,780	4,144	5,085	6,061
Community Café	28,600	74,869	19,616	19,068	20,000
Activity Income	6,400	5,750	6,191	6,829	11,666
Rental Income	178,166	171,557	179,616	167,123	156,463
KCC-TV Income	27,000	28,700	-		
Kitchen Income	7,000	25,358	14,274	14,278	13,230
Ruby's Pantry Income	74,400	55,052	66,268	68,270	69,162
Summer Food Service Program	33,576	47,865	22,059	23,502	20,970
Bremer Trust - Gen. Op.	64,300	14,300	71,498	84,698	58,048
Other Grants - Gen. Op.	55,565	39,065	20,000	-	15,000
Total Income	<u>\$682,567</u>	<u>\$692,292</u>	<u>\$676,440</u>	<u>\$660,083</u>	<u>\$653,083</u>

Statement of Activities

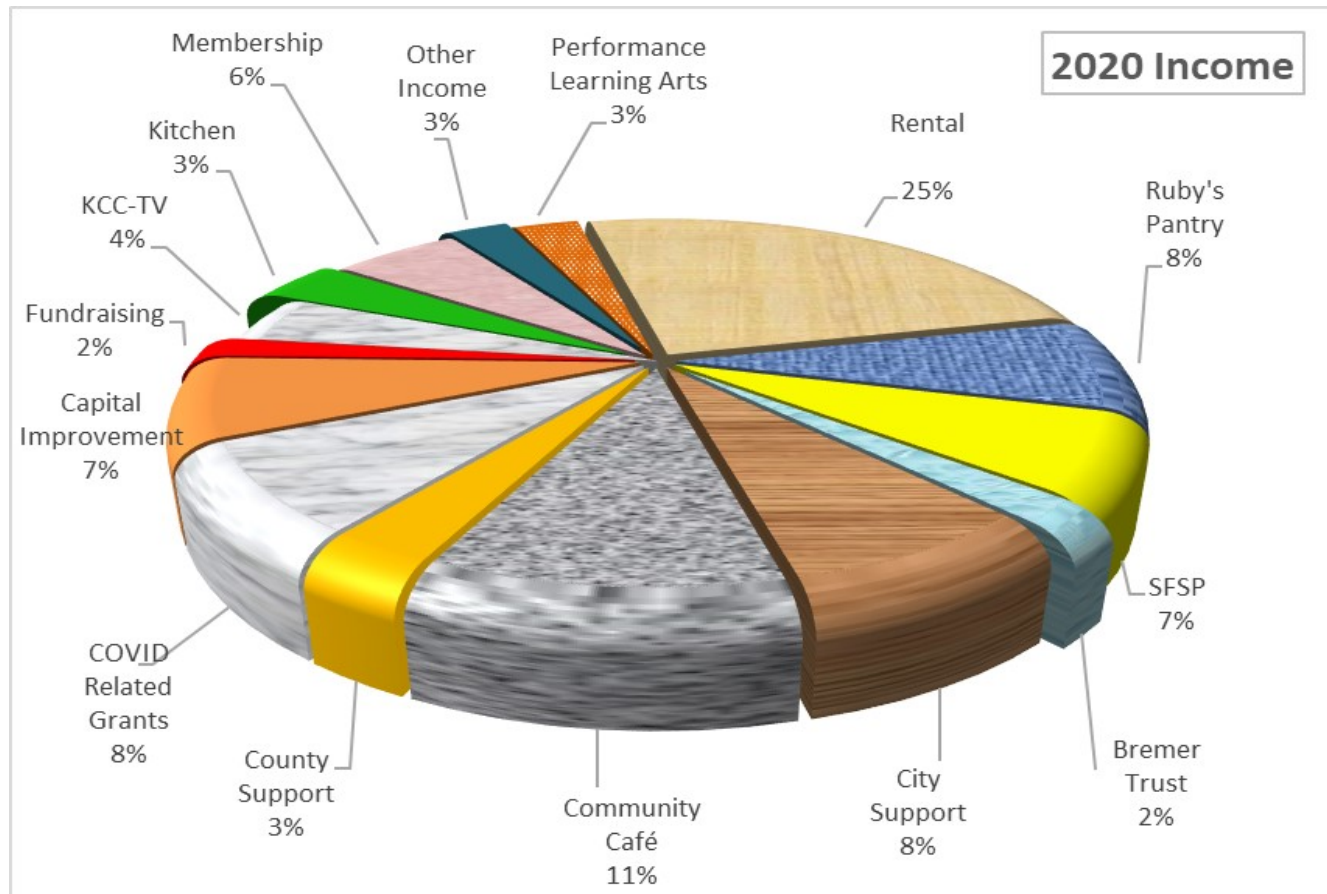
	2020 Revised Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual	2018 Actual	2017 Actual
Expense:					
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 3,855	\$ 1,952	\$ 4,418	\$ 4,503	\$ 3,716
Custodial Supplies	4,500	2,126	3,679	4,266	5,283
Dues/Fees/Subscriptions	1,000	1,035	925	1,022	1,990
Real Estate Tax	1,152	1,152	1,198	1,144	1,362
Advertising Expense	1,350	2,442	1,158	1,494	2,288
Interest Expense-loans	19,923	20,310	21,552	23,475	24,135
Insurance	21,672	21,802	20,898	20,266	19,233
Office Supplies	7,467	6,451	8,331	6,893	8,429
Other Expense	1,700	980	1,744	1,544	2,169
Postage	2,750	2,092	1,825	2,346	2,428
Printing & Copies	6,000	4,900	6,369	6,337	5,529
Repairs & Maintenance	20,300	12,570	17,510	14,193	15,703
Salaries/Wages/Benefits	198,376	191,126	156,131	168,153	172,188
Utilities	66,500	58,590	65,110	62,569	54,626
Performing Arts Expense	29,730	14,908	18,738	31,717	65,058
Learning Arts Expense	3,950	2,367	18,911	54,634	19,284
Fundraising Expense	7,100	4,878	6,689	7,651	7,451
Administrative Expense	3,250	1,861	1,919	4,590	5,945
Capital Improvement Expense	50,000	55,550	10,183	9,820	70,801
AB Project	-	22,326	54,236	5,707	-
Membership Expense	1,000	1,134	1,290	719	611
Community Café Expense	45,850	74,922	27,214	25,798	24,473
Activity Expense	3,916	3,398	2,788	2,259	4,764
Rental Expense	8,600	6,303	5,520	9,352	4,842
KCC-TV Expense	21,223	15,999	-	-	-
Kitchen Expense	9,007	23,538	15,942	12,038	11,006
Ruby's Pantry Expense	74,100	52,698	63,793	70,309	69,233
Summer Food Service Program	40,775	36,738	26,371	24,264	22,425
Total Expenses	\$655,046	\$644,149	\$564,440	\$577,062	\$624,972
Sub Net/(Loss)	\$ 27,521	\$ 48,142	\$112,000	\$ 83,021	\$ 28,111
Depreciation Expense	-	41,000	49,250	44,000	44,000
Principal Payment on Loans	27,451	28,385	29,661	33,229	24,634
Total Net/(Loss)	\$ 70	\$ (21,243)	\$ 33,088	\$ 5,792	\$ (40,523)

General Operating Income

	2020 Actual	% Compared to Total
Income:		
Bremer Trust - Gen. Op.	\$ 14,300	2%
City Support	55,000	8%
Community Café	74,869	11%
County Support	22,000	3%
COVID Related Grants	56,565	8%
Capital Improvement Income	49,521	7%
Fundraising Income	11,722	2%
KCC-TV Income	28,700	4%
Kitchen Income	25,358	4%
Membership	39,828	6%
Other Income	19,446	3%
Performance/Learning Arts	20,508	3%
Rental Income	171,557	25%
Ruby's Pantry Income	55,052	8%
Summer Food Service Program	47,865	7%

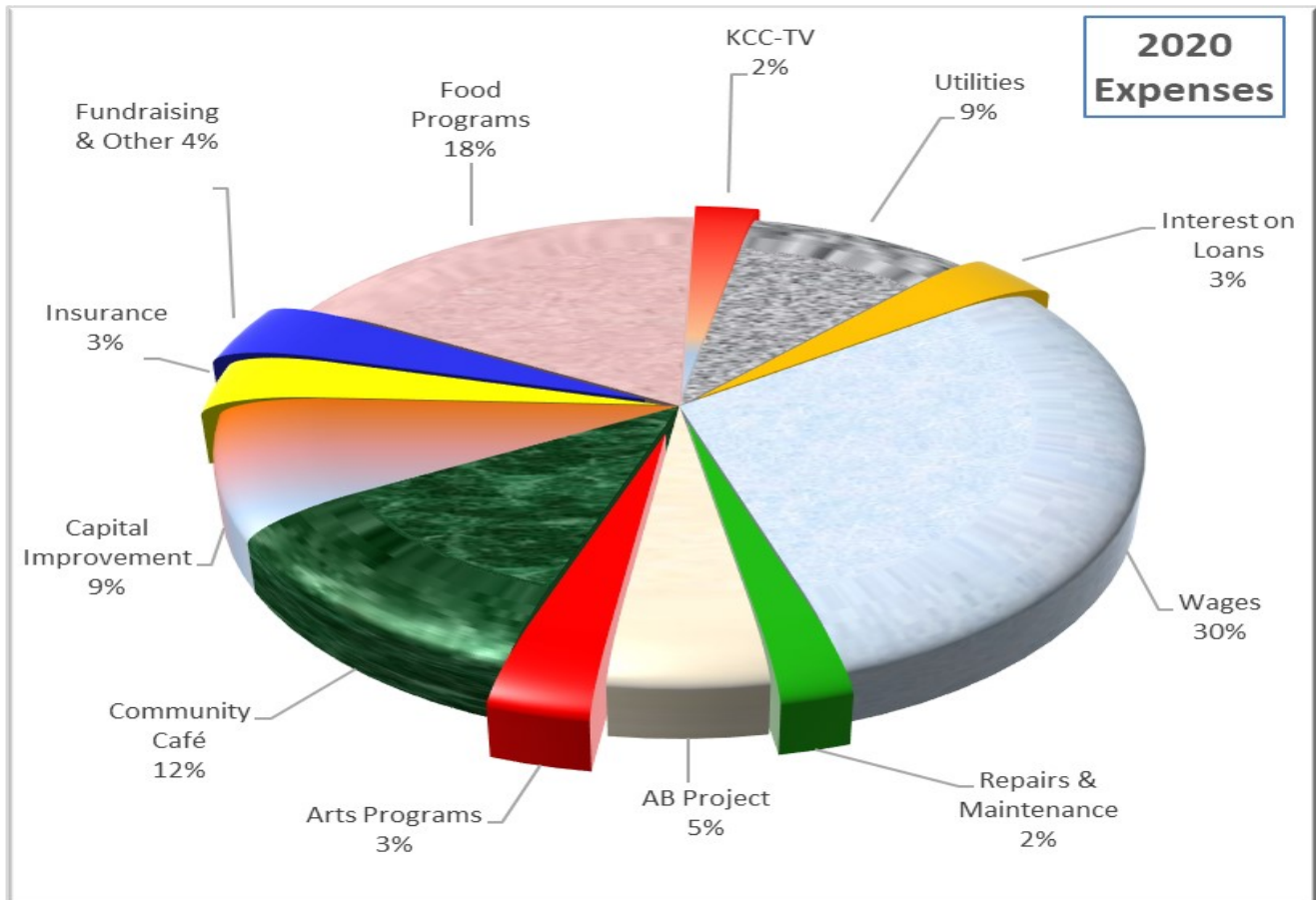
Total Income

\$692,292



General Operating Expense

Expense:	2020 Actual	% Compared to Total
AB Project	\$ 32,186	5%
Arts Programs	20,673	3%
Community Café Expense	74,922	12%
Capital Improvement Expense	55,550	9%
Food Programs	112,973	18%
Fundraising & Other	25,321	4%
Insurance	21,802	3%
Interest on Loans	20,310	3%
KCC-TV Expense	15,999	2%
Repairs & Maintenance	14,696	2%
Wages/Benefits	191,126	30%
Utilities	58,590	9%
Total Expenses	\$ 644,149	



Net Income of Performances / Arts / Events

Performing & Learning Arts	2020 Net	2019 Net	2018 Net	2017 Net	2016 Net
Performing Arts	\$ 4,885	\$ 10,418	\$ 5,288	\$ (3,678)	\$ 3,069
Learning Arts	(1,650)	1,375	274	6,477	1,614
Performing & Learning Arts - Net (Loss)	\$ 3,235	\$ 11,794	\$ 5,562	\$ 2,800	\$ 4,684

Fundraising	2020 Net	2019 Net	2018 Net	2017 Net	2016 Net
Cash Bar	\$ 409	\$1,683	\$ 2,778	\$ 1,576	\$2,115
Egg Rolls	2,278	1,443	2,038	1,810	1,462
Concession	47	(178)	340	469	458
Pop (Vending Machines)	302	928	1,917	1,271	1,339
Harvest Dinner	1,611	185	735	458	-
Tet Dinner	-	3,136	3,711	-	-
Other Fundraisers	130	(708)	640	3,101	1,402
Fundraising - Net (Loss)	\$4,777	\$6,489	\$12,158	\$ 8,684	\$6,776

BACKUS Community Center Presents



Making Egg Rolls! It's a great opportunity to learn and to help Backus.

Backus Building Use by the Numbers

Building Tenants

(Clients, students, youth, members, etc. as reported by each tenant that come through their office on an annual basis)

- ◆ ARDC – Area Agency on Aging
- ◆ Dancin' With Darcie
- ◆ The Dungeon
- ◆ Falls Hunger Coalition
- ◆ ISD 361 – Alternative Learning Class
- ◆ MN Department of Public Safety
- ◆ Northland Art Society
- ◆ Northland Counseling
- ◆ Rainy River Recovery
- ◆ Servants of Shelter
- ◆ Thrivent
- ◆ U of M Extension/4-H

Total of 7,196 clients visited

Backus Events Attendance

- ◆ Cantus Vocal Ensemble
- ◆ Chili Challenge
- ◆ James Sewell Ballet 30th Anniversary
- ◆ Contractor Continue Education
- ◆ Church of Cash
- ◆ Special Consensus

Total of 1,541 Participants

Rental Attendance in 2020

- ◆ Maloney Funeral Reception
- ◆ Gizzard Runner Reception
- ◆ Arrowhead 135 Ultra Marathon
- ◆ Int'l Falls Chamber Meetings
- ◆ Koochiching County Crisis Meetings/Lunch
- ◆ Int'l Falls Rotary Club Meeting
- ◆ Child Provider Trainings
- ◆ U.S. Census Trainings
- ◆ Int'l Falls Police Department Training
- ◆ MN Loggers Education Trainings
- ◆ Sherriff Emergency Response Trainings
- ◆ TruStar Federal Credit Union Meeting
- ◆ Zion Lutheran Church Meeting

Total of 1,464 Participants

Other Activities

- ◆ Community Wellness Council Board meetings
- ◆ Koochiching County Housing Collaborative meetings
- ◆ AARP Tax Service
- ◆ Junior High Bronco Basketball practices and games
- ◆ Volleyball / Walkercise participants
- ◆ Open Gym on Saturdays
- ◆ Ruby's Pantry
- ◆ Community Café

Total of 2,717 Participants

DISCLAIMER: We make every effort to account for all attendance in the building. The above number includes head counts AND estimates. The number does not represent individual people, but the number of times people enter the building for any reason.

Volunteers at Backus

	Number of Volunteers	Number of Volunteer Hours
Ruby's Pantry	123	1,876 hours
Community Café	42	792 hours
Office Volunteers	12	223 hours
Summer Food Service	5	88 hours
Building & Grounds	13	659 hours
General Volunteering	84	298 hours
Borealis Bards	27	200 hours

Total volunteers: 306

Total volunteer hours: 4,136



Volunteers getting dinner ready for pick-up service

Volunteer hourly pay rate:

\$27.20hour

(from independentsector.org 2020)

Backus volunteers saved us

\$112,499 in wages in 2020!



Locker Room Water Issues - Installation completed-Sump pump, water tank, clean out have corrected the water issues in basement boys locker room. Work done by Backus volunteers, staff & Shannon's.

East Hallway Flooring - Asbestos tile removed & new vinyl flooring has been installed, Original wood base refinished & reinstalled.

Green Acres Signage - International Falls City has made final approval & accepted Backus proposal and design. Fairchild Sign will install Spring 2021 at the Green Acres playground.

Endowment Legacy Fund - Funds temporarily placed in TruStar Money Market fund with review January 2021 and an investment firm to be selected.

KCC TV - Minnesota State Arts Board Grant application was submitted for updating equipment and production of "mini concerts". Committee will be formed to help with productions and updates.

New Tenant - Falls Hunger Coalition has moved into Backus. New flooring was installed with the help of FHC & grant from Koochiching County Development Association

Bookkeeping/Accounting Program - Hoa will coordinate this Backus program which will provide bookkeeping services for non-profits and local small business.

USDA Grant - Jim Lucachick Architect will provide services for Backus "pro bono" as "in kind donation." Jim will provide site visits, photos, develop specs and follow protocols for bids, scope of work for designated projects for 2021.

AB Project - The project was not funded in first round of applications. Appeal is in process. If not successful. Second round application will be resubmitted in June, 2021.

Executive Director Position - Ward Merrill retired as of Dec 31, 2020. We welcome our new Executive Director, Lois Lundin, starting Jan 1, 2021. Lois comes qualified with many skills which will benefit Backus. A retirement celebration for Ward will be held when COVID restrictions have lightened.

Submitted by Patti Ballan

Endowment Fund

In effort to create a perpetual source of income to support and enhance the mission and programs of Backus Community Center, the Board of Citizens for Backus/AB, Inc. has established an endowment fund.

The principal amounts of this fund will be retained and preserved; the interest and income from this managed asset will be expendable. An Endowment Fund Committee has been established and serves as managers of this fund. Advisory members have also been appointed to assist and counsel on matters of investments, accounting, or legal matters in the best interests of the fund. This Committee reports to the Citizens for Backus/AB Board each December.

Through generous donations given by Backus supporters, our endowment fund is growing. The goal is to accumulate the gifts and bequests of the endowment fund over a five-year period until the balance reaches \$1 million. New funds will be deposited as received. To date, through the generosity of our members contributions, the endowment fund has a balance of over \$114,000. Once the five-year goal is met, earnings may be expended to help fund Committee approved requests for programs that are in the best interests of Backus, such as:

- ◆ Special projects that are budgeted and approved by the Board
- ◆ Scholarships or grants to members and staff of Backus for attending professional leadership or other such training pertaining to the Backus mission
- ◆ Community outreach to nonprofits and agencies and special programs designed for persons in the International Falls and surrounding areas.

Backus will graciously accept gifts and bequests in wills, charitable trusts, gift annuities, assignments of life insurance, and transfer of property (cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.). Potential donors to the endowment fund can direct questions to the Backus leadership team or the Board of Directors.

Submitted by Lois Lundin, current Executive Director

Donations to Endowment Fund

Darell Bradley & Patti Ballan
North Star Electric Cooperative
Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski

Ivan & Marcia Stewart
Sons of Norway
TisBest Philanthropy

The Boilers

Spring 2020 boiler #2 used up the remaining fuel oil stored here in an underground tank. The decision had been made to opt out of the natural gas off-peak program due to changes in the program making it not financially advantageous. Jerry Vohler (Backus custodian and licensed boiler specialist), supervised by John Faith (licensed Chief Boiler Engineer), disconnected the mechanical fuel-oil pumps from both boilers.

Spring 2020 boiler seasonal shutdown and subsequent draining was uneventful. After draining and cooldown Jerry entered the boiler refractories to clean and inspect for damage. John Faith evaluated photos of the boiler interiors. Some minor cracks were repaired with “Greenpatch” plaster.

Dave Star, the boiler inspector representing our insurance company, signed off that the 108-year old boilers are suitable to be returned to service in the fall. The mineral-free water in our area and the boilerwater chemicals used to further treat the water has kept the boiler tubes in above average condition.

Currently Jerry checks the boilers twice each work day. Boiler #1 carries the load during daytime hours and during the nights both boilers are on-line so there is always a backup.

Boys Locker Room Update

The storm drain and sump basin retrofitting project tackled during the winter of 2019/2020 apparently was a successful venture as snowmelt and rainwater flooding in the west end of the basement has ceased.

Girls Locker Room

A new tenant has moved into the girls locker room to operate an exercise gym business. The new tenants, Backus staff, and Backus volunteers teamed up to remodel and repaint the space. Exercise classes have commenced. Welcome to LIFT fitness center !

Clearing Items Out of the A.B. School

Over the summer a number of volunteer work bees were held to clear out surplus unwanted items stored in the A.B. school. Every effort was made to receive donations for many of the items and other items were given away to the public free of charge using Facebook advertising . Blackboards, office furniture, classroom furniture, etc. found new homes.

Dungeon Floor Overhaul

John Faith and crew are on the final stages of resurfacing the concrete floor in the Dungeon employing acid etching and abrasive cleaning of residual tile adhesive. A multi-part, colored epoxy coating is being used and has resulted in an attractive durable surface.

Backus Storm Sewer Cleaning

Shannon’s plumbers worked with Jerry to trace, snake out, and pressure clean the Backus building storm sewers. Several return trips were made by Shannon’s and were led by Jerry on what still needed to be fixed and what to do next. Some new drain covers in the window wells were installed.

John Faith, chair

Report by Harry Batdorf

Arts and Programming

The Arts & Programming Committee consisted of Chair Diane Maxey, Tracy Lunser, Ariana Daniel, Donna Frederickson, Georgia Growette, Gail Rognerud, Ann Nordstrom, Carol Bass, Carol Belanger, Donn Fuller, Dori Pullar, Kay Arnold, Lynnea Dahlgren, Hoa Sobczynski, and Lois Lundin

Business discussed throughout the year included the following:

- The Backus Performing Arts Season's first performance was held on Friday, October 9, 2020 with a performance by the bluegrass band Special Consensus. There were fewer guests in the audience due to the pandemic, but those in attendance enjoyed the music and entertainment very much. The musicians commented on how happy they were to be performing!
- Various pieces of local artwork was hung for display in the Backus hallways. Backus guests have commented on the difference in the Backus atmosphere now that we have the paintings, photographs, quilts, and other artwork out for people to see.
- A Veteran's Day display was made available for public viewing during the month of November. Fred and Heather Napper shared their extensive collection of military memorabilia in order to honor our veterans and to help educate the public.
- Mr. Faith made preparations for a Christmas Laser Show that was to be presented to the public, but due to changes in the guidelines for safe gatherings, the laser show was postponed.
- The Icebox Radio Theater aired a virtual show on Friday, December 11, 2020. "Christmas in the Northland" showcased an evening of music, comedy, and holiday fun! Area talent entertained our community virtually, allowing people to enjoy the show from the comfort and safety of their own homes.
- Tonic Sol Fa and Shaun Johnson & the Big Band Experience put on a virtual show for borderland families on Thursday, December 17, with some of the ticket sale proceeds coming to Backus. It was a great show, and was a fun way to add some happy to the holidays!
- The remainder of the 2020-2021 Performing Arts Season will include a performance by Bob and the Beachcombers on Friday, February 5, 2021. The season will conclude with a performance by Duelly Noted on Friday, March 5, 2021.
- Fundraising efforts this year included the annual Harvest Dinner. A delicious meal was prepared and served for curbside pick-up. The event was very successful. On another occasion, eggrolls were made by a hard working group of volunteers. Sales were very good, with many people returning to purchase more as the season progressed.
- This was a very challenging year for performances and for art programs. It is our goal to be ready

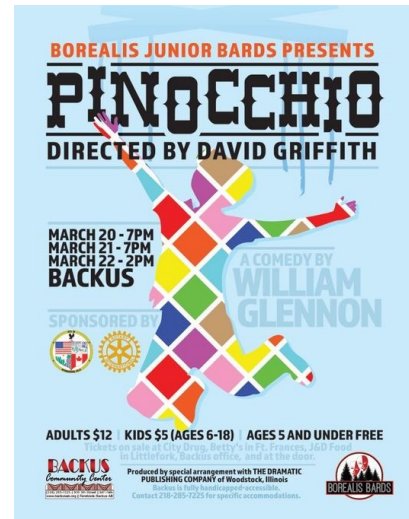


Jean Hilfer art piece

Arts and Programming (continued)

when the public restrictions are lifted and gathering is deemed safe for everyone. The A&P Committee is looking forward to the next season and will work to bring good entertainment options to the people of our northern Minnesota/Ontario communities.

Submitted by Lois Lundin, current Executive Director



Event Coordinator Report

The Event Coordinator position was filled by Kathryn O'Connor from October 2019 until January 30, 2020. Lois Lundin was hired in March and filled the position until Judy Medeiros was hired in September of 2020.

The Event Coordinator continues to be responsible for catering and rental services. The Event Coordinator works with clients from start to finish on all events including contracting, pricing, arranging catering services, setting up all equipment and facilitation needs. At present, Judy is the front line service person for all happenings in Backus. Judy is also a key contact for all volunteers. Volunteer activities and hours are carefully recorded for all reporting needs.

This past year brought significant change to the way our limited events happened. Social distance spacing was determined for auditorium seating. Room capacity was calculated to ensure safety. Due to the many pandemic restrictions, the public has also become more aware of the opportunities that are available at Backus because of the large spaces that can be used for groups that are larger than other venues can accommodate. Backus has also added to its electronic equipment inventory which makes big screen tv's, cameras, microphones, and computers available for a fee to organizations to utilize ZOOM and WebEx to facilitate meetings, court hearings, and training sessions.

Judy Medeiros is working to complete Serve Safe training so she can facilitate re-certification and testing for food service operators in our community. Backus is continually looking for ways to bring services to people in our community that are needed and value added.

Submitted by Lois Lundin, current Executive Director

Borealis Bards

The Borealis Bards formed as a community theater group in November 2013. The group recognized that the International Falls area didn't offer an avenue from which youth and adults could regularly participate in plays or gain acting skills. The mission of the Borealis Bards is to address this deficit by organizing and offering theater instruction and productions to community members of all ages.

As one of Backus programs, the Borealis Bards' mission aligns perfectly with the Backus Community Center's mission, making the partnership a natural fit. Historically, the Borealis Bards and the Junior Bards have entertained local audiences with wonderful productions. This year's first production, *Pinocchio*, directed by David Griffith, was scheduled to take the stage from March 20 – 22, but productions were brought to a halt with the onset of social safety restrictions resulting from the pandemic. Backus and the Bards are very grateful for the community support. Funding was also received from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council for fall production, and those dollars are earmarked for the eventual production of *Charlottes' Web*. The Borealis Bards looks forward with anticipation to rescheduling that show and to getting on track with all future productions.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Borealis Bards by Lois Lundin, current Executive Director

Donations to Borealis Bards - Pinocchio Production

Doug & Beth Lowthian
Douglas Skrief
Samantha Crossley & Jim Yount



Koochiching County Community Television

This year's COVID challenges were met with technological solutions for the most part. Many of the meetings utilized some form of separation whether it be physical distancing, teleconferencing or Zoom meetings. KCC-TV was no exception to this and assisted the public by continuous coverage of local government meetings, church services, sporting events, local programming from politics to music. Increased local video submissions have helped with channel content. Falls Elementary and High School music teachers submitted holiday concerts. Students attending school and distance learning were still able to showcase their talents. Icebox Radio Theater put together a Holiday program, "Christmas in the Northland." on the Backus stage sans audience. Community sporting events are now covered by KGHS/KSDM. The content is shared for live streaming on the channel. We also receive a weekly sports update from Tim Ringhoffer and George Fraik, "The Sports Rap."

Lately, the two guys meet via Zoom and send the video for uploading. Two weekly music programs are uploaded from another PACT channel in Tennessee. One is Bluegrass Ridge and the other is

Koochiching County Community Television (continued)

Southern Glory. Southern Glory is gospel music that is played during Sunday scheduling. Recently added "Whats Happening at Backus" is a program focused on local non profits, upcoming programs, and fund raising activities.

New equipment was purchased to help complete two camera sets with funding from Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund grant. With remaining funds, KCC-TV is exploring the purchase of a new camera and equipment needed to complete two more necessary camera sets for community use.

Volunteers were a wonderful help this year from operating cameras, tech support and content submissions. It is hard to say what this year will bring, but KCC-TV will keep plugging away the best it can.

Submitted by Darcy Sullivan, Program Director



KCC-TV Membership

Student: Under \$50

Richard & Pat Bjorum

Susan Congrave

Emily Rasmussen

Crew: \$50 - \$99

Ken Anderson
Chrystal Clance
Steve & Christy Earley
George & Sue Fraik

Int'l Falls Chamber of Commerce
Doug & Beth Lowthian
Glen & Melissa Marcotte
Bill & Shawn Mason

Jenell Feller & David Olson
Terry Randolph
Reid & Jo Toninato
Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski

Camera: \$100 - \$149

Jack & Mary Bartlett
John & Teresa Briggs
Sue Swendsen & John Bruggeman
Jean I. Evens

Rick & Louanne Faulkner
James & Sherrie Lessard
Robert Marquardt
LeeAnn Meer

Kevin Rasmussen
Jim & Gail Rognerud

News Anchor: \$150 - \$249

Borderland Insurance Agents
Bremer Bank
Burntsite Consultants
Coca-Cola Bottling Company

Friends Against Abuse
Carolyn Jaksa
Koochiching Aging Options
Littlefork Baptist Church

Stuart & Sue Nordquist
Wherley Motors

Director: \$250+

Border Bank

Evangelical Covenant Church

ShermoenJaksa Law

Ruby's "Pop-Up" Pantry

Ruby's Pantry opened its doors in International Falls in July 2015 and continues to have a very strong presence in the borderland communities. The foundational truths behind Ruby's Pantry remain the same. There is only one qualifier for all guests to meet in order to participate in Ruby's Pantry. **If you eat, you qualify. Everyone is welcome!**

On the second Monday of each month, the Ruby's Pantry truck arrives at Backus and unloads an average of 15 tons of food to be distributed to area residents. The entire process happens within hours. All of the food is brought in to the auditorium, sorted, inventoried, prepped into "shares", and then sent out to guest's vehicles. Area organizations who also have needs for food items come at the end of the distribution to collect items that are left. Waste is minimal.

The 2020 pandemic brought changes to the International Falls Ruby's Pantry distribution process. In order to keep guests and volunteers safe, the distribution changed to a curbside drive-through service. Volunteers gather items and load "shares" into shopping carts which are then wheeled outdoors and loaded into guest's vehicles. This service has been received very well by both the volunteers and the guests. There are fewer volunteers needed for this process; the operation runs efficiently with about 50 volunteers. The drive-through service is very beneficial to the guests. People who have physical limitations don't have to leave their vehicle, and parents of families can come without having to find childcare or without having to keep their children occupied in the auditorium while they wait to go through the food line.

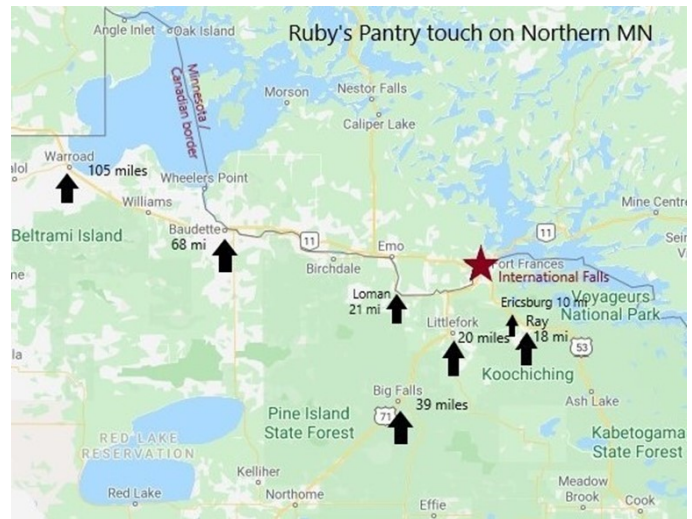
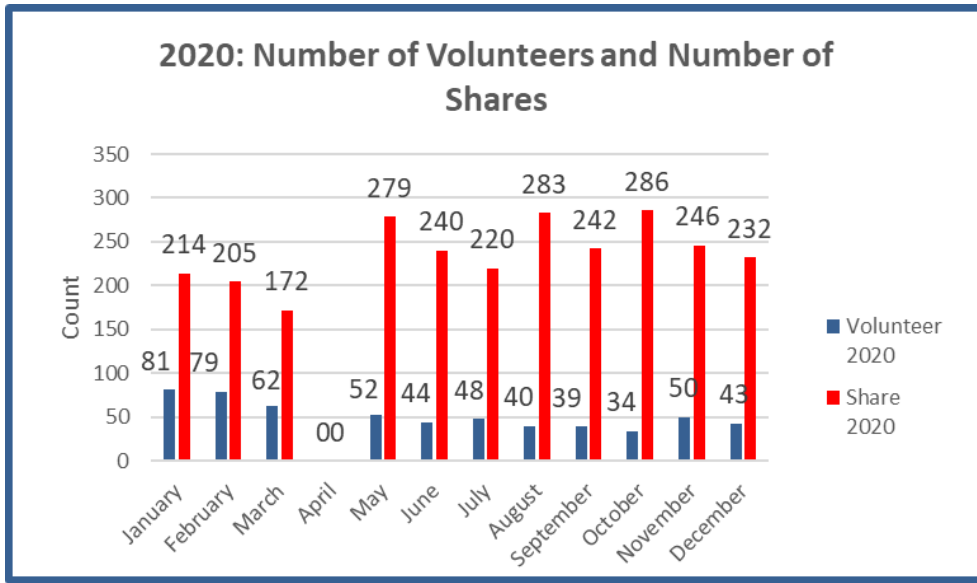
Food shares are very generous and contain quality items that help keep family's pantries stocked. Pallets of fresh and frozen produce, milk and dairy products, meat, bread, paper products, and a host of other grocery items fill the semi-truck. Occasionally there are some bonus items too; fresh flowers, potted herbs, umbrellas, and toys for the kids have been shipped to be handed out to the guests.

Guests openly express their gratitude for Ruby's Pantry coming to International Falls. One guest said, "Ruby's helps me to stretch my budget every month. It's hard to make ends meet. The food from Ruby's makes all the difference for me and my family." Another guest wrote, "The kids think getting Ruby's is like Christmas; they love to help me unpack to see what we got!"

Many people come to Ruby's and pick up one or more shares of food, and then they share the food with others. It is common to hear about people who gather with their neighbors and divide the food amongst households. This is a wonderful way to get food out to others who cannot come to Ruby's for one reason or another. One guest wrote, "I take food to my neighbors. We live in a very rural area in the county, and we know a lot of people who don't have much. I'm glad that my husband and I are able to donate a few shares and that we can bring food around. People are so surprised when there are flowers too!"

Benefits to our Northern Minnesota communities don't end with the food that is distributed. Each guest donates \$20 per share of food that they receive. Of that \$20, \$2 stays local. Benevolence dollars are allocated to organizations across Koochiching County. To date, Ruby's Pantry has given more than \$30,000 to area charities and non-profits. Additionally, food and supplies from monthly distributions are given to food service organizations such as the Senior Center, Food Shelf, Alano Club, RRCC Pantry, and area churches.

Ruby's Pantry (continued)



Ruby's
PANTRY

Community Café

Dedicated to reducing hunger & building a stronger community

The Backus Community Café has a very strong presence in the International Falls community. Hot, nutritious meals are served each Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:00—6:00 p.m.

The year 2020 proved to be an exceptionally busy year for Backus Community Center's Community Café. When safety restrictions were set into place as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the increased need for meals became evident very quickly. The Backus leadership team deemed the Community Café meal program to be an essential service and was able to keep this program open and operational.

The service immediately changed from a "dine-in" service to a curbside "pick-up" service. The serving process continued to evolve as restrictions changed, but everyone adapted and the number of participants continued to grow. The service team was narrowed down to a specific group of staff and volunteers in order to minimize risk to the program and to the guests who came to pick up food.

As contributions came in and grants were awarded and nightly numbers began to stabilize, the Community Café staff worked to fine tune the menu to serve more home-style meals that include fresh fruit and vegetables, dessert, and milk with every meal.

Our guests tell us how the Community Café is helping meet their needs, and we've found that the face of need is far more diverse than people traditionally think. People need the comfort of good, wholesome food. People need the personal interaction that they get from a friendly voice on the phone when they call Backus. People need the relationships that form with others while they wait to take food home. People need the respect and value that is shown to them by the Backus team. Caregivers need a break from taking care of their aging loved ones; getting a hot meal that they don't have to cook provides a wonderful and much needed relief. People need to help their elderly neighbors who are home-bound; having a chance to bring a nutritious, hot meal to another person benefits both the giver and the receiver. People who have lost their spouses tell us how they appreciate having a good hot meal; they tell us how hard it is to learn to cook or to cook for just one person. There are so many stories; each one gives us reason to keep going!

Backus fully expects that the needs that we see today will continue into 2021. To address and meet this need, a fund raising event was held for a few weeks in late November to mid December. \$50,865 was raised! This will cover a significant portion of the 2021 Community Café budget.

Backus is proud to serve our community with this essential service!

Submitted by Lois Lundin, current Executive Director

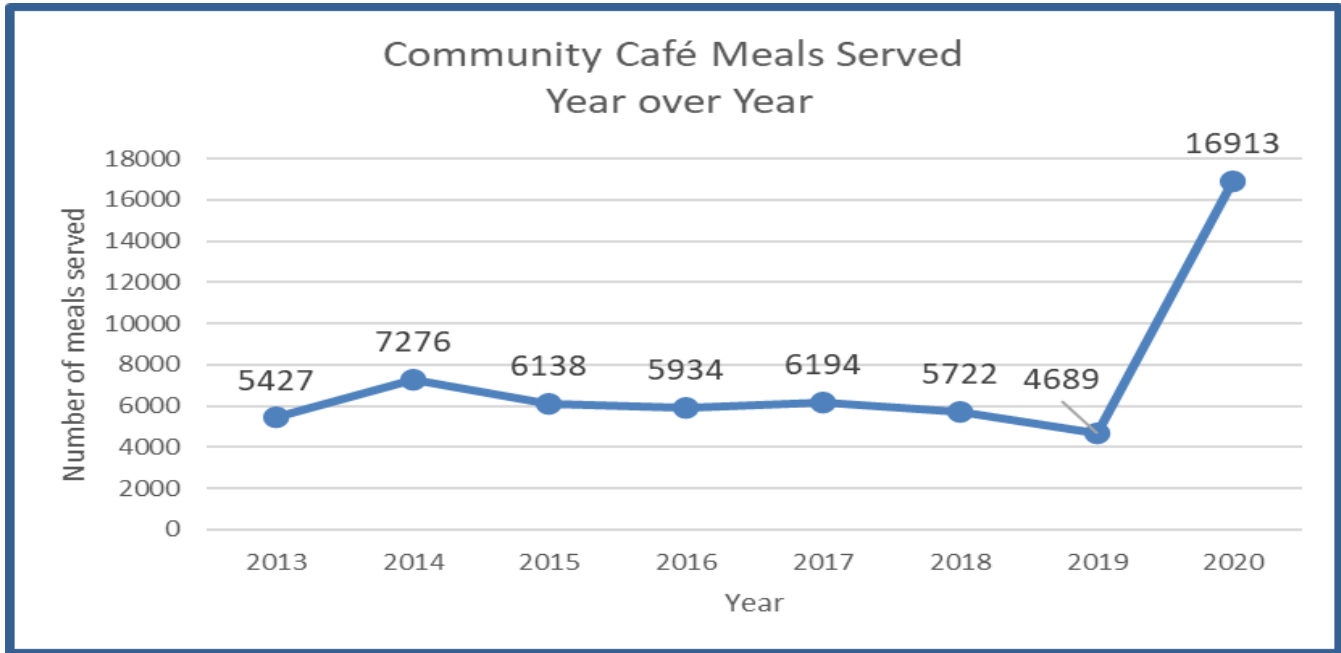
2020 Community Café Volunteers

Harry Batdorf
Barb Bergh
Brenda Bounds
Bert Brown
Borderland Young Professionals
Peg Christianson
Covenant Church
Tucky Dill
Julie Ehrman
First Lutheran Church

Kathy Fischer
Lisa Gerlach
Lee Grim
Ardel Hendrickson
Holy Trinity Church
Knights of Columbus
Council 1540
Erica Lundin
Greg Lundin
Bob Marquardt

Mary Neagbour
Mike Neagbour
Phi Theta Kappa
Judy Potter
Monica Satangelo
St. Thomas Church
Linda Sutch
LeRoy Winkel
Zion Lutheran Church

Community Café (continued)



Over 58,742 meals have been served through Community Café from 12/04/2012 to 12/31/2020

In 2020

Adult Meals: 13,500
 Child Meals: 3,413
 Total Meals Served: 16,913

Donations to Community Cafe

American Family Insurance
 Anonymous
 Carol Anderson
 Tom & Jane Barthell
 Carol Bass
 Larry Bastian
 Byron & Norma Blake
 Border Bank
 Clifford & Sharon Carlson
 Justin Carney
 Sheryl Christianson
 Rev. Erin Coutts
 Steve & Christy Earley
 Donna R. Erickson
 Evangelical Covenant Church
 Tim & Marva Fairchild
 Falls Hunger Coalition
 Susan Foran
 George & Susan Fraik
 Shirley Frank
 Friends Against Abuse
 Karen Ganter
 Jim & Vicki Giauque

Mary Graves-Budak
 Roger & Rebecca Griffin
 Daniel & Theresa Halpern
 Gerald & E. Jean Hilfer
 Cameron & Shelley Hokenson
 Jeff Holenko
 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
 Dale & Jan Johnson
 Sylvia Johnston
 Margaret Kelly -
 In Honor of Tom Barthell
 on Father's Day
 Koochiching County DFL
 Marit Lee Kucera
 Lady Elks
 Doug & Beth Lowthian
 Arden McKnight
 Duane & Mary Nelson
 Packaging Corporation of America
 Mary B. Pelowski
 Brenda Roche
 Mary Servis
 Barbara Shaw

Ricky & Ann Sigsby -
 In Honor of Tom Barthell
 on Father's Day
 Peter Skrief
 St. Thomas Church
 Punky Stadum
 Allen Steele
 Jim & Linda Sutch
 Susan Swendsen
 The Women of the ELCA
 John Turenne
 Linnea Velsvaag
 VFW No 2948
 Peter Graham Auxiliary
 Roland Wallestad
 Randy & Patricia Waskul
 Beth Waterhouse
 Kay Wento
 John & Karen Wilson -
 In Memory of Sally Chowan
 Andrew & Georgeann Wright
 Zion Lutheran Church
 Zion Lutheran Church Women

Donations to Feed Just One - Community Cafe

12 Days of Christmas Donors
Gale Aklestad
David Anderson
Gail Anderson
Susan Anderson
Anonymous
Larry & Sonja Arch
Deborah Arnold
Darell Bradley & Patti Ballan
Joan Barkovic
Jack & Mary Bartlett
Jay & Julie Bartkowski
Joyce Bartkowski
Erica Batdorf
Harry & Sally Batdorf
Laurel Beager
Faith Benedix
Edward & Delphine Bernath
Douglas & Brenda Bertilson
Erika Bjorum
Richard & Pat Bjorum
Cathy Blankman
Lacey Bocnuk
Border Bank
Borderland Insurance Agents
Anthony Boyland
Mary Boyum
Jerome Brekke
Bremer Bank
Bremer Bank Employee Charity
Bremer Bank Employees
Tracy Brokering
Roberta Brown
Karen Bruyere
Carol Bryant & Ed Bushinger
Michael & Loretta Carney
Joe & Lucille Cayou
Catherine Christensen
Norman & Loretta Christianson
Sheryl Christianson
Thomas Clements
Marty & Angela Cody
Nicole Colson
Susan Congrave
Rev. Erin Coutts
Patti Crane
David & Nancy Cronin
Brenda Dault
Kathy Dault

Holly Decardenas
James & Joann Dornhecker
Roberta Dunbar
Steve & Christy Earley
Robert & Joan Ecklund
Eugene Emahiser
Patricia Etestad
Tim & Marva Fairchild
Falls Hunger Coalition
Farm Bureau Insurance
Rick & Lou Anne Faulkner
Dave Olson & Jenell Feller
First Lutheran Church Women
Bill & Rebecca Flynn
Sue Foran
Richard & Liz Forsythe
Karen & Douglas Franchot III
Donna Frederickson -
 In Honor of Backus Staff
 In Honor of John Frederickson
 In Memory of Sally Chowan
June Fulton
Mark & Gale Gagnier
First Assembly of God Gateway
 Assembly Church
Tim & Lisa Gerlach
Tom & Jackie Glowack
Paula Gondek
Keith & Elaine (deceased) Goulet
Mary Graves-Budak
GreenTech
Roger & Rebecca Griffin
Cindy Griffith-Story
Alyndia Growette
Kirk Skallman & Georgia Growette
 In Memory of George Growette
 In Memory of Evelyn Growette
Jeff & Mary Kay Hardwig
Tom & LeAnne Hardy
Sheila Hart
David & Pauline Hebig
Michael & Nancy Heibel
Ardel Henrickson
Jon Talsness & Betty Henrickson
Marvin Herges
Jo Jean Hodel
Patricia Hogan
Mike & Ann Holden
Arthur & Linda Holt

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Sandra Hoopman
Margaret Horning
Molly Hull
Patricia Indahl
Int'l Falls Rotary Club
Roger & Betty Jackson
Mike & Cynthia Jaksas
Alan & Elaine Johnson
Dale & Jan Johnson
David & Janice Johnson
Duayne & Nancy Johnson
Einar & Julie Johnson -
 In Honor of Christie & John Devlin
Guy & Peggy Johnson
Jan Johnson
Mike & Barb Johnson
Shawn Johnson
Sylvia Johnston
Scott & Rosemary Jonson
Pete Kalar
Phyllis Karsnia
Susan Karsnia
Tom Karsnia
Wayne & Mary Ann Kasich
Gene & Pat Kjellgren
Theresa Kjellgren -
 In Honor of Gene & Pat Kjellgren
Geraldine Knutson
Sharon Kostiuik
Bradley Krasaway
Ariel Lagen
James & Sherry Larson
Laura Neagbour
Bruce & Debra LaVigne
Nancy Lee
Charles & Beverly Leistico
Jim & Sherrie Lessard
Laurie Lightfoot
Tammy Linder
Gordy Lindgren
Wayne & Nancy Lindstrom
Jay & Pam Lofgren
James & Nikki Ludwig
Greg & Lois Lundin
Nels & Sharon Lundin
Jim & Lori Lyman
Ronna MacKay
Janet Madson

Donations to Feed Just One (continued)

Renae Maloney
 Julie Mannausau
 Bob Marquardt
 Brian & Maggie McBride
 Donna McClellan
 James & Kathleen McDaniel
 Judy Medeiros
 Rosemary Merrill
 Ward & Linda Merrill
 Robert Miller
 Amy Mortenson
 Janet Nelson
 Robin Nelson
 Debbie Niemi
 Northern Reliable Insurance - Tim
 Anderson
 Judith Nelson & Soren Olesen
 John & Judy Olson
 Sandra Orgas
 Mark & Beverly Oszman
 Jeff & Susan Palm
 Packaging Corporation of America
 Jamie Pearson
 Ronald & Wanda Pelland
 Mary Pelowski
 John & Nancy Penn
 Mary Perala
 Bob & Pam Peterson
 Richard & Sheryl Peterson
 Wes & Lyn Peterson
 Martin & Gretchen Plantenberg -
 In Honor of Avis & Henry Hougland
 James & Janice Podlak
 Joseph & Janice Podlak
 Jean Prather
 Rainy Lake Grill
 Rainy Lake Medical Center
 Ranier Recreation Club
 Bob & Toni Rapaway
 Tami Renollet
 River Wood Bank
 Jim & Gail Rognerud -
 In Honor of Ward & Linda Merrill
 Rolling Hills Publishing
 Karen Salo
 Lynelle Salo
 Merlin & Susan Sanden
 Monica Santangelo
 Gary & Pam Saunders

Pamela Sauve
 Susan Savard
 Ted & Christina Saxton
 Corky & Sharalyn Schaak
 Diane Brokaw & Thomas
 Schmidt
 Shirley Schmidt
 Ed & Sandy Schneider
 Catherine Schroeder
 Paul & Carole Schulz
 Harold & Julie Schumacher
 Deborah & Chris Scofield
 Emily Severson
 Alton & Linda Shannon
 Robin Simpson
 Douglas Skrief
 Selina Smith
 Thomas & Barbara Smith
 Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski
 Eric & Valerie Solovjovs
 Russell & Pamm Spry
 St. Paul Lutheran Church
 Vicky Stanich
 State Farm Insurance - Charles
 Casanova
 Shawn Stavseth
 Gerard & Robin Steele
 Anthony & Teresa Stone
 Sandra Sundin
 Larry & Sandra Sundsvold

James & Linda Sutch
 Susan Swendsen
 Bob & Linda Sweney
 Dan & Cherie Sweney
 Hallie Swenson
 James & Linda Tapp
 The Boyle Law Firm
 The Workshop
 DeeDee Thompson
 Robin Tilander
 Reid & Jo Toninato
 TruInsure
 TruStar Federal Credit Union
 TruStar FCU Employees
 Steven & Peggy Vigoren
 Elizabeth Villalta
 Mike & Betsy Ward
 John & Cynthia Warren
 Kay Wento
 James & Kathleen West
 Steven & Garner Wiley
 John & Karen Wilson
 Bruce & June Wilson
 Kimberly & Trent Wimmer
 Leroy & Mary Jo Winkel
 Jim & Jean Wood
 Rhonda Wood
 Tammy Wood
 Brian & Cindy Youso
 Virginia Ziemba



We apologize for misspelled names and any omissions. Please contact the Backus Office at (218) 285-7225 for corrections.

Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) that began in 2010 provides a free “school” type lunch to children ages 1-18 as well as to clients of the Falls Hunger Coalition and clients of Servants of Shelter. The program is sponsored, certified, and inspected by the MN Department of Education (MDE) and has specific guidelines for nutrition, portions and components of meals. The goal of the program is to provide nutritious meals to children when school is not in session. 2020 recognized and met that need with incredible success!

The program completed its 11th year in 2020. A free, nutritious meal was served Monday-Friday, 11:30am – 1:30pm during the months of June, July, and August. As families struggled to make ends meet at the onset of the pandemic, the Summer Food Service Program came with help. At a time of uncertainty and change, getting a good hot lunch at Backus was a constant, and word spread through the community quickly. This year was a banner year for the number of meals served; there were a total of 9,072 meals served in 2020. The biggest change to the program was that all meals were served as “pick-up” only. Families picked up their meals at the east door of Backus and took lunch home for the kids. There was very positive feedback to this new process. Parents commented on how their children ate better when they were at home versus being in the dining room with many other children because there were fewer distractions. Working parents liked the summer program because it gave them more quality time to just be with their kids during their work day. Everyone liked the hot meals! At the end of the 2020 program, a survey showed that the kids liked the taco in a bag lunch the best, followed by cheese burgers. Taking third place on the favorites list was the meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy dinner.



In order to support Backus’ growing food service needs, a 10’ x 14’ walk-in freezer was purchased and installed in the lower level of Backus.



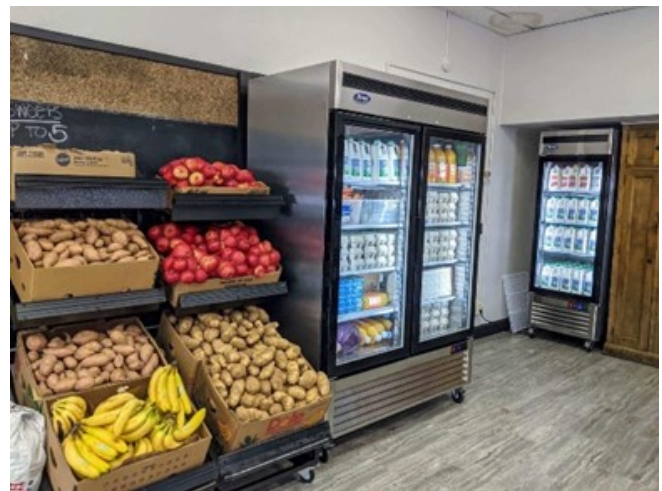
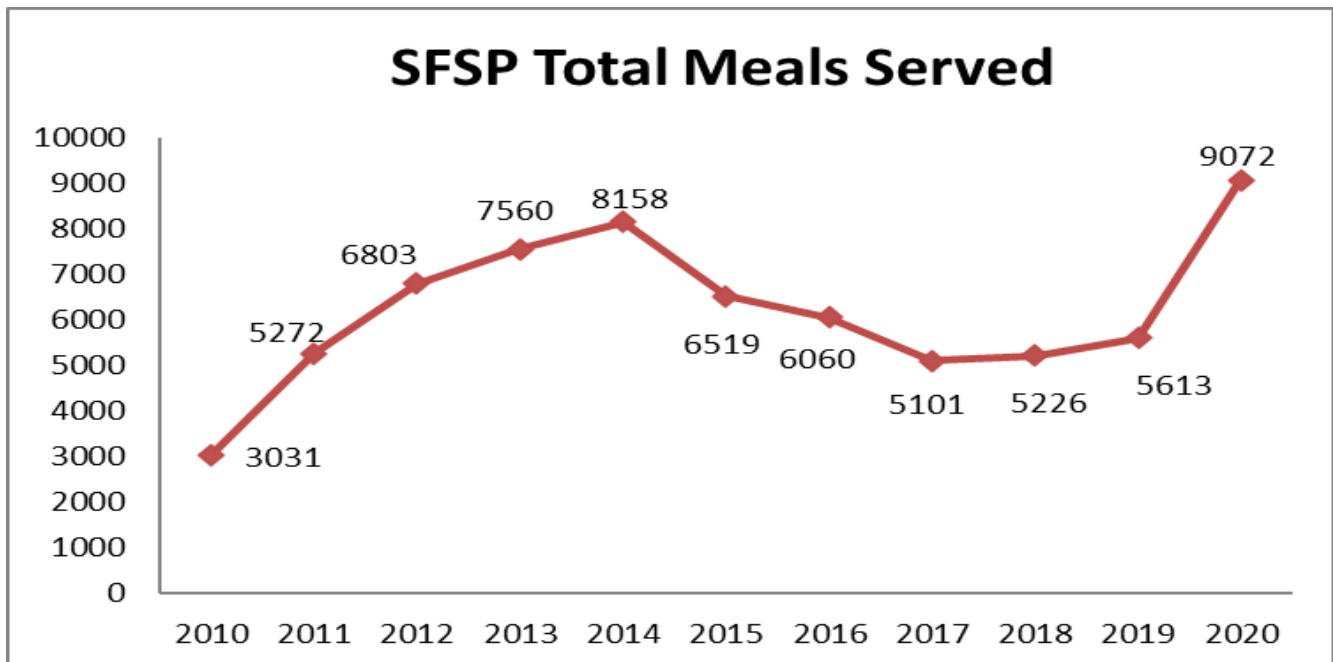
Summer Food Service Program (continued)

Just like the Community Café program, the Summer Food Service Program was manned this year by a core group of Backus Staff and Volunteers. Keeping the group small and managing the tasks carefully helped to reduce the risk of introducing COVID-19 to Backus staff. The Backus team thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the kids and families and were happy to be part of their days.

There was not “open gym” this year for the kids, and it was something that the children missed.

The Summer Food Service Program served a total of 9,072 meals in 2020.

Submitted by Lois Lundin, current Executive Director



The new home for the Falls Hunger Coalition on the first floor in Backus! New equipment, new flooring, and fresh paint made the environment very inviting for their many clients, volunteers, and staff.

2020 Membership

Affiliate: Under \$60

Allan & Susie Braaten
Bob & Barb Byman
Terry & Nancy Carew
Dorothy Carey
Tom Enzmann
Emilie Enzmann
Otto & Angie Enzmann
Charlene Erickson

Katherine Fluke
Peter & Greta Hemstad
Jackpine Savage Grill
Phil Johnson
Jim & Nancy Lee Jorgenson
May Ann Kalar
Jean Larson
James R. Lutz

Joe & Trena Martinez
MDHA
Craig & Mary Moe
Doris Pullar
DeeDee Thompson
Marc Windsnes
LeRoy & Mary Jo Winkel

Associate: \$60 - \$99

Ken Anderson
Gary & Sharon Arnold
Lloyd & Erna Arveson
Elaine Beach
Richard & Patricia Bjorum
Charles & Mary Casanova
Joan Christensen
Dr. George Crow
Marguerite Davison
Donna R Erickson
Donn & Susan Fuller
Mark & Gale Gagnier
Bob & Jean Houska
Oral & Barbara Howland
Roger & Betty Jackson
Jean I. Evens
Alan & Elaine Johnson
Duayne & Nancy Johnson

Einar & Julie Johnson
Violet Johnson (deceased)
Phyllis Karsnia
Tom Karsnia
Mike & Jill Katrin
Florence Knutson (deceased)
Ladd & Onida Kocinski
Marit Lee Kucera
Valerie Larsen
Dean Lindstrom
Helen Louden
Norman Manselle
Arden McKnight
Clarice Miller
Don & Janet Olson
Wade & Carol Pavleck
Marilyn Pelowski

Mark Peters
Lynn & Wes Peterson
Art & Anne Przybilla
Renee Radford
Gary & Joanne Readman
Bernice Reynolds
Rita Rindfleisch
Karen Salo
Darlyss Samuelson
Joel Hase & Susan Savard
Charles Skrief
Douglas Skrief
Cheryl Stemm
Rick & Marilyn Toninato
Linda Torseth
Lorne & Marlys Tveit
Donna M. Walls

Supporter: \$100 - \$149

Jeff & Diane Adams
Beth & Allan Anderson
Carol Anderson
Gary & Terri Anderson
Anderson Piano Service
Dave Austin
Ralph & Kathy (deceased) Awe
Darell Bradley & Patti Ballan
Lloyd & Donna Barg
Ed & Joan Baron
Will Marvel & Joyce Bartkowski
Lynn & Carol Belanger
Bill & Cheryl Berg
Marilyn (Weir) Borell
Tyler & Grace Borgen
Tricia & Mike Brennard
Brian & Kallie Briggs
Alan & Miriam Burchell
John & Stacey Cann
Clifford Carlson
John & Janice Carlson

Milo & Margaret Christianson
Jackie & Floyd Christianson
Wally & Carol Clement
Howard & Gretchen Davis
Carolyn Davison
Don & Marjorie DeRaad
Steve & Christy Earley
Rob & Joan Ecklund
Rick L'heureux & Martha
Enzmann
Bill & Kitty Ewald
John & Lynda Faith
David Olson & Jenell Feller
Derek & Ashley Foss
Jim & Vicki Giauque
Roger & Rebeca Griffin
Jerry & Marsha Hauke
Charles & Kristen Helleloid
Ronald & Marlan Herivel
Eddie Blaha & Bob Hilke
Richard & Anne Holen

Rick & Raynita Houglum
Patti Indahl
Carol Jaksa
Dennis & Pam Jenson
Byrne & Carole Johnson
Etta Johnson-Millard
Mary Ann & Wayne Kasich
Jean E. & Charlie Kelly
Kirk Skallman & Georgia
Growette
Virgil Kluge
Ingeborg Kofstad
Marvin & Barb Kruskopf
Arvid & Barb Leinum
Charles & Nancy Lindhal
Doug & Beth Lowthian
Raoul & Loraine Lufbery
Derek & Tracy Lunser
Linda Makinen
Larry & Alyce Mannausau
Rod & Mandy Marquardt

2020 Membership (continued)

Supporter: \$100 - \$149 (continued)

Bill & Shawn Mason	Sheryl & Richard Peterson	Frank & Doreen Swendsen
Diane Maxey	Dean & Dawn Piekarski	Larry & Doris Trask
Rocky & Karina McLellan	Theresa & Rick Roadfeldt	Betty Villalta
Ron & LeeAnn Meer	Nancy Rognerud	Dennis Vohler
Isaac & Regan Meyer	George Schlieff	Daryl & Teresa Waller
Nelmarie Melville	Terry Schultz	Mike & Betsy Ward
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Ron & Wanda Pelland	Barb & Brian Smith	John & Karen Wilson
Dave & Cindy Peterson	Tom & Barb Smith	Tom & Dixie Worth
Gene & Judy Peterson	Joe & Judy Spencer	Andrew & Georgeann Wright
Bob & Pam Peterson	Laura Stoiber	Brian & Cindy Youso

Sponsor: \$150 - \$249

Paul & Gail Anderson	Karina & Robert Ham	Jeff & Susan Palm
Kay Arnold	Trish & Mike Hogan	Jim & Gail Rognerud
Harry & Sally Batdorf	Mike & Ann Holden	Edie Sandstrom
Les & Joanne Bjorkquist	Tom & Phyllis Holm	Janet & Jody Schulz
Bremer Bank	Jessie Laurion	Harold & Julie Schumacher
Lori & Michael Carney	Beverly & Chuck Leistico	Al & Linda Shannon
Susan Congrave	Jim & Jill Malone	Brenda Sullivan
Don & Rhoda Dickson	Carol Mannausau	Jim & Linda Sutch
Tim & Marva Fairchild	Glen & Melissa Marcotte	Dennis & Wendy Wagner
Falls Chiropractic	Bob Marquardt	Kalan & Kyrie Wagner
Rick & Lou Anne Faulkner	Mary Graves-Budak	John & Pam Wenberg
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Gordon & Jennifer Gelo	Stuart & Sue Nordquist	
Lee & Carol Grim	Judith Nelson & Soren Olesen	

Benefactor: \$250 - \$499

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Border Bank	Bonnie Erickson	Anne Nordstrom
Carol & Ed Bushinger	Mike & Cynthia Jaksa	John & Catherine Schroeder
Service Master	Richard & Eugenia Jauma	Wenberg Transfer, Inc

Patron: \$500 - \$999

Arrowhead Ultra 135 - Ken & Jackie Krueger	Pat Ettestad	Jim & Sherrie Lessard
Jay & Julie Bartkowski	Joan Heinle	Greg & Lois Lundin
Sue Swendsen & John Bruggeman	Gerald & E. Jean Hilfer	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Gene & Pat Kjellgren	Bonita Swenson

President: \$1,000+

Bob & Pat Crossley	Ward & Linda Merrill	Ivan & Marcia Stewart
Donna Frederickson	Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski	Samantha Crossley & Jim Yount

We apologize for misspelled names and any omissions. Please contact the Backus Office at (218) 285-7225 for corrections.

Contributions and Donations

2020 Contributions in Memory of:

Ed Anderson from James & Louise Bartkowski, Barbara Carpenter, James & Joann Dornhecker, Sheri Erickson, Roger & Rebecca Griffin, Eddie Blaha & Bob Hilke, Debbi LaVigne, Christine Olson, Robert & Pam Peterson, and Ivan & Marcia Stewart

Gladyce Arnold from David & Ann Bzdok

Lorraine Carlson from Donna Frederickson

Nettie Colman from John & Karen Wilson

Ron Crosby from Ron & Janice McClanahan

Shirley DeMarchi from Ward & Linda Merrill

Betty Einarson from Pat Ettestad

Gordon Ettestad from Darell Bradley & Patti Ballan, Richard & Elizabeth Forsythe, and Steven M. Shermoen Law Office

Jerry Franzen from Ward & Linda Merrill

Mike Frohip from John & Karen Wilson

Ray Gorder from Harry & Sally Batdorf

Tom Hardy from Virginia Napper and John & Karen Wilson

Cynthia "Cindy" Hendrickson from Northland Counseling Employees and Jason & Heather Sjolom

Donna Hodel from Donna Frederickson, Ward & Linda Merrill, Stuart & Sue Nordquist, and Jim & Gail Rognerud

Milo Jensen - Class of 1947 from James Lutz

Gerald Lee Kantor from Harry & Sally Batdorf

Edna Karsnia from Allan & Beth Anderson, Elaine Beach, Mary Graves Budak, John & Stacey Cann, Carolyn Davison, Betty Ericson, Donna Frederickson, Robin Garbe, Kirk Skallman & Georgia Growette, Philip Hopfner, Robert & Jean Houska, Byrne & Carole Johnson, Brad & Shelly King, Albert & E. Jean Larson, Mary Lepage, Tina Ham Peterson & Eric Peterson, Jennifer Stevens, Beth Waterhouse

Shirley Kocinski from Byrne & Carole Johnson

Delores LaRoch from Donna Frederickson

Bud Larson from E. Jean Larson

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Gordon McMurray—Canada Air Force Veteran from Harry & Sally Batdorf

Waiva Meneffe from Duane & Marilyn Mitchell

Earl & Barb Miller from Jim & Sherrie Lessard and Duane & Marilyn Mitchell

James Palm Sr. from Byrne & Carole Johnson

Bob Pederson from Wayne & Mary Ann Kasich

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Karla Senske from John & Karen Wilson

Orin Simon from Ward & Lind Merrill

Dave & Barb Trompeter from Donna Frederickson, Byrne & Carole Johnson, Ward & Linda Merrill, and Duane & Marilyn Mitchell

Helen Weum from Ward & Linda Merrill

Jack Wolf from John & Karen Wilson

Lola Ysen from Byrne & Carole Johnson

Contributions and Donations (continued)

In-Kind Donations

- ◆ Almost Lindy's
 - ◆ Kay Arnold
 - ◆ Barajas Mexican Grill
 - ◆ Harry & Sally Batdorf
 - ◆ Bob Marquardt
 - ◆ Chadd & Kim Boyer
 - ◆ Chocolate Moose
 - ◆ Ariana Daniel
 - ◆ Steve & Christy Earley
 - ◆ Kris Everett
 - ◆ Friend's Garbage Service
 - ◆ Lee & Carol Grim
 - ◆ Knights of Columbus Council 1540
 - ◆ Luchachick Architecture
 - ◆ Greg & Lois Lundin
 - ◆ Ward & Linda Merrill
 - ◆ Ricky Roche
 - ◆ Sammy's Pizza
 - ◆ Schmidt's Small Engine
 - ◆ Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski
 - ◆ Ronda Spotts
 - ◆ Paulette Ziemba
 - ◆ The Sports Shop
- 18 Quarts of chili for Chili Challenge
 - Handmade fruit bowl - prize for Chili Challenge
 - 18 Quarts of chili for Chili Challenge
 - Plexi glass for ticket
 - 18 Quarts of chili for Chili Challenge
 - Fresh potatoes for community café
 - 18 Quarts of chili for Chili Challenge
 - 18 Quarts of chili for Chili Challenge
 - Vegetables for Harvest Dinner
 - Face masks for Backus Staff/Volunteers
 - 1 free garbage service per month; cardboard disposal/Ruby's
 - Face masks for Backus Staff/Volunteers
 - 18 Quarts of chili for Chili Challenge
 - Architect works on new map for Backus four floors
 - Two coat racks
 - Paid for disposal goods
 - Unload foods, supplies as needed
 - 18 Quarts of chili for Chili Challenge
 - Mower blades and supplies for weedwhacker
 - Fresh vegetables for Harvest Dinner
 - Gift certificates for Backus Garden
 - Face masks for Backus Staff/Volunteers
 - Award plaque - prize for Chili Challenge

2020-2021 Performing Arts Season Sponsors

- ◆ Border Bank
- ◆ Borderland Insurance Agents
- ◆ Bremer Bank
- ◆ City Drug
- City of International Falls
- ◆ Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- ◆ In Memory of Mary Jo Gerlach
- ◆ Family of Karen (Turnquist) Johnson
- ◆ Jim & Sherrie Lessard
- ◆ Northern Reliable Insurance - Tim Anderson
- ◆ Packing Corporation of America
- ◆ Shannon's Inc.
- ◆ The Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund
- ◆ Thrivent
- ◆ Wagner Construction, Inc

We sincerely thank you for bringing this wonderful season to our stage!

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THE
MARSHALL N. KNUDSON
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Jim and Sherrie Lessard



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1919 Main Ave.
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Ph: 218-283-9372 Fax: 218-283-4659

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- Scott Gerlach - In Loving Memory of my Wife Mary Jo Gerlach
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- Georgia Growette - Evelyn Growette Memorial
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- Edith Holmstrom - Celebrating my parents A. Holmstrom & E. Holmstrom
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- Roman Schultheis - Merry Christmas Janet Schultheis, in Honor of Red & Janet Schultheis
- Darcie Schulz - Ciera ReNee Schulz, Kyle Olestad, Lester Nordlum, Lillian Nordlum, Richard Mandery Memorials
- Karen Shickell & Mike Busch - Louise & Clarence Larson Memorial
- Barb & Brian Smith - Marcia Bringedahl and Richard Bringedahl Memorials
- VFW Peter Graham Post 2948
- Seats sponsored by Citizens for Backus/AB in Honor and Memory of: Marcia Bringedahl, Daniel

Dilworth, Bob Jacobsen, Marie Karsnia, Otto Bremer Foundation, Minnesota Power, Red & Janet Schultheis, Thanks to Border Boxes, Jessie Laurion, Edie Schlieff, Kay Arnold, Corky Brindos, Jay Hokenson, Randi Whereley, In Memory of Catherine Townes (Sweatt) Mueller 1956-2019

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- ◆ Violet Johnson - In Honor of Violet Johnson
- ◆ Kim C. Manley - Jean Manley Memorial
- ◆ Julie Ann Manley-Hartje - LTC Roy Manley Memorial
- ◆ Arden McKnight - Birket Anderson, Bob Anderson, Craig McKnight, and Lee Anderson Memorial
- ◆ Duane & Marilyn Mitchell - Kevin Mitchell Memorial
- ◆ Ruth Sumner - Gerald Sumner Memorial
- ◆ Doreen Swendsen - Audrey Dahl Memorial
- ◆ Roger & Mary Weum - James Liebe Memorial

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, February 10, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Backus Community Center



900 Fifth Street
International Falls, Minnesota 56649
Phone: (218) 285-7225
Fax: (218) 285-7118
www.backusab.org | Facebook: BackusAB

For your safety, Backus is handicapped
accessible and equipped with
AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator)
located on the first and third floors.

MISSION STATEMENT:

*"Historic Backus Community Center,
the heart of International Falls,
where all generations celebrate arts, culture,
recreation, wellness and life-long learning"*