

MISSION STATEMENT:

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



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Meeting
Thursday, February 17, 2022
6:00 p.m.
Backus Community Center

BACKUS

Community Center



Lois Lundin, Executive Director
Hoa Sobczynski, Business Manager

Lenard Bobst, Cook
Alyssa Crawford, Office Assistant
Joe Kenny, Janitor
Mary Ann Lien, Event Staff
Wanda Linder, Cook
Jill Malone, Event Staff
Darcy Sullivan, KCC-TV Program Coordinator
Jerry Vohler, Custodian
June Wilson, Event Staff
Rebecca Wright, Cook

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.



Annual Meeting Agenda

February 17, 2022

6:00 p.m.

1. Call to order
2. Introduction of Board Members and CBAB Members
3. Approve minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting (pages 4-5)
4. Nomination and election of new Board Members (page 6)
5. Review/discussion of Director/Treasurer/Committee reports:
 - a. AB Project Update (page 7)
 - b. Executive Director (pages 8-9)
 - c. Finance/Treasurer (pages 10-15)
 - d. Building Use by Numbers (pages 16-17)
 - e. Volunteers at Backus (page 18)
 - f. Operations (page 19)
 - g. Endowment Fund (page 20)
 - h. Building & Grounds (page 21)
 - i. Arts & Programming (pages 22-23)
 - j. Event Coordinator (page 23)
 - k. Borealis Bards (page 24)
 - l. KCC-TV Program (pages 24-25)
 - m. Ruby's Pantry (pages 26-27)
 - n. Community Café (pages 28-31)
 - o. Summer Food Service Program (pages 32)
 - p. 2021-2022 Performing Arts Series Sponsors (page 33)
 - q. Membership (pages 34-35)
 - r. Contributions & Donations (pages 36-39)
 - s. Seat Sponsorships (pages 38-39)
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjourn

Annual Meeting Minutes

Citizens For Backus/AB

Annual Meeting - February 10, 2021

Minutes

Present in Person: Patti Ballan, Julie Bartkowski, Patricia Ettestad, John Faith, Greg Lundin, Tracy Lunser, Bob Marquardt, Ward Merrill, Isaac Meyer, Tom Smith, Ivan & Marcia Stewart, and Gail Rognerud,

Present via Zoom: Tim Fairchild, Donna Frederickson, Sherrie Lessard, Maureen Rosato, Amy Mortenson, Rita Rindfleisch, Charles Skrief, Kristen Tveit

Staff: Harry Batdorf, Alyssa Crawford, Lois Lundin, Judy Medeiros, and Hoa Sobczynski

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Bob Marquardt, Vice President.
2. Bob introduced members of Board of Directors and Citizens for Backus/AB Members at large.
3. Bob introduced Lois Lundin, new Executive Director. Lois introduced Backus staff: Harry Batdorf as Building Manager, Alyssa Crawford as Office Assistant, Judy Medeiros as Event Coordinator, and Hoa Sobczynski as Business Manager
4. Motion to approve 2020 Annual meeting minutes by Gail Rognerud; second by Patti Ballan. Motion carried.
5. Nomination and election of new Board Members John Faith (incumbent), Tracy Lunser (incumbent) and Jim Lyman are presented for election to the Citizens for Backus/AB Board of Directors for a three-year term (2021-2024). Motion by Julie Bartkowski; second by Patti Ballan. Motion carried.
6. Review/discussion of Director/Treasurer/Committee reports:
 - a. Executive Director: Report reviewed as submitted.
 - b. Finance/Treasurer: Report reviewed as submitted.
 - c. Building Use by Numbers: Lois Lundin: Despite restrictions related to COVID, the building continues to be used for a variety of events and purposes that follow social distancing guidelines. Report reviewed as submitted.
 - d. Operations: Report reviewed as submitted.
 - e. Endowment Fund: Bob Marquardt: The Endowment Fund is setting Backus up for long term financial stability. A campaign will be starting in the near future to provide information and opportunities related to the Endowment Fund.
 - f. Building & Grounds: Report reviewed as submitted.
 - g. Arts & Programming: Report reviewed as submitted. Reminder that the last show of the 2020-2021 season will be March 5, 2021.
 - h. Events Coordinator: Lois Lundin: This position is starting to look into what other services can be provided to the community through Backus.
 - i. Borealis Bards: Report reviewed as submitted.
 - j. KCC-TV Program: This program is a great outreach to increase exposure and information about what is available at Backus.
 - k. Ruby's Pantry: Ruby's Pantry continues to have strong attendance and participation. The process has been adjusted to provide safe social distancing to keep all of the guests outdoors in their vehicles during distribution and these adjustments have been very beneficial.

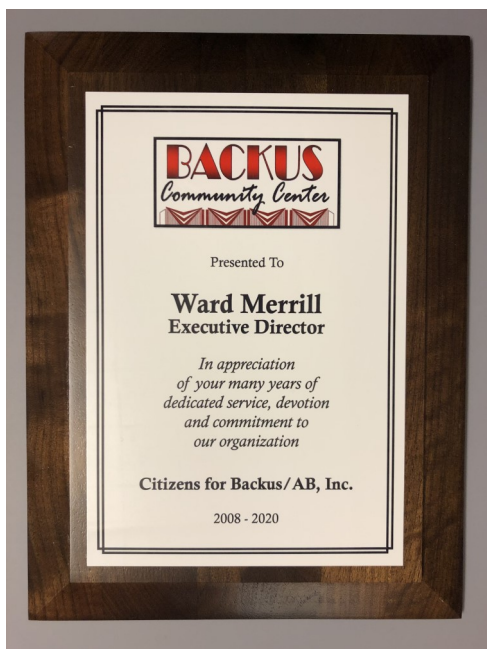
Annual Meeting Minutes (continued)

- l. Community Cafe: Meals have been provided in pick up/take out format and this has seen an increase in number of meals provided to a total of over 16,000 meals over the year. There has been a fundraiser in the community that has helped raise over \$50,000 to support this program in 2021.
- m. Summer Food Service Program: 9,072 meals were provided to children and their family members in a pick-up/take out format in 2020. A survey of participants showed that taco in a bag, cheeseburgers and meatballs/mashed potatoes/gravy meals were the most popular.
- n. Membership: Reviewed report as submitted.
- o. Contributions & Donations: There are a variety of ways to donate to Backus through memorials, in kind donations or season performance sponsorships

Motion by Patti Ballan to approve all reports, second by Julie Bartkowski. Motion carried.

- 7. Old Business: No old business presented.
- 8. New Business: Tim Fairchild, Board President would like to recognize Ward Merrill in his retirement. Ward has been with Backus for 13 years and his dreamer quality has helped Backus become the building and community center that it is. Hoa Sobczynski and Lois Lundin shared about working with Ward and what a privilege it has been to work with him. Patti Ballan presented a plaque to Ward to show appreciation for his dedication and service and two lifetime seat sponsorships for Ward and his wife, Linda.
- 9. Adjourn: Motion by John Faith, second by Tracy Lunser to adjourn at 6:45 pm. Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by Tracy Lunser



Nominating Committee

2021 Board of Directors

Term Expires

Kay Arnold	Emeritus
Patti Ballan	2022
Julie Bartkowski	2022
Molly Bragg	2024
Tim Fairchild	2023
John Faith (deceased April 09, 2021)	2024
Donna Frederickson	2024
Sherrie Lessard	2023
Tracy Lunser	2024
Jim Lyman	2024
Robert Marquardt	2023
Gail Rognerud	2022
Tom Smith	2023

Citizens For Backus/AB Officers 2021

President: Tim Fairchild
Vice President: Robert Marquardt
Secretary: Tracy Lunser
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

Patti Ballan	(Term: 2022 - 2025)	Incumbent
Julie Bartkowski	(Term: 2022 - 2025)	Incumbent
Gail Rognerud	(Term: 2022 - 2025)	Incumbent
Nomination from the floor	(Term: 2022 - 2025)	_____

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.

Alexander Baker School Update



Citizens for Backus/AB and KOOTASCA Community Action received word on January 28, 2022, that Minnesota Housing has selected the Alexander Baker Housing Project for an allocation of Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). This funding, along with other sources, will fully fund the proposed \$12.88 million Alexander Baker Housing Project.

This approval brings to life the adaptive re-use of the historical Alexander Baker school for affordable housing. Lois Lundin, Executive Director for Backus, stated, “Citizens for Backus/AB is thrilled with the Minnesota Housing board’s decision. This fulfills a vision that started more than 20 years ago when local citizens started efforts to save the E.W. Backus and Alexander Baker school buildings from demolition. We see this as such a positive move forward for our northern Minnesota communities!”

The adaptive reuse of the Alexander Baker Building is being undertaken and co-developed by KOOTASCA Community Action and Trellis Co., a Minnesota nonprofit developer of affordable housing. Affordable housing is housing that a household can afford while still having money left over for other life necessities like food, transportation, and health care. Housing is considered affordable for a family when it costs no more than 30 percent of a household's income.

“As a rural border community, the national housing shortage has hit International Falls particularly hard over the last several decades, especially for working-class families, renters, and seniors,” said Isaac Meyer, KOOTASCA Housing Development Director. “So we are incredibly excited to help alleviate that shortage, while also revitalizing a core part of the city at the same time. We have so much potential here, and I hope this project will encourage others to invest in this community.”

It is anticipated that construction could begin in fall or winter of this year. When finished, the project will provide 27 units of affordable housing for rent, including 4 one-bedroom units, 16 two-bedroom units, 4 three-bedroom units, and 3 four-bedroom units.



Conceptual image

Executive Director's Report

Lois Lundin, Executive Director

2021 was a great year at Backus Community Center. Please review this summary of some key accomplishments and happenings from 2021.

Quarter One:

- City and County funding for the Backus Community Center was announced and received for the 2021 year.
- The 2021 “Feed Just One” fund raising campaign for Community Café was very successful. The campaign closed after raising \$50,865.00.
- The new walk-in freezer installation was completed and the freezer was in use.
- LIFT, a fitness studio owned by Jenna DeBenedet, opened in the lower level.
- Grant funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board was awarded, allowing Backus to start the Hidden Talents programming with KCC-TV.
- New, touchless soap and paper towel dispensers installed throughout Backus.
- Updated security lighting installed over the East entrance.
- LED floodlights installed on the NW and SW corners of the Backus roof.
- LED lighting installed by the entry door in the alcove.
- LED light installed by the entry door at the ramp.

Quarter Two:

- All fire safety equipment, kitchen, and general building inspections completed on schedule, and fire safety information was shared with all staff and tenants.
- The spring roll making and sale was a tremendous success!
- The Garden Club received a grant for four round raised beds from the Minnesota Horticulture Society. This included all soil, fertilizer, seeds, and plants.
- Volunteer appreciation dinner was a great evening of recognition and appreciation for our many volunteers.
- The Summer Food Program started in June.
- The project to line the lower level hallway and stairways to the first floor with fiberglass sheeting was completed.
- Backus and AB building clean-out/simplification continues.
- Boiler project and electrical transformer relocation project planning started.
- Hired Jeff McHarg for Backus sound and lights.
- Koochiching County approved the sale of 25’ of property to Backus. The property line for Backus now extends 25’ to the west between 3rd and 5th streets, toward the Forestland building. Backus will retain ownership of the entire strip for parking.
- Memorial for John Faith, one of Backus’s original board members since 2002, was held on June 16, 2021.

Executive Director's Report (continued)

Quarter Three:

- A representative from the University of Minnesota Extension Community Programs Horticulture Society came to the Backus garden for a site visit.
- Backus reached an agreement with the Recreation Commission regarding fees for the use of the gymnasium for the Junior High basketball season.
- Mitchell Erickson was hired to help with filming for KCC-TV. Requests for coverage from community events and meetings continues to grow.
- New handrails, designed and crafted by Dan Benedix and Kari Gansch were installed along the two sidewalks on the east side of the Backus building. LED lighting was also installed in this area by Howard Davis and Josh Urban of Davis Electric. Both measures provide improved safety for our guests who utilize the handicap accessible sidewalk and the stepped walkway.
- Digital piano purchased for the Backus Music Program.

Quarter Four:

- The Kimball grand piano was donated to the Faith United Church.
- A rental agreement reached for a new Daycare Center to open in Backus in 2022.
- The local 4-H organization condensed its occupancy to just one room in Backus.
- Ruby's Pantry announced a "pause" in its food distribution service in order to review and restructure processes and align resources. The program will resume operations in March 2022.
- The 2022 Feed Just One fundraising campaign started in November 2021.
- Backus is partnering with the local Veteran office and Koochiching County Historical Society to have a permanent Veteran memorial showcase.
- Mighty Mustangs Wrestling Club rented space in the lower level of Backus.

Over the course of the year, Backus continued with preparations for the anticipated sale of the Alexander Baker building. Grant applications were submitted for funding requests, and all required reporting was completed. The Summer Food Service Program and Community Café continue to be strong food programs for our community. The performing arts are alive and well and audience participation at events is getting stronger. Our membership numbers are strong and are on the rise. Everyone at Backus is looking ahead to 2022 with excitement. We are positioned for continued growth, and our Board and staff are fully engaged. We have very dedicated groups of volunteers. Life at Backus is very busy, but it is very, very good!

Treasurer's Report

Operating Income/Expense

2021 Income	\$793,076	109% Compared to Budget
2021 Expense	<u>694,376</u>	95% Compared to Budget
2021 Net	\$ 98,700	

In 2021 Citizens for Backus/AB has Received:

Government Support:

- \$55,000 City of International Falls for Arts & Culture
- \$14,000 City of International Falls for Koochiching County Community Television
- \$31,000 Koochiching County for General Operating
- \$ 5,000 Koochiching County for Koochiching County Community Television

Grants

- \$75,000 Otto Bremer Trust - General Operating
- \$50,888 Paycheck Protection Program
- \$20,000 Northland Foundation - Community Cafe
- \$20,000 Northland Foundation - Bridge funding between Bremer Trust Grants
- \$15,000 Minnesota State Arts Board - Creative Arts - KCC-TV/Hidden Talents
- \$ 5,000 Northland Foundation - Summer Food Service
- \$ 5,000 Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund - Hidden Talents
- \$ 5,000 Marshall Knudson Family Community Fund - Performing Arts Series Sponsor
- \$ 4,000 Koochiching County Development Association - Outdoor safety lights and railings
- \$ 3,000 Koochiching County - 2021 COVID Relief
- \$ 500 North Star Electric - Ruby's Pantry

Patti Ballan, Treasurer

Hoa Sobczynski, Business Manager

Treasurer's Report (continued)

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2021

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash	\$ 416,295
Account Receivable	3,902
Defer Income	(120,630)
Petty Cash	25
Prepaid Bills	1,106
Inventory Asset	2,584
Endowment Fund	(135,001)
Endowment Fund - CD	130,174
Other Current Assets	(517)
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 297,938</u>

Property and Equipment (at Cost)

Buildings	\$ 840,101
Furniture and Fixtures	82,568
Kitchen Equipment	216,140
Accumulated Depreciation	(500,579)
Total Property and Equipment (at Depreciation Cost)	<u>\$ 638,230</u>

Total ASSETS **\$ 936,168**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 2,600
Credit Cards	4,348
Grants/Restricted Funds	19,418
Other Current Liabilities	3,812
Long Term Liabilities	382,964
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 413,141</u>

Equity

Retained Earnings	\$ 393,099
Net Income	129,928
Total Equity	<u>\$ 523,027</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$ 936,168**

Statement of Activities

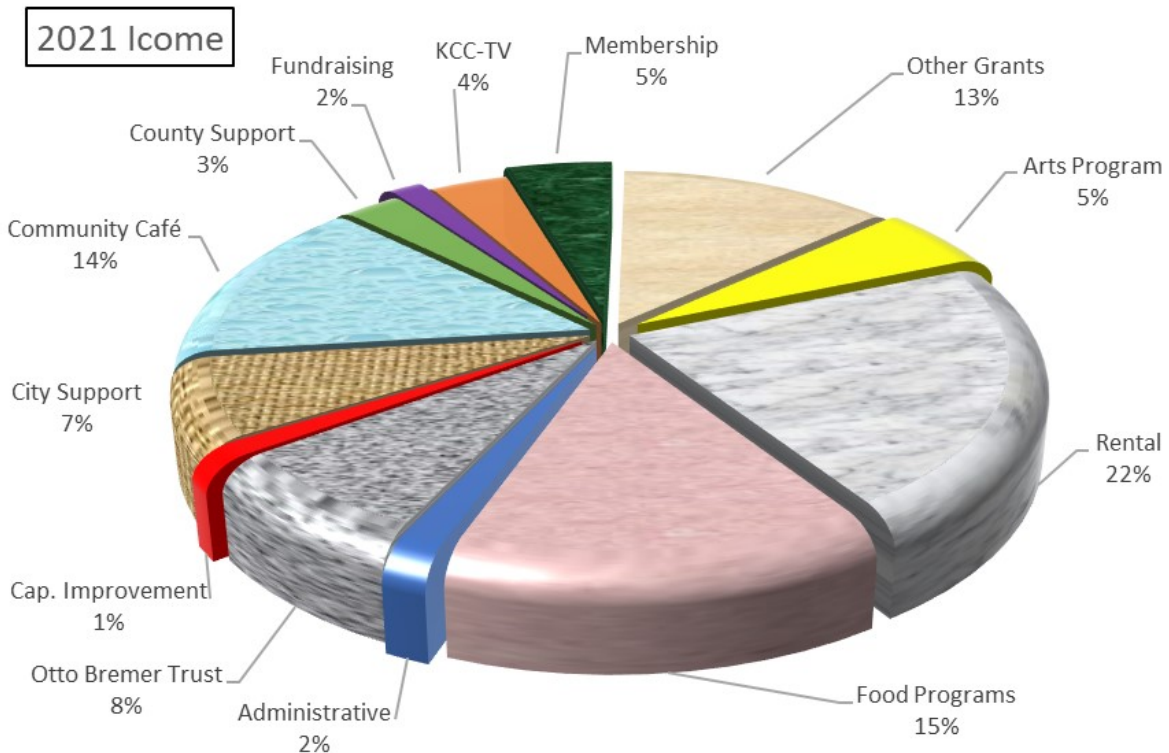
	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	2019 Actual	2018 Actual
Income:					
Performance Arts Income	\$ 19,830	\$ 26,566	\$ 19,791	\$ 28,065	\$ 36,965
Learning Arts Income	-	50	717	20,286	54,908
Fundraising Income	9,750	12,671	11,722	17,596	24,262
Administrative Income	7,660	9,541	3,775	2,868	7,832
Cap. Improvement Income	57,000	9,334	49,521	14,144	11,000
AB Project	-	-	-	62,510	2,500
Membership	35,000	39,644	39,828	38,014	39,325
City Support	25,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	50,000
County Support	22,000	22,000	39,500	21,300	21,000
Contributions	8,000	887	6,141	12,992	23,438
Miscellaneous Income	2,250	2,064	3,780	4,144	5,235
Community Café	100,500	112,061	74,869	19,616	19,068
Program Income	5,700	16,329	5,750	6,191	6,829
Rental Income	172,426	175,004	171,587	179,616	167,123
KCC-TV Income	25,230	29,570	28,700	-	-
Kitchen Income	7,500	12,115	25,358	14,274	14,278
Ruby's Pantry Income	74,100	40,865	55,052	66,268	68,270
Summer Food Service Program	51,664	64,244	47,865	22,059	23,502
Bremer Trust - Gen. Op.	62,835	62,500	14,300	71,498	84,698
Other Grants - Gen. Op.	44,457	102,630	39,065	20,000	-
Total Income	\$ 730,902	\$793,076	\$ 692,322	\$ 676,440	\$660,232

Statement of Activities

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	2019 Actual	2018 Actual
Expense:					
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 525	\$ 827	\$ 1,952	\$ 4,418	\$ 4,503
4-H Expense	-	10,000	-	-	
Custodial Supplies	2,500	4,493	2,464	3,679	4,266
Real Estate Tax	1,152	1,172	1,152	1,198	1,144
Interest Expense-loans	19,923	18,888	20,310	21,552	23,475
Insurance	21,672	18,405	21,802	20,898	20,266
Office Supplies	9,168	9,055	7,479	10,075	8,437
Postage	2,750	2,174	2,092	1,825	2,346
Printing & Copies	6,000	4,684	4,900	6,369	6,337
Repairs & Maintenance	19,550	23,282	12,233	17,510	14,193
Salaries/Wages/Benefits	205,991	171,384	191,114	154,492	168,153
Utilities	66,500	59,664	58,590	65,110	62,569
Performing Arts Expense	19,830	19,840	14,908	18,738	31,717
Learning Arts Expense	-	232	2,367	18,911	54,634
Fundraising Expense	5,200	3,953	4,878	6,689	7,589
Administrative Expense	5,350	6,454	5,481	4,003	7,105
Capital Improvement	57,000	9,334	55,550	10,183	9,820
AB Project	-	-	22,326	54,236	5,707
Membership Expense	1,000	849	1,134	1,290	719
Community Café Expense	100,240	111,387	74,922	27,214	25,798
Program Expense	3,100	7,909	3,398	2,788	2,259
Rental Expense	8,350	6,019	6,303	5,520	9,352
KCC-TV Expense	22,398	27,530	15,999	-	-
Kitchen Expense	7,500	12,732	23,538	15,942	12,038
Ruby's Pantry Expense	74,100	40,762	52,698	63,793	70,309
Summer Food Service Program	42,975	39,027	36,738	26,366	24,264
Total Expenses	\$ 702,773	\$ 610,056	\$ 644,327	\$ 562,796	\$ 577,000
Sub Net/(Loss)	\$ 28,129	\$183,020	\$ 47,995	\$ 113,644	\$ 83,233
Depreciation	-	54,513	41,000	55,516	44,000
Principal Payment on Loans	28,129	29,807	28,385	29,661	33,229
Net/(Loss)	\$ 0	\$ 98,700	\$ (21,391)	\$ 28,466	\$ 6,004

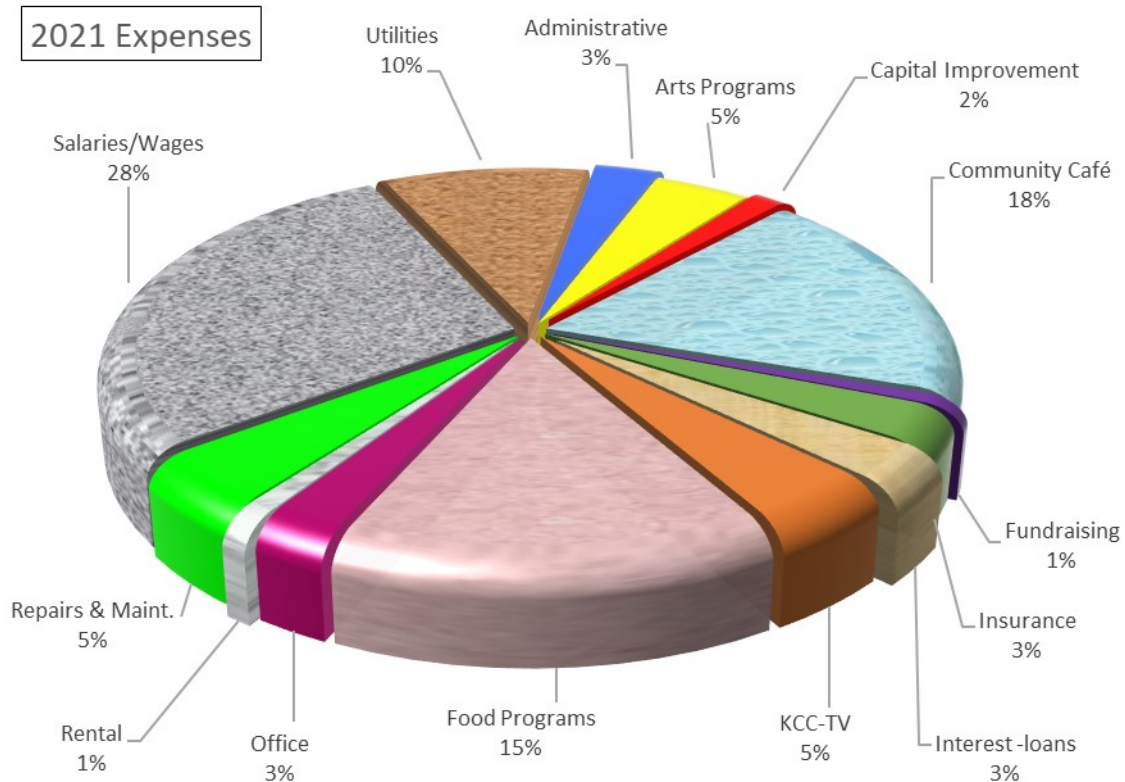
General Operating Income

	2021 Actual	% Compared to Total
Income:		
Administrative	\$ 12,493	2%
Otto Bremer Trust	62,500	8%
Cap. Improvement	9,334	1%
City Support	55,000	7%
Community Café	112,061	14%
County Support	22,000	3%
Fundraising	12,671	2%
KCC-TV	29,570	4%
Membership	39,644	5%
Other Grants	102,630	13%
Arts Program	42,946	5%
Rental	175,004	22%
Food Programs	<u>117,224</u>	15%
Total Income	<u>\$ 793,076</u>	

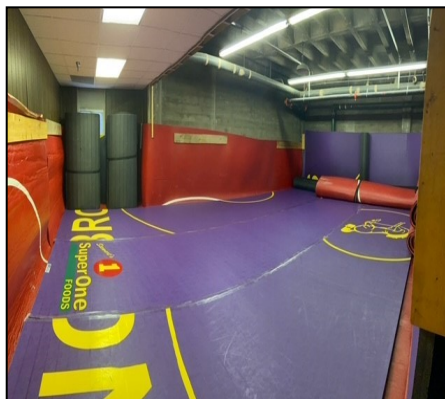
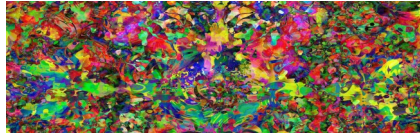
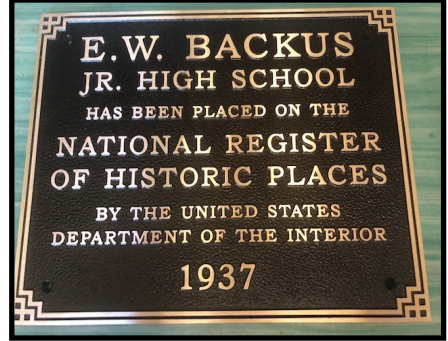


General Operating Expense

	2021 Actual	% Compared to Total
Expense:		
Administrative	\$ 18,474	3%
Arts Programs	27,982	5%
Capital Improvement	9,334	2%
Community Café	111,387	18%
Fundraising	4,781	1%
Insurance	18,405	3%
Interest -loans	18,888	3%
KCC-TV	27,530	5%
Food Programs	92,521	15%
Office	15,913	3%
Rental	6,019	1%
Repairs & Maint.	27,776	5%
Salaries/Wages	171,384	28%
Utilities	59,664	10%
Total Expenses	\$ 610,056	



Highlights



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)

- ◆ Backus Garden Club
- ◆ Borealis Bards
- ◆ Dancin' With Darcie
- ◆ The Dungeon
- ◆ Falls Hunger Coalition
- ◆ ISD 361 – Alternative Learning Class
- ◆ LIFT
- ◆ MN Department of Public Safety
- ◆ Mustang Wrestling
- ◆ Northland Art Society
- ◆ Northland Counseling
- ◆ Rainy River Recovery
- ◆ Rainy Lake Community Orchestra
- ◆ Servants of Shelter
- ◆ Thrivent

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.

11,659 Total Visitors

Other Activities

- ◆ Community Wellness Council Board Meetings
- ◆ Koochiching County Housing Collaborative Meetings
- ◆ AARP Tax Service
- ◆ Photography Shows
- ◆ Voices of the Fallen
- ◆ Junior High Bronco Basketball practices and games
- ◆ Walkercise
- ◆ Homeschools Open Gym
- ◆ Thrivent/ Benjamin Weerts Seminars
- ◆ Veterans Suicide Awareness Programs
- ◆ Spring Roll Class
- ◆ Ruby's Pantry
- ◆ Community Café
- ◆ Backus Annual Meeting
- ◆ Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

4,849 Total of Participants

Backus Events Attendance

- ◆ Bob & The Beachcombers
- ◆ Duelly Noted
- ◆ Contractor Continue Education
- ◆ Chris Kroeze
- ◆ Pinocchio
- ◆ Seth Mulder & Midnight Run
- ◆ RLCO Holiday Concert

1,029 Total Attendance

Rental Attendance in 2021

- ◆ James Wento Funeral
- ◆ Koochiching County Mental Health Crisis Response Meetings/Luncheons
- ◆ Ericsburg Cemetery Committee Meeting
- ◆ Oberholtzer Committee Meeting
- ◆ James Bartholemew Celebration of Life
- ◆ John Faith Celebration of Life
- ◆ Koochiching County Land Auction
- ◆ Biff Rose Performance
- ◆ Baby Shower
- ◆ Bridal Shower
- ◆ Farewell to Kay Arnold
- ◆ Battalion Wedding
- ◆ RRCC Foundation Dinner
- ◆ Border Patrol K9 Training
- ◆ Linda Merrill Celebration of Life
- ◆ Dan McCarthy Celebration of Life
- ◆ Int'l Falls Police Department Training
- ◆ MN Loggers Education Trainings
- ◆ Northland Counseling Children's Program
- ◆ Second Amendment Meeting
- ◆ What is Bitcoin?
- ◆ Sherriff Emergency Response Trainings
- ◆ TruStar Federal Credit Union Meeting
- ◆ Trevor Moss Funeral
- ◆ First Lutheran Church Meetings

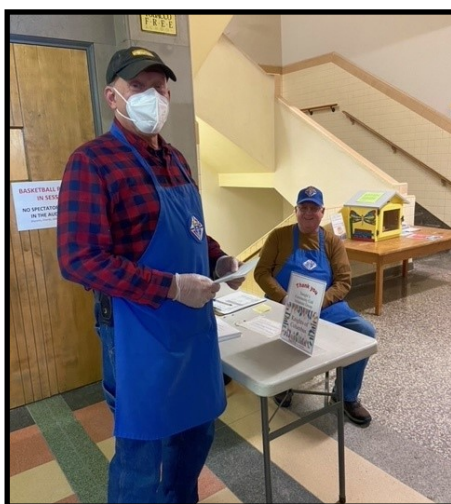
1,672 Total Participants

Volunteers at Backus

	Number of Volunteers	Number of Volunteer Hours
Ruby's Pantry	398	1,876 hours
Community Café	669	1,434 hours
Office Volunteers	54	97 hours
Summer Food Service	95	258 hours
Building & Grounds	24	429 hours
General Volunteering	192	537 hours
Borealis Bards	50	2,886 hours

Total volunteers: 1,482

Total volunteer hours: 7,517



Volunteers getting dinner ready for pick-up service

Volunteer hourly pay rate:

\$28.54/hour

(from independentsector.org 2021)

Backus volunteers saved us

\$214,333 in wages in 2021!



Operations Committee

Committee Members: Patti Ballan, Julie Bartkowski, Tim Fairchild, Sherrie Lessard, Lois Lundin, Jim Lyman, Bob Marquardt, Tom Smith, and Hoa Sobczynski

Feed Just One - Fundraising for Community Cafe - Donation total was approx. \$51,000. This is now an annual fundraising event.

COVID Funding - Backus qualified & received funds for Payroll Protection Program. Backus also received COVID funding from KCDA and installed new lighting and safety railings on East side to help clients picking up Cafe dinners.

Mask Mandates - Backus recommends visitors wear masks when in building common areas. Backus will follow State guidelines set or changed as needed. Signage is placed throughout building.

Land Transfer to Backus - Purchase of the West 25' of parking area from Koochiching County Forestland Building This area goes from South curb to North curb & will give Backus additional parking once AB project has started.

National Registry Historic Plaque - Brass Plaque was donated and placed on SE corner building.

Vets Memorial Showcase - The Veterans Service Office is working with Backus to create a permanent display in the East main floor hallway for veteran's memorabilia that families/individuals would like to contribute to display. Financial costs will be paid by Veterans Office.

Backus Music Program - Board approved the formation of Music Program, dedicated space for music practice, lessons, program coordinator position, music performances, collaboration with Rainy Lake Community Orchestra, music teachers, and other related groups.

Piano Donation - Kimball Piano that was a donation to Backus has been donated to Faith United Church, donation plaque will remain on piano. Piano was not being used & Faith United greatly appreciates donation.

Energy Analysis - MN Power conducted an energy audit and recommended several changes including use of standard equipment thru-out building, LED lighting starting with main floor in areas most frequently used. We will change to LED as funds are available.

Submitted by Patti Ballan

Endowment Fund

Since 1937, the historic Backus building has been a community gathering place, first as a school and, since 2002, as a Community Center playing a vital role in the lives of many who live in and visit the area. Now an effort is underway to ensure the same holds true for generations to come.

Citizens concerned with the sustainability of Backus and its Community Center programs gifted funds to establish an endowment fund. A committee was formed to outline plans and goals for the fund and its future. The endowment campaign is an effort to raise \$1 million in three years. Major donors have already contributed significantly to the fund.

The fund is established to provide effective and responsible stewardship and to ensure expansion of community work. The fund can accept gifts and bequests in wills, charitable trusts, gift annuities, assignments of life insurance, and transfer of property (cash, stock, bonds, real estate, etc.). Backus endowment will accept pledges for annual gifts. Contributors can dedicate gifts in memory or honor of a family member or friend. If physical assets are received, they will be liquidated as outlined in the fund's by-laws.

Once the three-year goal of \$1 million is reached, earnings may be expended to fund programs and projects that help fulfill the Backus mission, such as:

- Outreach programs to address community needs and opportunities in International Falls and Koochiching County.
- Ensuring the preservation and re-use of the historic Backus building continues in perpetuity.
- Allowing flexibility in times of economic down-turns or major crisis.

The Endowment Committee is planning to kick off a campaign to share information with the public and potential donors in the first quarter of 2022.

Submitted by Lois Lundin, Executive Director

Donations to Endowment Fund

Gordy & Karen Lindgren
Fred & Heather Napper
Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski

Ivan & Marcia Stewart
Sons of Norway Vinland Corp

Building and Grounds

The Boilers

The boilers were drained in the spring and there were no issues to report with the shut-down process. Sprint maintenance was completed as scheduled and the boiler room was quiet for the summer months. The boilers were fired up in late September without issue. A “pig-tail” valve had to be replaced in December. This type of valve has failed in the past when sediment plugs the valve. The replacement took minutes and boiler number two has been running smoothly since.

It is the intention that this will be the last season of operation for these two large boilers. A team is partnering with a local contractor to design a new system and to install a new, more efficient boiler system. Backus will continue to heat the building with steam.

Lower Level Storage Units and Hallway

A storage room in the southeast corner of the Backus ground floor has been vacated. A smaller storage room next to that unit has also been vacated. The partition between the two rooms has been removed to make a large rental space for the Mighty Mustangs Wrestling Club. The team is happy to have a large, industrial looking-cool space for wrestling practice.

Another room in that area of the lower level was once the school’s industrial laundry room. The items that were stored there have been removed, and the large washer and dryer have been disconnected. It is currently being used as a learning lab for the garden club.

The Borealis Bards have also moved their storage inventory to a unit in the Backus lower level.

Clearing Items Out of the A.B. School

Work continues to clean out the items from the Alexander Baker School that need to be removed. Some of the items have been sold or given away, and things that need to be thrown away or recycled are handled appropriately. The Ruby’s Pantry leadership team is working to obtain external/offsite storage for the items that they need (shopping carts, wagons, freezer blankets, etc.).

The Costume Room, Backus second floor

The Borealis Bards took inventory of and organized the costumes and props that were stored in their storage room on the second floor. Backus will remove its items that are unnecessary and will make room for storage for necessary items.

Stairway Walls

Harry Batdorf continues with his work to cover the lower part of the walls in the northeast and northwest stairways between the first and second floors of the building. These white, textured fiberglass sheets are being cut to an exact fit and then are firmly placed to stabilize the failing plaster on the walls. This project started as a temporary fix until Backus is positioned to have the walls returned to their original state. This is a tremendous improvement and we are grateful for Harry’s detailed work.



Submitted by Lois Lundin, Executive Director

Arts and Programming

The Arts & Programming Committee consisted of Chair Diane Maxey and then Gail Rognerud, members Tracy Lunser, Ariana Daniel, Donna Frederickson, Ann Nordstrom, Carol Belanger, Donn Fuller, Dori Pullar, Bob Marquardt, Hoa Sobczynski, and Lois Lundin

Business discussed and conducted throughout the year included the following:

- The Backus Performing Arts Season's first performance was held on Friday, October 8, 2021 with a performance by Chris Kroeze. The Borealis Bards performed Pinocchio on October 22, 23, and 24. Seth Mulder & Midnight Run performed on October 26. All of these performances were well received, and the audiences enjoyed having the opportunity to come to live shows again.
- Various pieces of local artwork were displayed in the Backus showcase. Some of the highlights include: Jim Lucachick set up a beautiful display to share his love for fishing in Northern Canada and Alaska. He included story boards of the expeditions, the fish that were caught, and of necessary life skills for people in those remote regions. Bob Marquardt shared his collection of duck prints and hand carved decoys. Local photographers displayed their works; it was very interesting to see the world as they see it through the viewfinder of their cameras.
- A display of local tributes was set up in the auditorium for Memorial Day. People brought photos, memorabilia, and story boards to share their loved ones' stories and to commemorate their people's years of service in the Armed Forces.
- Backus Community Center partnered with the Faith United Church for a "Fall Fantasia" production in November. This was a delightful performance with music provided by several local artists.
- In December, the Rainy Lake Community Orchestra hosted a Holiday Concert for the community. Music was performed by several musical groups, and there was a community "sing-along" afterward. It was a fun night for the community, and there was even an indoor "snowball" fight!
- The local photography club, Northwoods Shutterbugs, held a fundraising show for Backus. They displayed their artwork, had photographers on site to help with questions, and had prints for sale. It was a wonderful show and was well attended by local people. Backus was honored to be the site they chose to show their work; they put a lot of work into this show! We truly appreciate the support that they gave to Backus!
- The remainder of the performing arts season consists of concerts by Shirts & Skins, PARADIGM (Gary Hooker and friends), and The Shane Martin Band. These artists will perform in 2022.

Submitted by Lois Lundin, Executive Director

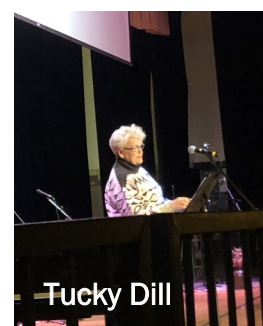
Arts and Programming (continued)



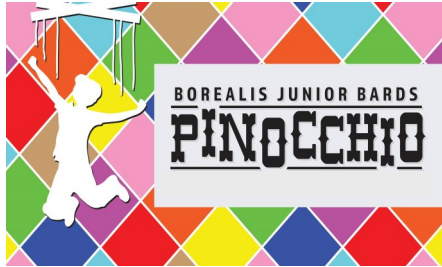
Chris Kroeze



The Shane Martin Band



Tucky Dill



Rainy Lake Community Orchestra



The Mother Pluckers

Event Coordinator Report

The Event Coordinator position has been managed by a number of people in 2021. Judy Medeiros completed the Event Coordinator tasks until her departure in October. From that time on, all tasks were coordinated by the Backus staff.

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. He/she is the front line service person for all happenings in Backus. The Event Coordinator is also a key contact for all volunteers. Volunteer activities and hours are carefully recorded for all reporting needs.

Health and safety guidelines continued to drive the way events at Backus 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, so we are often the venue of choice. Backus continues to promote 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.

Backus is continually looking for ways to bring services to people in our community that are needed and value added.

Submitted by Lois Lundin, Executive Director

Borealis Bards

Oh, what a year. What was begun must be redone! In March of 2020, less than a week before the first performance, the rise of COVID-19 led to the mothballing of our Junior Bards production of Pinocchio, directed by David Griffith. Fully 17 months later, Pinocchio was relaunched by new directors Breanna Johnson and Gavia Yount with a few other changes in cast and crew. Despite concerns about fluctuating pandemic cases, on October 22, 2021, the show did go on!

In 2021 the Borealis Bards assisted Dan McGonigle and Nate Harnit in relaunching the Falls High School Competition One Act team, part of the Minnesota State High School League, after a 25-year hiatus, culminating in a very strong showing in January of 2022! The Bards look forward to an ongoing relationship with the One Act team for costumes, props, sets, and local performances at the community center.

This past year brought some new additions for the Bards. We welcomed Christina Daniel to the Bards Committee, where she will focus on grant writing and bookkeeping - an absolutely invaluable service to local theater! Tim Weaver has created a new website at BorealisBards.com and a beautiful set of new logos!

2021 saw the loss of local theater legend Jack Gilbertson. The Borealis Bards join the community in mourning his passing and celebrating his life. Jack's sister, Gail Owen, has donated his extensive library of scripts and theatrical books to the Borealis Bards and we look forward to drawing on that wonderful resource as we continue the local theatrical traditions that Jack helped to build. 2021 also saw the passing of John Faith, a local champion of lights, sound, music and the youth of our community. The Bards are dedicated to carrying on his legacy as well, developing local talent in lights and sound for any and all performances. Both of these friends are fine examples of lives well lived!

Donations to Borealis Bards - Pinocchio Production

Jeff & Diane Adams
Jessie Laurion
Kathryn O'Connor

Rotary Club
Samantha Crossley & Jim Yount



Koochiching County Community Television

KCC-TV continues to bring viewers local meetings consisting of Koochiching County Board of Commissioners, Koochiching Economic Development Authority, Airport Commission, North Koochiching Area Sanitation District, Int'l Falls City Council, Ranier City Council/Committee of the Whole, and ISD 361 School Board. The channel receives sporting updates from Timm Ringhofer and George Fraik with their weekly submitted show "The Sports Rap with George & Ringer." Local school sports are covered by KGHS/KSDM through Your Live Event on YouTube. They are streamed for KCC-TV viewers on Midco Channel 7, as well.

The "What's Happening at..." programs featured Backus events such as spring roll preparation/tutorial and the harvest dinner preparation. A class of 5th graders, from Falls Elementary got to show off their ecosystem dioramas. Indus school invited KCC-TV to their classrooms for a day of cooking, poetry, art, music, gym, gardening and shop class projects. The summer season brought the return of Concerts in the Park. "Open Range Concert Series Up North" premiered this past summer. The first round of "Hidden Talents" is coming to an end. Programs featured a number of music makers, a weaver, an avid fisherman/taxidermist, and a woodworker extraordinaire. The series should grow as local talent continues to provide.

As of February, KCC-TV has uploaded over 200 programs on the YouTube channel. Some are short snippets of local life from a gardener giving a tour of her gardens, volunteers singing Valentine telegrams to raise money for those in need of housing, and eccentric artist painting a mural on a local restaurant, to a coat drive for area youth. While others are longer, showcasing community orchestra concerts, a farewell to a friend moving away, celebrations of life for loved ones who have passed, and veteran's suicide awareness. From proms, graduations and award ceremonies, school concert to parades, KCC-TV was there behind the camera.

Submitted by Darcy Sullivan, Program Director

KCC-TV Members

STUDENT

Reid and Jo Toninato

CREW

Dick and Pat Bjorum

Chrystal Clance

International Falls Chamber

LeeAnn Meer

Wherley Motors

Melissa Marcotte

Robert Marquardt

Jim and Gail Rognerud

Sue Swendsen

CAMERA

Steve and Christy Earley

Rick and Louanne Faulkner

David Olson and Jenelle Feller

John and Teresa Briggs

Koochiching Aging Options

Rainy Lake Grill

NEWS ANCHOR

Coca-Cola Bottling Company

John and Teresa Briggs

Friends Against Abuse

Koochiching Aging Options

DIRECTOR

Border Bank

Evangelical Covenant Church

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Mike and Cynthia Jaksa

Koochiching Labor Assembly

Packaging Corporation of America



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 curb-side 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 families 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.

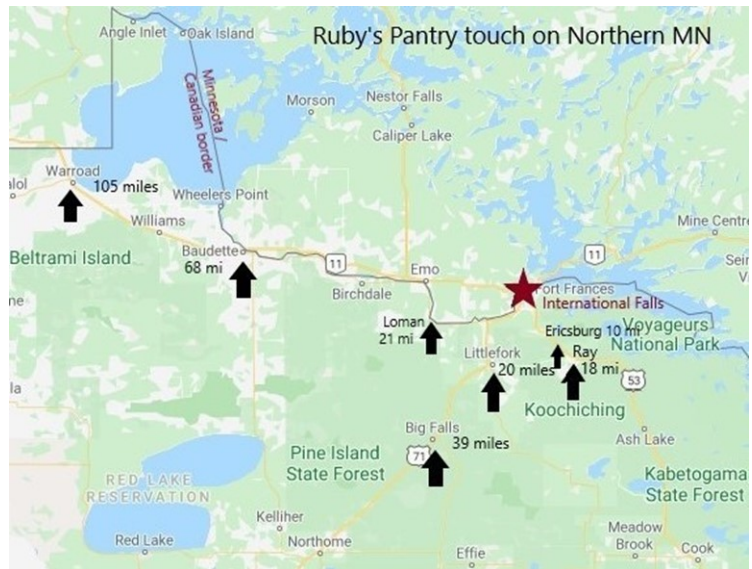
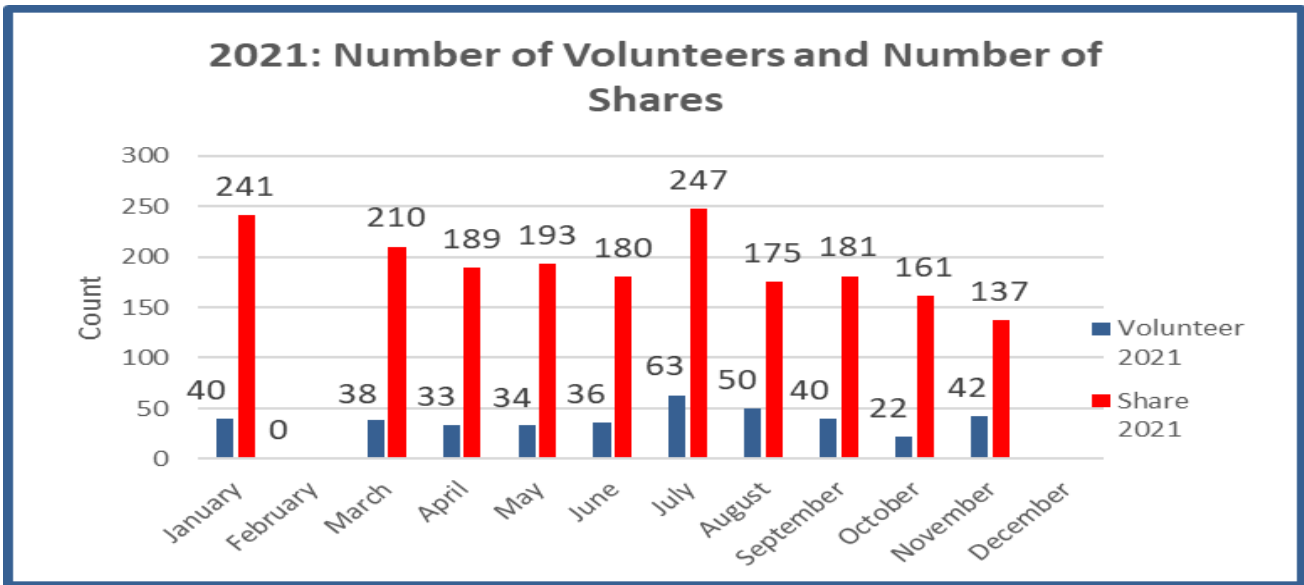
While the Ruby's Pantry food distribution took a "pause" in December of 2021, the group looks to resume operations in March of 2022. There will be a few new leaders involved, which will bring fresh looks to old processes, and efforts to make things even better.

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!"

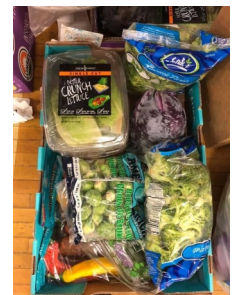
Benefits to our Northern Minnesota communities don't end with the food that is distributed. Each guest donates \$22 per share of food that they receive. Of that \$22, \$2.20 stays local. Benevolence dollars are allocated to organizations across Koochiching County. To date, Ruby's Pantry has given more than \$32,000 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.

Submitted by Lois Lundin, Food Line Coordinator

Ruby's Pantry (continued)



Ruby's
PANTRY



Community Café

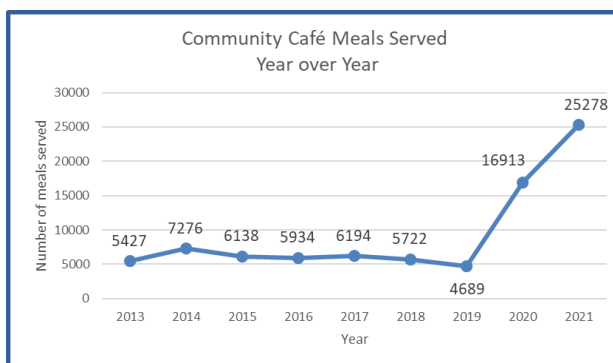
The Backus Community Cafe addresses hunger and food access issues in our community by providing hot, nutritious meals each Tuesday and Thursday evening. This program does not impose any qualifying requirements on its guests. Everyone is welcome. Food is prepared fresh daily and is available for pick-up in a very efficient and timely manner. The quality of the food is excellent, and the variety of the menu selections is very good. The portions are generous. Milk is always included, and many times there is fresh fruit. Walk-ins are welcome; there is always plenty of food. Of equal importance to the meals that are served, all people are treated with kindness and respect.

While the generous portions of good food are important, the meals are just one component of addressing hunger and food needs in our community. Backus has worked hard to soften public perception issues around the word "need". A common misconception is that only people who don't have financial means should be coming to Community Cafe. Backus sees this very differently. In addition to those who might be dealing with financial challenges, we see many people with various issues who are simply trying to make all ends meet. We serve people who are working through various mental health or substance abuse/recovery issues. We serve people who are living in places where they don't have a means to prepare food. We serve people who are struggling through day to day life because of the social effects of the pandemic (isolation, rising costs of products and services, services that are difficult to obtain or that are simply no longer available, etc.). We have many people who come to pick up dinner and deliver to elderly or shut-in family members and friends. We serve elderly men whose wives have passed away and the surviving husband doesn't know how to cook (they never had to before). We serve people who live alone who are tired of eating a sandwich or a bowl of cereal for supper because cooking a wholesome meal for one is just too hard. We serve single parent families so mom or dad can go home after a full day's work to have good time and "take-out food" with their children. Little kids in struggling households think it's a treat because for just this little bit of time they get to be like the other kids by bringing dinner home.

Backus Community Cafe is a place where friendships form. Our guests make connections with one another and share happenings from their days. People tend to arrive at the same time each Tuesday or Thursday so they can visit with people they've befriended over time. Our guests know this is a safe place and they trust the staff and volunteers.

We have many organizations and individuals who call Backus asking to volunteer their service at Community Cafe. It is a very fulfilling evening of fellowship and purpose for our volunteers. There is a lot of food to be prepared and served, and we have people who want to help. They want to be involved. They want to be more aware of the happenings and changes in their community. I believe that the number of people wanting to volunteer at this meaningful program is growing because of the message that is seeping out into our community. Need is all around us. We need to start seeing differently. As a result, people are more understanding. People are more compassionate. Kindness is on the move. Our goal is to continue to serve this need in our community. We have made improvements to the quality of foods that are served and work to include fresh fruits as often as possible. We expect that this need for meals will continue into the unforeseeable future.

Submitted by Lois Lundin, Executive Director



Over **84,020** meals have been served through Community Café from 12/04/2012 to 12/31/2021

In 2021

Adult Meals: 20,930
Child Meals: 4,348
Total Meals Served: **25,278**

2021 Community Café Volunteers

Aleisha Chase	Dave Loop	Jenell Feller	Lynn Belanger	Sandra Orgas
Amy Mortenson	David McKee	Jim Cowlshaw	Marco Griffith	Sandy Harju
Andrew Wright	Dean Burton	Joan Benedix	Marie Zaren	Scott Gerlach
Anna Mortenson	Deb Arnold	Joel Maxwell	Mark Wild	Sharalynn Schaak
Annie Blair	DeeDee Thompson	John Watkinson	Mary Neagbor	Sharon Everett
Ardel Hendrickson	Denise Atchley	Judy Medeiros	Matt Covell	Sue Anderson
Ariana Vacura	Dian Burton	Judy Potter	Maxine Corrin	Sue Mathews
Barb Bergh	Donna Hayes	Julie Ehrman	Mel Mattsen	Susan Savard
Barb Smith	Doreen Swendsen	Julie Handman	Michael Schrock	Tammy Sullivan
Ben Mortenson	Doris Porter	Julie Jaks	Mike Neagbor	Teresa Waller
Beth Anderson	Ed Magnuson	Kari Miggins	Monica Santangelo	Terry Schultz
Beth Ericson	Elaine Johnson	Kathy Fisher	Nancy Lee	Tim Gerlach
BethAnne Slatinski	Elaine Johnson	Kayla Reller	Nancy Lee	Tom Hardy
Bob DeGross	Elaine Strand	KayLynn Cronin	Nancy McBride	Tom Iffert
Bob Peterson	Erica Lundin	Kevin Grover	Nate Hilfer	Tom Schaaf
Brenda Bertilson	Gary Loop	Kevin Leerson	Orva Voth	Tom Voth
Brenda Bounds	Gavia Yount	Kimberlee Atchley	Pam Peterson	Tony Palm
Carly Carlson	GeorgeAnn Wright	Kris Jackson	Pat Bjorum	Tucky Dill
Carol Anderson	Gloria Lindstrom	Kristi Bigler	Pat Smyithe	Vicki Graugire
Carol Bass	Greg Lundin	Kyle Bounds	Patti Lindahl	Wanda Pelland
Carol Grim	Harrison Woelfel	Laurie Lindberg	Pete Anderson	Will Peterson
Carole Johnson	Henry Carey	Leroy Winkle	Rachel Griffith	Zach Scofield
Carolyn Davison	Isaac Johnson	Linda Sutch	Randy Hilfer	
Chris Vedugo	Jacob Pendergast	Lisa Gerlach	Rick DeBenedet	
Clint Chase	Jan Benedix	Lisa Mortenson	Rick Houglum	
Connie Franzen	Jan Leerson	Lizzy Livary	Roberta Brown	
Connie Magnuson	Jaquilyn Smith	Lloyd Skogstad	Robin Hilfer	
Cynthia Waren	Jean Corrin	Lola Wade	Ron Manka	
Darlene Tomzach	Jeanne Strand	Lori Scholler	Ruth Darvell	
Daryl Waller	Jed Becker	Lynelle Salo	Ryan Skogstad	

Donations to Community Cafe

American Family Insurance Foundation	Keith Goulet	Peter Skrief
Carol Bass	Roger & Rebecca Griffin	Elaine Story
Dick & Pat Bjorum	Margaret Kelly	Brenda Sullivan
Rickie & Leona Blanchard	Koochiching County	Larry & Sandra Sundsvold
Border Bank	Jennifer Long	Jim & Linda Sutch
Sonja Clark	James & Nikki Ludwig	Robert & Linda Sweney
Rev. Erin Coutts	Robert Marquardt	Anne Uehling
Patricia Dault	Robert Miller	Randy Waskul
Steve & Christy Earley	Packaging Corporation of America	Bruce & June Wilson
Falls Hunger Coalition	Ed & Sandra Schneider	Zion Lutheran Church
		Zion Lutheran Church Women

Donations to Community Café in Honor of

Tom & Jane Barthell from Peggy Kelly and Michael & Linda Orsted
Brenda Bounds from Sonja Clark

Donations to Community Café in Memory of

Wally Herman from Jason & Heather Sjoblom
Marlys Imhof from Ron & Wanda Pelland
Leona Larson from Ron & Wanda Pelland
Tammie Nass from Ron & Wanda Pelland
Dirk Tilander from John & Karen Wilson

Donations to Community Café in Memory of

Fran Zaren from
Kay Arnold
Walter Beier
Lynn & Carol Belanger
Joan Benedix
Catholic Daughters of
America
Susan Congrave
Genevieve Fischer
Tom & Jackie Glowack
Gene & Pat Kjellgren
Lynn Naeckel & David
McKee
Beverly Nagurski
Ron & Wanda Pelland
John & Rose Rasmussen
Corky & Sharalyn Schaak
Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski
Jeff & Marge Veeder
Betty Villalta
John & Cynthia Weiske
Marie Zaren

Betty Zeipen from
Debbie Anderson
David & Lynn Beatty
Janis Costley
Brad Ettestad
Patricia Ettestad
Tim & Marva Fairchild
Rick & Lou Anne Faulkner
Bill & Becky Flynn
George & Susan Fraik
Diane Frick
Roger & Rebecca Girffin
Kirk Skallman &
Georgia Growette
Jim & Cheryl Hartje
Kevin & Char Jensen
Roy & Minnie Kidd
Brad & Shelly King
Iverne & Heather Kuryla
Julie Larson
Bruce & Debbie LaVigne
Larry Ledbetter

Arden McKnight
Raymond & Debbie Ostman
Todd & Patty Pavleck
Bob & Pam Peterson
Jon & Anne Reuter
Audrey Rochoe
Joel Hase & Susan Savard
Harold & Julie Schumacher
Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski
Dave & Natalie Stavseth
Robert & Faye Thomson
Brian Toder
VFW Auxillary
Brian & Susie Vidor
John & Pam Wenberg
Ward & Monica Zeipen

Donations to Feed Just One

Gale Aklestad
American Family Insurance
Susan Anderson
Larry & Sonja Arch
Patti Ballan
Tom & Jane Barthell
Jay & Julie Bartkowski
Jack & Mary Bartlett
Harry & Sally Batdorf
Laurel Beager
Lynn & Carol Belanger
Doug & Brenda Bertilson
Richard & Pat Bjorum
Cathy Blankman
Border Bank
Les & Molly Bragg
Bremer Bank Employee
Charity
Amy Brenengen
Amy Callaway
Aaron & Gloria Carew
John & Janice Carlson
Dr. Michael & Loretta Carney
Greg & Sheryl Christianson
Milo & Margaret Christianson
Richard Clements
Marty & Angela Cody

Dennis & Nettie Coleman
Susan Congrave
Gail Costley
David & Nancy Cronin
Carolyn Davison
Roxanne Skostad-Ditsch &
Leon Ditsch
James & Joann Dornhecker
Steve & Christy Earley
Rob & Joan Ecklund
Bonnie Erickson
Pat Ettestad
Tim & Marva Fairchild
Rick & Lou Anne Faulkner
David Olson & Jenell Feller
Kari Flom
William & Rebecca Flynn
Dick & Liz Forsythe
George & Susan Fraik
Dennis & Sharon Frank
Donna Frederickson
Patrick & June Fulton
Gale Gagnier
Gateway Assembly Church
Gordon & Jennifer Gelo
Andrea Bond & Charles Skrief
Keith Goulet

Mary Graves
Green-Larsen Mortuary
Rebecca Larsen-Griffin &
Roger Griffin
Cindy Griffith-Story
Leland & Carol Grim
Kirk Skallman & Georgia Growette
Calvin & Alyndia Growette
Michael & Nancy Heibel
Randy & Jojean Hodel
Mike & Ann Holden
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Sandra Hoopman
Margaret Horning
Vicky Houg
Patti Indahl
Roger & Betty Jackson
Carolyn Jaksa
Dale Johnson
David & Janice Johnson
Duayne & Nancy Johnson
Mike & Barb Johnson
Wayne Johnson
Sylvia Johnston
Scott & Rosemary Jonson
Kabetogama United
Methodist Church

Donations to Feed Just One (continued)

Peter Kalar	Mark & Beverly Oszman	Brian & Barb Smith
Phyllis Karsnia	Wade & Carol Pavleck	Tom & Barb Smith
Tom Karsnia	Peter Graham Auxiliary	Kurt & Hoa Sobczynski
Wayne & Mary Ann Kasich	VFW No. 2948 - Dist. 8	Eric & Valerie Solovjovs
Peggy Kelly	Bob & Pam Peterson	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Gene & Pat Kjellgren	Jane Pierce	Vicky Stanich
James & Sherry Larson	Martin & Gretchen	Larry & Sandra Sundsvold
Emmi Lattu	Plantenberg	Jim & Linda Sutch
Nancy Lee	Ranier Recreation Club	Susan Swendsen
Arvid & Barb Leinum	Robert & Toni Rapaway	Dan & Cherie Sweney
Jim & Sherrie Lessard	Tami Renollet	Sheila Tatone
Gordon & Karen Lindgren	RiverWood Bank	DeeDee Thompson
Valerie Long	Mary & James Rolando	Reid & Jo Toninato
Nels & Sharon Lundin	Ginger Romosz	TruStar Federal
Jim & Lori Lyman	Barbara Ross	Credit Union
Rena Maloney	Rotary Club	Teresa & Daryl Waller
Donna McClellan	Rotary Member	Betsy & Larry Warrington
Arden McKnight	Merlin & Susan Sanden	Steven & Garner Wiley
Rocky & Karina McLellan	Susan Savard	Mike & Mary Williams
Isaac & Regan Meyer	Corky & Shar Schaak	Bruce & June Wilson
Scott & Marlene Mixa	Ed & Sandra Schneider	John & Karen Wilson
Duane & Mary Nelson	Harold & Julie Schumacher	Trent & Kimberly Wimmer
Janet Nelson	Chris & Deb Scofield	Leroy & Mary Jo Winkel
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Summer Food Service Program

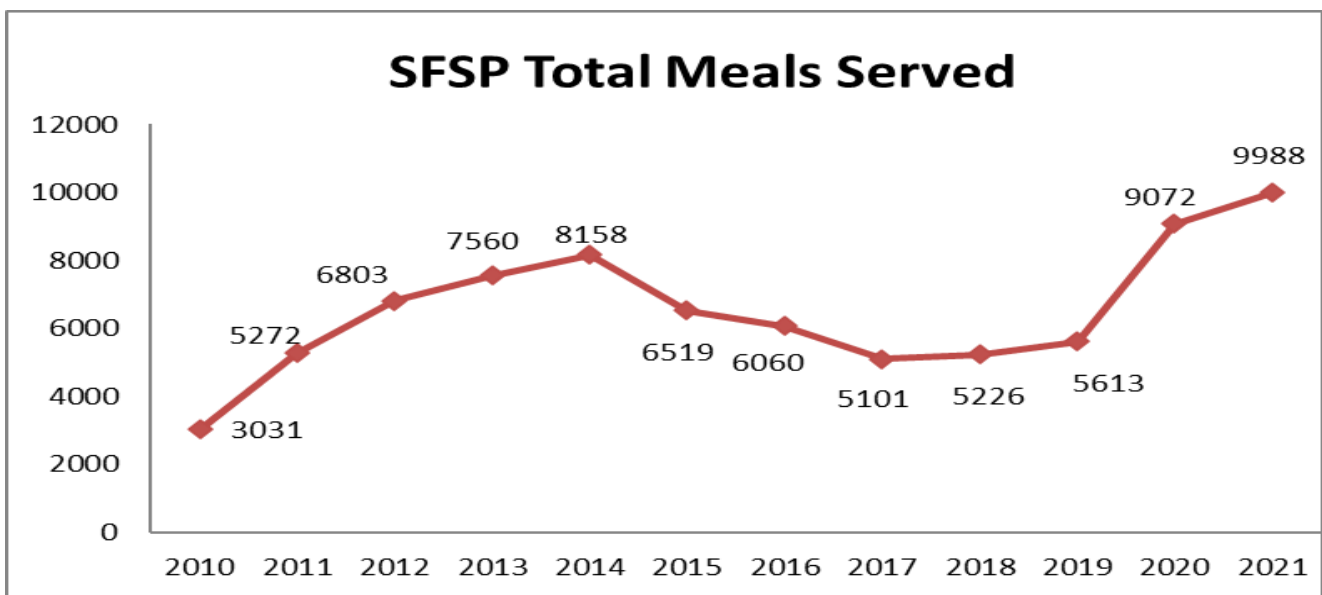
The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) that began in 2010 provides a free “school” type lunch to children ages 1-18 as well as to clients of the Falls Hunger Coalition and clients of Servants of Shelter. The program is sponsored, certified, and inspected by the MN Department of Education (MDE) and has 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. We served a record number of children in the 2021 summer program!

The program completed its 12th year in 2021. 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 9,988 meals served in 2021. All meals continued to be 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 2021 program, a survey showed that the kids still liked the taco in a bag lunch the best, followed by cheese burgers. The kids told us that they really liked all of the food selections. 2021 was truly a banner year!

Just like the Community Café program, the Summer Food Service Program was manned this year by a core group of Backus Staff and Volunteers. The Backus team thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the kids and families and were happy to be part of their days.

The Summer Food Service Program served a total of 9,988 meals in 2021. Everyone is looking forward to the summer of 2022!

Submitted by Lois Lundin, Executive Director



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Backus Community Center sincerely thanks every person who is a member, volunteer, attendee, contributor, participant, donor, visitor as each one is vitally important to our success. When Backus is successful in our mission, we believe the quality of living around us improves.

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Annual Meeting
Thursday, February 17, 2022

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.

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where all generations celebrate arts, culture,
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