

Food for Thought

June 2023



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

Barberton Area Community Ministries Mission

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

Office Staff

Dorothy Suchka-Somerville
Executive Director
dsomerville@bacm.org

Dawn Cobb
Pantry Operations Manager
dcobb@bacm.org

Nancy Vinez
Pantry Aide

2023 Board Members

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

Building Renovation & Improvements

Welcome back, Board Member, **Gary Christoff**.

Gary is heading our Building Renovation Committee. Thanks to an anonymous donor, we were able to purchase one new refrigerator and 2 new freezers. We have widened doorways and aisles, rearranged and added shelves and walls, leveled the concrete pad, drywalled and painted offices, and weeded and mulched outside.

Next steps will include the installation of our new BACM sign and lighting, replacing a few folding tables with solid wood tables to hold the weight of tons of potatoes and vegetables, adding a large wall to divide the sanctuary into a bulk food storage room and a community meeting room, and cutting a new driving path from the top parking lot to the bottom parking lot. This change to the parking lot will allow more cars into the lot; to get the traffic off of the street faster. We are still looking for a donation or discount on gravel. If anyone is in the position to help, we would love to hear from you. We will host an Open House toward the end of Summer to allow the community to see the progress made so far.



Volunteer Spotlight

Check In

We are thankful to volunteers **Joy Polacek** and **Pam Morisak** for learning the PantryTrak program to check-in families on the tablet when they come through the drive-thru pantry.

Bag Prepping

Barberton High School

vocational students have volunteered at BACM every Wednesday for several years during the school year. The students prepare grocery bags by checking for holes, double bagging, flattening and sorting by color. We estimate using over 8,000 bags per month. A big thank you to everyone that helps make this program run successfully.

Monthly Raffle

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

2022 Volunteer Recognition Banquet

Over 40 volunteers were able to attend this year's luncheon. Congratulations to Board Member of Year - **Dave Stephens**; Volunteer of the Year – **Debbie Wasch**; Martha Jamison Award for volunteering the most hours – **Marty Bidlingmyer**; and the new Barb Gercken Award presented to **John Nelson**. This new award was given to the volunteer that always comes to BACM with a positive and friendly attitude, just like Barb.



We are so grateful to all 139 loyal volunteers and 16 groups that contributed 9,869.25 hours of service during 2022 by packing groceries, stocking shelves, unloading trucks, answering phones, planning events, picking up food, checking in clients, prepping bags & on & on.





Events

BACM Bingo

The March event brought out 191 guests to the Barberton Moose Annex for 10 games of bingo. Guests, plus 23 volunteers and 40 donors helped raise \$7,055 for the pantry. Congrats to all of our winners. Next game is set for Wed. Oct. 18 at Prince of Peace church.

City of Barberton

The Christmas in July non-perishable food & toiletries drive started early. You can be drop off items at City Hall or Lake Anna YMCA in June or July to benefit BACM and Barberton Salvation Army.

Community of Christ

located at 265 W Summit St, hosts a Swiss Steak Dinner any long month, on the 5th Wednesday, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting BACM. Next meals are set for Aug. 30 and Nov. 29.

Magic Cruiser Car Club

is planning a car, truck & motorcycle show on July 23 from 1-5pm at Prince of Peace church for BACM. Registration fee is \$5 or 5 non-perishable items. Text or call Bob for info (330) 807-1374.

Barberton Firefighters

are selling 1,000 raffle tickets for \$20 each. Grand prize is \$5,000. BACM will be gifted \$1,000. See a firefighter for tickets. The drawing will be Sept 16 from 6pm-10pm at Magic City Brewing Co.

Bikers For BACM

The 3rd Annual Poker Run will be held Sat. July 29 with registration at 10am at Loyal Order of the Moose in Barberton, hosted by People Check Services and Block 7 Bar & Grill. All vehicles are welcome. Registration is \$20 per rider and \$10 per passenger. The first 20 riders will receive an event t-shirt. The first bike out at 11am will stop at Country Line Bar & Grill in Hartville, then Bud's Corner in Louisville, Old Timers Bar & Griddle in Massillon, Rusty Railz in Clinton, and Manchester Tavern in New Franklin. The final stop at Block 7 Bar & Grill in Barberton will include dinner, live entertainment by Top Shelf Acoustic Trio, and basket raffles. All event proceeds will help BACM fight hunger.

Thank You

Titanium Sponsor
VFW Post 1066 Barberton

Raffle Baskets & Sponsorships

If you want to help out, we will gladly accept a basket or item to raffle at the event. Sponsor opportunities are available too. Call or email Rhonda for details or questions at (330) 604-8039 or rkr721@icloud.com.

New BACM Website

Check out the new www.BACM.org website. There you can make a donation, purchase a BACM t-shirt for \$10-12 and in the future purchase BACM Bingo tickets.

Thank You Donors

Barberton Class of 1970

has been a great supporter of BACM. Thank you for your donation of a cart load of pasta, on a day when we were in great need.



Chuck Fowler

Happy 80th Birthday to Chuck. He hosted a big celebration and encouraged his friends to donate to BACM in his honor, rather than purchasing birthday gifts.

J.M. Smucker Co

Smucker's in Orrville has been a regular donor lately of jams, jellies & toppings.

Pet Friends

Maggie's Mission, Humane Society of Summit County, and Pet Supplies

Plus in Norton have all generously donated pet food to our Pet Food Pantry.



Barberton Big Lots

BACM has received tons of goodies from Big Lots this year. They routinely check expiration dates & remove seasonal items from their shelves & pass onto us. Our clients get extras, such as special cereals, snacks, crackers, condiments & holiday treats.

Norton Girl Scouts

Bridget and Troop 91501 donated a case of Girl Scouts to BACM. What a great surprise for our clients to find a box of Thin Mints hidden beneath the canned goods.



United Methodist Church

Members of UMC assembled & donated 200 Easter baskets that were given to families with children visiting the pantry.

Barberton Moose Lodge

Members of the Moose have selected BACM as their charity to receive donations from gaming proceeds. Thank you for thinking of BACM.



Akron Canton Regional Foodbank

We really can't thank ACRF enough for all of their efforts throughout the year. They work hard to encourage donations thru programs at grocery stores and gas pumps to raise funds; those funds funnel down to BACM as free/discounted food.

Dollar General

Unfortunately for Dollar General on Eastern Road, their coolers & freezers lost power over night. All of their still frozen food was donated to BACM.



Atosa USA Inc

We were surprised to learn that Gail McDaniel from Pepe & Luigi's Pizza chose BACM to win a frig from Atosa.

*Executive Director
& President's
Comments*

Dear Friends of BACM:

I am pleased to announce that BACM remains very strong at the halfway point of 2023. However, the NEED for food and finances has been far stronger this year than what we are accustomed to. Due to the continued rising costs of food and the shortage of staple foods we are in a battle to keep up. To no surprise the number of area residents in need of help is rising just as rapidly. In addition, the Akron Canton Foodbank is facing identical issues. BACM has been helping the greater Barberton area for 36 years. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT more now than ever. The demand for food for needy families never takes a vacation. Please keep BACM in mind in the coming months. We appreciate all you do and have done to make BACM a vital part of our beloved community.

If you have never visited BACM in the past or if you haven't visited BACM this year, I would suggest you set a day and time to visit. I think you will be in for quite a surprise how much the operations and efficiencies have changed. There has been quite a lot that has been going on so far this year and I believe you will be very impressed. I also believe you will find it to be very inspiring and you will be glad that you play a very important part to this wonderful organization and your fellow man. We recently had the BHS Class of 1970 do one of their monthly luncheons at BACM. Guess what? They are coming back in September for another one. If you or your organization would like to do the same, please let us know. Please come and check us out soon! Sincerely, Dave Stephens, BACM President

From the Director:

Many thanks to all who donate their time, food, and funds to BACM!!! We are in unforeseen times due to food shortages, which are only going to get worse. The Akron Canton Regional Foodbank has shortages of many staples. Their prices have tripled along with our increases of those in need. I am working with our local stores to help procure products we need. They also have limits on what to order. Pasta is in demand, but difficult to find. We use 495 boxes of macaroni and cheese, 600 cans of soup, and 770 canned vegetables a week. We thank all who donate, we couldn't do it without you and the good Lord who always answers my prayers for the pantry!!!

Our building renovation fund is separate from the food funding, so never do we use the funds for food for renovations. We have volunteers that are working on the renovations as we get materials in. We have several who are donating their time and funds out of their own pockets to assist us with making our Resource Center a reality. Thank you to Paul Shultz, Gary Christoff, Manchester Custom Construction (Dave & Bubba Cobb). Huge thank you for our landscapers, who put in lots of hard work: Debbie Wasch, Teri Dwyer, Janice Carter, and Stewart Pest Control's Dolores Juriga and JD Stewart. They donated mulch and flowers. Thanks to Sue at Dayton's Flower for discounted mulch and plants!!!!

BACM will miss Paul Shultz, as he was instrumental with our renovation starting plan and worked on a grant for the project. Our deepest condolences to his mother Patricia and brother Todd. God Bless and thank you all for your contributions in any form.

Blessings, Dorothy Somerville
BACM Executive Director

Thank you!

BACM Donation Form

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Donor Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Make check payable to BACM

Mail to 939 Norton Ave, Barberton 44203

Don Butcher, Richard Hale,

Toni Howe,

Bill Korpp,

James Mezaros,

Rita Polacek,

Paul Shultz,

Jeff Stewart, Jeremy West,



BACM 2023 Stats

<u>Service Provided:</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>
Food Boxes Delivered	92	92	92	92
Senior Home Deliveries	72	82	84	88
Families Visited Pantry	894	972	991	1027
Individuals at Pantry	2751	3091	3300	3352
Meals Provided	44,697	49,841	52,998	53,778
Non-Food Services	65	72	74	105
Volunteers Hours	647.5	789.75	721.25	795.5
Grocery Bags Donated	410	581	351	376

BACM Hours

Office Hours

Mondays & Wednesdays

9am – 4pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays

9am – 5pm

Pantry Hours (Pick Up Food)

Tuesdays & Thursdays

1pm – 5pm

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