

# Food for Thought

November 2024



939 Norton Avenue, Barberton Ohio 44203 (330) 745-3693 [www.BACM.org](http://www.BACM.org) [www.Facebook.com/bacmfoodpantry](http://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](mailto:dsomerville@bacm.org)

Dawn Cobb  
Pantry Operations Manager  
[dcobb@bacm.org](mailto:dcobb@bacm.org)

Nancy Vinez  
Pantry Aide

## 2024 Board Members

Dave Stephens, President  
Rev. Dr. Michael Petrochuk, VP  
Teri Dwyer, Treasurer  
Dolores Juriga, Secretary  
Jennifer Bragg  
Gary Christoff  
Ralph Dowling  
Carrie Herman  
Bethany McKenney  
Rob Pursley  
Robert Ryan  
Mark Snyder  
Anne Sweeney  
Debbie Wasch  
LaVerne Yousey

Office Hours Mon & Wed 9am-4pm  
Office Hours Tues & Thurs 9am-1pm  
Pantry Hours Tues & Thurs 1pm-5pm

In 2025, we're launching a new initiative — **BACM Ambassadors**. This new group will be open to volunteers, donors, community leaders, and board members — and anyone else who would like to support the mission of BACM. Joining will be free! Ambassadors will receive a free t-shirt to be worn throughout the community.

The goal of the BACM Ambassadors is to promote BACM. Maybe it will be through a new fundraiser. Maybe it will be through volunteering at BACM. Maybe it will be through delivering needed items to our clients. Maybe it will be supporting the organization through your time, talent, and treasure.

In the end, BACM Ambassadors will — through their words, actions, and support -- promote our wonderful organization. Please look for more information and the sign-up link after the first of the year.

We look forward to welcoming you as a BACM Ambassador!

Best Regards, Michael Petrochuk, BACM Board VP

## Finn's Pet Pantry

In memory of our beloved therapy dog and mascot, we will be officially naming our pet pantry after him. Prior to Covid, Finn visited the pantry waiting room while each family shopped. He offered love and support to our clients. We encourage you to show your love with a donation of dog or cat food in his memory to help keep the pet food shelves full.



# July News

## Fundraising & Food Drives

**Christian Healthcare Ministries** created an amazing promo video for BACM. Visit [www.BACM.org](http://www.BACM.org) to view it for yourself. Friendly competition among the CHM teams helped them collect 5,123 non-perishable items during the City of Barberton's Christmas in July Drive.

We are thrilled to partner with such an enthusiast group of supporters.



Photo from Christian Healthcare Ministries

Thanks to **Mayor Judge** for organizing the Christmas in July Food/Toiletry Drive!



**Girl Scouts Troop 90250** donated Birthday Kits to clients celebrating their special day.



**Bikers for BACM** had an amazing turn out for **People Check and Block 7 Bar & Grill's** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Poker Run! We truly appreciate everyone's sponsorship, attendance, donation & volunteer time. A big thank you to **VFW Post 1066 Barberton**, our Titanium Sponsor.



**John Barlett** emptied Ride Aid shelves & filled our Pet Pantry. An anonymous donor, Pet Supplies Plus, and Humane Society of Summit County keep our clients' pets fed.

**Nancy, Jeanne & Dolores** planted peas, tomatoes, peppers, green beans, basil & squash to share with our clients this summer.



Congrats Raffle Winner, **Bruce Guilliams**!





# August News

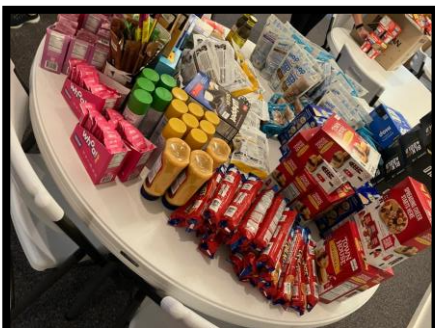
## Flood & Food

**Flood Help** Barberton neighborhoods were hit hard by unexpected storms. BACM volunteers, along with **Leach's Meats & Sweets**, **East of Chicago Pizza** and **Magic Subs** prepared lunch for residents impacted by the flood.



**Barberton Moose #759** regularly makes donations to BACM with proceeds from their gambling sales. Each time you play at the Moose, you are benefiting BACM. This month's check was delivered by Ken Dollison.

**Barberton Big Lots** often donates leftover holiday items and products near expiration for quick distribution. When clients receive non-essential items, like crackers, mustard, or cooking spray, this is thanks to Big Lots!



**College Park Cookout** Dorothy Somerville provided food for the end of summer celebration hosted by Gwen at a local park.



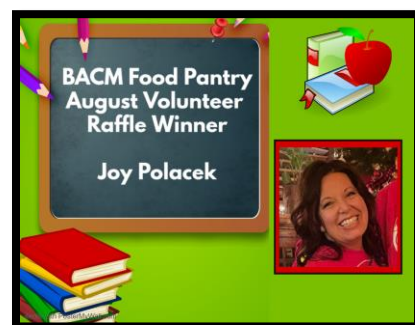
Photo from Integrity's Facebook Page

**Integrity Federal Credit Union's** staff and customers surprised BACM with carts full of food to help feed their neighbors in need. Our thanks to everyone that contributed.

**A Whole Community Inc** in Wooster gathers farm-fresh produce from local farms & shares it with local food pantries like BACM. Thank you to **Ralph Dowling** for making weekly pick-ups all summer long.



Congrats Raffle Winner, **Joy Polacek**



# September News

## Labor Day & Laborers

### Barberton Labor Day BBQ & Music Fest

BACM Volunteers & local political groups helped man the Labor Day beer garden while raising funds for the food pantry.



**Ray E. Leach Sr. Memorial Lunch** served up pork sandwiches & sides for the community with all proceeds split between BACM Food Pantry and Esther Ryan Shoe Fund. A very special way to remember Mr. Leach.



**Barberton Giant Eagle** has been a generous donor to BACM for many years. Volunteers of **Integrity Federal Credit Union** and **Barry Stokes** pick up day-old breads & desserts to distribute on Tuesdays & Thursdays.



**Axis Communications** volunteers & board member **Ralph Dowling** helped clean up tree limbs from a downed tree on BACM property, while **Paul Webel** cut it up & hauled it away. Thanks guys, for your effort!

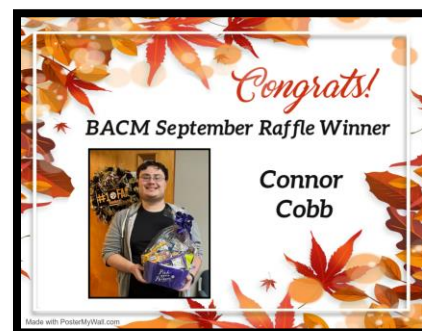


**Barberton Tree Service** dropped off cases of canned goods to help local hungry residents. Strong community support makes the work BACM does possible. We appreciate all of you!

**Finn**, BACM's mascot and local therapy dog sadly passed away this month. He will be missed. Our thanks to **Larry Okolish** for sharing Finn with us over the years and to everyone who donated pet food in his memory.



Congrats Raffle Winner, **Connor Cobb**!





# October News

## Fundraising & Fun

**Barberton Bingo** was a huge success with a sold-out crowd! Thank you to our 200 guests, 26 volunteers, 62 donors, and 61 raffle baskets. It was a fun night of friendship & fundraising. Next game scheduled for Wed. Mar 19, 2025.



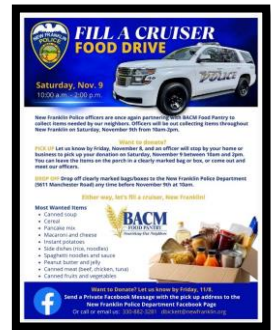
Photo by Scott Moss of Magical Memories Photography LLC

**Sheetz** moved to Barber Road and immediately offered to lend a hand to BACM. On Mondays & Thursdays after 9am, Dorothy picks up day-old perishable foods, which we refrigerate & share during pantry hours. Our seniors love prepared foods ready for lunch when groceries are delivered on Thursdays. **We need a volunteer** that can commit to making these picks up from Sheetz, anyone interested? Call Dorothy.



**Acme Community Cash Back** is back this year. Save your Acme receipts from now until Feb 15. When purchasing store brand products, Acme will share 5% of your spending with BACM. Feel free to drop off your receipts during office hours, ideally Mon-Thurs 9am-noon.

**New Franklin Police**  
Fill-A-Cruiser Food Drive  
will take place Sat. Nov  
9 from 10am – 2pm.  
Call (330) 882-3281 by  
Nov 8 to provide your  
address & an officer will  
pick up your gifts. Or,  
drop off at the station,  
5611 Manchester Rd.



**Wayside Furniture's**  
After Thanksgiving  
Giving Event will be  
held Nov 29 – Dec 2.  
Donors can write a  
check to BACM,  
hand-deliver it to  
Wayside, and  
Wayside will match it  
up to \$100/person.

**Bags of Love** is a  
project designed to  
show your love to  
others. Fill a brown  
paper bag with  
essential items. Drop  
bags off at BACM  
during Jan & Feb.  
Once we have 125  
bags, we will begin  
distributing them  
during pantry hours.



Congrats Raffle Winner, **Donajeon Tierney!**



# Dave's Details

## Message from BACM Board President

What a beautiful Autumn we have been blessed with this year! The year 2024 is coming to an end in just a couple of months. Hard to believe how fast the year has gone. One of the highlights for BACM this Fall was our turnout for BACM Bingo on October 23. The event was sold out which meant all 200 tickets were sold.

That certainly was a milestone for BACM. Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors that always help to make this event a success. Thank you to our volunteers, staff and board members that worked the event. Great job Debbie Wasch (again) on the beautiful center pieces! A very big and special thank you to our Board Member & Treasurer Teri Dwyer who works so meticulously hard and makes BACM Bingo such a wonderful night! It was great to see so many community leaders in attendance supporting BACM. We also announced that the next BACM Bingo will be March 19, 2025. So please, mark your calendar for this fun event.

As the year comes to a close, I am pleased to report that BACM's financial position is stronger than ever. BACM's future is bright. Preparation for 2025's budget is upon us and the board and staff are working hard on it. Inflation continues to rear its ugly head on working families trying to "make ends meet". BACM will continue to be good stewards and make sure we are sound and available for the people and communities we serve. We couldn't do it without you!

I want to wish you a wonderful upcoming Holiday Season! May you be blessed!!!

## Magic City Kiwanis & BACM Food Pantry

### \$25,000 for 2025

## Helping with Hunger

**Magic City Kiwanis pledges to donate \$12,500 - if BACM can raise \$12,500 from the community. Help us hit our goal for this matching fund challenge.**

**Make check payable to BACM Food Pantry  
Mail to 939 Norton Ave, Barberton 44203  
October 1 - December 31, 2024  
Write Kiwanis on memo line**

### BACM Food Pantry Stats

<u>Services Provided:</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>
Senior Boxes Delivered	92	92	92
Senior Home Deliveries	141	144	130
Families Visited Pantry	1,012	1,042	985
Individuals at Pantry	3,102	3,198	3,062
Meals Provided	50,072	51,424	49,384
Non-Food Services	140	148	147
Volunteer Hours	1,115.5	929.5	916

### 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