

Food for Thought

January 2024



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

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
Anne Sweeney
Debbie Wasch
LaVerne Yousey

BACM Open House & New Resource Center

On February 8, 2023 BACM acquired the Summit Mennonite Church. Committee members worked all summer to raise funds and renovate the building to better suit the pantry's need.

On September 20, 2023 we welcomed the community to our Open House to tour the facility and see all of the progress made. Local mayors and Ohio representative cut the ribbon to officially open the doors to BACM Food Pantry and Resource Center.



The Resource Center will make space available to other non-profits to provide services to the community. Our Executive Director, Dorothy Somerville has been working with local groups to determine the needs of the community and how to best serve them. Our first partnership began on January 10, 2024 with Safe Harbor Sober Living.

They have started a new AA chapter that will meet on Wednesdays at 7pm at BACM. Soon we will offer details of the counseling group moving in February. Watch Facebook or our website www.bacm.org for new program details.

Community Food Drives

Happy Holidays!

Compass Systems in Barberton is a faithful corporate donor; giving carts full of food just in time for the holiday season.



Employees of **Cornwell Tools** located in Wadsworth delivered boxes of canned goods and side dishes; perfect additions to family Christmas dinners.

Shannon Bar & Grill, a small 16th St neighborhood bar, dropped off a large supply of donations for their neighbors in need.

The Village of Clinton gifted BACM with hams, turkeys and canned goods at their November council meeting. In addition to monetary donations from residents in attendance at the meeting.

Both **Pleasant View & Pleasant Pointe** hosted food collection drives among residents, staff & families to help fill families' tables.

Clients were thrilled to receive frozen turkeys from **Wright Tool** for Thanksgiving.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Barberton Schools

Barberton Middle School, Barberton High School, and BMS/BHS Cheer Team each organized amazing food drives for BACM.



City of Barberton

Mayor Judge planned a Christmas in July and Holiday Non-Perishable Collection drive in December to support BACM & Salvation Army.

Norton Police

Fraternal Order of Police Norton Lodge 119 hosted a successful food drive at Norton Acme.



Barberton Class of 1970

Classmates gather each month, sometimes in BACM's meeting room (which is open to the public and seats 80) bringing funds and food.

Magic Cruisers Car Club

The Cruisers hosted a car, truck & motorcycle show with "admission" of canned goods.

New Franklin Police

Officers planned a very successful "Fill A Cruiser" food drive on Nov 4 by picking up grocery bags from residents' porches.



Fundraising Events

Barberton Firefighters sold 1,000 raffle tickets and committed to donating \$1,000 to BACM and to their Local 329 Scholarship Fund.



Barberton Christmas Walk selected BACM as their charity to receive profits from the Christmas Crawl event and 50/50 drawing held the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Labor Day BBQ & Music Festival allowed BACM to man the beer garden and host a 50/50 drawing during the festival with all proceeds given to our group.

Acme Community Cash Back keep saving those Acme receipts dated until February 15. Acme will share 5% of your spending with us.



3rd Annual Bikers For BACM
People Check Services and **Block 7 Bar & Grill** hosted their annual Poker Run on July 29 raising a record-breaking amount for the food pantry! A big thank-you to **Barberton VFW Post 1066** for being a Titanium Sponsor. Save the date for the next ride on Sat. July 27, 2024.

Thanks to all 180 guests in attendance, 23 volunteers & 60 donors that made



BACM Bingo a huge success. Join us again for another fun game in March.

Wayside Furniture's After Thanksgiving Giving Event contributed \$100K to area charities. Our thanks to Wayside & 34 donors for giving a share to BACM.



Coin Jars Around Town
 Leach's Meats & Sweet,
 Enchanted Café &
 Magic City Kiwanis'
 Barberton Farmers Market
 collected spare change.
 Thank you all for giving.

Norton Kiwanis & BACM
\$24,000 for 2024
Helping with Hunger

The community exceeded our expectations by raising more than the \$12,000 challenge. Our sincere appreciation to the **Norton Kiwanis** for their \$12,000 donation. We began 2024 with more than \$24,000!



Akron Community Foundation approved a grant from their food pantry fund to help assist BACM with the rising cost of food.

Seiberling Farm, Carl Harp Produce & A Whole Community kept us stocked with fresh veggies.

Local businesses including **Barberton Big Lots, Smucker's, Dollar General on Eastern Road, C.J. Dannemiller, Barberton Giant Eagle and Leach's Meats & Sweets** generously donate day-old breads, excess food, products near expiration, all in an attempt to help the community and eliminate waste.

The Humane Society of Summit County, Maggie's Mission, Pet Supplies Plus in Norton, and an anonymous donor keep the pet food pantry shelves full.

Erin Hendrickson and co-workers at **Summa Green ER** assemble birthday bags filled with cake mix, candles and party supplies.



We received a grant from **City of Barberton** to help renovate our new building. We were able to redesign the parking lot to accommodate more cars, added more shelving, stove, refrigerators, and freezers to the pantry.

Members of the **Barberton Moose Lodge** selected BACM as their charity to benefit from club bingo sales.

Jones Roll-Off Containers Inc, AFSCME, MGT Network Services, Premier Creations Inc, and Clampco Products Inc all contributed funds throughout the year to help see that client's basic needs are being met.

Much gratitude to all of our **loyal churches** for their donations of food, toiletries, Bags of Love, funds, and plastic bags.

- Abundant Faith Ministries
- Allenside Presbyterian Church
- Apostolic Church, Barberton Church of God
- Barberton Evangelical Friends Church
- Calvary Wesleyan Church
- Columbia United Church of Christ
- Community Church of Portage Lakes
- Community Gospel Tabernacle
- Community of Christ, Covenant Worship Church
- Fairlawn United Church of Christ
- Firestone Park Christian Church
- First Baptist Church, First Church of Christ
- First Lutheran Church, Grace Bible Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- Grace Bible Church, Greater Galilee Church
- Johnson United Methodist Church
- Legacy Christian Church, Prince of Peace
- Norton Community Church of the Nazarene
- Southwest Church of Christ
- St Andrew the Apostle Church
- St Andrews Episcopal Church
- St Augustine Church, St Matthew Lutheran
- St. Nicholas Byzantine Church
- Summit Mennonite Church
- Valley Community Church, Victory Fellowship

Board President Comments

Only eleven months ago BACM was in a precarious position. The demand on the pantry had risen in 2022 and 2023 because of the economy. The number of people we served grew dramatically. Simultaneously, inflation was significantly impacting our costs for food

products. There were still food shortages from Covid, especially for staple items. Throughout last year we could not get items we needed and/or the quantity. The Akron Canton Regional Foodbank was experiencing the same scenarios. When we could get ample product, we could only buy an amount that would fit our limited space. For the past couple of years we had ran out of room to effectively and efficiently operate the food pantry. Several properties were considered and lots of time and effort was exhausted to determine the feasibility of moving BACM. Then in 2022 the Summit Mennonite Church and BACM worked to reach a win/win situation for both organizations. The church wanted to see a ministry continue in the building and BACM would have the space it needed to optimize operations of the food pantry.

So, in early February of 2023 BACM began a new chapter and set out to better serve the communities that utilize the pantry. In addition, there was a lot of work to do to improve operations. Needless to say, BACM stepped out in faith and good business principles to make BACM an even stronger organization than it previously had been. I am pleased to inform you in early 2024 BACM is stronger than ever before and is efficiently meeting the needs of those we serve. We have been good stewards of the money, food, time and other items that have been donated to BACM. The success of BACM is a result of what communities can do when working together for a common good in serving our residents in need. There are so many people to thank and most are listed in this newsletter. I especially want to thank the City of Barberton and Mayor Bill Judge for the much needed support that BACM received. Thank you to John & Brittany and The Cominsky Family Foundation for their partnership with BACM. Thank you to the police and fire departments of the communities we serve for your faithful support. One final thank you to the donors who wish to remain unnamed.

I invite you to come and visit BACM at your earliest convenience and see how it has grown. We welcome services, clubs and other organizations to use our meeting facility. Consider being a volunteer. In closing, please know that the BACM Board of Directors and the BACM staff will continue to be good stewards and maintain the trust you have given us.

Sincerely,
Dave Stephens
2024 BACM Board President

Pictured: Dave Stephens, Brittany & John Cominsky, daughter Emersyn, Dawn Cobb





Our thoughts & prayers go out to the families of lost loved ones

Elizabeth Broughton
 Bobby Burns, Richard Huth
 Al Juszli, Jim Lazar
 Rev. Frank Lonteen
 Mary Smith, Alex Yarsa
 Loretta Sweeney
 Patrick Weigand
 William P Weigand



BWXT Interns helped landscape our property by mulching, pulling weeds, and spreading gravel.



Christian Healthcare Ministries' employees spent an afternoon stocking shelving, bagging jellies & jams from Smucker's.



The Cobb Family is a huge help to BACM. Here Bubba Connor & Dave moved the new refrigerator in.



Marty Bidlingmyer is a loyal volunteer, helping stock shelves & prepare bags each week. And, she funded our new sign.



BACM BAGS OF LOVE

Please fill a brown paper grocery bag with the following toiletries to give to BACM families. Feel free to decorate the bag.

- * Package of 4 Rolls of Toilet Paper
- * Dish Soap
- * Laundry Detergent (up to 64 oz)
- * Deodorant
- * Hand Soap
- * Bar Soap or Body Wash
- * Shampoo
- * Toothbrush
- * Toothpaste
- * All-Purpose Cleaner

Bags are needed by the end of February.
 Drop off at BACM 939 Norton Ave, Mon-Thur 9AM-12PM.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

BACM 2023 Stats

Service Provided:	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year
Food Boxes Delivered	276	276	1,104
Senior Home Deliveries	312	335	1,148
Families Visited Pantry	3,439	3,252	12,693
Individuals at Pantry	11,128	10,400	40,982
Meals Provided	177,480	165,494	655,691
Non-Food Services	345	337	1,178
Volunteers Hours	2,699	2,487	9,776
Grocery Bags Donated	1,253	1,183	4,956

BACM Hours

Office Hours
 Mondays & Wednesdays
 9am – 4pm
 Tuesdays & Thursdays
 9am – 5pm
Pantry Hours (Pick Up Food)
 Tuesdays & Thursdays
 1pm – 5pm

939 Norton Ave, Barborton
(330) 745-3693
www.BACM.org