

# Food for Thought

July 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

## *BACM is Blossoming*

It is hard to believe half of the year of 2024 has already passed. BACM remains incredibly busy due to the rising demand and need among a significant portion of the communities we serve. Chronic inflation continues to impact hard working families that are trying to "make ends meet". It also has made it very difficult for our aging population. Many of them struggle with affording their food, as well as their medication. This has made BACM even more dedicated to continue to work hard and determine ways it can be a multi-service site for our fellow citizens in need during these very difficult times. This entails on-going meetings with government officials, business leaders, service clubs, health organizations, and private citizens to see how joint efforts can better serve our community where it is most needed.

As you read this month's newsletter you will notice how a lot of these efforts have already begun to "blossom" and have been integrated into BACM's routine services and offerings. I want to thank all of the entities and individuals we have worked with us over the past year, that have led to improvements and/or new programs at BACM. Thank you to our volunteers who work so hard with passion, dedication and love for our communities. Thank-you fellow board members for lending your expertise that enables BACM to continue to meet the needs of our fellow citizens. Most of all Thank You Dorothy Somerville! Dorothy is one of the hardest working Directors I have ever known. She works tirelessly with a fever and a passion that is so rare and unique. In addition, she has a heart for people and their circumstances. The greater Barberton area is blessed to have such a caring and hard-working individual! Be Well, Dave Stephens, Board President

# February News

## Dedicated Donors & Volunteers

Our annual **Bags of Love** program collected 509 toiletry bags, including soaps, toothpaste, toilet paper & essentials. A special thank you to **Bruce & Ellen Beckle**.



**Safe Harbor Sober Living** offers AA meetings at BACM every Wednesday night.



**American Heart Association** distributed at-home CPR training kits to our clients



Dedicated donors: **Barberton Big Lots, Barberton Giant Eagle, C.J. Dannemiller, Dollar General Eastern Road, Leach's Meats & Sweets, and Smuckers.**

Our dedicated donors, plus **Akron Canton Regional Foodbank** helped us serve over 19K residents over 308K meals (Jan-June).



**Eighty-six volunteers, plus Integrity Federal Credit Union employees, Barberton High School students, and Safe Harbor clients** logged 5,700 hours of service (Jan-June).



Photo courtesy of Scott Moss

BACM offers **Senior Home Delivery** to elderly homebound residents. Our thanks to weekly delivery volunteers:

**John Bartlett, Danny Bartoe, Sandy Chrisant, Melissa Dennis, Charlie Fowler, Randy & Ken Fox, Erin Henricksen, Ruth & Don Kaser, Bethany McKenney, Larry Okolish, Susan Pribonic, Tami Reiss, Jim & Tracy Susong.**

**Joanne Meyers** was our winner, again!





# March News

## Loyal Supporters

**Barberton VFW Post 1066** kicked off the Bikers for BACM fundraising with a Titanium Sponsor check. See event flier for details.



**Barberton Moose Lodge #759** donates a portion of bingo sales to BACM each month.



**Erin Henricksen** & co-workers from Summa have donated hundreds of birthday bags for clients on their special day.



**Johnson United Methodist Church** provided 200 Easter baskets to children visiting the food pantry this month.

Jason Sams of **Norton Police Dept** dropped off a huge supply of hand sanitizer to keep our clients safe.



**Girl Scout Troop #90859** donated birthday kits with cake mix, icing, candles & décor in a baking pan for families, in celebration of the Girl Scout's 112<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Welcome new Board Member,  
**Mark Snyder.**



**Donajean Tierney's** a winner!



# April News

## Volunteer Month

Thank you to ALL volunteers during 2023 logging 9,776.25 hours of service. We couldn't do it without ALL of YOU.

**Gary Christoff**, Board Member of Year



**David Cobb**, Volunteer of the Year



**Marty Bidlingmyer**, Martha Jamison Award



Much appreciation to **Scott Moss** of Magical Memories Photography for capturing these photos from our Annual Volunteer Luncheon.

**Jeanne Frase**, Barbara Gercken Award



**BACM Bingo** was a huge success! We are grateful to everyone that donated, volunteered & supported the event. The next fundraiser will be October 23.



**Melissa Dennis** hosted the Eclipse at the Park event on April 8 in Norton and allowed BACM to run a 50/50 raffle & food drive.



Photo thanks to Bethany McKenney

Congrats to **Chuck Cummings!**





# May News

## Community Events & Donations

The Kilted Bartender, Eric McCoy, served up drinks at Wink's Drive-In on May 22 to benefit BACM. Thank to Eric & Winks!



Summit County Sheriff Deputy's **FOP Lodge 139** hosted a successful food drive to benefit our neighbors in need.



Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Lois! **The Lady of the Lakes**, requested donations to BACM instead of gifts this year.



Barberton Parks & Rec with help from Barberton Fire Dept hosted Purple Paw Party on May 18 adding food and supplies to BACM's Pet Food Pantry. An anonymous donor, Humane Society of Summit Co, Maggie's Mission & Pet Supplies Plus keep our pet shelves full.



We can always count on **Dollar General** on Eastern Road for continual donations. This month, clients were gifted gallons of milk.



Former Mayor, **Ken Cox** has been a loyal supporter of BACM for many years.



**John Nelson** is this month's Raffle Winner!



# June News

## Happening & Donors

Volunteers sold 50/50 fundraising tickets at the new **Norton Raceway Park** on June 22.



Charlie Hoover took home the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy at the **Magic Cruiser Car Show** on June 30. Entry fees of canned goods & monetary donations were given to BACM.



Mayor Judge and the City of Barberton are again hosting the **Christmas in July** non-perishable & toiletries drive for BACM. Items can be dropped off at City Hall, Lake Anna YMCA and Christian Healthcare Ministries.



Vacation Bible School families of **Community Church of Portage Lakes** donated cases of canned goods & bags of food to benefit BACM clients.



Our friends at **C.J. Dannemiller Co** in Norton often donate surprise snacks to BACM. This month - bags of spicy cashews.



**Carrie Starcher**, The Plant Lady, returned this summer with veggie & herb plants for families to start gardens at home.



Congrats Raffle Winner, **Judy Garey!**





# Dorothy's Details

## Message from the Director

I hope that all are enjoying the summer trying to stay cool and hydrated. Hunger has no vacation. Summer is often harder on families stretching already tight budgets. I appreciate all that our donors do to help BACM! The donations of food, funds and time spent volunteering are an integral part of this organization. We couldn't take care of all the folks that come in if it wasn't for all your support! I can't thank you enough!

We have many new and exciting things happening as our resource center takes shape. Wednesday Night at The Pantry Jason Martin, Safe Harbor Manager facilitates the AA/NA Meetings at 7pm.

Vantage Aging has brought hot meals back to Barberton and has a space at BACM with more services coming soon. Providing hot meals Mon thru Thurs to area seniors at little or no cost. Our latest group is a new nonprofit called Behind the Ribbon which will be starting in the fall. We will be Feeding Souls as we focus on support groups and specific resources from a wide array of diseases for those facing challenges and hardships. This group will be facilitated by Melissa Dennis.

Summa Community Healthcare Physicians are working to bring programs also in the fall. The Summa Mobile Unit will be here for flu shots. Summa insurance will also be onsite for annual Medicare enrollment. Many other partnerships are in the works. Veterans are a priority, and we are working closely with Barberton VFW Post #1066. This wonderful giving group continues to generously support us.

BACM has also partnered with the Cominsky Family Foundation and projects are in the works.

A Special Thank You to Barberton Moose Lodge #759 who provides continued support financially year-round along with food donation to us.

We truly are so blessed from all the support we have big and small. We love all our groups like Kiwanis, Rotary, Civitan and churches. However, the one individual makes a difference also. We could not do what we do with our all of you.

Be sure to check out our new website at [www.BACM.org](http://www.BACM.org) to see the updates and the amazing video made by Christian Healthcare Ministries.

Blessings To All, Dorothy

| <b><u>Service Provided:</u></b> | <b><u>1st Qtr</u></b> | <b><u>2nd Qtr</u></b> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Food Boxes Delivered            | 276                   | 276                   |
| Senior Home Deliveries          | 352                   | 365                   |
| Families Visited Pantry         | 3,210                 | 3,037                 |
| Individuals at Pantry           | 9,854                 | 9,321                 |
| Meals Provided                  | 158,282               | 150,485               |
| Non-Food Services               | 217                   | 293                   |
| Volunteers Hours                | 2,672                 | 3,029                 |
| Grocery Bags Donated            | 748                   | 1,051                 |
| Bags of Love                    | 509                   | 0                     |

### **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