

Food for Thought

Barberton Area Community Ministries

May/June/July 2025

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Sponsors and Supporters!

We are thrilled to announce that Barberton VFW Post 1066 has once again stepped up as our Titanium Sponsor for the 5th Annual Bikers for BACM! Their continued generosity means so much to us. Be sure to stay tuned for Magic Mania II with the VFW coming this September — it promises to be a memorable event! We also extend our gratitude to the Rotary, Kiwanis, and South Summit Chamber of Commerce for their steadfast support of BACM. Your dedication strengthens our community every day.

BACM Earns Top Marks & Welcomes New Partnerships

We're proud to share that BACM recently received a **100% score** during our annual inspection from the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank. This achievement reflects the hard work and commitment of our volunteers and staff. Exciting news — BACM will soon be the home of the Cominsky Family Foundation, with whom we will collaborate on programs designed to benefit the children in our community.

Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendars!

- Barberton Mayor's Annual Christmas in July will once again be held in partnership with Christian Health Care Ministries
- The month will culminate with the Bikers for BACM event and the Barberton Christmas Walk & Christmas Crawl on July 26 in Downtown Barberton

We encourage everyone to join in and celebrate safely!

Welcome our New Pantry Aide Joy Polacek



I'm so excited to join BACM!

A little bit about me—I've been happily married for 30 years to Dave Polacek, the Barberton Fire Chief. We have two wonderful children: our son is a full-time firefighter paramedic in Canton and has a beautiful family of three, and our daughter is a dental hygienist at Northeastern Endodontics. I'm also a proud grandmother to two active and amazing grandchildren!

Before I began volunteering at BACM, I worked as a preschool teacher and a children's librarian—roles that allowed me to nurture young minds and share my love for learning. In my free time, I enjoy scrapbooking, spending time in the mountains, and caring for my dogs.

I'm truly looking forward to being part of the BACM community and contributing in any way I can!

A Message from Dorothy

A Message of Gratitude to Our Volunteers & Supporters

To our incredible volunteers — thank you! Your dedication is the heart of BACM. We hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

With federal programs being cut, BACM continues to **"Nourish Our Neighbor"** by creatively sourcing food — partnering with local stores and even ordering from Amazon.

A special thank you goes to the many churches and fraternal organizations that support our mission. We also want to recognize the **Barberton Moose Lodge #759** for their generous quarterly support, allocating a percentage of their gambling funds to BACM.

Closing Thoughts

We could not do this vital work without you. Together, we're building a stronger, healthier community. Thank you for being part of the BACM family!

Wishing you a safe and happy summer — God bless!

Spring 2025 Bingo Update

A big thank you to all the guests who attended, our dedicated volunteers, and generous donors who helped make BACM Bingo such a wonderful event! Your support and enthusiasm made it truly memorable. Mark your calendars and join us again for another fun-filled game night on October 22, 2025. We can't wait to see you there!



Highlights from 2025 Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who contributed 11,363 hours of service in 2024.
We could not do it without every one of you!

Congratulations to the Board Member of the Year – **Mark Snyder**; Volunteer of the Year – **Joe Muffet**; Martha Jamison Award (Most Volunteer Hours) – **Marty Bidlingmyer**; and the Barbara Gercken Award which goes to **Debbie Wasch**.

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



Marty Bidlingmyer
Martha Jamison Award



Mark Snyder
Board Member of the Year



Debbie Wasch
Barbara Gercken Award

Congratulations to Rae Ann Holley

We are proud to share that Rae Ann, a BACM employee hired through the Summit County JOBS Program, has been awarded a scholastic scholarship from the South Summit Chamber of Commerce! Rae Ann is a recent graduate of the Class of 2025 from Barberton High School. We celebrate her achievements and are excited to see what the future holds for her!





Bruce Beckle / FairlawnWest United Church of Christ.

Bags of Love: Sharing Kindness, One Bag at a Time

Bags of Love is a heartfelt initiative created to show care and compassion to those in need. Thanks to the generosity of our community, over 393 bags filled with essential items have been distributed to BACM clients.

A Message from Dave Stephens.

I am pleased to report that BACM continues to grow strong during adverse times. This year federal, state, and local funding has been dramatically reduced or in some instances completely ended. Thanks to our loyal supporters in the communities we serve BACM has been able to continue meeting the needs of those facing food insecurity. This past winter one of our service organization partners once again wanted to help. **The Rotary Club of Barberton** partnered with BACM to raise a substantial donation. The campaign was during the months of February and March. Thank you **Rotary Club of Barberton** for your strong and unwavering support. The greater Barberton area is fortunate to have many strong service organizations that faithfully support BACM which in turn feeds those in need.

The summer months are approaching and it will soon be vacation season.

Just remember, hunger never takes a vacation.

Wishing you a blessed and safe summer!



Show Your Support with BACM Apparel!

We're excited to announce a new partnership with Barberton Local Tees to offer exclusive BACM apparel!

As a small token of our appreciation, we're offering exclusive access to our apparel at wholesale pricing—just for you. It's a great way to show your support for BACM and help spread the word about the work we do in the community.

We hope you'll take advantage of this special offer and wear your support proudly! **Place your order today at bacm.org.**



Thank You for a Fantastic Car Show!



1950 Custom Deluxe – Bob Ludolph



1967 Chevelle SS396 – Ken Andrus



1957 Ford Fairlane – Pat Breitenstine

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to support the BACM Car Show, hosted by **Bob Hurbean & the Magic City Cruisers Car Club!** Your continued support—and generous food donations—mean the world to us and help us continue our mission of serving those in need.

A special thanks to **Baked N Loaded** for setting up and providing delicious food throughout the event. You helped make the day even more enjoyable!

Congratulations to our winners!

Best in Show: 1950 Custom Deluxe – Bob Ludolph

Runners-Up:

1967 Chevelle SS396 – Ken Andrus

1957 Ford Fairlane – Pat Breitenstine

We're so grateful to everyone who participated, attended, and contributed. We can't wait to see you at our next event!



BACM Donation Form

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Donor Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make check payable to: BACM
Mail to: 939 Norton Ave, Barberton, OH 44203

Or donate online at
bacm.org



Hungry to Ride— Riding for Hunger

5th ANNUAL POKER RUN Saturday, July 26, 2025



Bikers for BACM

ALL PROCEEDS AWARDED TO BACM TO HELP FIGHT HUNGER WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES THEY

\$40 per Driver

\$20 per passenger

(Ticket includes: meal, t-shirt, poker hand entry)

All Vehicles Welcome!!

Rain or Shine event!!!

<https://www.zeffy.com/booking/5th-annual-bikers-for-bacm-poker-run>



Pre-Registration recommended
scan QR code for more info
and to purchase tickets

Start 7 Bar & Grill Lunch

1200h Kickstand up at

1215pm Last Bike out

1245pm

Stops:

- County Line Bar & Grill—Hartsville
- Bud's Corner—Louisville
- Wink's—Barberton
- #759 Moose—Barberton
- The Corner—Barberton

End: Barberton VFW Post #1066

- * Door Prizes
- * Prize for Best & Worst Hand!
- * 50/50 and Basket Raffles!



Mission Statement:

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



New twist this year!

Christmas in July! Start as run
end as a crawl in Barberton!



After the Poker run, finish the evening and visit the remaining locations of the Christmas Walk "Summer Crawl" Additional Shirts can be purchased if more friends would like to join you later. Must have the shirt below to qualify for the drink special at the locations.



Hosted by:
People Check Services
and Block 7 Bar & Grill.

Event Chairman:
Rhonda Robinson
rkr721@icloud.com
330-604-8039

In Loving Memory

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Board Members Anne Sweeney and Carl Douglas, a retired board member and longtime volunteer. Their dedication and service left a lasting impact on BACM, and they will be greatly missed.

We also mourn the loss of Martha Jamison, former Pantry Manager. Martha was a driving force at BACM for many years, and her passion, leadership, and compassion touched countless lives in our community.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families. We are especially grateful to those who made donations in their honor—your generosity is a beautiful tribute to their legacy.

2025 1st Qtr. BACM Statistics BACM Hours

Service Provided:

Food Boxes Delivered	276
Senior Home Deliveries	382
Families Visited Pantry	2,679
Individuals at Pantry	8,175
Meals Provided	132,965
Non-Food Services	393
Volunteer Hours	2,785

Office Hours

Mondays & Wednesdays	9am – 4pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays	9am – 5pm

Pantry Hours (Pick Up Food)

Tuesdays & Thursdays	1pm – 5pm
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2025 BACM Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Michael Petrochuk, Vice President
Dave Stephens, President
Teri Dwyer, Treasurer
Dolores Juriga, Secretary
Jennifer Bragg
Gary Christoff
Ralph Dowling
Carrie Herman
Bruce May
Bethany McKenney
Chris Silva
Mark Snyder
Debbie Wasch
LaVerne Yousey

Office Staff

Dorothy Suchka-Somerwill
Executive Director
dsomerwill@bacm.org
Dawn Cobb
Pantry Operations Manager
dcobb@bacm.org
Joy Polacek
Pantry Aide
jpolacek@bacm.org

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Website: www.bacm.org

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