



## **Barrhaven Food Cupboard Newsletter #2019/04**

**2019-12-25**

Hello volunteers and BFC membership.....WOW, what a year we've had. It's been an historic year for the Barrhaven Food Cupboard with our big move from the Barrhaven United Church to our new location at the Walter Baker Centre. We've couldn't have done it without the support of the Community, Jan Harder and City of Ottawa and our numerous supporters and AWESOME volunteers. Being that I'm in the homestretch of my final year as President of the Barrhaven Food Cupboard which will end at the Annual General Meeting in May, I want to say a BIG THANK YOU for all the support you provided in making this our most successful year yet. I couldn't have asked for a better team to face the challenges of this past year with. Won't go into a lot of detail in this final newsletter of 2019 but will provide updates on what has taken place since my last update in early November.

### **Barrhaven Food Cupboard – Relocation**

With the relocation completed, we are now moving forward where we will very shortly no longer need a storage unit at Primo. This will save us a considerable amount of money in storage fees where we'll be using our location at the WBC for our only storage. The money we will be able to save on storage can be used in purchasing needed items for our clients on those occasions where we may be short on specific supplies.

### **Operations**

While we continue to increase our client delivery year to year, this year, up until the end of November, has been pretty much been on par with last year. As of the end of November, we've had 1562 requests for assistance as compared to 1547 for the same period for 2018. While we haven't seen the usual 5-8% increase this year, the number hasn't decreased and with the population increasing in Barrhaven, we only expect to see an increase in the numbers from year to year and that's why community support is so important in our continued success in meeting the needs of our community.

## PAST EVENTS

### Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> – Boy Scouts Food Collection – Metro

A total of 26 Banana boxes of food was collected by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Nepean Scouts. They were able to follow this up with a tour of the BFC on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> where they saw how the BFC operates and they even helped out in sorting food we had on hand. This certainly gave them a better understanding how their support contributed to the success of the BFC.

### Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> - Santa Claus News – Parade Update

As mentioned in earlier newsletters, the Santa Claus Parade was operated by another non-profit organization where the BFC was one of three charities to benefit from this year's festivities. A good collection was taken and some of it has already been received that we applied towards the Christmas Hamper program.

### Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> – Barrhaven Garden Club

The Barrhaven Garden Club hosted another Holiday Floral Event at the Barrhaven United Church featuring Mill Street Florists from Manotick. Beautiful Christmas arrangements were created by Jessica Barrett and her staff and a record total of \$1380 was raised for the BFC. A big thank you to Mary Kealey and the folks from the Barrhaven Garden Club as well as Jessica and her staff at Mills Street Florists and all in attendance in support of the BFC. Here are some examples of the beautiful arrangements created.



**Nov. 30th - OC Transpo/Ottawa Food Cupboard Fill-A-Bus**

This is an annual event that takes place at Barrhaven Loblaws and in cooperation with the Ottawa Food Bank and OC Transpo, all food collected during this year's event was turned over to the Barrhaven Food Cupboard. I want to thank Michael Maidment and his crew at the Ottawa Food Bank for their cooperation and support. A total of 1080 lbs was collected, down from 2000 lbs last year. Loblaws held a food drive the weekend before where a considerable amount of food was also collected.

**Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> - Lisa McLeod's Annual Christmas Barrhaven Food Cupboard Fundraiser**

This year's event took place at the Walter Baker Centre. A total of more than \$1500 was collected for the Christmas Hamper Program. Another huge contribution from Darrell Bartraw and his crew in the preparation of the very tasty breakfast.

**Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – Come Sing Noel – Barrhaven United Church**

Another well attended event where a record setting more than \$1475 was raised for the BFC. This is an annual event hosted by the Barrhaven United Church featuring four Barrhaven Choirs, including the host Barrhaven United Church Choir. A fabulous evening of Christmas Carols.

**Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – Myers Automotive Group and Myers Barrhaven Dealerships**

Myers gave us a big Christmas present this year. Myers Automotive group gives turkeys to all of their employees for Christmas. They purchased the turkeys from Ross' Independent and with every purchase there are PC Optimum points earned. Myers informed us that they were turning over all the points, all 2,872,400 of them, to the BFC, valued at \$2,872.00. We were able to purchase 140 turkeys from Ross' YIG for the Christmas Hamper program from those points. On hand for the presentation was: Myers Automotive CEO Cyril Leeder; Myers Barrhaven Hyundai General Manager, Mustafa Mazir; Myers Barrhaven Toyota General Manager, Matthew Bradley; Myers Nissan Barrhaven General Manager, Erik Muckle; Myers Barrhaven Body Shop, Shawn Jamieson, Myers Carstar VP; and Kelly Ross, Owner Ross' YIG. Talk about community spirit.



## **Dec. 21<sup>nd</sup> - Christmas Hamper Program**

The Christmas Hamper program concluded on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> with most of the deliveries taking place on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. A total of 193 hampers were requested, which is up 38 hampers from last year. To streamline the process, we accepted only cash donations this year and, with the help of a \$2,000 last-minute top-up by the Meridian Credit Union, we came very close to our fundraising target. A THANK YOU to Dawn Lilly and her crew of volunteers to make this another successful and very worthwhile cause. GREAT JOB!!



## **Board of Directors – Vacancies**

As reported in previous newsletters, we still have several vacancies on the Board of Directors. The good news is that we have one vacancy filled with a couple of interviews coming up in the near future to hopefully fill the remaining vacancies.

I am please to announce that our new Director of Volunteers is Michele Morris. We welcome Michele and look forward to her attending her first Board meeting in January.

We also have a new Communications Director, none other than Director at Large member Harpreet Singh. Harpreet brings vast social media experience which we already seen in recent posts. Janet McCausland, Director at Large, will be Harpreet's back up.

I have a wonderful and supportive Board of Directors and very much appreciate their commitment.

### **Social Media**

With the change in the Communications Director position, we were able to retain our Facebook and Twitter pages however, unfortunately, not our Instagram page. Our new Instagram identifier is Barrhaven\_food\_cupboard. We encourage all you social media types to follow us on FB, Twitter and Instagram.

I don't want to sound like a broken record but as I have said many times before and I will continue to repeat it over and over again, the Barrhaven Food Cupboard can only operate with the support of the numerous volunteers that contribute to such a worthwhile cause. Yes, we rely on food, toiletries and monetary donations from the community but none of it would be used without the commitment of our volunteers. Every volunteer, regardless of what their specific responsibility, is contributing to the completion of a puzzle. We are an organization that achieves success by being a team, and an AWESOME team we are. The countless hours that our volunteers contribute to our success does not go unnoticed and thank you so very much. I want to thank you for support and wish you and your family all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Website: [www.barrhavenfoodcupboard.ca](http://www.barrhavenfoodcupboard.ca)

Facebook: @barrhavenfoodcupboard

Twitter: @barrhavenfood

Instagram: Barrhaven\_food\_cupboard

NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS!

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