



March 10 2021

Barrhaven Food Cupboard Newsletter #2021/01

From everyone at the Barrhaven Food Cupboard, we hope that this finds you safe and well as we continue to manage under pandemic conditions.

Donations Update

We have been almost overwhelmed by the generosity of the Barrhaven community over the last few months. Individuals, churches, schools, businesses and organizations have included us in their charitable donations at an unprecedented level. November and December were truly exceptional months in the sheer number and value of monetary donations. For example, our Christmas hamper program was entirely funded by donations we received which were designated for that purpose. This is especially remarkable, given that the demand for assistance over the holiday period was fully 50% higher, at 297 requests, compared to in 2019.

Additionally, grocery stores in the area all conducted campaigns where customers were encouraged to purchase pre-packaged bags of food for donation to the BFC. In December, we were literally inundated with these donations to the point where we had to arrange for temporary off-site storage. One store actively participating in this campaign was Ross' Independent. Cashiers there also asked customers if they wished to make a cash donation. Here I am receiving a cheque from Kelly Ross (centre) for \$8338.11 on her last day at the store! On the left is Andrea Rose, the Front-End Manager, who proudly reported that this is the highest amount achieved by any Independent store!



COVID-19 Issues

We continue to carefully follow COVID-19 restrictions to ensure that our volunteers and clients are as safe as possible. This includes limiting the number of people in the facility, ensuring that only one client at a time is allowed in, using hand sanitizer, wearing masks and maintaining social distancing throughout. Importantly, this limits the number of volunteers we can have in the facility at any time and necessitates

the maintenance of a register of those who enter the facility so we can provide information for contact tracing if ever needed.

We remain dependent on our volunteers and clients to rigorously respect all COVID restrictions imposed by all levels of government and detailed by our Director of Operations.

Volunteers. We are very grateful for the superb work done by our many volunteers. Few people appreciate the extent to which individuals support our operation. We have people who sort and stock food, collect and deliver donated food, coordinate client appointments, meet and serve our clients directly, purchase food and especially perishables, deliver orders to clients unable to come to the BFC, coordinate donor campaigns, etc. When volunteers join us, they are asked to review and sign our policy document which stipulates their roles and responsibilities. Also, for those who serve on the Board or who have direct contact with clients, we require a criminal records check to be completed at our expense. None of our volunteers is paid but we don't want anyone to be out-of-pocket either. To this end, we also provide an allowance for those using their own vehicles, based on the number of kilometers driven.

Some of our volunteers have health issues or are hesitant about working during the pandemic. This is fine – we want everyone to feel safe in everything they do. Throughout, we will do everything we can to ensure a rewarding, positive and respectful working environment. If you are interested in helping, please contact our Director for Volunteers, Aaron Lemieux at lemieux-aaron@live.com.

McDonough's Independent Grocer. Dave and Lyne McDonough are the new owners of Your Independent Grocer. We welcome them to Barrhaven and look forward to a continued close relationship with the store and its staff.

BFC Annual General Meeting. Unless there is some dramatic change for the better, we plan to hold this meeting this year during the last two weeks in June. More information will be provided as we get closer to the day. All are welcome to join us and members are invited to vote on the motions brought forward. If you are not a member and would like to become one, please contact our Board Secretary, Shannon Van Luven at Shannon.vanluven10@gmail.com. There is no cost to this, but we will require your contact information to ensure you can receive updates from us.

Social Media

We depend very heavily on multiple forms of social media to get our messages out in the community and to say thank you for the community support. I encourage you to monitor our posts and join our social media family so we can keep you up-to-date on what is happening with the BFC. Here are the coordinates for reference:

Website: www.barrhavenfoodcupboard.ca

Facebook: @barrhavenfoodcupboard

Twitter: @barrhavenfood

Instagram: Barrhaven_food_cupboard

Check out the many entries of initiatives taken by the Barrhaven community to support the BFC. These are living evidence of what the BFC is all about -- NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS!

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President