## **BEYOND BLESSED NEWS**

January 2021



Happy New Year! Before we look at and plan the new year, I think it's important to reflect on 2020 and ALL the blessings we have experienced! In January we were struggling financially, and we questioned how long we would remain open, but we kept on serving; asking God to provide. Since we are 100% dependent on donations, we knew it would be helpful to reduce our operating costs. By mid-February we moved into a new location (1515 Walnut St Baraboo) without knowing what was coming our way in 2020. This new location provided us a reduced monthly rent and a tremendous amount of space for storage, freezers, and refrigerators. This new location, with its large parking lot, helped us handle the quarantine, allowing us to provide a drive-through pantry for the first time in March. The logistics of a drive-through was completely new to us but our volunteers showed up and helped navigate this new way of offering food.

As the pandemic continued, our patrons increased as well. In April, we quickly recruited more volunteers as the workload continued to increase. We simply could not do what we do without all our hard-working volunteers! We soon realized we were in desperate need of a walk-in cooler and freezer to continue to serve the increased amount of patrons. So, in May we took a leap of faith and launched a fundraiser with a goal to raise \$38,000. This was so vital to our operations as our weekly numbers had increased to 300 families receiving food each week. The fundraising goal was met by August, and both outdoor units were constructed! The outpouring of support through donations was humbling and overwhelming! We jumped into fall with the same attitude that had carried us through the biggest storm and worldwide pandemic. God continued to provide volunteers and donations! Then in October we were the proud recipients of a 24



-foot refrigeration truck that was made possible through a grant. The holidays were also such a blessing because people stepped up to help us provide holiday meals. This is just a snapshot of the BLESSINGS we have been thrilled to be on the receiving end of in 2020 and are continually amazed as we step in 2021. God Bless You and thank you for your partnership, whether it is through volunteering, donations, or prayers!

Sincerely, Shannon, Executive Director

## **New Project!**

As we continue to serve Baraboo, Reedsburg, Dells, Portage and beyond, we encounter new projects that are essential and help us operate smoothly. Currently, we are in need of a commercial refrigerator.

If you would like to donate to this project, you can give online: www.bbpantry.org/donate or you can send a check to our mailing address: Beyond Blessed Pantry, PO Box 613, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

## **2021 Hours**

This year we will continue to offer a drive through pantry every Wednesday of the month from 4:00-6:00 PM. There are no residency or income restrictions. Please let others know about our services. If you have any questions, feel free to email us: bbpantry@outlook.com

## **Volunteer & Monthly Support**

Thank you to all our volunteers who show up week after week! In January 2020, we served food to 257 families. By the end of the year, we served 1,650 families per month. This increase puts a lot of demands on our pantry. We couldn't serve those in need without all the caring and hard working volunteers! We are blessed to have so many helping hands!

Would you like to become a monthly supporter? You can set up a recurring payment on our website and help us continue to serve area communities. **www.bbpantry.org/donate** 

