

# BACN

BENZIE AREA CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS  
A CARING COMMUNITY OF NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

## SEASON OF GIVING

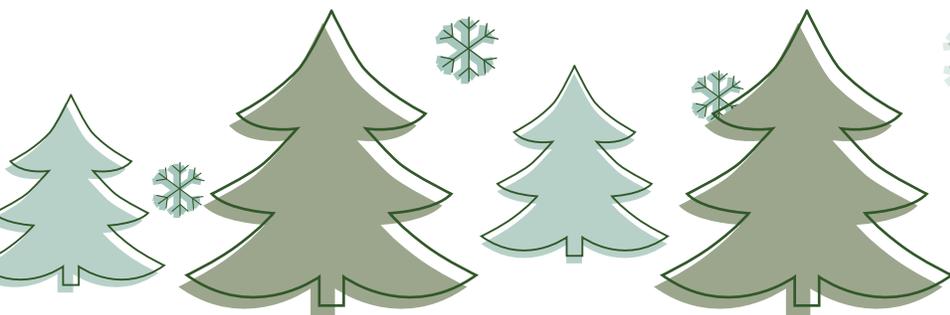
2016

### GENEROSITY: THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT

I'm always amazed and inspired by the generosity of people. Everything we do at BACN would not be possible without the support of our community and our many partners. I am reminded of this during this holiday season by the continued kindness of people like Loy Putney; a local farmer and one of our many community partners. Loy has been a long-time BACN supporter, first donating through his church, and then providing fresh fruits and vegetables from his farm. It was Loy who "came to the rescue" several years ago when BACN came calling with a special seasonal request.

It was near Christmas and BACN discovered that several Neighbors had no Christmas tree for the holiday. For many, the tree is an enduring symbol of the season; something no one wants to do without. Fortunately, we knew where to turn. Loy was happy to donate over 30 trees from his tree farm so Neighbors could enjoy a traditional holiday. He continues to supply us with Christmas trees—and other gifts—to this day. Thanks to Loy, and community partners like him, BACN cannot only help feed and clothe our Neighbors, we can also put a little holiday joy in their hearts.

Gerri VanAntwerp, Executive Director, BACN



**"WINTER IS A STRUGGLE FOR OUR FAMILY, TRYING TO PAY ENERGY BILLS. BACN HELPED US...THEY TOOK A HUGE WEIGHT OFF OUR SHOULDERS."**  
BACN NEIGHBOR

# GROWING & GIVING WITH BACN

In 1983, Pastor Jim Petteys, of Trinity Lutheran Church, and other area church leaders, happened on a wonderfully inspired idea. Why not pool their resources and coordinate their efforts by creating an organization that could better provide for Neighbors in need of food, clothing and social services? Thus was born Benzie Area Christian Neighbors.

Over the years BACN has expanded, grown, widened its ministry and deepened its mission to help those who struggle with life's challenges. Pastors and congregations have BACN to thank for helping us to avoid the duplication of sharing precious resources, assisting us in keeping a consistent focus on charity and love, and always encouraging us to be more generous and graceful toward the poor.

**TODAY, BACN HELPS US ALL "MAKE A DIFFERENCE," AND THAT'S NO SMALL TASK - BUT IS EXACTLY THE VERY POINT OF FOLLOWING CHRIST AND SHARING OUR FAITH THROUGH OUR WORDS AND ACTIONS.**

Trinity Lutheran is proud to host the BACN Bacon fundraiser, selling shoes, sharing volunteers, collecting food and helping to collect donations at local stores. BACN holds a special place in our hearts, and we pray that the important work of this vital ministry continues to share help, strengthen lives and encourage the grace of God for many years to come.

Pastor Rick Stieve  
Trinity Lutheran Church



## COMMITTED TO SERVE

As Volunteer Coordinator at BACN, Sally Bobek is a master of organization. She's responsible for coordinating the efforts and schedules of BACN's 125 volunteers with the organization's special events and everyday activities. "I work with a lot of great people who are very giving of their time," she explains. "They make my job easier because many are familiar with what we do here." Sally is being modest. Organizing BACN's many volunteers takes time and commitment; things Sally demonstrated while working with a motorcycle club downstate. "The club had 4,500 members," she states. "I was responsible for organizing their rally and annual convention." When Sally retired and moved north, she was looking for an opportunity to get involved. "I heard about BACN and decided to volunteer one day a week," she says. Before long, Sally was volunteering three days a week and learning the many different aspects of the organization. After six months as a BACN volunteer,

Sally was ready to take the big step. She became BACN's Volunteer Coordinator in September of this year. In her new role, Sally is always on the look out for new volunteers. "Many people start out volunteering one day a week," she explains. "Then they get to know and like the people they're working with and they volunteer more often. People come here to make a difference. They stay because of the people." Like many of our volunteers, Sally plans to stay for quite awhile.

**"I WORK WITH A LOT OF GREAT PEOPLE WHO ARE VERY GIVING OF THEIR TIME..."**

**SALLY BOBEK  
BACN VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**



## PARTNERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BACN realizes they can't provide everything the Neighbors need, but that there are other great agencies in our area that do have that needed expertise. Partnering with those organizations is a win/win for all! A very active partner of BACN is Benzie Senior Resources (the agency recently formed by merging Benzie County Council on Aging and Benzie Home Health Care). With them, BACN works to holistically advocate for Neighbors. "We work closely with BACN to provide resources and services," explains Doug Durand, BSR Executive Director. "If we can't provide a specific need, we work with BACN and other local organizations to address that need." Together, BSR and BACN work to find dental and medical care, help with utilities, home maintenance and more. "We all need each other," says Durand. "Together we can truly make a difference."

**"I'M A CANCER SURVIVOR—MY HUSBAND AND I WERE BOTH WORKING AND DOING WELL. BUT WITHIN A YEAR, OUR HEALTH INSURANCE TRIPLED AND MY HUSBAND LOST HIS JOB. WE HAD TO LET OUR INSURANCE GO. THEN MY CANCER RETURNED AND I LOST HOPE. BACN WAS THERE TO LISTEN AND CONNECTED ME TO HELP. THANKS TO BACN, I CAN FIGHT AGAIN. I'M GOING TO MAKE IT."**

**BACN NEIGHBOR**

## CREATING A LASTING IMPACT

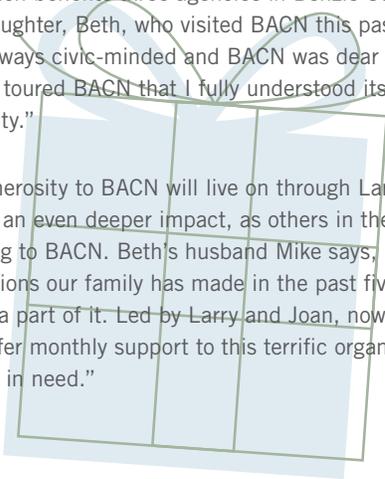


**“HE JUST FELT THAT DURING HIS BUSINESS YEARS, HE HAD RECEIVED SUCH WONDERFUL SUPPORT FROM HIS COMMUNITY—AND HE WANTED TO RETURN THAT IN A WAY THAT HAD MEANING.”**

Long-time Frankfort resident, Joan Miller, was talking about her husband Langdon “Larry” Miller, who passed away in August of 2015. Larry had always been a hard-worker, having put himself through college by working summers unloading 100-pound bags of sugar. In 1971, he purchased the Amoco Oil Company distributorship in Benzie County, and formed Miller Petroleum, Inc. He expanded the company through the years, selling it in 1982. He then opened upscale convenience stores in Frankfort and Beulah, which are still in operation today.

Larry was an active leader in more than a dozen local organizations. He enjoyed being involved in the community and appreciated how local people supported his businesses. As a way of giving back, Larry and Joan decided to leave legacy gifts to their community. They established an endowment fund through the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, which benefits three agencies in Benzie County, including BACN. Their daughter, Beth, who visited BACN this past summer, says, “My dad was always civic-minded and BACN was dear to his heart. It wasn’t until I toured BACN that I fully understood its important role in the community.”

The Millers’ generosity to BACN will live on through Larry’s legacy gift. But it is having an even deeper impact, as others in the family are now actively donating to BACN. Beth’s husband Mike says, “One of the most rewarding decisions our family has made in the past five years has been to make BACN a part of it. Led by Larry and Joan, now two generations of our family offer monthly support to this terrific organization serving LOCAL families in need.”



# 10 THINGS TO KNOW

## IN 2016, BACN:

1. Served the 35% of our area’s residents who are unable to provide basic needs for their families
2. Used no government funding, which helped hold administrative expenses to 7.5%
3. Enjoyed a deepened partnership with Food Rescue of Northwest Michigan, which provided thousands of additional pounds of nutritious food for our pantry
4. Was blessed to have 125 volunteers give over 12,000 hours of their time to our Neighbors
5. Continued to emphasize education by (along with our valued partners) providing GED classes, general academic assistance and job readiness training
6. Celebrated five Neighbors graduating from high school due to our education programs—one student was inducted into the National Honor Society!
7. Served over 1,500 senior citizens and nearly 2,000 children under 17
8. Had over 20% of the cost of programs and services covered by one single fundraising event— Thank you to our generous community for helping us raise over \$100,000 during Summer Match Challenge!
9. Worked together with partners to provide over \$200,000 of direct utility assistance to help keep Neighbor families safe and warm
10. Was honored to be voted the Best Community Organization in the Benzie County Best of People’s Choice Awards

## BACN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# BACN

BENZIE AREA CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS

2804 Benzie Hwy,  
P.O. Box 93  
Benzonia, MI 49616

## BACN NEEDS YOU

BACN could not do any of this important work without its volunteers and those who support us so generously.

So please:

- **VOLUNTEER** – Just one hour a week can make a big difference, especially in the winter season
- **GIVE** – Your gift, of any size, goes directly to serve your Neighbors
- **PRAY** – For the work we do and Neighbors we impact

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