



Leah Dyck

Hey! It's Leah :)

To: maryanne@barriehousing.com

Sent - iCloud June 29, 2021 at 8:08 PM

Hey Mary Anne,

It was nice hearing from you today. I apologize for not being super friendly at the beginning.

So the girl who started up the Barrie Community Fridge is Ayanna Cabrera, and her phone number is [REDACTED]. She said she didn't get any call from you today though. However, she told me today she's feeling a little "stretched-too-thin" and doesn't think she has time to take on anything new at this time. That being said, you're more than welcome to call her and see what she is able to do, but you can also use me as a main point of contact for the community fridge as well because I'm not a student and I don't have a full-time job as she does - although doing this charity is what I'm doing full-time.

I also don't have charitable status yet but I am in the process of getting it. I do have a charitable trust account number though from the CRA. The CRA called me a few weeks ago to tell me that they've assigned a specialist to my application because no one has ever structured a charity this way before, which I think is very exciting!

And I changed the wording on my website, so let me know if it's okay now, and if there's anything else I need to change on it.

Karen emailed me this evening and I am meeting with her in the morning around 8am :). The guy who's letting me have the freezer says he can probably come here on Thursday to make sure the room has the proper electrical outlet to support it. I'll talk to Karen about this in the morning.

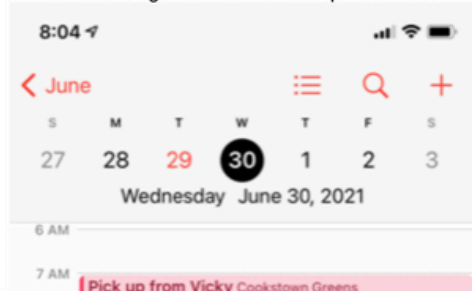
As for the food budget, that is great to know. One of the things that I've been trying to do is get food for free because I don't want someone to be making money off of the charity. And I have been able to get quite a bit of food donated for free and as I'm increasing donations and increasing the number of recipients receiving food, I'm noticing more and more people showing interest in helping out, both in food donations and volunteers to help with organizing food and delivering it.

One of the things that I do need is bigger transportation. With the Holland Marsh farmer, I can only fit 56 heads of lettuce in my car. He's willing to donate up to 300 heads of lettuce (romaine, ice burg, green leaf and red leaf) per delivery though. And tomorrow will be the third time I'll be picking up from him in the last seven days. And two days ago, he also donated a bunch of radishes and Swiss chard. One of the things he really likes about what I'm doing is all the social media posts about his farm. I feel like he's donating so often because I do a lot of really interesting and creative posts about his farm. I actually go out and harvest the lettuce with him and it's surprisingly a lot of fun ;), and obviously the lettuce is super fresh. I literally have it in the community fridge within an hour after harvesting it. Him and I also have a lot of similarities about our personalities so we get along really well too.

One of the things I also want to do is get toilet paper included in the deliveries, and diapers for moms with babies. I'm not sure how to get those things for free, but I might be able to buy them at cost. Would things like that be a possibility for you to use the budget on? Or is it strictly food items? I'm not sure but I think Costco has the best prices on toilet paper - when it's on sale, you can get a pack of six rolls for \$5 (and they are the jumbo rolls). If you guys are only able to spend money on food items, I can reach out to some of my donors and see if they are willing to sell food at cost or at a reduced price because it is for charity. Let me know what you guys think. But I really don't advise spending money on regular-priced food items because I know I can get them cheaper or even free. But it's totally up to you!

This week I also got in touch with Craig Russel, the owner of Pachamama Corp. He told me he's the one who donates all the backpacks with school supplies each year to each of the public housing buildings. He is interested in getting involved in my initiative come fall, which is perfect timing because once the fall/winter comes, a lot of the farmers won't be able to donate because of the season.

I will start working on an informational poster that can be posted in the public housing buildings and get that to you on Thursday most likely. My schedule is pretty crazy tomorrow:



On this phone call, Mary-Anne Denny-Lusk also offered to let me put Fresh Food Weekly flyers up at all the public housing buildings. She also offered to donate some funds to "top up" some food bags because she knows some of their tenants could really use the help, she said. She also told me I wasn't allowed to use the word phrase 'Barrie Public Housing' in any of my communications, but I could instead use the word phrase 'social housing in Barrie'.

I emailed her right after, to thank her for letting me use the community room to pack food bags.

But she never responded.