From the Founders

Things have been rapidly evolving for us at Bake Me Home, like for so many people over the last 18 months. This report has been revised and re-written, but sadly, another revision will not change what I have to share with you. After 13 years, we have made the heart-breaking decision to close down our operations by the end of this year.

When I first drafted this letter, I described 2020-2021 as “triumphant.” As strange as it might seem to use this word still, I feel we would be doing a disservice to you and ourselves to omit it. Together, we have been triumphant. We exceeded our programming goals during a global pandemic and never cut a single four hour of employee pay, all without depleting our emergency savings. And for 13 years, we have served our neighbors and provided a place that brought adults and children together to make the world a better place.

So, I’m guessing this is the part where you are asking, “Then why are you closing?” Please believe me when I tell you that this was the most difficult decision of our lives. There is not enough room on these pages to share the details from the research and many complex discussions with industry experts that aided this process. Ultimately, the economic impact of the pandemic and the current labor shortage led to this decision. Our final choices came down to either taking a huge financial risk with a low probability of success or embracing the end with a guarantee that we can do a lot of good on our way out. We chose fiscal responsibility while embracing the choice of “doing good.”

Many of you have heard me describe a very intimate moment with my beloved mother-in-law, Barbara Bushman, the evening before she died. She left me with three instructions for life: 1) Stick together, 2) Go on vacation, and 3) Do good in the community. I promised her, and I promise you, that we will do a lot more good.

Over the next several months, I will beef up a team to officially dissolve Bake Me Home. As always, you can trust that we will continue to steward every penny of your past donations with the same diligence that we always have. As this will be our last printed mailing to you, we hope that you will follow along on social media, via email, and on our website to see how we work to distribute our assets where they, too, can do good.

I’m rarely short on words, but it’s impossible to express fully the gratitude I feel for all of you. Thank you for coming on this journey. We DID make the world a little better—with more than $300,000 cook! cook!

~ Alison Bushman
President Emeritus and Cookie Mom

Amy, Alison, and Emma Bushman, Bake Me Home Founders

2020–2021 OUTCOMES

4,000+ Volunteers
$857,427 Raised
9,852 Families Served
13,617 Cookies for Troops Overseas
30,076 Cookies for Local Veterans

BAKEMEHOME.ORG
Our Tote Bag Program exceeded our annual goal by 50 and served 975 local families through nineteen agencies this fiscal year. Following Covid protocols, our initial round of deliveries consisted strictly of Kroger gift cards, enabling us to continue to serve our community safely. The financial support we have received from The Mary Martha McGee Foundation and The Kroger Co. dramatically impacted our ability to help our neighbors during challenging days.

In the early fall of 2020, we resumed our standard tote bag distributions thanks to dedicated kitchen help from family members of our staff and board of directors, as well as the many loyal volunteers who signed up to do outdoor pick-ups and drop-offs. However, nothing compared to the joy of working side by side with our volunteers again this spring.

This spring also brought us the opportunity to continue to show our love for Meredith Furr with a donation of 500 “Meredith’s Cookies” for CancerFree KIDS Butterfly Walk, celebrating survivors and remembering those, like Meredith, that we’ve lost. We encourage our supporters to help in the fight against pediatric cancer with a donation in Meredith’s memory to either CancerFree Kids or CureSearch.

As we plan for a very different 2021-2022 than expected, we are particularly grateful to the Paycor Community Impact Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation for their $12,500 grant to support programming for our local families. Honoring our commitment to Paycor and our community by delivering 500 final tote bags will be a privilege.

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In June, the Paycor Community Impact Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation awarded a $12,500 grant which will still be used this fall to provide tote bags for the holidays to 500 local families.

Our Bake Me Back Home program shifted our efforts exclusively to active-duty military members overseas this fiscal year by shipping out 1,872 cookies, tripling the shipments of each of the two previous years. Generous support from our community enabled us to replace our packaging material with brand new socks, providing an essential item to service members while reducing waste. Fulfilling a soldier’s request to support her unit when stores in Poland were closed due to COVID-19, a shipment of 1,152 cookies became the single largest shipment in Bake Me Back Home’s history. We were honored to receive a Certificate of Achievement from the Department of the Army for this effort.

After more than sixteen months of closures, everyone at Bake Me Home missed our friends at Honor Flight Tri-State and Fisher House at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center tremendously. Please continue to seek out ways to help facilitate their special programming for our veterans.

When we needed additional safety protocols in our kitchen, our board members accomplished the hands-on work required to serve our community by volunteering with their families—creating their own shared family experiences while promoting volunteerism. Way to “walk the walk!”

Thank you for your continued support of our Bake Me Back Home Program.

Tote Bag Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020-2021 Board of Directors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allison Bushman, President Emerita and Board Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Bushman, Co-Founder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Bushman, Co-Founder &amp; Board Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marianne Falk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Page Falk, Student Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tommy Imhoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Howard Kaplan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maya Roffe, Student Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priya Roffe, Board Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Riccardi, Vice President of Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Virzi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sofia Virzi, Student Member</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A very special thanks to these businesses for their donated services and supplies to support our programming:

Alinea Marketing Consultants
Amortas
Carly Blakley, CPA
Deb Kornets, Graphic Designer
Dream Diners Anderson
Foresters Financial
KenMarc Electric
Steinhauser, Inc.
The Kroger Co.
Transmit Studio

With another $10,000 gift card donation, The Kroger Co. continued to make a significant contribution to feeding our community through our Tote Bag Program.

A $10,000 grant from the H.B., E.W. and F.R. Luther Charitable Foundation for COVID-19 safety protocol improvements enabled us to return to work in our building safely.

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YOU brought 62 new donors to Bake Me Home in 2020-2021. Thank you for advocating for us during difficult times.
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After more than sixteen months of closures, everyone at Bake Me Home missed our friends and colleagues. However, our ability to help facilitate their special programming at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center tremendously. Please continue to seek out ways to help facilitate their special programming for our veterans.

Bake Me Back Home Program 1,872 COOKIES

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“Everyone becomes a kid again when presented with a cookie!”
- Chief Jennifer Alexander

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Tote Bag Program 975 FAMILIES SERVED

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THANK YOU!

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- Honor Flight Tri-State and Fisher House at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center
- Ameritas
- Dream Dinners Anderson
- Foresters Financial
- KenMarc Electric
- Kool-Aid Marketing Consultants
- Transmit Studio

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HONORING OUR COMMITMENTS

We still have more work to do. Stay tuned on social media to see how we execute final programming and ensure that we maintain the intentions of special donations and grants that we have received.

OFFERING GRANTS

As part of the process of distributing our cash assets, we will be offering an opportunity for our partner agencies to apply for grants. Those donations to other 501(c)(3) organizations will comply with our bylaws and IRS regulations.

BASH CANCELLATION AND SPONSOR REFUNDS

Unfortunately, our decision to close our doors came when our Bash had already received checks from multiple sponsors. As it is necessary to cancel this event, we will either refund your sponsorship donation or put it towards our final grant-making. If we have not already connected with you, we will soon to say we honor your wish.

GOOD STUFF

We have been fortunate to be the recipient of donated computers and grant funding for fantastic office furniture. We are confident these physical assets and many more will find excellent homes with other non-profit organizations.

OUR HOME

We were thrilled to move into “our” new building in 2013 and have been fortunate to have permission to customise it for our needs. However, we are a renters, and the distribution of our assets will not include the building on Burney Lane.

FINAL REPORT

Although a definitive timeline of events is still in progress, we pledge to publicly share our final outcomes and tax return with you when our dissolution is complete. We have never carried debt, so our full assets will be available to distribute to other 501(c)(3) organizations.

We encourage you to continue supporting every organization in our Bake Me Home Family!

You can find this list with links to each website at bakemehome.org/serve

Our Military:

- All branches of the United States Military serving overseas
- Wounded and sick veterans (and their families) at Fisher House at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center
- Veterans and Chaperones with Honor Flight Tri-State

Families in Crisis In:

- Hamilton County, Ohio: CAIN - Churches Active in Northside, Cancer Free Kids, Habitat for Humanity, Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati, MEAC - Madisonville Education and Assistance Center, New Life Furniture, ProKids, Salvation Army, SEM Food Pantry, YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter, YWCA Transitional Living Program
- Clermont County, Ohio: James Sauls Homeless Shelter, Loveland LIFE Food Pantry
- Butler County, Ohio: Family Promise Butler County, TOPSS - Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services, Reach Out Lakota, YWCA Dove House
- Warren County, Ohio: ARC - Abuse and Rape Crisis Shelter of Warren County, Interfaith Hospitality Network of Warren County

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