



TUSEN TACK MISSION

Tusen Tack builds community and enhances the quality of life of residents in East Central Minnesota through the engagement of volunteers, partnerships with other non-profit organizations and providing services, including the operation of the Tusen Tack Thrift Store, Braham Community Event Center (aka the Braham Event Center), the Alice Studt Library, the Braham Area Food Shelf and other charitable activities.



BRAHAM EVENT CENTER MISSION

To improve the quality of life by providing a gathering place.

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

ABOUT US

Tusen Tack operates four core programs that engage area residents in ways that improve their health and create a healthy community. All four operating units rely primarily or exclusively on a highly engaged group of volunteers.

Tusen Tack's operations address poverty and seek to help people build healthier lives. Mental and emotional well-being is essential to overall health. Tusen Tack's operating entities help by providing space, organized activities and opportunities for volunteering, which encourage social participation and inclusion for all people, including children, seniors and persons with disabilities.

Giving back to the community is a focus for Tusen Tack. We provide employment opportunities for contract businesses, such as snow removal, carpet cleaning, electrical work, etc. We hope to employ more people internally as we continue to grow.

Tusen Tack Thrift Store (est. 1989)

The Thrift Store provides clean, gently-used clothing, furniture and home goods at extremely low prices, which helps low income people meet basic needs. It also provides retirees and other community volunteers an opportunity to be actively engaged in contributing to their community, with all the mental and physical health benefits associated with such activity.

Braham Area Food Shelf (est. 1998)

The Food Shelf helps low income residents meet their needs and actively engages volunteers. Area Churches provide volunteers to help distribute food. Food is purchased primarily through Second Harvest Heartland who works closely with food shelves, food pantries and other meal programs.

Braham Event Center / Kathy's Kitchen (est. 2014)

The Braham Event Center engages a broad range of community residents in activities for youth, seniors, and families. Most of these activities are low-cost or no-cost. Many are done in cooperation with other non-profit organizations including the VFW, Scouts, Garden Club, the schools and the Chamber of Commerce. Many of these events have been enhanced by the provision of food prepared by Kathy's Kitchen.

Braham Area "Alice Studt Library" (est. 2014)

The Library provides convenient access to library resources, including computers for job search, Star Tribune Newspaper, Book Shelves placed in the Braham Laundromat and Braham Area Food Shelf for additional accessibility to books. They also provide historical interviews of past community remembrances which are collected and published in the Braham Journal.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT:

It has been a year of transition for all of us at Tusen Tack in 2017. The Event Center Operations Task Force felt it was time to update the organizations business plan. In July 2017, a new 12-member board was developed, and I have had the privilege of serving as Tusen Tack's President of the Board. With change come challenges and the opportunity to discover new possibilities, focus our work on what matters and fall back on the guidance of the previous board and our mission and values.

For me, this year has been a learning experience and I have had the chance to interact with this all volunteer run organization. Our 12-member board is made up of members of the four operating committees (Thrift Store, Event Center, Food Shelf and Library) and others from the communities we serve. We also formed several committees to continue to work on our Strategic Plan. Our new committees formed are Development, Facilities, Marketing & Communications, Volunteer, and Youth.

We greatly appreciate our donors and volunteers. Without them, we would not be where we are today. We have been searching for an AmeriCorps VISTA Member to join our team. This person would be responsible for helping us build capacity with a focus on volunteer and fund development. If you know of someone that would be interested, please call me at 320-420-4290.

Stay tuned for 2019 as we celebrate Tusen Tack's 30th Anniversary and Braham Event Center's 5th year! This will be a year of celebration as we mark a significant era in our history. As we move forward, we will continue to develop strong leadership and grow our volunteer and development programs. There is always room for one more. If interested in serving in any capacity, please contact us at 320-396-3177.

BOARD MEMBERS

Becky Turnquist, President
Kim Londgren, Vice President
Marie Grundberg, Past President
Bob Benes, Treasurer
Tim Nelson, Secretary
Arlene Asleson, Member
Dorothy Johnson, Member
Terry Lind, Member
Travis Marttila, Member
Marie Meyer, Member
Jane Moyer, Member
Dixie Randall, Member

COUNTLESS VOLUNTEERS!!!

STAFF

Gary Skarsten
Mary Carlson
Dylan LaFrenz

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Jane Moyer, Thrift Store
Dorothy Johnson, Event Center
Stella Bobo/Merla Berg, Food Shelf
Dixie Randall, Library, Arts & Culture
Louise Nelson/Patty Lind, Development
Terry Lind, Facilities
Tina Lanhart, Marketing & Communications
Leona Dressel, Volunteer
Jake King, Youth Development

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

THRIFT STORE:

- Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Saturday
- 9,992 Volunteer Hours, about 50 volunteers year round cover various 4 hour shifts
- 849 Green Cards cashed in at \$5 each = \$4,245 Monies given back to customers
- Gave back to the community: Braham Schools, Churches, Fire Department, Police Department, Chisago County Historical Society, Pie Day and Scout Programs

EVENT CENTER:

- 32,000 guests entered the facility in 2017 not counting hundreds of volunteers to serve the guests
- 13 weddings in 2017
- Worked with 35 non-profit organizations to help host an event
- 46 arts and cultural events
- Kathy's Kitchen served over 12,000 guests
- Gave back to the community: Schools, VFW, Garden Club, Knit Wits, Royal Neighbors, Braham Chamber, Girl Scouts, Braham United Against Drugs, Gun Training, Military Ball for Junior Cadets, Jazz Concert, Braham Ambassador Program, ABC Theatre, Ballet, Youth Entrepreneurs, Cambridge American Legion Auxiliary and Pine City Blue Star Moms.

FOOD SHELF:

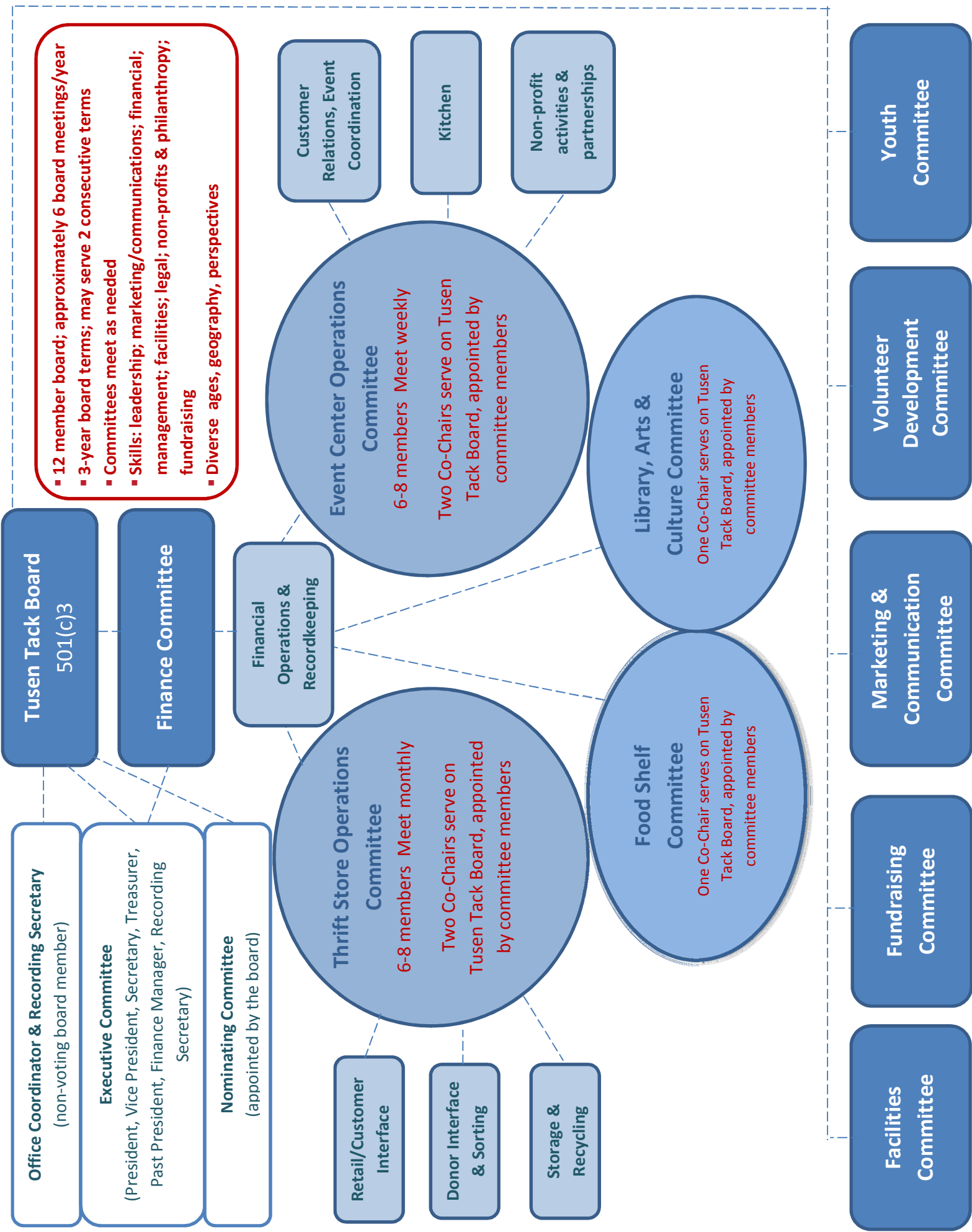
- Open every Thursday 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Nine Churches provide volunteers
- 46,285 lbs. of food given to recipients
- Served 373 individual households with a combined total of 755 households for the year

LIBRARY:

- Mondays, 12:30-4:30 p.m., East Central Regional Library Link Site
- Thursdays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. to coordinate with the Food Shelf
- Average of 35 people utilize the library on Mondays and 9 people on Thursdays each week
- Activities in the Library include Book Club (12-15 people), Senior Social Hour (12-25 people), Movies 4-5 times per year, Empty Bowl Fundraiser for the Braham Area Food Shelf (100 people attend and monies raised serves around 35 families per week, and Kindergarten Story Time (60-70 students)

2018 OPPORTUNITIES

- Thrift Store:** Prepare and upgrade the inside of the Tusen Tack building in preparation of our 30th anniversary celebration
- Event Center:** Look for more opportunity for arts and cultural programs
- Food Shelf:** Enhance communications with current and future recipients
- Library:** Grow our 'Little Libraries' in East Central MN to provide books and materials to more people
- Development:** Plan for another Mother's Day Brunch Buffet and Concert at the Event Center
- Facilities:** Construct an outdoor sign to establish our identity at the Event Center
- Marketing & Communications:** Focus on online marketing by redesigning the website and researching advertising options
- Volunteer:** Develop the Volunteers of America RSVP Program to provide volunteer benefits
- Youth Development:** Provide youth programming once a month at the Event Center



- 12 member board; approximately 6 board meetings/year
- 3-year board terms; may serve 2 consecutive terms
- Committees meet as needed
- Skills: leadership; marketing/communications; financial; management; facilities; legal; non-profits & philanthropy; fundraising
- Diverse ages, geography, perspectives