



h.o.m.e., Inc.

46th Anniversary Celebration
& 2016 Department Reports
14th April 2016



*H.O.M.E.'s Management Team
Lawrence, Tracey, Mary, Rosa*

“Serve First Those Who Suffer Most”

h.o.m.e.'s 46th Anniversary Celebration

St. Vincent De Paul Parish Hall

Thursday, 14 April 2016

5:45 P.M.



Agenda:

Memorial Moments & Opening Prayer
Introductory Comments

Pot Luck Dinner

Executive Director's Report
Management Report
Financial Report



Introduction of Board of Directors
Board Member Elections

Keynote Speaker:
Susie Craig



Closing Remarks & Sing Along



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2016 Department Reports

Management Team Report

One of my favorite quotes is attributed to Plato: “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.” Among the many hard battles fought by humankind is that of homelessness. With your support, H.O.M.E. utilizes a network of resources, including temporary shelter, housing, and services to help people overcome homelessness. Last year, our shelter department sheltered 250 individuals, and while the State of Maine as a whole saw a decrease in the incidence of homelessness, shelter staff at H.O.M.E. saw an increase of approximately 25 individuals seeking shelter.

At H.O.M.E., we accompany each person on their personal journey toward self-reliance and permanent housing. New this year, is the Navigator Program, part of a long term State wide program to end homelessness. When a person comes to H.O.M.E. they are assigned a trained Resource Navigator to assist them in learning and gaining valuable skills that will meet their health, housing, employment and other basic needs. Resource Navigators will help them to develop and work on goals as part of a Housing Stability Plan designed to assist in achieving housing stability, and connect them with appropriate services and support. This program supports people for as much as a year after they leave shelter.

We have worked hard to secure and maintain housing solutions in our community and have begun a rehabilitation effort which includes major renovations and repairs to all five of our shelters and two transitional houses. We started working to improve the St Francis Inn shelter for women in East Orland by replacing windows and repairing chimney leaks. We still have much more work to do and are grateful to those partnering with us in this endeavor. We continue to work in collaboration with church groups and volunteer groups and have plans to rebuild a house at our Millvale location which burned down last year. Our goal is to have this house ready for a family before next winter.

The most rewarding parts of this work are the School Back Pack program, which last year, provided back packs filled with school supplies for 85 children and H.O.M.E.’s Christmas program which provided 160 gifts for children and adults.

I am proud of the H.O.M.E. team and profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve with such inspiring human beings. Among them are the incredible staff and volunteers of H.O.M.E. whose dedication to

our mission is unmatched. Whether attending board meetings with wonderfully dedicated and hardworking volunteers, raising money that enables us to provide important services to those we serve, talking with town managers and code enforcement officers in search of workable solutions, watching shelter staff happily gather backpacks for school children, or working at our Summer Auction, I always walk away from this work with a very full heart.



Many of you have supported our work in countless ways, and we extend our sincere thanks and true appreciation for your invaluable help. We cannot do it alone. With your continued support, we will help families who turn to us in their time of need, protect children who are counting on us, supply shelter and provide safety for the most vulnerable individuals in our community.

— Tracey Hair

Bookkeeping

Well it sure has been a busy year. I’m always relieved when the time change comes around in March. My mother always said once February was over she could handle anything old man winter could dish out.

There has been a lot of changes here in our office. We added a new staff member to our team, Amy Gray. We are all very happy to have her as our front desk person. A complete new phone system was installed. It allows us to have voice mail, which streamlines many calls. We have upgraded our time clock. Now all employees are able to punch in and out. New steel doors are being installed for added security and allows us to expand the storage space in bookkeeping. Our construction team have worked so hard to get the windows on the trombe wall completed. This sure makes a difference in our office. Very bright and cheery.

In past years I have spoken about having a complete audit done for HOME. We have completed the first step in getting an audit. A compilation was completed for 2013. This is a report from our auditors showing they have verified our financial information and compiled their independent report. This is a very important step in our future fundraising efforts. Our goal is to get either 2015 or 2016 audited.

I look forward to working with everyone in the following year.

Thank You

The Bookkeeping Staff of 2016 — Mary, Ruth, & Amy

Gardens & Greenhouses

We are excited this year about our new 17' by 48' high tunnel greenhouse put up by Andy and our great construction crew! We really appreciate the many people who helped in the long and arduous 'prep work' stage. We hope to have an earlier and more productive crop of veggies and some flowers and herbs as well. Hopefully the greenhouse will also be a



point of interest for visitors. We will continue selling seedlings in the "old" greenhouse, after it's rebuilt from its destruction by a monster windstorm earlier in the winter.



This Spring we'll be adding two pear trees to our "mini orchard," which currently has two plum trees, one peach, and two ginkgo trees! We hope to plant "waystations" of perennial flowers and pollinator plants for the monarch butterfly, whose populations are in serious decline because of industrialization. Another new venture, in collaboration with Josh and Rosa, is the propagation of shiitake mushrooms, done with "plugs" on logs (we have a lot of these.) We'll be learning as we go along.

All in all, it sounds like an exciting spring.

— Millie Grimes, Garden Department

For all of you on our newsletter mailing list:

Please check out the web edition of This Time with the pictures in color! ...and please let us know if that works for you and we can save the expense of mailing you the printed edition.

See the pictures in color and read this report on-line:
www.homemmausa.org

Front Office

This year the front office has seen some changes. Julie has adapted to her surroundings and keeps the office moving along. Twila returned from a medical leave to help in the afternoons (in the mornings she works in the Soup Kitchen and produces delicious lunches). Maggie, meanwhile, keeps a sharp eye out the window and reports on everyone's comings and goings.



A beautiful and sturdy carpet was installed in our front entrance and lobby by Rick and Andrew. They volunteered their time and effort and the Front Office staff are very grateful. Bill painted the lobby a lovely, bright blue that can keep you cheerful even on the darkest of days.

Joshua provided Julie with an updated computer that needed a home. Data entry and the typing of correspondence and other materials is much quicker and Julie is very happy with her snazzy computer.

The new telephone system is in place and we are working hard at learning all it's bells and whistles.

Andrew and crew replaced the windows in the Trombe Wall (solar heat) and not only can we see out of all the windows now, it has all ready made a difference in how our offices hold in the heat. No wearing of winter coats in the office this year. The new panels for the wall have been delivered and await the construction crew to install them. We are very happy to be warm all year round.



— Julie, Twila, and Maggie

"This Time"

You can read the current and many past issues of This Time on our web page, follow the link from <http://www.homemmausa.org>.

— Josh P., Editor

Saw Mill

Today, Clint Claggett reports that H.O.M.E.'s Sawmill is the most productive it has ever been! The Sawmill is not only critical and central to our house building and rehabilitation program, it also provides an income through the sale of lumber to the public. A sawmill's basic operation is much like those of hundreds of years ago; a log enters on one end and dimensional lumber exits on the other end.



Earlier this year H.O.M.E. purchased a skidder. The primary purpose of the skidder is to pull logs out of the woods once they are selectively harvested. Rusty Field is our chief logger who selects prime logs for harvest. He spends his days felling the trees, bucking them to length and limbing the logs. The logs are then taken by logging truck to H.O.M.E.'s log yard where Clint supervises the milling of the logs into lumber through H.O.M.E.'s mill. Once the logs arrive at the yard they are scaled and the debarking process begins. The logs brought to H.O.M.E. are processed from beginning to end, from felling to decking.



H.O.M.E. sells lumber, cedar shingles and edgings and uses the entire log. What is not sold to the public or used for construction is used for firewood or sold as scrap wood. So far this year the logging crew, which consists of Clint Claggett (sawyer), Rusty Field (logger), Hanes Thibedeau

and Sam Lowell, has brought in 7358 board feet of logs for the mill and we still have another truck load ready to haul. As I write this report the sawmill is humming!

Of course there is always a wish list for the crew, on top of that list is a wood chipper, which they will use to make wood chips.

Sawyers — Clint Claggett, Hanes Thibodeau and Sam Lowell and Josue Tuc Tuc.



Shingle Mill

Eric Snow heads up H.O.M.E.'s Shingle Mill operation with help from Dwayne Curry who has recently started working in the mill. They can be seen each day sawing cedar logs which are harvested and trucked to the log yard. The Shingle Mill slices a section of log into tapered wedges to make wooden shingles.



This year, Eric has an abundance of logs to work with producing squares of number 1 and 2 grade shingles. We sell the cedar shingles for \$75 a square.

When the mill is not producing shingles, Eric and Dwayne spend their days sawing logs into firewood. H.O.M.E. burns anywhere from 85 to 100 cord of firewood each year.



— Eric Snow and Dwayne Curry

Woodshop

When possible HOME has some of our talented construction crew produce wooden crafts to sell in the craft store. We are anticipating some great pieces coming from the woodshop this year.

Craft Store

Please, come visit our craft store. We are gearing up for the summer season and are excited to sell our crafts to the local community and those who come from afar.

Many of our items are available by mail order. Check out our catalog items at <http://homemmausa.org/homecoop/newsletter/catalog.pdf>.

Garage

H.O.M.E.'s Garage strives to provide low-cost car repair and automotive advice that supports our community on the road to more secure lives. The Garage seeks to remove barriers by providing low cost car repair. We charge only \$45 per hour plus the cost of parts.



Our goal is getting cars safe and back on the road, so our mechanics work on brakes, suspension and steering, starting and charging systems, fuel systems, tires and body work. Occasionally larger jobs like fixing head gaskets and replacing engines are done.

If you are looking to schedule an appointment or have more specific questions, please call us at 207-469-7961. We are generally 1 week out in appointments.

— Damian Spelas (Garage Supervisor) and Brenden Russell (Mechanic)

Learning Center

HOME continues to provide classes, one-on-one tutoring, and transportation services to individuals working towards higher levels of education or job training. This year we have been happy to support a student, both financially and with transportation services, in the ongoing process of obtaining her driving license.



In addition to supporting individuals academically, HOME continues to support people in the pursuit of personal enrichment. Painting remains a very popular class as well as stained glass and pottery. Our basic computer course has a consistent number of students who have really begun to blossom under Josh Prochaska's tutelage. Technology classes are an area in which we expect to see demand increase as use of computers and online social networking grows. A recent addition to our schedule has been the meditation class. The class focuses on the energy of the body and our inner spirits. It provides the community with a peaceful way to retreat into ourselves for a moment during our busy schedules.

— Rosalani Moore, Director

Fundraising

H.O.M.E. continues to fundraise through our businesses such as the Saw Mill, Shingle Mill, the Market Stand, Automotive Repair, Day Care, Craft Store, and Abby's Attic. Also contributing are the annual sales of Christmas Wreaths, our Annual Auction, Spring and Fall Appeals, Sweepstakes Raffle, and Private Donations.

Grants from several foundations have generously supported our mission here at H.O.M.E. A total of \$88,750 was generated last year from the Mulford Foundation, Doree Taylor Foundation, Carpenter Foundation, Porticus Foundation, Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, Simmons Foundation, and the Helen and George Ladd Charitable Corporation.

We are excited about our new Bargain Barn which will be open for business soon. Many people benefit from our low cost clothing and household goods such as furniture, books and seasonal necessities. For the people in deepest need, clothing and the essentials for living are provided free and graciously. We appreciate the many donations from the community that make the Bargain Barn a source of funding and more importantly, a resource that can provide for the needs for low-income and homeless people.

We also greatly appreciate the help of hundreds of volunteers. Each year the volunteers tackle the huge construction and repair needs of our H.O.M.E. Campus and our Community Land Trust homes as well as in many other ways including food preparation, community outreach, and garden work. We are grateful to the many loyal volunteers who come, some twice a year, for over twenty-five years to help in our mission.

Fundraising continues to be a challenge in these tough economic times. In the future, H.O.M.E. is looking for new and innovated ideas to sustain our mission.

Here's where some of our support came from in 2015:

Spring Appeal	\$30,040
Fall Appeal	\$40,170
Sweepstakes	\$2,287
Summer Auction	\$6,099
Foundation Grants.	\$88,750

Thank you for supporting us.

Fundraising Staff – Michael Butts and Tracey Hair

Abby's Attic Thrift Shop

Route 1, East Orland, Maine

If you need clothing or household items,
call Abby's Attic at
(207) 469-7575.



Abby's interior continues to change and be reorganized for a brighter, more modern look. We continue to hear positive comments on the changes in inventory and the way product is displayed.

This year, Abby's received part of a very large donation from a local hardware store. Most of the items were hardware related and we worked hard and diligently to rearrange displays to put the items in a prominent and organized place.

Each regular employee has been assigned specific responsibilities, such as recording received items, inventory cleaning and testing, revamping displays, etc. and this is streamlining inventory flow and improving customer service as we learn about new lines of items. It also allows us to offer training for residents of the shelters so that they may leave with skills they will find useful for obtaining permanent employment.

The amount of donations we receive is increasing, and this is a good thing! It keeps us busy, makes us think creatively and increases sales by offering a larger and more varied inventory.

I just have to add that I love this part of my job!

— Kathy Walton

Bakery

Down at the bakery sales are steady thanks to our local customers. We had a refurbished convection oven and a Hobart mixer installed to increase production. Everyone has their favorites like the most requested Swiss Roll and the Maine wild blueberry biscuits. I mostly use the old tried and true church cookbook recipes and tweak them to include seasonal flavors. You can choose from a daily selection or order anything you like with a 24-hour notice. We are looking forward to summer and Farmer's Market. The garden department brings along lots of fresh baked items to sell and sell they do! Over the past 3 years we have earned a good customer base in both Ellsworth and Bucksport. It's going to be a busy summer!

— Jackie Lee, Baker



Marketstand, Soup Kitchen, and Food Bank

The Market Stand had a good Summer. We are able to accept Food Stamps and the EBT program is stronger every year. At this point staffing issues have been resolved. We are taking on a few new ventures this summer, one of which is selling ice. Volunteer groups have requested we begin to sell bags of ice as well as water.



This year the number of people coming to the Food Bank for food has decreased. Some of this was due to difficulties getting the food to stock the pantry. We also ran in to some problems with our food supplier. We have been able to fill the shelves with help from food drives hosted by out of state volunteers and church groups.



The Food Bank distributed 213 food boxes and served 589 individuals

The Food Truck sponsored by Good Shepherd Food Bank distributed 75 food boxes and served 202 individuals.

— Market Stand staff: Mark Levesque, Twila Greene, Sienna Botta and Amy Smith.



Emmaus International

HOME is becoming more and more active in the Emmaus movement this year. We were able to send a number of participants to three different training camps in South America. Karen Botta, Michael Butts, and Rosalani Moore attended the first camp, which took place in Brazil and focused on Emmaus values and principals. Gerald Botta attended the second camp in Chile, which had a theme of political and social action. Andrew Philbrick, Chantae Howard, and Jessie Moore attended the final camp of the year, which took place in another part of Brazil, and focused on social work and running thrift operations. All of the participants had a good time and brought their experiences back to HOME.

We have had some changes in representation this year, with the terms for many positions running out. An election was held and Rosalani Moore was chosen as the new National Delegate for the United States. She is responsible for motivating groups to participate more in the movement and acting as a contact between the groups and the Americas region. She also will participate on the Regional Council, which acts as a decision making body for the region. Karen Botta was elected as the group delegate for HOME. Her responsibilities include being the first point of contact if anyone has questions about Emmaus and participating in Regional Assemblies once every two years. Joshua Prochaska was elected to a position on the board for the Americas region. He will work together with the other three members of the regional board to oversee and manage the activities of the entire region. In particular, he has been assigned to work closely with the groups in Uruguay and Argentina.

We will be sending three representatives to the upcoming Emmaus International World Assembly. The week-long assembly will take place in mid-April in Jesolo, Italy. This assembly is where decisions affecting the entire movement take place. We will also be deciding on the general direction of the Emmaus movement over the next four years. You can read more about the World Assembly on the front page of this issue of This Time.

HOME is happy to continue to strengthen its involvement with the Emmaus movement. We look forward to another year of living the philosophy of ‘serving first those who suffer most’.

— Joshua Prochaska

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Check out the “Planet Emmaus” website:

<http://www.emmaus-international.org/en/who-are-we/emmaus-around-the-world/the-americas/united-states/home.html>

,,,or follow the links to Emmaus at www.homemmausa.org.

Daycare

This is my second year as HOME’s Daycare Director and I love my job. Jade Linscott and Allison Norris are in their second year as well and in the process of completing our yearly 30 hours of training. The training is done through a government funded program, Maine Roads of Quality, and hope that they will get a lot out of it. I attended this program last year and felt it taught me a lot. Our hope is to provide the best possible care for every child and this training will help us reach that goal.



Last year our numbers varied due to snow days or school vacations, but we have room for twelve kids in our daycare. While we are not always full during the day, we have a healthy population of after-school kids. I have been working closely with the older ones to engage them in social activities, rather than playing on laptops or tablets.

We have also been helping some of them with homework. It’s sometimes more challenging to work with the older children, who have more willful personalities, but I find it rewarding none the less.

In the coming year, we hope to increase the number of children attending during the day. Our daycare works hard to provide a pleasant and safe atmosphere for all of the children for which we care. In saying this we hope you will spread the word to friends and family that HOME’s daycare is open for business. HOME’s daycare is open from 7am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Please call us at (207) 469-7961 for more information.

— Chantae Howard



Construction and Maintenance

This has been a busy year for our construction crew. We have welcomed a new construction manager, Andrew Philbrick, who works alongside our crew including Darryl Carr, Chris Poulin and Glenn Tarbox.

We built two new buildings this year; we rebuilt the Bargain Barn at 82 Schoolhouse Rd and put up a new, larger greenhouse. We hope that these buildings will help bring more income to HOME and provide valuable resources to the local community.

In terms of repair and maintenance, we have been very busy. We bought a new wood burning furnace and the old one has been installed elsewhere for supplementary heat. We rehabbed several rental homes which were in dire need of repair. We continue to do routine maintenance on the rest of our buildings, but these were our major projects.

We would like to thank all of the volunteer groups for their hard work and dedication to HOME. We could not do everything we do without your help and support.



Our old Bargain Barn and the new Bargain Barn with Lucy's Bridge from the main office parking area.



*From the 1970s: Dying wool and displaying a quilt in the craft Store
From the h.o.m.e. archives*

Bargain Barn Rebuilding



Stained Glass Studio

Stained glass continues to offer classes for the community. Volunteers are encouraged to create picture frames and mosaics which are sold in the craft store. All proceeds from these volunteer made products go to support HOMES many programs.
Thanks,
Roxanne Poulin



Leather Studio



With the assistance of many volunteers the Leather studio has begun a transformation which will allow for more space for classes and people to focus on the craft.

Bill Leach *[Editor's note: Bill has also been our most productive and dedicated wreath decorator.]*

Volunteers

Volunteer Coordinator:
Gina Kirwin
865-256-9043
volunteer@homecoop.net



<http://www.homemmausa.org/Volunteering.html>

Pottery Studio

Pottery classes remain in demand. We have renovated much of the space to provide more shelving and allow more people to be able to enjoy the studio. There has been an increase in people volunteering which helps HOME produce wonderful pieces to sell in the craft store and bring to fairs. In addition to pottery, we have now begun some production of ceramics. This was made possible by a generous donation of ceramic molds from one of our supporters. Pottery and ceramics continue to provide our shelter residents a space to give back to the community while in the process of rebuilding their lives.

Weaving

In the weaving shop there is a new weaver, Savanna, who is being trained by Lisa Scott. They are happy to create new designs and get the shop producing.

Stitchery

Sandra is hard at work in the Stitchery department making the quilt for the raffle. The winning ticket will be drawn just before Christmas. The quilt could make a wonderful Christmas present.

Jerilyn is hard at work in the Emmaus fashion on a crazy quilt. This style is a great way to recycle and use up small pieces of cloth which would otherwise be thrown away. Anyone looking for a custom quilt or sewn product should feel free to contact the stitchery department.

Shelter

Once again, in 2015, homelessness continues to be a major issue facing people who live in rural Maine. HOME has spent the last 46 years doing everything we can in order to alleviate the suffering of people experiencing housing displacement. Our two shelter directors, Gerald Botta and Gina Kirwin, have continued to work together to serve guests staying in our five shelters and four transitional housing units. Working along side the directors, we have had Kathy Walton who manages the St. Francis Inn Shelter and Brenda Geel who manages the Sr. Barbara Hance House.



Our shelters and transitional housing units have undergone significant renovations. We would like to thank our construction and maintenance crews, along with our many volunteers, for everything they do to keep things running smoothly. Due to their combined efforts, all of our shelters and transitional housing units were able to pass Maine State Housing inspections this year.

HOME provided a total of 11,553 bed nights to over 200 hundred unique individuals. Those we helped came from a variety of demographics, including women, children, families, and people suffering from substance abuse related issues. The shelter office works together with other agencies to try and secure permanent affordable housing for as many people as they can. We have also provided help with job placement and provided outreach in the form of transportation to appointments.



We here in the shelter department are proud of HOME's accomplishments this year in fighting poverty, social injustice, and the causes of homelessness. We hope to continue into 2016 by serving first those who suffer most with your help.
— Gerald Botta and Gina Kirwin

Housing Department

Well, there was good news and bad news in the Housing Department in 2015. The good news is that all of our units were full for most of the year and we had no major maintenance issues, which we think is some kind of world record - we're checking with Guinness.

We've got some interesting issues regarding actual ownership. This newspaper's not big enough to tell that whole story, but we can tell some of it.

One of the interesting ownership issues is that of the house of Bonnie Williams, a beloved H.O.M.E. staffperson who passed away in 2014 after a long struggle with cancer. Bonnie spent the last years of her life in the house, which is a duplex, with her son Brent sharing her side of the house and her son Jason and his family on the other side.

While that ownership issue is being settled, H.O.M.E. staffers Karen, of the Craft store and gardens, and Andy, of the construction crew, have moved into Bonnie's side of the duplex. Like the other ownership issues, it's complicated, but we are making good, solid progress - and in the meantime it is good and heartwarming to all of us to see Bonnie's home occupied, and by members of our community.

The other side of the house needs work before it's ready for habitation, and that is on our long list of summer projects.

The bad news is that we have an ongoing problem with rent arrears. But the good news there is that we are tightening up and generally improving our systems for dealing with this unfortunately rather chronic problem - and we are hopeful that this improved process will yield positive results.

We look forward to what we hope will be another year of full occupancy and of offering affordable housing - in real homes! - to our low-income friends and neighbors here in Hancock County!

— Lawrence Reichard



Check out h.o.m.e. information and pictures in color, including these reports and our newsletter, *This Time*, on our web page at www.homemmausa.org

Christmas Wreaths and Centerpieces

Our wreath and centerpiece ordering information is available on our web page: www.homecoop.net.



h.o.m.e., Inc.

Board of Directors

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Sharon Bray
Orland

Helen Stummer (Honorary)
Metuchen NJ

Wayside Chapel of St. Francis

Everyone is welcome to join us for services on Sunday at 10:30 AM. We are very thankful to have Pat Snyder as our organist.

Eucharistic Ministers: Sr. Lucy and Ralph. We miss Sr. Marie who led the services most of the time when Ralph was away.

We host AA meetings Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 12:30 PM.



h.o.m.e., Inc.

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www.homemmausa.org

(h.o.m.e - Emmaus - USA)

We are now collecting donations of great things to put in

h.o.m.e.'s Annual Benefit Auction and Yard Sale

Please plan to join us on Saturday, August 20!

*Please call us at 469-7961 if you have some
valuable stuff to donate. We can come and pick it up.*

*We also have on-going bottle and scrap metal drives and
need your continued support and donations.*

Check out h.o.m.e. pictures in color and h.o.m.e.
information, including these reports and our
newsletter, ***This Time***, on our web page at
www.homecoop.net or
www.homemmausa.org

Please do not discard this report!

*Pass it on to someone else or return it to **h.o.m.e.** so we can
hand it out again. We use them for publicity throughout the year.*

Thank you.

Published by **St., Francis Press**

PO Box 10, Orland ME 04472