

Homeworkers Organized for More Employment

This Time

Orland, Maine 04472

When Asked to Shelter in Place...

By Tracey Hair

For our friends and supporters—we hope this message finds you sheltered safely in place during this challenging time. For essential service workers, we hope this message reaches you and that you have the tools you need to safely do your work. Please know that we are grateful for your dedication. — you inspire us.

This crisis has brought unprecedented challenges to many of our doorsteps. This crisis has also brought unprecedented levels of heartfelt help, from your daily phone messages, to donations of food for shelter guests, to the simple email messages of solidarity.

Togetherness is an important aspect of life. It unites us, gives us much-needed support and a sense of belonging, and encourages us to care for one another.

As we reflect on what it means to shelter in place, we are mindful that our homeless shelters are home to 53 guests, twelve are children. Over the last several weeks we have mobilized our staff and food pantry system to ensure people continue to have access to basic resources of food and shelter. We have set up four quarantine spaces in the event guests become ill and purchased more food to support the increase in need presented by people in our area who have lost income.

At the statewide level, we are part of a task force

coordinating urgent support for homeless providers around Maine, partnering with shelters across the state, to inform on all things that will help save lives for vulnerable people. At a local level, we are communicating with town management and community partners to ensure that no one is left behind. While our programs look different than they ever have in the past 50 years — we are still getting food to the people and we are still providing emergency shelter. This is our commitment to you.

As our sign on Rte. 1 so boldly states — we're in this together, just six feet apart.

A thought to share:

"Every hand that we don't shake must become a phone call that we place."

"Every embrace that we avoid must become a verbal expression of warmth and concern."

"Every inch and every foot that we physically place between ourselves and another must become a thought as to how we might be of help to that other, should the need arise."

-Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky



These images of poverty were created by J. Wood Norman, son of one of H.O.M.E.'s resident artists, Julia Demaree. His creative artwork captures the feelings of homelessness.



H.O.M.E. Inc. Celebrates 50 years!

H.O.M.E. is a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping and enhancing the quality of life for low-income and homeless families. Through services, stewardship of resources, and shared responsibility, we aim to bring forth new possibilities for food, jobs, shelter, low-income housing, education and self-sufficiency.



H.O.M.E. wants to hear from you!

Please send your questions, comments, concerns or whatever else might be on your mind to:

H.O.M.E. Inc.
PO Box 10
Orland, ME 04472

Dear Julie,

When I was told it was too late in the season to order a wreath, I explained why it had been off my radar this year, vowing to mark my calendar in time to order one next year. I was puzzled, then, to have a H.O.M.E. wreath show up on my doorstep Saturday.

It's been two months since my mother Alwyn passed, and I thought I was no longer fragile. However, when I read your sympathy card, I broke into tears. Your kindness was overwhelming, and I think of it every time I walk through my newly decorated front door.

Please extend my gratitude to all your staff who participated in the creation and shipping of this very special, post-season wreath.

Blessings on you all this Christmas.
 Sincerely, Kevin Johnson

Dear H.O.M.E.,

I am always so impressed with the wonderful things you do at H.O.M.E.

Evelyn Dearborn

This Time

is published by H. O. M. E. Inc.
Part of the World Emmaus Movement

Editor: Julie Ream

Visit our web-site for a digital version of this Newsletter in full color!

<http://www.homemmausa.org>

Hi, Julie:

I just wanted you to know that we are thinking of you and your staff and wondering how you are doing during this crazy time. Please keep us updated, as we get deeper into this virus, as to what your needs are. We have been planning to come up after our yard sale on June 6 to drop off items for you to use or sell, but as of now, that has been put off for a couple of weeks.

Please stay safe and stay healthy as you take care of others. Know that our prayers are with you and your staff.

Blessings,

Donna and John Ferree (from Blue Point Congregational Church, Scarborough, ME)

Dear H.O.M.E.,

My husband gave me this \$250 gift for my 89th birthday (3/25) and I am passing it along to you. You do so much with what you have and have been my favorite charity for many years.

M. Jeanne DeVito

(Editor's Note: Happy Belated Birthday Jeanne and thank you so much! JR)

Dear Tracey,

I am so delighted to support what you are all doing at H.O.M.E. I loved Sr. Marie and I am a dear friend with her family.

I also helped make a goat pen there many years ago.

God Bless you, Judy McCarthy

H.O.M.E. Inc. Board of Directors

Dr. Meryl Nass, Chairperson, Ellsworth
 Margo Holmes, Vice Chair, Bucksport
 Mike Guare, Treasurer
 Tammie Hooper, Secretary, Sedgwick
 Jayme Ream, Staff Representative, Bucksport
 William O'Donnell, Orland
 Shannon Carpenter, Orland
 Lucy Poulin, Member Emeritus, East Orland
 Helen Stummer (Honorary), Metuchen, NJ

Dear Maureen,

Thank you so much for your putting the food box together for me. Was very pleased with the fresh fruits and potatoes, onions, meats and canned goods. It is so wonderful that God gives us special people like you, Clint and Mike who help those in need.

Thank you for all your commitment to helping others.

Stay Safe and healthy!

Wishing you Peace, Joy, many Blessings for this Easter seasons and with much love and prayers always,
 Food Pantry Patron

Dear H.O.M.E.,

So glad to see that your good work continues. I look back fondly on the week we spent at H.O.M.E. with our Henniker, NH youth group!

Deb Dow



H.O.M.E. Inc. Spring Appeal 2020



"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"

Dear Supporter of H.O.M.E.,

As I write this letter it is clear to me that this is no ordinary Spring Appeal – these are not ordinary times. I invite you to look at this letter not just as a request for support, but rather as an update on our work and a heartfelt caring for how you, our supporters, are doing during this challenging time.

The Coronavirus has brought some level of worry to all of us. Worry about the needs of the people we serve, the needs of our community, the needs of our families, our organizations and our own personal needs.

As we reflect on what it means to shelter in place, we are mindful that our homeless shelters are home to 53 guests, twelve are children. Over the last several weeks we have mobilized our staff and food pantry system to ensure people continue to have access to basic resources of food and shelter. We have set up four quarantine spaces in the event guests become ill and purchased more food to support the increase in need presented by people in our area who have lost income.

At the statewide level, we are part of a task force coordinating urgent support for homeless providers around Maine, partnering with shelters across the state to inform on all things that will help save lives for vulnerable people. While our programs look different than they ever have in the past 50 years – we are still getting food to the people and we are still providing emergency shelter. This is our commitment to you.

I ask as you read this Appeal that you do so knowing that while we need your financial support, we need just as much for our supporters to be well. If you are able, we will gratefully accept a donation from you for our work. If you aren't able, we find comfort in knowing that you are with us in spirit.

Regards,

Tracey Hair, Executive Director

IN MEMORIAM

Sister Marie Ahern
 Bonnie Williams
 Phil & Betty Gray
 Margaret Corcoran
 Henny Moore
 Dr. & Mrs. Hayes
 Mark Levesque
 Norman Bates
 John Meluskey
 Virgie Betts
 Eddie Facticeau
 Lillian Dunbar
 Scott & Helen Nearing
 Irene Kimball
 Chuck Matthei
 Bruce Lamb
 Dottie Greenacre
 Nancy Stine

Jim Whidden
 Dennis Delpape
 Everett Carter
 Lucio Flores
 Scott Nearing
 Barry Locke
 Lee Larry
 Rita Ledwith
 Charlotte Allen
 Bill Higgins
 Teresa Harriman
 Loren Campbell
 Jo Barry
 Michael Barry
 Jack Hovey
 Doris Clare
 Richard Tracy

**H.O.M.E., Inc.
 Craft Village**

STAINED GLASS
 LIVING ARTS STUDIO
 POTTERY
 SHINGLE MILL
 SAW MILL
 STITCHERY
 LEARNING CENTER
 MARKET STAND
 BARGAIN BARN

visit ...

REMEMBERANCES...

1970-Bought Dorr House, first used as craft store. Lucy Poulin, Sisters Pat and Peg, Mr. & Mrs. Ames, Judy Chase, Marion Bridges, Dick Tracy, Stan & Jackie Mitchell, Dorance Gray, Claude & Jean Vachon, Carlton Robshaw, Kay Linscott, Nancy Percell, Bonnie Williams, Penny Wilson. The Patchwork Ladies (Ida Wood, Amelda Babin, Anne Stitham, Dot Robshaw, Loretta Stimpson, Durena Roi, Dolores Roi.) Project Concern funded the building of the craft store, VISTA volunteers involved. The Heifer Project started. H.O.M.E.'s first sign read Rural Life Center.

1972-Craft classes at seminary, sewing instructions for wholesale clothing from stitchery, tutoring reading, outreach to people needing home repair, clothing, food. Dorr House addition. Lorraine Mooers, Dick & Cathy Tracy

1973-1974-Learning Center, Pottery, Leather Barn, Craft store built, Weaving shop moved whole from Orland Village, Chapel taken apart at Penobscot and put back together on grounds, day care started, Showing off clothes in New York. Phil Boyd Gray arrived. Peter Yoder, Harry Callahan, Ethel Haskell, Terry & Stan Grindle, Ann Bossi

1975-Down Home Farming, Heifer Project. Dave & Debbie Wilson, Andrew and Eleanor Seager, Norm Autotte (in LC), Caroline Altieri

1976-Mandala Community. Sr. Barbara Hance. This Time newspaper. Jack & Melody Hovey, Sr. Lucille

1977-Kitchen addition to Learning Center built, thrift shop started. Arleen Morris, Virgie Betts, Betty Skillins. Sr. Marie

1978-Market Stand, Burgess House

1979-Dorothy Hance House (our first homeless shelter)

1980-College Program, Revolving Loan Fund, Heidi Cooperstein, Lauren Campbell, Nancy Upton

1981-Revolving Loan Fund started. Loans to the Self Help Family Farms. Founding of St. Francis Inn and East Orland Country Store

1982-Covenant Community Land Trust

1983-Patten Pond houses built, Garage and Sawmill. REP, Karen Saum, Emerson House, Franklin

1984-Covenant Community Land Trust first annual meeting. Billie Jean Young (McArthur Foundation winner) performed her play "This Little Light" in the chapel

1985-Claudia Gilbert

1986-Jack & Melody Hovey house. Ralph & Millie Grimes

1987-Emmaus International came to H.O.M.E. for their Annual Meeting. Started Millvale Lot house

1988-REP Intensive Weekend to organize around Land Trust Legislation. Iva Morrison named chairperson of Board of Directors. Soper Lot houses started.

1989-Homestead Land Trust legislation and referendum passed

1990-Irving semi crashed into the chapel. Health Clinic formed.

1991-Marin team from Central America and Brazil gave training week for Base Ecclesial Community organizing

1992-Emmaus Center in Ellsworth started. Clint Clagett

1993-Millvale houses begun. Recovery Barn started

1994-Sedwick houses begun

1995-H.O.M.E. celebrates 25 years of serving our community

1996-Sister Barbara Hance House opens in Ellsworth

1997-H.O.M.E. attends The Rural Coalition at Window Rock (Arizona) hosted by the Navajo Nation

1998-Construction begins on Dedham Transitional Houses

2001-H.O.M.E. attends the Summit of the America's Protest in Quebec, Lisa & Bob Scott

2002-House construction begins on Covenant Way in Dedham, Shingle Mill Fire

2003-H.O.M.E. goes to Washington, DC to attend peace rally, Cathy Tracy retires

2004-H.O.M.E. attends World Social Forum in Mumbai, India, Tracey Hair, Glenn Tarbox

2005-1st Annual Harvest Fair held separate from the Auction

2006-Sister Marie Ahern celebrates 50 years of service as a Sister of Mercy, Mark Levesque, Ruth Bennett

2007-Emmaus founder, Abbe Pierre, dies at age 94, St. Francis Community fire destroys Mandala Farmhouse, Work begins on new farmhouse, Cora Pushor (Grandaughter of Virgie Betts), Jackie Burpee, Karen Botta, Kathy Gordon, Mary Mahan, Sandra Potter

2008-New farmhouse completed, Bill Creighton, Brian T. Hain,

2009-Twila Green, Gerald Botta, Sienna Botta, Leola Dean, Susan Walsh,

2010-40th Anniversary, Pounce, the office cat, arrives at H.O.M.E., Shelter for women built on campus, Rosalani Moore, Josh Prochaska,

2011-Phil Gray passes away, H.O.M.E. Bakery begins, H.O.M.E. sign donated by St. Luke's Parish, Barrington, RI, Catherine Longo,

2012-H.O.M.E. attends "Stop the War on the Poor" rally, Dedham houses finished, Eunice & Jim McCorrison,

2013-Sister Marie passes away, Jade Grindle

2014-Bonnie Williams passes away, Millvale house burns down, Old Bargain Barn torn down. MJ Boylan, Julie Ream

2015-New Millvale construction begins, Management Team created in preparation for Lucy's retirement and consists of Tracey, Lawrence, Rosalani and Mary, Winter Coat Program, Stacey Herrick, Kristin Wounded,

2016-Lucy Poulin retires, Tracey Hair appointed Executive Director, Management Team restructured with Rosalani Moore, Assistant Director; Mary Mahan, Finance Director; and Julie Ream, Program Coordinator. Denise Linscott, Maureen Hayden, Lisa Reynolds,

2017-Resource Room is developed and stocked, Computer Lab funding secured and equipment purchased, New Bargain Barn opens, H.O.M.E. sign repainted. Denise Bevan, Vicki Gray, Clare McEwen, Michael Pierce, Jayme Ream, Amy Smith, Dwayne Currie, Chirstina Witham

2018-Campership Mentor program begins, Millvale house sold, house in Dedham sold, two houses in Sedgwick sold, H.O.M.E. given a seat on the Statewide Homeless Council, Justine Alley, Xzavier Botta, Lisa Tenney, Ashley Worotnik

2019-All houses but 2 rehabbed and sold, Outreach Transportation program expanded, Dalores French, Margaret Gilley, Danielle Moulton, Cade Seavey,

H.O.M.E., Inc. Annual Reports

A message from the Executive Director, Tracey Hair

FIFTY years ago, in May, H.O.M.E. began to support the needs of people living on low-income, by providing a space where basic needs of food and shelter are met as well as a space where the smallest of creative impulses can take hold and provide income for people through our craft studios, gardens and learning center.

I want to thank all of you for your heartfelt support for the work we do. When I first came to H.O.M.E., I mistakenly thought that this organization simply provided shelter for people like me who did not have a home, a job or community. I have come to understand, however, that H.O.M.E. is so much more than that.

While it is true that our shelters have fifty-three beds that offer refuge from the cold, and that the soup kitchen serves over 6,000 meals over the course of a year, our mission is to alleviate poverty in our community with not just a temporary fix found in a bed for the night and a warm meal. We are committed to a far deeper level of care. That commitment has drawn seventeen of our staff, who themselves were once homeless or living in poverty, back to the work of providing service to others.

Access to basic needs while participating in the larger community is vital to our work. Only once basic needs are met, can a person begin to move through the crisis of poverty and give back to the community. We are humbled to say that, for many in the greater Hancock County area, that journey begins at H.O.M.E.

Recently, our Board and staff has undertaken strategic planning work to re-establish a clear vision for H.O.M.E., one that reflects our simple mission, our founding values as well as responds to the needs of people in our community. Moving forward, our vision for the work is to continue to provide current services with a robust plan to renovate, rehabilitate, and improve the spaces where that work is done. We hope to raise funds to build a new food bank and soup kitchen as well as increase access to all our craft shops and homeless shelters for people with mobility challenges.

For us, it's about access – who can reach us for help? Our work is designed intentionally to be low-barrier, an example of this is our wood bank, a simple phone call and intake interview can ensure that wood is delivered within three days of the request and similarly, warm winter clothing can be found in a permanently unlocked classroom in the Learning Center where no staff engagement is needed to get warm clothing.

What a difference one-year can make. 2019 brought to fruition several significant leaps on our path to making an impact on generational poverty.

Our vision to take six houses and re-habilitate them into affordable permanent housing to meet the needs of low-income people finally came to fruition. These huge projects have helped extend a housing pipeline, so our families have options to own their own home.

Over 250 volunteers helped us in variety of ways throughout the year and I am encouraged that they all left even more inspired than when they arrived. It takes a ton of work to keep up our large campus, maintain our rental homes and be as welcoming as possible for families experiencing homelessness throughout the county. We are grateful for the volunteer support!

The amazing progress of 2019 is already carrying over to 2020. From both rehabbed houses and craft studios to a new wood bank soon to expand. We are a fluid organization always growing to respond to the needs of families and individuals in our neighborhood, while stabilizing the neighborhood at the same time. This is important because times continue to be tough for low wage earners trying to get by. Hancock County has a poverty rate of approximately 11.2% or just over 6000 households live below the poverty line.

The good news is we are blessed to have such amazing supporters who have made it a priority to invest in families and individuals who have hit hard times. Together we prove that our collective efforts can



make a difference.

We hope you will take a few moments to read our Annual Report and take pride in knowing together we are changing lives and strengthening the future of this community and beyond, through your support of and belief in our work.

We are grateful for you and encourage you to visit our little village here in Orland and see for yourselves the impact of your efforts.

With gratitude,
Tracey Hair
Executive Director



Market Stand Manager, Maureen Hayden serves Maintenance Supervisor, Jayme Ream at our 2nd Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser.

Market Stand

The Goodness Sake Food Pantry aims to serve a hot, nutritious lunchtime meal five days a week. Thanks to generous donations and the rescued food donated by Hannaford in Bucksport, we are able to offer vegetarian alternatives as well. In 2019 we served 5,427 meals to staff, shelter residents and community members. Donations for the meal are welcomed but not required.

The Goodness Sakes Food Pantry provided 646 food boxes to communities in our area. The towns served include Orland, Bucksport, Blue Hill, Verona Island, Sedgwick, Penobscot, Castine, Prospect, Dedham, Frankfort and East Orland. People who live outside our area receive a food box and the location of the food pantry closest to their homes. These towns included Surry, Searsport, Ellsworth, Holden, Stockton Springs, Stonington and Bangor.

We are pleased to be able to distribute fresh produce from the Bucksport Hannaford and from local gardeners who are happy to share with their communities. The Good Shepherd Food Bank continues to bring us pallets of canned goods, cereals and grains to fill the food boxes up.

Our hopes for the future include updating and expanding our kitchen, preferably in a new building. For now, we carry on and enjoy being a place where people may gather for morning coffee and companionship. We would like to express our thanks to the volunteers that help pick up and deliver the donated food as well as those who assist with carrying heavy boxes and the weighing of the donated produce.

Maureen Hayden, Market Stand Manager

Maintenance

H.O.M.E.'s Maintenance Department addressed many emergency issues and many potential issues in 2019.

In January we ran new pex lines for a water heater at the rental on Powers Drive. We also did an outreach service by helping a local homesteading family with a water heater installation. In February we did worked on the mounted tire balancer and wired it for 220. Being able to work on H.O.M.E.'s vehicles is a money saver for us.

March brought some flooding in the Learning Center upstairs bathrooms. Both bathrooms received new flooring as did the Daycare downstairs. In April we cleaned out all the grease that accumulated in the Market Stand soup kitchen and installed LED lights in the Bakery.

June brought new drainage on campus and electrical lines for the new sewer pump. This included a new transfer switch installation. Risers and baffles were installed to make for easier maintenance. The Emmaus Center in Ellsworth also received a new riser for its sewer line as well.

Work on the recently sold house in Dedham included installing a new pellet stove and some flashing for the cellar bulkhead.

We installed 175 feet of heat lines to the Craft Store and there are no longer any complaints about freezing while working. We took the boiler out of the old Dorr House and worked towards getting it ready to be torn down.

This winter there has been one freeze up but we were able to find it and come up with a solution to prevent it from freezing again.

Our hope for 2020 is that we solved all the sewer and septic problems last year and our sense of smell will not be accosted this year.

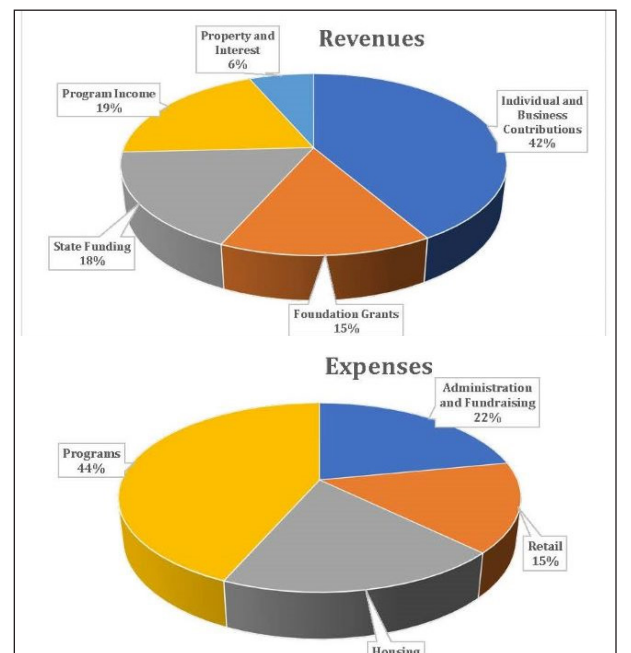
Jayme Ream, Maintenance Supervisor

Bookkeeping

Thanks to all the support from our community, H.O.M.E. has been able to help low-income families and people experiencing homelessness in our area. For the fiscal year ending 12/31/2019, only 18% of our revenue came for government funding. Our foundations and individual donors make up 57% of our revenues. We are lucky that we also have our craft and art studios that create revenue for us as well. Those departments make up approximately 20% of the income to our organization. This all helps us to continue our work with those who are living in poverty.

I am very proud of the hard work my finance team did to prepare for the audit conducted for the year of 2018. This helps us clearly demonstrate our financial position.

Mary Mahan, Finance Director



Shelter

In 2019, the shelter department had many changes once again. We hired Cade, Amy and Dalores as shelter aides. For the first time, H.O.M.E. now has shelter staff covering nights and weekends. The other major change worth noting is that the original Dorr House Men's Shelter (Dorr family farm house) has been closed up. It was very sad to see the building closed but the needed repairs were too great and the health of the residents required it to be closed. The Dorr House has been reopened in the duplex behind the church.

H.O.M.E. sheltered 225 people in 2019 with over 75% of clients having their last permanent address located in Hancock County or the surrounding counties. Of the 225 clients helped, 112 stayed in our Emmaus homeless shelter in Ellsworth. While the rest of the people were spread over our other three shelters- Saint Francis Inn, Dorr House and Sister Marie Ahern House.. More than half the 200 plus exits from our shelter went into permanent housing!

Thank you to all the people (maintenance staff, construction staff, volunteers, and others) who helped do much needed work in 2019. We also look forward to great things with our Emmaus Center's new director Stacey Herrick.

Sincerely,
Gerald Botta, Shelter Administrator
Karen Botta, Primary Navigator

Daycare

2019 was a great year of growth for H.O.M.E. Daycare, thanks in large part to amazing community support. We have a beautiful new playground set, privacy fence, books, toys and more. We have been very lucky to live in a community that has supported the daycare in helping provide the children with the best care possible.

We had an enrollment of 24 children in ages from 6 weeks to 12 years old. It was a total of 16 families all together. During the past year we were able to provide our families with a summer day camp scholarship to Nicholas Day Camp, transportation to and from the camp, plus boxed lunches. That was 30 lunches we were able to prepare for the children. Throughout the summer, 11 families were given weekend food bags and a family farmers' market was held weekly outside the daycare and included lots of fresh produce and fruit.

Winter months can be very challenging for families especially during the holiday season. We were able to provide Thanksgiving food boxes for seven of our families, that was 16 children in total. The Thanksgiving boxes included all the fixings for the holiday dinner. Maureen from the Market Stand worked very hard assembling each box and stayed open late so our families could get theirs. At Christmas time we were able to give seven of our families ham dinner boxes. When you are living paycheck to paycheck, Christmas, heat, gas, groceries and other living expenses can be a daunting experience. Our families were visibly grateful.

Given that Christmas time can be so financially stressful, we were pleased to be able to gift our families \$300.00 towards daycare expenses from our subsidy program. Trinity Episcopal Church in Castine also graciously helped us throw an amazing Christmas party for our children, their families and shelter children and families. Trinity also thoughtfully provided 16 children with presents. We are so grateful to have this amazing congregation always willing to help support our program.

Employees are continuing training and education through Maine Roads to Quality. We understand the importance of working with children and having knowledge and skills to help promote social and emotional development, problem-solving skills, motor development and overall physical well-being. We encourage family involvement and input. Working with families and having an open communication helps us be better able to give the children the best quality of care.

We will be happy for the return of the warm weather so we can enjoy our new playset even more!

Christina Witham, Daycare Director



Left to right: Rosalani Moore - Assistant Director H.O.M.E. Inc., Linda Greer - proud new homeowner, Lorianne Jackson - Mortgage Loan Officer First National Bank

Permanent Housing

H.O.M.E. has made a tremendous amount of progress towards our housing goals in the last year. Our aim is to wind down H.O.M.E.'s 40-year permanent affordable homeownership program in 2020 with the sale of our last two houses. This has been an amazing project that has impacted the lives of so many people in our area. H.O.M.E. understands that housing is critical for the success of those with whom we work and Maine does not have enough adequate housing to meet demand. Looking to the near future, H.O.M.E. intends to focus more specifically on permanent supportive rental housing and community housing rehabilitation programs.

In 2019 H.O.M.E. was able to sell three homes to low-income families. It was an amazing experience to be able to help so many families etch out a bit of security and stability in their lives.

Everyday H.O.M.E. sees individuals and families seeking housing and unable to access the open market due to low-income or other factors preventing that possibility from ever becoming reality. Each success H.O.M.E. has is a blessing. Owning a home changes lives for generations.

After many months of working alongside a family to help them achieve homeownership, we were able to transfer a house in November to a grandmother who is raising her grandchildren. In the process H.O.M.E. was also able to establish a connection with First National Bank's Mortgage Loan Officers who went the extra mile to make sure all was in order for this family to succeed. It was a joyous occasion to see the pride this first-time homeowner felt as she signed her name on the deed to her new home.

Rosalani Moore, Assistant Director

Transitional Housing

H.O.M.E.'s transitional housing program is happy to report that all our rentals are full and rents are being paid. Finding a reasonable rent in our area is near impossible. H.O.M.E. is dedicated to providing affordable housing to those with limited incomes in our area.

Our transitional duplexes in Dedham provide 2 or 3 bedrooms for families with or without a housing voucher. Heat and electricity are included in the rent to help those struggling to get by. All four apartments are currently occupied.

The Hospitality House consists of seven one-bedroom apartments for people living on a fix income and is subsidized by H.O.M.E. at 30% income level. All seven apartments are currently occupied.

The Sister Barbara Hance House in Ellsworth is a nine room, single-room occupancy transitional house to help those coming out of homelessness or incarceration. SBHH has a Residential Aide on site to assist with job hunting, housing searches and to assist residents in getting back on their feet and into permanent housing. All rooms are currently occupied.

Julie Ream, Program Coordinator

Stained Glass

The Stained Glass Shop is open for business. Over the past year we had the pleasure of welcoming students from the community including residents from H.O.M.E.'s shelters.

Students learn basics of cutting, foiling and soldering to create a sun catcher to hang in their window. We also continue to do repairs and make original work for sale in our craft store.

Many students reported that working in stained glass has enriched their lives and continue to create beautiful works of art.

Stained Glass had six students over the winter plus held some workshops for volunteer groups to show how our studios are here for the community and shelter guests.

Roxanne Poulin



Millie Grimes has been tending to the gardens and greenhouses at H.O.M.E. since the late 1980s.

Gardens

Well, the 2019 gardening season was certainly interesting! In late June, Lisa, my gardening partner suffered a heart attack. She had to be practically dragged to the hospital! The good news is that she has recovered nicely. The bad news is I didn't have her to help me, although I did have help in rototilling and heavy lifting from two men who were living on the grounds at H.O.M.E. (Also help in Farmers' Market sales from one of them.)

We had a fairly productive season with lots of tomatoes (one Bucksport Farmers' Market customer bought five pounds every week and ate them all fresh herself!) We also had an excellent garlic crop. We did well selling sweet breads and jams in addition to the produce, flower and vegetable plants in the spring. From November to Christmas we sold at a winter market in Ellsworth, with the added offerings of wreaths and centerpiece.

Our plans for 2020 include reviving a raspberry patch in the "old garden" and planting more of the space down there. As the Monday market space will no longer be available to us in Ellsworth, we'll be looking toward the Saturday market there.

Here's a short 1942 piece still very relevant to today, perhaps even more so:

Nature's Way

"But what of the land? It seems to me that the earth may be borrowed, but not bought. It may be used but not owned. It gives itself in response to love and tending, offers its seasonal flowering and fruiting. But we are tenants and not possessors, lovers and not masters." Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Cross Creek, 1942.

Happy Spring, everyone!

Millie Grimes, Gardens Departments



Dear Supporter: In honor of the 50th Anniversary of H.O.M.E., the two center pages of this issue will be dedicated to past pictures and a letter written by our retired founder, Lucy Poulin in 1978. This Time has been spreading the good, the bad and the inspirational news that H.O.M.E. wishes to share since 1976. It started with printing six issues a year, dropped to four issues and finally settled on two, Spring and Fall. (Admittedly, there were a couple of years where only one issue was created due to lack of finances). Now, after 44 years of printing, we have been sticking to the twice yearly publication and we would like to extend our profound thanks for your support of H.O.M.E. and its' programs for the last 50 years and look forward to your support in the future. Please enjoy these blasts from the past. Julie Ream, Editor



Pictured are the original 1970s sign designating the campus as a Rural Life Center, the yellow h.o.m.e. co-op sign that marked our corner for many years, and the newest version welcoming you H.OM.E. Our large sign on the side of Acadia Highway may have changed quite a bit, but our mission and dedication to our community has never wavered.

A LETTER FROM LUCY -Reprinted from This Time September-October 1978

More about Sharing

-Reprinted from This Time September-October 1978

Dear Friends,

The shorter evenings and cooler nights are a serious reminder that I must finish insulating my house. It was much too cold here last winter, the floor and some parts of the walls have never been finished. Now is the time to get to that work and to get the firewood down and stacked. It is time to think of the summer closing as the volunteers that came to help have left. To think of the work accomplished—the haying and the woodcutting. Most of my summer has been spent with these good people who have come from everywhere to help. The sunny weather made haying much easier than it has been for many a summer. I remember driving the hay baler into a field and having it just sink, there was so much water in the earth. Only for a couple of weeks were we bothered with rain and we cut the largest crop we have ever harvested, over 5,000 bales. We have been putting hen manure and lime on fields that neighbors have let us

cut and it is beginning to pay off. On some small fields where we used to get 100 bales we now get 400. The hay is distributed to farmers in our farm program who have animals that we have placed with them. Most picked up their own hay, easing the task. Some picked up hay for others. And there was Robbie Manners who did most of the equipment work on the haying. Have you ever hayed? Then you know about the dirt and hay chaff and grease and how dirty you get. Well, this fellow always emerged with these marvelous clean clothes. I kind of admired his ability to keep clean, but we got the laugh of the week when he told us he just went to the thrift shop and for a nickel apiece got a clean set every day. He pointed out that the shirt he was currently wearing had a minor shortcoming—it needed cuff links, but he had handled that by using the office stapler.

The volunteers helped to cut wood too and built small shelters for cows and fenced and cleared. We worked together on the woodcutting which, for us, is mostly hand work. Wood was cut and stacked; some was fitted and delivered directly to elderly people who needed

it. This project was started because we found one elderly woman trying to heat her home with charcoal briquettes that she had bought at a local store. No longer able to afford oil and unable to cut her own, she had resorted to charcoal briquettes. As someone who would like to be a Christian, who would like to live a life inspired by the gospel of Christ, I wonder how we have gotten to the point where we share so badly. I remember many years ago reading from an Indian philosopher named Tagore “that the measure of a civilization is how it treats those who can’t compete, the poor, the elderly”. As I look around I see we are doing quite poorly. We as a people don’t choose to share the things of the earth well at all, and one part of me thinks very strongly that if we don’t share what God gives us so freely we will lose the chance altogether.

We ask and need your help in continuing the work we are doing. Please help us if you can.

God Bless You,

Your sister, Lucy



Lucy stood up for those who couldn't for themselves even in her 70s.



Music during the annual fair and auction was par for the course.



Lucy and her friend, Dan Reidy. He was only a phone call away if needed.



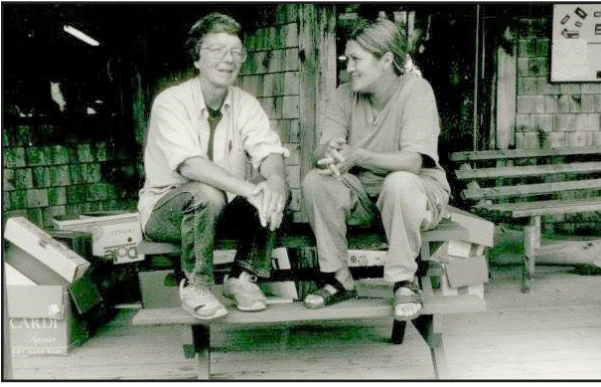
Trick or treaters from the daycare are always a joy..



Sitting back and enjoying the view didn't happen often.



Despite being the founder, Lucy never shied from the hard, hands-on work.



Sister Marie Ahern and Bonnie Williams kept H.O.M.E.'s Shelter Department running for years. May they both Rest in Peace.



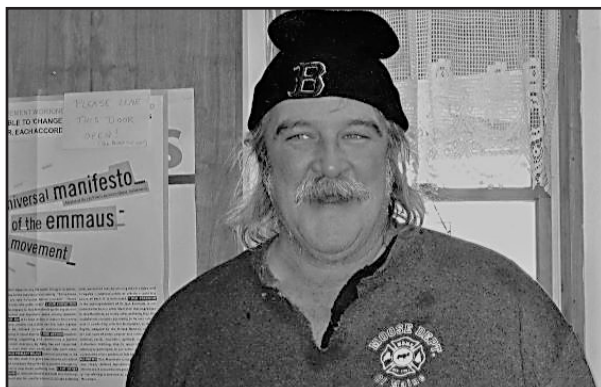
Margaret Corcoran was a volunteer here at H.O.M.E. and a resident out to the Farm. Most past volunteers remember the unstoppable Phil Gray, RIP



Sr. Lucille McDonald was the driving force in the opening of our Emmaus Center Homeless Shelter in Ellsworth. We wish she could visit more often.



Ellen Moore spent decades taking care of the animals out to Mandala Farm. She is a fixture there to this day.



Market Stand Manager and Groundskeeper, Mark Levesque rarely left H.O.M.E.'s campus. RIP



Jack Hovey ran H.O.M.E.'s construction crew and is well remembered by many volunteers. RIP



Lisa Scott, former weaver and Millie Grimes, present day gardener at one of H.O.M.E.'s Annual Dinners.



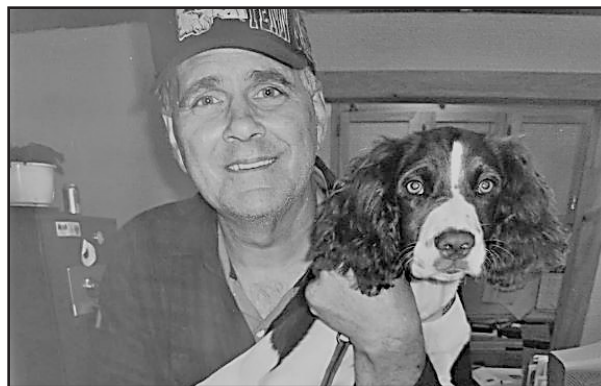
Millie Grimes, Ellen Moore, Bonnie Williams and Sr. Marie Ahern, fun was to be had with these laughing ladies around!



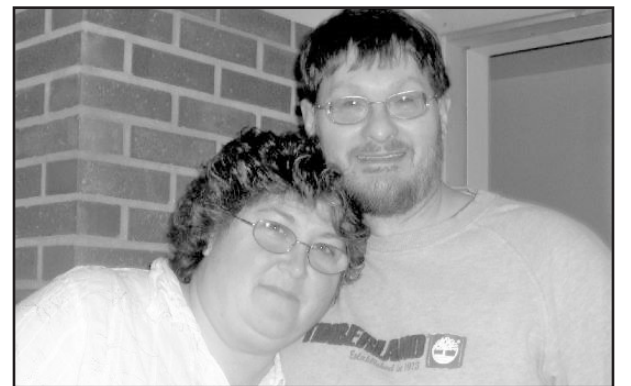
Lorraine Moores ran our Gift Shop for many years. The new management learned under her and hopes to do her proud.



Phil Gray could be counted on working at the H.O.M.E. campus or up to Mandala Farm. His name is spoken often. RIP



John Meluskey, pictured here with his beloved Abby, was a tireless volunteer who lived on H.O.M.E.'s campus. RIP



Mark and Jackie Burpee started at H.O.M.E. when they were young and are still great friends to us.



The world lost a beautiful soul when Virgie Betts passed away. Her creative skills are legendary here at H.O.M.E. RIP



Dr. and Mrs. Hayes were big supporters of H.O.M.E. They are pictured here attending an annual dinner. RIP



Cathy Tracy, H.O.M.E.'s first outreach worker. Past issues of This Time are filled with stories of her boundless energy.

Special Programs

Resource Room

2019 was a booming year for H.O.M.E.'s Resource Room. The Resource Room is where people in our shelters and our community can come for some of the basic needs in life. Soap, toothpaste, shampoo and other hygiene necessities are kept there to be given freely to anyone in need. Other supplies stored in the Resource Room are hats, mittens, winter coats, socks and long underwear, blankets, sheets, school supplies, and toys for children coming to shelter with nothing or to be given out at Christmas for people who miss the deadlines for area Christmas programs. People were so generous in 2019 that we actually had to reach out to some donors and tell them that we had over a thousand toothbrushes. It is rare that we ask for an item to not be donated but this year, we did so. (Please do not worry about the thousand toothbrushes, we shared our bounty with others to distribute). The generosity of our friends has made it so that the Resource Room has grown beyond one room. All items contained within the Resource Room program are donated. In 2019, H.O.M.E. distributed almost 700 items to shelter guests and community members. A special thanks to the wonderful people at the First Congregational Church in Ridgefield, CT who sent us home from our yearly craft fair with a box truck almost full with donations for the Resource Room. The sight of that truck upon opening it brought tears to my eyes. We here at H.O.M.E. are so grateful for all who contribute and look forward to sharing the love to others in 2020. For those interested in donating to the Resource Room, we are always in need of twin size sheet sets, pillows and warm blankets for our shelter guests. All donations are welcome and appreciated. Even toothbrushes.

Wreath Season

One of the busiest times of year here at H.O.M.E. is Wreath Season. In 2019, H.O.M.E. was blessed with eight wreath makers in our area willing to sell us their beautiful handmade products. There would have been nine but she was blessed with her son receiving a kidney transplant that he had waited for far too long. We wish her family many happy years together!

H.O.M.E. decorated and shipped out 765 decorated wreaths and 103 undecorated wreaths. We also shipped out 88 single centerpieces and 74 triple centerpieces. Putting those in with sales at holiday craft fairs, the Farmers' Market and right off our Gift Shop porch, H.O.M.E. sold over 1300 wreaths this year.

The season was carried out with three full-time employees and a few volunteers. This year I hope to have at least one more full-time helper and a few more volunteers. Thank you to all who order a wreath or centerpiece from H.O.M.E. every year. The money brought in helps keep our homeless shelters warm through the winter.

Backpack Program

H.O.M.E.'s backpack program aims to supply local school-aged children with a backpack filled with supplies to help start off their school year. In 2019, H.O.M.E. distributed 78 backpacks with supplies such as pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, notebooks, composition books, folders, binders, pencil sharpeners and glue sticks. Thanks to a generous volunteer and long-time H.O.M.E. supporter's Facebook campaign, every school-aged child in our shelters received an LL Bean backpack basically guaranteeing the family will not have to buy a replacement pack before the school year is over. Backpacks were received by 17 high school students, 27 middle school, 28 elementary and 6 k & prek students. The towns supported were Bucksport, Orland, Dedham, Ellsworth and Brewer. The items supplied were generously donated from church groups and individuals. H.O.M.E. was able to purchase binders, colored pencils and folders (items that we received the least donations of) thanks to a generous donation from Trinity Episcopal church in Castine who do their best to support the children in our midst. Thank you to all who donate so generously every year to help us assure that our children start their school year off well prepared.

Christmas Program

The 2019 H.O.M.E. Christmas Program distributed over 180 presents to children and adults in our area. The program reached people in Orland, Bucksport, Sedgwick, Dedham, Ellsworth and Verona Island. Presents are given to area families in the hope of making children's holiday a bit brighter. H.O.M.E.'s daycare held their annual Christmas party for the children in our shelters and enrolled in the daycare. Each child received a present from Santa that was supplied by a generous donation from Trinity Episcopal Church of Castine. Donations were received from the wonderful people at the Blue Point Congregational Church in Scarborough to purchase presents for the adults in our shelters. H.O.M.E. is thankful to all who donate to help make Christmas brighter for our community.

Julie Ream, Program Coordinator

Outreach

In 2019 H.O.M.E. increased its' transportation services from two to four days a week. Residents of our shelters are still able to schedule rides on their normal days but now there is a driver available two more days to be used by members of the community. Residents of local senior living centers have been using our outreach services since the expansion.

H.O.M.E.'s expanded Outreach Transportation was created to provide rides to quality of life events such as trips to the beauty salon or public library. It was also utilized for trips to larger department stores and doctor appointments (if the resident didn't qualify for transportation through another service). H.O.M.E. recognized that there was a gap in services that other programs weren't able to provide and conversations with local civic leaders led to our expansion.

The towns service was provided to included Bucksport, Orland and Dedham. Thirty-five people utilized the Outreach Program for 96 appointments from July until the end of the year. We look forward to serving many more in 2020 but with the shelter in place order put out by the Governor, Outreach services had to be suspended.

Justine Alley, Outreach Coordinator

Craft Store

This year saw changes in the store. Volunteers did great work on the outside. They put up new cedar shingles, painted and stained the deck/porch. The summer passed by very quickly and then we were into fall. And, that means getting ready for the out of state craft fairs.

The joint decision was made to close the store from January 1 to May 1, 2020 in order to do some improvements. These months are the slowest of the entire year with barely any sales and is enabling us to bring some much needed TLC to our gift shop.

The improvements will include a new store manager who will bring new changes, ideas and color to the store. You will just have to stop by and check it all out.

Clare McEwen



The new pottery build is located beside the old pottery. We are hoping to be up and running by the end of summer.



The Christmas Crew of 2020. Thank you to Ruth and Giff for making the drive to deliver Christmas to H.O.M.E. every year..

Bargain Barn

The Bargain Barn continues to provide household goods, furniture, clothing and much more than we can list. We changed the days and hours we are open a few times during 2019. We are trying to determine which days and hours are most beneficial to H.O.M.E. and our community. Staffing has changed a bit but the aim is to always provide those in need with as much compassion as possible.

The Bargain Barn was closed during the slow months of January, February and March for staff to clean out items that have lingered too long and make room for the many donations we receive weekly. The Barn has had a thorough cleaning and the stock has been refreshed.

We were suppose to reopen on April 1 but the state's shelter in place order has postponed that. Our shelter guests are still able to request items they need and staff will be able to look in the Barn to see if it can be provided. Anyone in great need will receive whatever assistant we can provide.

We are proud to be a part of the bigger picture of helping serve others in our area.

Pottery

H.O.M.E.'s pottery studio is getting another building! The plan is for an opening in mid-summer or fall of 2020. This new building will house larger classes and all the greenware production for H.O.M.E. while the older building will continue with the glazing stage and final stages of firing.

In 2019, 9 individuals spent over 137 hours creating in the studio program. Our new addition is expected to increase the number of people we can have in the studio at one time and create a more fluid work space for the production of pottery. Many, many thanks to our wonderful volunteers in 2019 for all their work framing and building the new studio. A special thanks to Bob and Diane from Rhode Island who came back in the fall to complete the exterior shingling so all will be ready for interior work in the spring.

The new studio will be a larger open space for holding classes with a group of students while the older building, which sits right next door, will be used for finishing and firing the work. This expansion will mean greater flexibility in the way that H.O.M.E. outreaches to the community through clay. Typically, our capacity today is one to two students at a time. With more space provided by the new studio, classes can be expanded to a larger number of people of various ages and abilities.

Individual students in 2019 were able to work one-on-one with an instructor to create works for our craft store and for our yearly craft fairs. Talent and dedication made a year of success possible.

A haiku to our wonderful volunteers:
Under construction
Hammers, laughter and coffee
World in upheaval
Rosalani Moore, Potter

Sister Barbara Hance House

My name is Jade Grindle, (aka Jade Linscott). I have been at the Sr. Barbara Hance House (SBHH) for almost a year. As the Senior Residential Aide most of my time at the house is invested into the residents and helping them through their transitional journey into finding permanent housing and stability.

We have a total of 9 rooms that we lease to individuals as an affordable temporary rental, the living room/kitchen/dining room/bathrooms etc. are shared with the other tenants. It can be a challenging environment sometimes with so many different personalities and backgrounds co-existing together, however I have found that a friendly smile, regular encouragement and support is so contagious that in the past year a considerable difference has been observed in the resident interactions as well as their involvement within household duties and responsibilities.

During 2019 we leased rooms to 17 people total, 6 of which are still current tenants and working towards their goals. The remaining 11 individuals found permanent housing in various forms depending upon preference and circumstantial situations.

Residents have a maximum time of 2 years here, however the average length of tenancy in 2019 was 7 months. During this time, residents establish a steady income (if there wasn't one already), save money, learn about different resources within the community, set goals, obtain housing vouchers and ultimately, find their own place to call home.

I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with great people who are in a place in life where they just need a helping hand to re-establish themselves.

Affordable housing has been difficult to find on a constant basis for most of our tenants, they pop up here and there but never last long with such a wide-spread need in the community. I make it a priority to search daily for any new listings to help aid the residents in their pursuit of stable housing.

As I enter my 2nd year here at SBHH I hope to continue building a community – like atmosphere within the house and help people accomplish their goals to live their best life moving forward.

Jade Grindle, Senior Residential Aide



A creativity station in the Living Arts Studio. All media types are welcome. Sewing, drawing, painting and whatever your mind can imagine.

Living Arts Studio

The studio has proven to be a fount of creativity and productivity. The following are our numbers for 2019...

- 106 participants in unstructured art activities
- 31 individuals attended Health Class
- 32 individuals attended Herb Class
- 38 Individuals attended Knitting Class
- 22 visitors stopped in
- 8 individuals attended Art Class
- 24 individuals attended Meditation Class
- 15 individuals participated in the Pathways to Creativity Open House
- 20 student groups attended

We look forward to the end of sheltering in place so that we can continue on in this spirit for as much of 2020 as possible.

Warm Regards,
Julia Demaree



Volunteer Program

H.O.M.E.'s Volunteer Program is designed to help H.O.M.E. with building and repairing and improving the buildings and grounds on our campus and the properties our programs use in the area. They also reach out and assist our community neighbors when possible. H.O.M.E.'s front office, Bargain Barn and Market Stand were assisted by committed volunteers all of 2019.

During spring break, students from St. Anselm College, Boston University and the University of Delaware came to campus to help split wood, paint walls and signs and learn about our various art studios spread throughout our campus. Their enthusiasm and willingness to help and learn about living in poverty in rural Maine is an inspiration to anyone who gets to meet them. Their kindness and laughter help bring sunshine and warmth to our souls during the sometimes dreary days of March.

Throughout the summer, various church groups graced our campus with the sounds of hammers hitting nails and young people laughing. Nine weeks of the summer there were volunteers on campus working on building a new pottery studio to help our resident potter, Rosalani Moore, expand her space and enable her to increase her class size. We are hopeful that the new building will be finished this spring. Volunteers also put new shingles on the Living Arts studio porch, new shingles on the Gift Shop, sealant over the new shingles and the Bargain Barn, finished the ramp at the Sister Barbara Hance House, tilled and weeded the garden while Millie was on vacation and Lisa was sick (Big Thank You to the United Church of Hinesburg, VT).

Projects: Hallway of Learning Center painted, Spring and fall appeals, stuffed envelopes, applied labels and stamps, Split and stacked over 4 cord of wood, Quilt area of Craft Store painted, New pottery build begun, Secret garden tilled, Fence made for new garden, High tunnel tilled and weeded, Blueberries picked, Craft Store deck stained, Learning Center deck stained, Bridge Stained, Back stairwell wall painted (halfway), Daycare playground erected, Stained Glass studio ramp built, New floors in 6 bedrooms at SBHH, Ramp at SBHH completed, Living Arts porch roof newly shingled, Living Arts porch trim painted, Craft Store trim painted, Craft Store upper front has new cedar shingles, Duplex deck flooring replaced, Wood shop cleaned up/wood reorganized, White Barn cleaned/organized, Bargain Barn shingles clear-coated, Craft Store new shingles clear-coated, Stitchery fabric sorted and organized, Snow shoveled, Memorial Garden fence painted, Decorative well painted, Trash box for SMH constructed/placed, Volunteer shed painted, Painted at 23 in Dedham, Gazebo started, Wood Bank shed started.

Volunteer Season Groups: 3 Alternative Spring Break groups, 11 Church groups, 6,980 hours.

Individuals: 34 individuals volunteered, Daycare: 3 individuals. 344 hours, Bargain Barn: 2 individuals. 572 hours, Pottery: 5 individuals. 113 hours, Market Stand: 2 individuals. 260 hours, Maintenance: 3 individuals. 48 hours, Grounds/Gardens: 4 individuals 162 hours, Front Office: 3 individuals. 430 hours, Volunteer helper: 132 hours, 2,061 hours.

Materials donated: lumber, weed whacker, hedge clippers, paint, stain, paint sprayers, grill, flooring, hardware, food for the pantry, school supplies, bedding, towels, refrigerator for Market Stand, cupboards, school clothes for area children.

Julie Ream, Program Coordinator

Saint Anselm College, Alternative Spring Break students helped with Project Woodstove and the Empty Bowls Fundraiser. We love the energy and enthusiasm these young people possess.

Sawmills

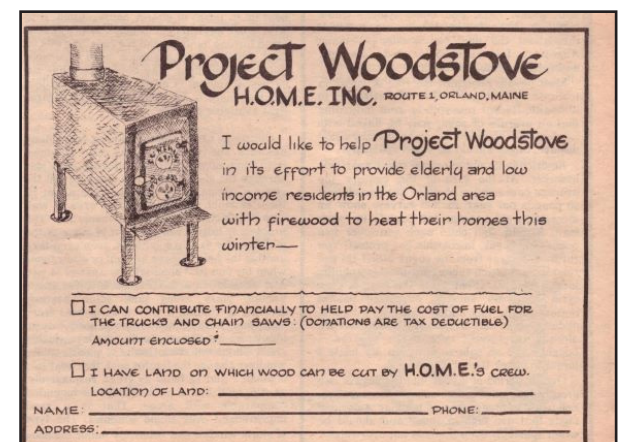
In 2019 the sawmill crew of Clint Clagett and Glenn Tarbox, with a lot of help from Michael Pierce, dedicated most of their attention to splitting and stacking firewood but not just to keep our campus warm through the winter. Happily, nine cord of firewood was put aside to benefit Project Woodstove.

Project Woodstove was an early H.O.M.E. program (1970s) that provided firewood to elderly residents to help keep them warm throughout Maine's long winter. We have resurrected Project Woodstove to help fill gaps in fuel assistant programs in our county. Residents in need sometimes have to wait months for an appointment with local fuel assistant programs or make just a bit too much income to qualify. H.O.M.E. was able to help 16 families with assistance to bridge the gap.

The volunteers who worked with us splitting and stacking firewood should feel a sense of inner warmth knowing that their hard work helped keep many in our area from freezing this past winter.

Please know that our mills are still operational and the shingle mill is running often to supply cedar shingles for anyone wishing to purchase some as well as using them on the side of our new pottery building. If the volunteer season isn't disrupted by the pandemic, we will be replacing the shingles on the Craft Store this summer. The natural look of the shingles should make the store a bright figure in the middle of our village.

Regards,
Clint Clagett, Sawyer
Glenn Tarbox



Copy of the original Project Woodstove appeal that was published in the very first issue of This Time

Stitchery

We have been making a lot of curtains this year. We sewed for the shelter and made several pair for an employee who moved into a new place. We also made (and sold) three large quilts this year.

Oh, and the mending just kept on coming. We never know what is going to come up the stairs. Backpacks, leather boots, coats in need of zippers and lots of torn pants!

We don't let it bother us, we just take it one stitch at a time.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Potter

We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community.

-Dorothy Day

H.O.M.E. Inc. is on the front lines in the battle against homelessness. The following is the testimony of our Executive Director, Tracey Hair in support of legislation that would give grant money to emergency shelters with low barriers. This is something greatly needed in Maine and we will always speak out to support others doing the front-line work alongside us. JR

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the LD 1909 An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Access for Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Maine. I am Tracey Hair, Executive Director of H.O.M.E. Inc. which oversees four Homeless Shelters in rural Hancock County.

H.O.M.E. Inc. has been doing this work since 1970 – Over a period of fifty years we have witnessed the shifting environment for our most vulnerable citizens who are experiencing homelessness. H.O.M.E. Inc. shelters have the capacity to provide emergency overnight shelter for up to 61 individuals on any given night. In addition to emergency overnight shelter, we run a warming center in Orland for individuals who cannot access a shelter bed and would otherwise be sleeping in cars, under the Deer Isle Stonington bridge or in the woods in Orland. Many of our staff have worked at H.O.M.E. Inc. for more than a decade and have observed a steady increase in unsheltered homelessness. While the numbers of people accessing emergency shelters in our small rural towns is small compared to the long lines at Portland and Bangor shelters, we are all part of and connected to one homeless response system and we must support access to low- barrier shelters. The system only works if we are moving in the same direction – it takes all 37 shelters in Maine to respond to the growing crisis of unsheltered and chronically homeless individuals.

As a provider of emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness, I understand and appreciate how precious tax dollars are and we take our responsibility to steward funding very seriously. We are dedicated to working to end homelessness in Maine and to deliver the strongest network of services for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. The front line in that network is access to emergency overnight shelter.

Emergency shelters play a critical role in ending homelessness. An effective shelter response system requires that shelters offer immediate and low-barrier access to anyone facing a housing crisis. The provision of emergency overnight shelter saves lives. It's that

simple. I often wonder why we have not called a State of Emergency to respond to the devastating impact the lack of affordable housing has had on our most vulnerable citizens. Like a climate disaster, lives are at risk.

While we have made progress as a network of providers in reducing shelter stays in Maine, we have simultaneously witnessed an increase in “unsheltered homelessness.” In Bangor it comes in the form of tent encampments, in rural Orland it comes in the form of people sleeping in wood sheds and in Ellsworth, it's individuals and families sleeping in cars in the Walmart parking lot.

The emergency shelter network in Maine provides the most effective and cost efficient way to connect people experiencing homelessness to the services and supports they need to stay safe and get re-housed. While Maine's shelter landscape varies from low-barrier shelters to family shelters and shelters for individual adults, the root causes and manifestation of homelessness are often the same across all shelters. More than 50 % of H.O.M.E.'s shelter guests present with severe or persistent mental illness in 2019 while at the same time we have observed a 38% increase in individuals presenting who identify as struggling with substance use disorder. In 2019, we provided emergency shelter for 223 guests. We're a small shelter serving small towns in Down East Maine. No area of Maine is untouched by homelessness. No area in Maine is untouched by the affordable housing crisis.

I can offer many examples of work our frontline shelter staff takes on that are not necessarily covered under performance based funds such as ESHAP. One example outlines best the complex needs the shelter system addresses – During the winter season of 2019, we identified a gentleman who had been reported to be sleeping in a tent in the vicinity of the Deer Isle Stonington bridge. We worked with the gentleman over a period of two months to encourage him to come into one of our shelters as we feared he would freeze to death. The gentleman presented with severe and persistent mental illness and shelter staff needed to first develop a trusting relationship with the individual. Several community members did wellness checks on the individual and watched his situation grow dire. Ultimately we were

successful in convincing the gentleman to come to safety in a shelter. During his shelter stay, he created two floods and started one fire accidentally. And although these were not intentional, we required more staff supports to respond to the challenges presented. The staff and other resources used by shelters to provide intensive interventions to address complex needs, to bring vulnerable people into the shelter, or to address people struggling with substance use disorders and/or mental health problems and homelessness is not necessarily covered by performance based funds, such as ESHAP.

The solution to homelessness is straightforward: housing. By connecting people experiencing homelessness to housing and services, they have a platform from which they can address other areas that may have contributed to their homelessness — such as employment, health, and substance abuse. I strongly support this budget request which will equip emergency shelters in Maine with support necessary to effectively respond to the growing needs of the populations we serve.

Last year more than 50% of shelter guests left shelter for permanent housing – in a time where there is no back door out of shelter due to the lack of affordable housing. It is evident that the emergency shelter system in Maine is a crucial partner in ending homelessness in our state and is equipped to respond to the intensive needs of individuals experiencing homelessness who need to access emergency shelter.

As our nation faces one of the most severe affordable housing crises in history we must equip ourselves with the resources to respond with positive and effective outcomes. Maine is no exception, the shortage of affordable housing in Maine is the primary cause of homelessness and chronic homelessness and until we fully address the affordability problem we will continue to see too many people struggling with homelessness and needing emergency shelter. H.O.M.E. Inc. is raising the alarm - We cannot allow the shelter system to become the low-income housing of our time.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracey Hair
Executive Director

Our H.O.M.E. Story

By Amy Smith

Our story starts five years ago in April. Dwayne, my fiancé, has a tissue disease called Sarcoidosis. We went through many years of trying to find doctors and specialist that could help. After the struggles of trips to Boston and multiple doctor visits a week and raising three children, things got really hard. Dwayne had to get done working due to his illness and frequent hospital stays. I missed so much work to be there with him, I eventually had to quit my job. As time went on we were evicted from our home. Not for non-payment, but they have a rule that you can't be late with your rent more than three times and we hit that mark. So during one of Dwayne's hospital stays, we lost our home and I lost all hope. I called every number I could find or was directed to try. Every shelter was full or didn't take kids as young as ours. Just when all seemed hopeless, I was directed by the crisis place to call H.O.M.E.

When I called, the person in charge of the shelter was on vacation and I, again, began to lose hope. Being so independent for all of my life, it was hard enough to ask for help. I reached out one last time explaining our situation and I finally got a call back. The worker was still on vacation but said we could meet up at the H.O.M.E. Learning Center and our family could stay in one of the classrooms for the time being. Dwayne was released from the hospital and we brought the kids here to H.O.M.E. to start the one thing any person fears... Being Homeless.

It was new for all of us and I felt so down and depressed and ashamed. That's when we met the first

friendly face and person I had the pleasure of getting to know, Miss Julie. She was, at the time, working in the front office. Julie welcomed Dwayne and I with open arms and made the kids smile with her kindness. She showed us the ropes and even though the other worker was on vacation, Julie helped me go online and get all the papers I needed to fill out for Section 8. With her guidance, I found courage and had faith that things would get better.

I got a job at Hannaford's, the local grocery store, to start the journey to getting on our feet again. Things were still difficult because eventually the kids and I were put into the women's shelter and Dwayne had to go into the men's shelter. But then, along came our next blessing, Sister Lucy opened her farm home for Dwayne and I to be together with the kids. This was truly a gift from God because the kids had never been separated from their dad before.

Dwayne seemed to get better and H.O.M.E. did so much more for us over the years. They gave Dwayne a job in the lumber yard with Clint and then with Mark doing grounds work. They hired me to work in the Market Stand and then in the Daycare. Even when we parted ways and finally got our own place, we stayed in touch with everyone.

Over the last five years, H.O.M.E. has helped us with Christmas presents for the kids, backpacks for school, food boxes and more. Due to the way so many of the people from Sister Lucy, Julie, Roxanne, Millie, Karen, Mark, Tracey, Mary, Ruth, Rosa and so many

more who have supported and showed so much love toward me and my family I made the decision to come back to H.O.M.E. as an employee once again. This time in the shelter department. This way, I can help make a difference or help someone feel that there is still hope. Because of that, my heart stays full in hope that I help fight for the cause that H.O.M.E. and all the employees do on a daily basis. I will forever have a place in my heart for H.O.M.E. and what we stand for.



The Currie/Smith family enjoying treats from the local ice cream shop in Bucksport.
Photo Credit to Amy Smith

Reflections Reflections

In My Own Words

By Claudia Gilbert

2020 is here, how time flies when you are having fun. The crafters do have fun. What kind of pieces of cloth, yarn, wood, pottery goes into beautiful lines we dream about, catch on to, what is in our minds. My mother was a great crafter. My daddy worked with wood and made a duck. Mama sold avon and had a chance to go to New York

Millie is such a good gardener. She needs help to plant the seeds and push the dirt onto them.

The land is in my people's blood, so is the water, fisherman love the sea. Your great-grandmother taught the girls quilting and cooking. You say you want ideas. Send the message good and strong, advertising is the key. Productive is the word for the people. If you can sell a produce, you have it made.

Come on all you people now, love one another right now.

From the Market Stand that serves lunches, from the shelter, Jerry, Karen, and Julia to the wreathers who do great work. It's tiring, they care about people. Last but not least, the job I have done over 30 years. Don't give up the ship. My grandfather was captain on a tugboat. My grandfather Gilbert was a conductor on the Boston railroad.

God bless, Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so.

H.O.M.E. coop is a great place to work.

H.O.M.E.

Haven of Peace
Open by Love
Moving to Joy
Educating the Lost
Children are Laughing
Opportunities for Life
Opening Doors of Hope
Protection for all Who Enter

By Sandi Botta 1/1/2020

Fun With Astrology

By Kathy Walton

How We Deal with the Corona Virus Outbreak...

- Aries* Bring it on!
- Taurus* Wash hands, hydrate, call the doctor if you have symptoms.
- Gemini* Social distancing! Who will I talk to?
- Cancer* I have 15 of everything in the pantry. I'd better stock up.
- Leo* Tell me what needs to be done and I'll tell everyone to do it.
- Virgo* Need to do more research on this. Hmmm...conspiracy theories abound!
- Libra* Stock up. Don't stock up. Someone make up my mind, please!
- Scorpio* People are acting nuts! I'd be glad to stay away from them.
- Sagittarius* Oh, man! I just planned my world tour...
- Capricorn* Keep putting one foot in front of the other and we'll get there.
- Aquarius* The world needed a shake-up like this to get back on track.
- Pisces* The universe will bring balance, and Karma's a b---h.

And I just don't understand
When what we need is good
hard work
And others helping hands
To bring us together
In a way I know we can
BE KIND!

-Mary Mahan
Finance Director
H.O.M.E. Inc.

Volunteer At H.O.M.E.

H.O.M.E. is always looking for volunteers to help out! There are a lot of different ways to get involved, from crafting to building houses. We would love to see you! If you are interested, call us at 207.469.7961



This image of calloused hands by artist J. Wood Norman reminds us that many who reach out for our help are hardworking individuals trying to do their best to get through life like all of us. JR

Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

-Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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