

Homeworkers Organized for More Employment

This Time

Orland, Maine 04472

H.O.M.E. Inc. Celebrates Selling 6 Homes over The Past Two Years

-By Tracey Hair

This month, as our peers and supporters prepare their homes for winter, we're delighted that six families in our midst will be spending winter in their new homes! These six homes honor the dedication of those who have supported our affordable housing efforts.

It took almost two years to physically build the most recent house, but so many volunteers had a hand in the work. Through volunteer labor and donations of materials by supporters, H.O.M.E. has built 54 simple and affordable houses. Low-income families in need of decent shelter apply to our housing program and homeowners are chosen based on their need and their willingness to partner with H.O.M.E. We are thrilled with the progress and inspired by the resilience of the people we serve.



H.O.M.E.'s latest sale located in Dedham, is the sixth house sold in the last two years putting us three years ahead of schedule

Are Shelters Becoming the Low-Income Housing of Our Time?

-By Tracey Hair

For nearly 50 years, H.O.M.E. has promoted the importance of affordable housing in our rural community — and backed up those words with the construction of 54 homes as well as the provision of 20 units of affordable rental housing. Within the past two years, H.O.M.E. has sold six homes to low-income families and provided down payment assistance and closing cost support.

Families in need of affordable housing live everywhere: small towns and villages and sprawling cities. While the vast majority of Americans feel stable and secure in their current situation, housing insecurity touches nearly half of adults at some point in their lives. Housing instability — including frequent moves, overcrowding, and the threat of eviction or foreclosure — creates stress, depression and hopelessness for far too many people. Families paying too high a percentage of their income for housing often find themselves making impossible choices. Rent or health care? Food or transportation?

A family's partnership with H.O.M.E. has meant

they have a stable place to live and to spend time together. An affordable mortgage or small loan means they have a decent roof over their heads and establishes home as a place that protects — instead of endangers — their health.

In response to the ever-growing need for shelter in our community, H.O.M.E. works in many ways: new construction, repairs to existing homes and small down payment assistance grants. In the event that a family is experiencing homelessness, we have four sites providing temporary emergency overnight shelter.

There is no greater crisis that, at least in my lifetime, has ever faced our country. As homelessness reaches epidemic proportions nationwide—a number of organizations have joined forces to get out the message and the first order of business is just educating people about the seriousness of the issue.

H.O.M.E. is raising the alarm! We cannot accept shelters becoming the low-income housing of our time. We cannot accept shelter guests who have subsidized housing vouchers in hand, being stuck in homelessness because there is no housing stock-- no back door out of shelter. All individuals and families, regardless of income, should have access to affordable, safe, stable housing in communities that support better health and economic mobility.

Over 12 million households in America — one out of every four renter households — spend more than half of their income on rent or do not have a home at all. Over 9.6 million of those households have an annual income of less than \$15,000. An individual must work 103 hours a week at minimum wage to afford a one-bedroom home at national average fair-market rent. (National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2018)

As I write this, H.O.M.E. staff prepare to attend an Affordable Housing Conference in Augusta which in addition to exploring ideas to create more housing, touches on housing options for a changing Maine. That conversation must include building or creating more housing that low-income and people experiencing

homelessness can afford. While we know the shortage of affordable homes isn't going to get better any time soon, we remain steadfast in our commitment to work for access to housing for everyone.



Artwork created and donated by Julius "Woody" Norman



Housing Navigator, Karen Botta attended the 2019 Maine Affordable Housing Conference



Letters

Please send letters to:
This Time
PO Box 10
Orland, ME 04472
admin@homeincme.org

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

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

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

Dear H.O.M.E.,

Your mission is daunting--your progress is remarkable! One day I hope the country begins to care about ‘the least of them’ in a real way. I do hope this helps in some small way.

Sincerely,
C Devine

Dear Tracey,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to help secure warm, safe housing for ‘Tom’ for the winter. We have paid the rent for the entire winter and actually have some funds left to help support ‘Tom’ with food, gas and phone expenses. What a wonderful feeling for all of us to know that we have made a big difference in “Tom’s” life. Thank you.

Peace & Love,
Skip

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>

Dear Friends at H.O.M.E.,

It feels like fall and winter is coming. I know how hard you work to help those in need. Please accept my small donation towards a warmer winter.

Sincerely,
Jane Priun

Dear H.O.M.E.,

Thank you and your staff on behalf of the Internal Revenue Service and the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program for supporting this free, volunteer program at the H.O.M.E. Learning Center again this year. During the tax filing season this year, 94 families were assisted with their federal and state tax returns at H.O.M.E. during 10 sessions held 10 am to 5 pm on Thursdays in February, March and April. 87 federal and state tax returns were completed for taxpayers. Average Adjusted Gross Income for our clients was between \$22,000 and \$23,000. Approximately 85% of our clients received refunds from the IRS totaling over \$75,000.

Sincerely,
Patricia Snyder
AARP Tax-Aide Local Coordinator

Dear H.O.M.E.,

Thank you to all for the compassionate assistance you provide to so many!

K&J

H.O.M.E. Inc.
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- Jayme Ream, Staff Representative, Bucksport
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In appreciation and for encouragement for all you do on behalf of those you serve, I give you this gift, a portrait of a warm winter coat symbolic of shelter, protection and warmth you provide to people in need. May you also feel the warmth whenever you look upon this painting, knowing others are inspired by your love and sacrifice. May God bless you, provide, and hold you close to His heart!

Tom (The painting below by Gretchen Gaffney)



H.O.M.E. Inc.
Fall Appeal 2019



“Serve First Those Who Suffer Most”

Dear Friend,

A man walked into my office recently and handed me a giant bag of cucumbers, he said that he wanted to give back. I didn’t need to ask why he felt he wanted to give back. Earlier this year, his wife, who has spent many winters making wreaths for H.O.M.E., was diagnosed with terminal cancer. They live together in an old homestead nearby with no running water and a generator for electricity. This year H.O.M.E. staff helped them get access to running water – a basic need we all take for granted. In our area, there are 14 households living in similar conditions, without the means to repair their old houses and upgrade their rusty old furnaces and water pumps.

While we have lots to celebrate this year, from selling houses to low-income families, building playgrounds for children staying in our homeless shelters or the impact the handcraft studios have had on those caught in poverty and rural isolation, we still need your financial support to do this work. There are 16 children staying in our homeless shelters tonight with their parents.

I have been at H.O.M.E. now for almost fifteen years, a lot has changed since 2004, but one thing that hasn’t is the steadfast resilience of people living in poverty and their desire to help out and give back. I write today to ask you, like the man with the cucumbers, to share your harvest–Will you make a financial contribution today?

Your generous support makes our work possible. Thank you!

Tracey Hair
Executive Director

“Show me a day when the world wasn’t new.”
-Sr. Barbara Hance

Christmas Wreaths and Centerpieces

We offer several choices of wreaths and centerpieces. Our wreaths are first quality 22” double faced wreaths made of fresh balsam fir. They are available either undecorated or fully decorated with red velvet ribbon, pinecones and berries. Our centerpieces are hand crafted at H.O.M.E. using fresh greens: Balsam, Cedar and Pine. The centerpieces are available either as single (one candle) or as triple (three candles) with cones and red ribbon or our winter feature includes white ribbon and white candles. (If a color is not selected, a red centerpiece will be shipped). Below is our order form for this year’s wreaths and centerpieces. We hope that you are interested in ordering one for yourself and/or giving one or more as gifts to friends or family members. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE A PERSONALIZED GIFT CARD, PLEASE INCLUDE IT WITH YOUR ORDER. **Orders are processed in the order they are received. Shipping begins on Tuesday, November 19th.** Please note sales tax of 5.5% must be charged for Maine residents. Please add this to your order total. *To ensure delivery before Christmas, orders must be received no later than December 6th.*



To purchase Wreaths:

- Fill out the order form. Orders must be received by December 4th.
- Mails this form (or fax or call) along with your payment to the address below.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE NOW ABLE TO MAIL TO PO BOX ADDRESSES. PLEASE USE PROPER MAILING ADDRESSES FOR ALL DELIVERIES.

2019 Retail Order Form

Send to:
H.O.M.E. Wreaths
P.O. Box 10
Orland, ME 04472

Phone: (207) 469-7961
Fax: (207) 469-1023
(call to confirm receipt of fax)

Please include all information below
for **ALL ORDERS**

Your Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____

City: _____
State: _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone #: _____
E-mail : _____
(In case we have questions)

My Order

Ship to me:
_____ **Decorated Wreath(s)**
_____ **Undec. Wreath(s)**

Centerpiece(s) - (Circle color)
_____ **Single - Red / White**
_____ **Triple - Red / White**

*Refer to price lists and include in
the totals at right.*

Gift Order:

Ship: _____ **Decorated Wreath(s)**
_____ **Undec. Wreath(s)**
Centerpiece(s) — (circle color)
_____ **Single - Red / White**
_____ **Triple - Red / White**

to Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____

City: _____
State: _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone #: _____

Gift Order:

Ship: _____ **Decorated Wreath(s)**
_____ **Undec. Wreath(s)**
Centerpiece(s) — (circle color)
_____ **Single - Red / White**
_____ **Triple - Red / White**

to Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____

City: _____
State: _____ **Zip:** _____
Phone #: _____

Please enter the total charges

Order Summary and Total

Number of items	Total of Prices
Dec. Wreaths:	
_____ @ 35.00	\$ _____
Undec. Wreaths:	
_____ @ 27.00	\$ _____
Single Centerpieces:	
_____ @ 31.00	\$ _____
Triple Centerpieces:	
_____ @ 40.00	\$ _____
Subtotal:	\$ _____

Maine residents please add
5.5% Sales Tax : \$ _____

Total of Order: \$ _____
— Shipping Included —
Lower 48 states only!

Check, Money Order,
Visa, Discover or Mastercard
Make checks payable to “H.O.M.E.”

Card# _____
Exp. Date: ____/____
Security code: ____
Signature: _____

Send to: **H.O.M.E. Wreaths**
PO Box 10
Orland ME 04472
Phone: 207-469-7961
Fax: 207-469-1023
www.homemmausa.org/wreaths

**Please include phone
numbers!**

We cannot send refunds for any
undeliverable orders



Outreach driver, Margaret Gilley, helps community member get where they need to go

How Transportation Assistance Can Fight Homelessness

- By Tracey Hair

H.O.M.E. Inc. has expanded its transportation service to include rides to work and quality of life appointments. Transportation access is the single biggest factor in helping people avoid homelessness; it's critical to holding down a job, getting to school, keeping appointments, and many more aspects of daily life. There are so many people that just cannot make ends meet before you even get to the concept of transportation. It is often one of the biggest barriers facing our shelter guests.

That includes Chantae who is currently experiencing homelessness with her four children. Chantae has employment at a coffee shop in a nearby town. Her shift begins as soon as her children get on the school bus. The journey however, is a three-mile jaunt on foot down Rte. 1 in order to get to her shift which begins at 8 am - it's a journey that could take an hour in bad weather.

H.O.M.E. cobbles together transportation support from a patchwork of private funding and joins other non-profits in the area to cover as many days as possible of transportation needs for low-income people and seniors. We draw on our general budget to run a fleet of two vans as well as funds we get through foundations and churches.

There's no one size fits all. The people that come into our office have all kinds of stories and experiences and needs, so we try to respond as effectively as we can. Thanks to expanding

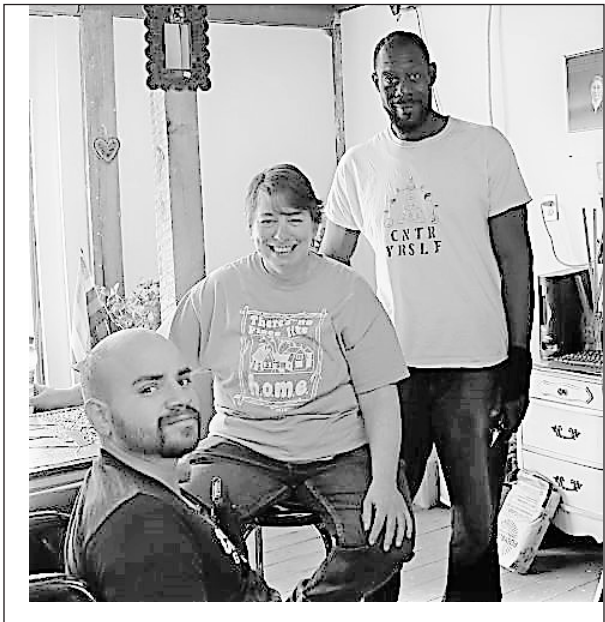
our outreach program, H.O.M.E. is able to give Chantae ride to her job. It's just one step in a long haul toward getting on her feet.

If you or a loved one has transportation needs and live in Bucksport, Orland or nearby, please call the Main Office 24 hours in advance to make an appointment. If you would like to contribute to this program, please mail checks to P.O. Box 10, Orland., ME 04472 Attn: Outreach Program.



Stained Glass student, Frank Johnson, shows off one of the new panes he has created for a window in his home

H.O.M.E. is happy to announce that our Stained Glass artist now has her studio open 4 days a week. Roxanne Poulin worked most days as assistant manager of the Bargain Barn with her stained glass studio open on Tuesdays for classes. Thanks to H.O.M.E.'s dedication to improving our studios and offering more classes, she is able to spend more time in her happy place teaching her art to people in our community. Roxanne's work is available in our Gift Shop and is always a hit when we travel to craft fairs. Feel free to stop in any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday and learn something about stained glass and Roxanne's amazing art.



Roxanne and two of her students enjoying the light and space of her new stained glass studio

Wood Gatherers Help Low-Income People.

- By Tracey Hair

Earlier this year a woman came to H.O.M.E. seeking help with firewood, her sister had passed away unexpectedly and she found herself on limited means, needing to heat more space in her house in order to take in the children her sister left behind. Shortly after, a single father of four came seeking firewood because his appointment for heat assistance through a State run program wasn't scheduled until February and he didn't have enough wood to make it through. H.O.M.E. staff saw the need for a rapid low-barrier response that reaches out to families when their heating situation is critical.

Over the last two months Clint and Glen have trucked pick-up loads of split, dry firewood to the new woodsheds built on campus this year by volunteer groups. The firewood provides an emergency heating wood resource for families who need immediate assistance. The wood bank is not intended to provide all the wood fuel needs of a family or individual – just to carry through the shortage until other resources become available. Sometimes cold weather in Maine comes before fuel assistance credits arrive and sometimes, low-wage workers don't qualify for such programs without sacrificing other basic needs. Other times, people plan as well as they can and just run out.

Local sources of delivered seasoned firewood charge \$250 and up per cord, putting purchase of firewood out of reach for many in our area. Clint, who has been H.O.M.E.'s sawyer for more than two decades, smiles proudly as he watches the piles of firewood being stacked by volunteers. The program depends on donations of physical labor, wood and cash donations to provide the fuel to those who need it when they need it.

People interested in donating wood, money or time can contact the main office at 207-469-7961 or mail checks to: H.O.M.E. Inc.; Attn: woodbank; P.O. Box 10; Orland, ME 04472



Long-time H.O.M.E. sawyer, Clint Clagett beside a new delivery of logs to be cut into firewood



Glen Tarbox of H.O.M.E.'s construction crew stacks wood to be used this winter. Glen keeps the fires burning all night, all winter long



The new woodshed on campus for our emergency heating program built by volunteers from St. Luke's Parish of Barrington, RI

Meet the Staff of H.O.M.E.

The Market Stand

-By Julie Ream

Some people in our community call it the soup kitchen, others refer to it as the food pantry and those of us who are here in H.O.M.E.’s village on a daily basis call it The Market Stand. No matter what you call it I’m sure anyone would agree that it is the heart of H.O.M.E.

The Market Stand is a gathering place for all. Staff, shelter residents, volunteers and community members gather there every weekday for a hot, nutritious lunch. We aren’t talking soup and sandwiches here (although some days that is what’s on the menu). The Market Stand staff may be serving hot chili, turkey tetrazzini or delicious beef stew any day of the week. The servings are hearty and there is usually a vegetarian version offered. They don’t stop there. More often than not there is bread, salad and dessert available as well. The Market Stand averages about 30 lunches served daily, Monday through Friday.

The food pantry gave out over a thousand food boxes last year. A typical box will contain canned vegetables, boxes of pasta and cereal, peanut butter and frozen meat and maybe a few sweets if they have them in stock. The pantry is always happy to accept donations of non-perishable food items. Unlike many pantries that are open one day a week or month, the Goodness Sake Food Pantry is open five days a week for a couple of hours in the morning and again after lunch.

If you would like to make a donation or know someone who could benefit from the soup kitchen or food pantry, please contact Maureen at 207-469-7961 extension 117.



Maureen Hayden has managed the Market Stand since 2016. She makes the delicious meals and serves them up herself daily. She runs a tight ship and thanks to her organizational skills our tracking of how many people are served lunch and/or receives a full box of filling food stuffs has never been more accurate. Maureen pays attention to who likes what and who is gluten free. We aren’t sure how she remembers so much! Despite the aging of much of her equipment, Maureen goes above and beyond to guarantee that those we serve leave with full bellies.



Ashley Worotnik may be a familiar face to those who read This Time. Ashley works on an as-needed-basis in H.O.M.E.’s daycare and now helps out Maureen part-time in the Market Stand. Ashley’s smiling face will greet you from the cash counter as you walk into the building and it is a contagious smile. She is learning the ropes of running the food pantry and if she’s lucky will learn some of Maureen’s yummy recipes. Keeping up with her boss is not easy, but Ashley does it and does it well! H.O.M.E. is happy to have a young person so eager to learn on its staff.



William “Billy” O’Donnell lives in our community and is currently a member of H.O.M.E.’s Board. Billy volunteers daily at the Market Stand helping with the pick-up of local produce donations. Billy proves that volunteerism can be contagious as his elementary school-aged grandson is one of H.O.M.E.’s most hardworking volunteers during the summer months. Without the generosity of time of Billy, his grandson and all our wonderful volunteers, H.O.M.E. would be hard pressed to get all our work accomplished.

A Hidden Gem to Find During a Visit at H.O.M.E.

-By Clare McEwen, Craft Store Manager

The Stitchery is a quiet piece of H.O.M.E., Inc. And yet, it sometimes connects with people in unexpected ways.

People who have brought their clothes, leather bags (and yes) boots to be mended will spend a few minutes “visiting” with Sandra. There is usually some bantering back and forth before they leave.

One occasion stands out in my mind. The volunteers from St. Anselm’s College included several young people who wanted to learn to sew. This is not the norm as sewing is not as exciting as, say, stacking wood or visiting the Stained Glass Studio.

Well, they showed up and listened intently to the instruction given to them by Sandra. And, as often happens, when they were settled with their projects, the conversation part began.

Questions came from both sides.

To Sandra: “How long have you been sewing?”

To students: “What are your majors?”

To Sandra: “Is there anything that you can’t fix?”

To students: “What’s your favorite style of music?”

This continued for ten or more minutes. Then the instruction segment began.

Insights and experience handed forth from a woman who has ‘come up hard’ in this world. Insights about work, relationships, self- esteem, happiness, success and humor. Jokes and wise cracks used as breaks in the subject in order for them to get the idea that some things are not to be taken too seriously.

If you haven’t met Sandra, you should. She loves to meet people and, honestly, she loves an audience. And she should not be under-estimated. She is a voracious reader and listens to music of a wide range. She is opinionated, known to be a little stubborn... and loves to tease those around her.

Several of these young people who came to the stitchery those days have taken time from their very busy schedules to correspond with her by ‘snail mail’.

This pleases her to no end and the letters are tucked away so that she can pull them out and reread them when she has the chance. I hope when they read this article that they will know how their thoughtfulness is appreciated.

I know when they left the Stitchery that second day that they knew how to make a scented pillow. They had experience and instruction that hopefully took away any doubts they had about sewing.

And they had found a new friend in a messy room above the Craft Store.



H.O.M.E. seamstress, Sandra Potter, is an accomplished artist on the sewing machine as well as being a storyteller of life. Picture courtesy of Clare McEwen

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

--Anne Frank

Summer Food Programs Impact Young Lives

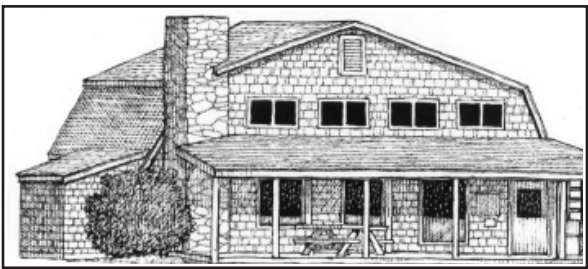
-By Tracey Hair

H.O.M.E.’s Summer Food Program is designed to provide healthy food boxes for families with children who are in need--the food boxes are designed for children who do not have access to healthy food on weekends. Each Friday, families received a large tote of food for the weekend. The number of children in the family determined how many bags of food the family received. This year 26 children across 13 families received food from the program that was sponsored by the Trinity Episcopal Church in Castine.

Contents of the bags varied based on dairy allergies and usually contained: bread, raisins, cherries (for the older children), blueberries, strawberries, fruit roll ups, yogurt, juice boxes containing 100% juice, cereal, string cheese, milk upon request, toothbrush and toothpaste (one time only), peanut butter, jelly, applesauce, apples, grapes, goldfish, baby carrots and crackers.

The H.O.M.E. Cra

CONTACT CLARE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER
207-469-7961
Please do not send orders without calling to
confirm cost of shipping.
Thank you



H.O.M.E. Craft Village



MAINE MAPLE PRODUCTS MAINE JAMS & JELLIES INC.

10 oz-----\$5.00
Maine Wild Blueberry Jam, Strawberry Jam,
Red Raspberry Jam, Pepper Jelly,
and Seedless Blackberry Jam
GIFT JAM PACK

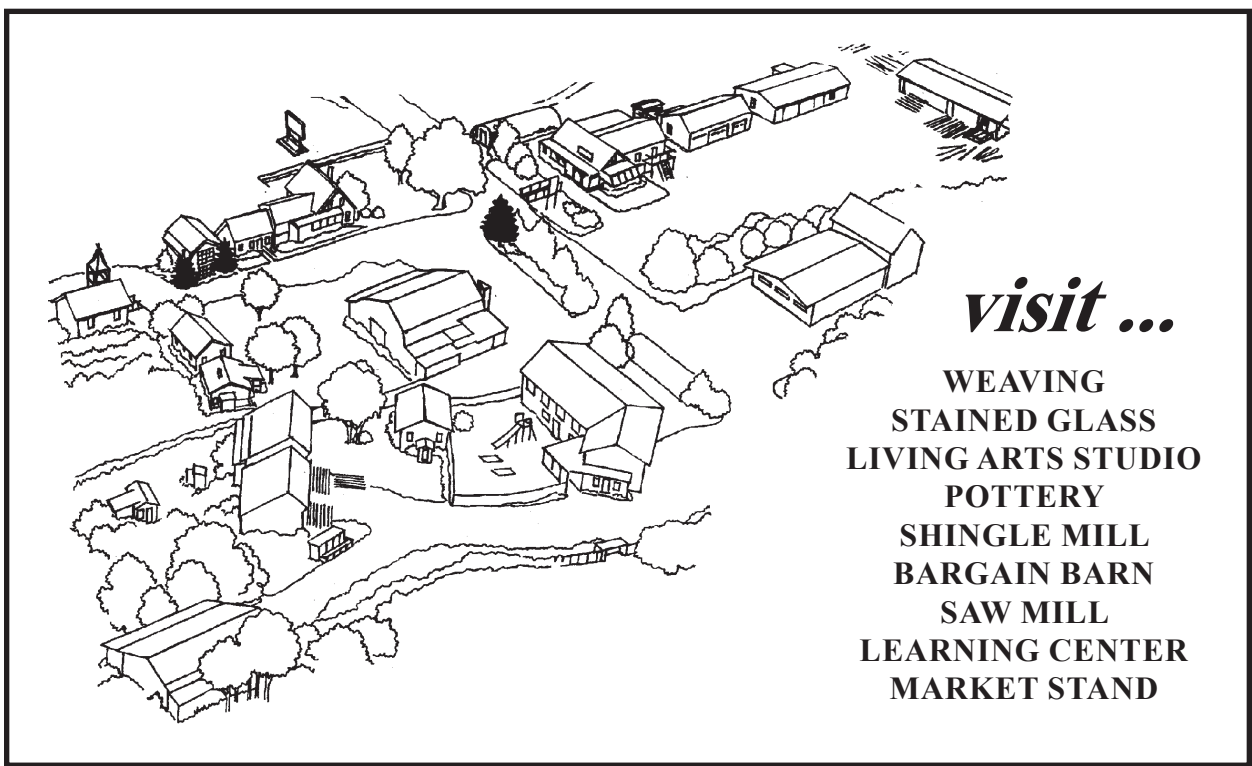
MAPLE SYRUP
Gallon--\$69.00
Half Gallon--\$36.00
Quart---\$22.00 Pint-----\$13.00
1/2 Pint--\$8.00 3.4 oz---\$4.50
1.36 oz---\$2.00
Moose/Loon Painted Glass container--
250ml--\$12.00

HONEY
12 oz. Large Bear Honey-----\$6.00
2 oz Small Bear Honey-----\$2.00
8 oz Jar Honey available in
Wild Blueberry and Wildflower-----\$4.50

GIFT OF MAINE
contains a half-pint of Maine Maple Syrup, 8 oz
Maine Wild Blueberry Honey and 2 Maine Jams
of your choice.
Cardboard Gift Box--\$23.00

MAPLE CANDY
Pocket pack-----\$4.50
Single Large Piece-\$4.50
Assorted Tray-----\$7.00
Maple Drops-----\$4.50

ODDS & ENDS
Granulated Maple Sugar--\$6.50
Maple Cream 11 oz-----\$12.00
Maple Mustard-----\$6.00
Cook Book-----\$14.00
Maple Pepper-----\$6.00
Maple Coffee-----sm-\$3.00
lg-\$10.00
Blueberry Syrup 10 oz-----\$5.75



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STAINED GLASS
LIVING ARTS STUDIO
POTTERY
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SAW MILL
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MARKET STAND



FRAGRANT BALSAM FIR PILLOWS

Available in a variety of sizes between \$8.95
and \$17.95

Silk-screened design in color
Available in small & large size:

Loon Blueberry
Puffin Chickadee
Lady's Slipper Wood Duck
Canada Goose Cardinal
Moose Bear
Raccoon Maine Coon Cat
Deer Owl
Heron Hummingbird
Purple Finch Evening Grosbeak
Kingfisher Lighthouse
Cabin in the Pines

Not all designs available in all sizes. Please call
to see if we keep your favorite design in store.

BALSAM TRIVETS \$11.00

BALSAM DRAFT STOPPERS
in a variety of nature prints
40" long by 2" diameter.....\$22.00

BALSAM NECK PILLOWS
in a variety of designs
small.....\$12.95
large.....\$18.00



VEGETABLE GLYCERIN SOAP

\$5.00 each. Available in watermelon, vanilla/
lavendar, rose/frankincense and patchouli/
lavender/myrrh, and other refreshing scents.



POTHOLDERS

Many Maine themes available including
lobsters, lighthouses, blueberries, moose,
loons and more.
\$4.50 each

Craft Store Catalog



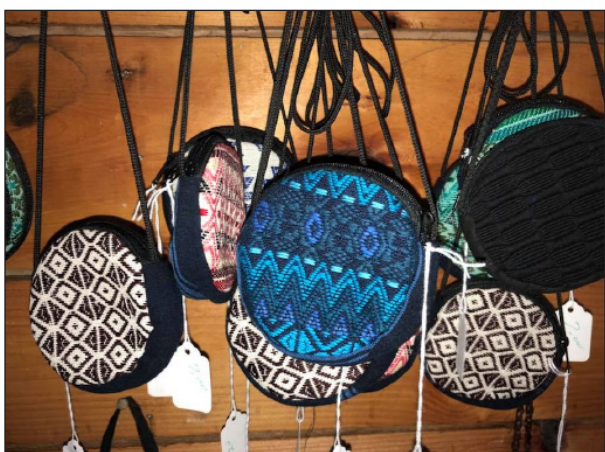
Rope Bowls

Our Rope Bowls are handmade from cotton clothesline and other common rope materials. Baskets and coasters are also available in a variety of styles, sizes, colors and patterns. Prices vary



HAND WOVEN BASKETS

Crafted by hand in H.O.M.E.'s Living Arts Studio, these charming little baskets are a wonderful display item or a useful vessel for holding treasures. 100% of the sale proceeds benefit H.O.M.E. programs.



GUATEMALAN CRAFTS

Brightly colored, hand woven cotton purses and runners of many color and sizes and various prices. Made in our fellow Emmaus community in Comalapa. Prices vary.



POTTERY

H.O.M.E.'s pottery is a big hit at our craft fairs. Bowls, cups, plates, vases and more are available. Many made right here in H.O.M.E.'s own pottery by our resident potter, Rosalani Moore. Prices vary.



75 Covenant Way, Sedgwick

Saltbox style home designed with 5 total rooms including 3 to 4-bedrooms, 1- bath, kitchen/ dining area, living room, fireplace, and a laundry area. The home is situated on 1.03+/- acre leased land parcel in a 12 home community sub-division in Sedgwick, ME.

In the summer of 2020 H.O.M.E. will have a cape-style house for sale in Dedham, Maine. For more information contact Rosalani Moore at 207-469-7961 ext 116



QUILTS

Different styles and sizes available. Made by local crafters and our own stitchery. Price depends on size and type. Visit us to pick one as a gift to be treasured.



H.O.M.E. T-SHIRTS

We all agree that there is no place like H.O.M.E. and we have the t-shirts, hoodies and caps to prove it. Available in a variety of colors and sizes.

T-shirts: Sm, Med, Lrg, XL-\$12.95
T-shirts: XXL, XXXL-\$14.95
Sweatshirts, Sm, Med, Lrg, XL-\$19.95
Sweatshirts: XXL, XXXL-\$21.95
Ballcaps: \$7.95

LUMBER PRICES

All lumber is milled by our crew in our own mill. All proceeds go to run H.O.M.E.'s many programs.

All Lumber per board foot....\$.70
Pickup load Saw Dust.....\$5.00
Pickup load Shingle Hair.....\$5.00
Shingles \$75 per sq

Green Thumbs with Millie

-By Julie Ream

This year was a bit rough for Millie. Now, don't worry, she's fine and dandy, but she's working hard in the gardens and greenhouse, extra hard. Due to issues beyond our control, Millie ended up working the gardens by herself this summer. She did have some help from volunteers groups and community members, but since summer ended she's been pretty much on her own.

And so, here I am, a person who has never been accused of having a green thumb writing an article called Green Thumbs. I can't give you any tidbits or advice but I can glean recipes from Millie's past articles to keep Green Thumbs going. Let's pray that Millie has more time come the spring issue.

Sunshine Pickles

- 4 quarts ripe cucumbers (large yellow ones)
- 3 cups white sugar
- 3 cups vinegar
- 4 medium onions, chopped
- 1 Tbsp tumeric
- 1 Tbsp salt
- 1 Tbsp celery seed

Peel, seed, and cut cucumbers into 1x2 inch pieces. Add all remaining ingredients and cook slowly together until the cucumbers are tender but not mushy. Seal while hot in canning jars and process 30 minutes in water bath.

This is a great way to use cukes that get away from you and grow large, turning yellow-orange on the vine.

Tomato Jam

- 2-3 pounds tomatoes (red, green or yellow)
- 2 cups sugar

H.O.M.E. is Expanding Our Creativity

-By Rosalanie Moore

As we focus on our roots, H.O.M.E. is happy that there has been so much support in the build of the new pottery studio expansion. While we still have a long way to go before it is finished, the building has taken shape and gives form to our visions for the future of H.O.M.E.

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. With more space provided by the new studio classes can be expanded to a larger number of people of various ages and abilities.

Today, looking down towards the studio from the road, the leaves are falling in all colors laying out a vibrant pathway towards the porch, an invitation to create. We can't wait.



The new pottery studio will be linked to the old studio allowing our potters to expand classes

- 2 oz. ginger root or preserved ginger
- 1 four inch cinnamon stick
- grated rind of 1 lemon or orange

Peel, core, and slice tomatoes. Cover with sugar and let stand overnight or 12 hours. Strain off the juice and boil it until the syrup falls from the spoon in heavy drops. Add tomatoes, rind and spices. Cook until jam thickens and then put in hot, sterile jars. May be sealed with paraffin. The original recipe calls for equal amounts of tomatoes and sugar, but I find this too sweet.

This "jam" is more like marmalade and a very pretty color.

Pear Conserve

- 6 cups organic pears, cut in small pieces
- 2 cups cranberies
- 3 cups sugar
- 2 cups raisins (or less)
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 2 whole oranges or lemons, cut in small pieces or ground in food processor or grinder

Combine all ingredients except nuts, bring slowly to a boil, simmer for 20 minutes. Remove from heat and add nuts. Pack into hot sterilized jars, process 10-20- minutes in water bath.

"We might think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us."
-Jenny Uglow



Above, two workers installing solar panels on the roof of H.O.M.E.'S garage/shingle mill building. Below, Program Coordinator, Julie Ream, points up to the finished project



Maine: Certainly not the way life should be

Letter to the Editor of The Metuchen Mirror

Editor-Re: Robert Kaplow's October essay, "Wonderland, the Way Life Should Be."

You are right, Mount Desert and the coast is indeed very beautiful. But certainly Maine as a whole is not Wonderland, the way life should be.

Most of Maine is poor. It is also about 95 percent white. And when the license plates read "Vacationland," it was largely opposed as not true for the large majority of people who live there.

The "Wonderland" slogan is Fantasyland. I lived 15 summers in Maine. Even though I no longer am able to visit, I am still an honorary board member of H.O.M.E. Inc. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment) in Orland, Maine, because of all the fundraising and photographing I had done for them. They help thousands of people a year with food, housing, shelter, a learning center and employment assistance, and consider themselves "a community-based organization focused on helping make the world around us a better, happier place."

The executive director of H.O.M.E., Tracey Hair, responded to my request about her thoughts on the "Wonderland" slogan, saying, "I cringe when I hear the term 'the way life should be' or 'Vacationland' when describing Maine.

She continued "When I think of Maine, I think of poor people who are mostly white living on the outskirts of Bucksport and Orland villages - the call it the outback. Maine ranks ninth in the nation for food insecurity with 14.4 percent of households going hungry each day. Our little food pantry, which once served as a supplement for people in need, is now a primary source of food for families in our area. Poverty is as much of a problem for working people as it is for very poor people with fixed incomes.

"At its root is income. The minimum wage is \$10 per hour {now \$11 per hour}. The ability for a person to leave our shelter with a minimum wage job and afford an apartment nearby and still afford to pay their rent, put food on the table and afford prescriptions is limited. About 37 percent of the people we serve don't qualify for assistance and are forced to visit pantries and other charities to patch their needs together."-Helen M. Stummer, Metuchen

Going Green Starts at H.O.M.E.

-By Rosalani Moore

We are up and running! The solar panels over the garage were installed at the end of September and beginning of October. After a few glitches we had to work through with the power company, H.O.M.E. has now started to produce power. In two overcast days of operating we have produced 146.54 kWh which is about \$27.84 reduction in our energy costs. Our nifty monitoring app tells us that we have offset our carbon emissions by about 226.92 lbs which is equivalent to planting a little under 6 trees.

H.O.M.E. is thankful for the support of Emmaus Internationals Solidarity Fund for funding this project. Each year H.O.M.E. and Emmaus groups around the world participate in solidarity events, such as tag sales and yard sales. Groups put this money into a pool through Emmaus International and it is used to help fund projects around the world like ours. H.O.M.E. is grateful for the opportunity to further the idea of global solidarity by investing these funds in a way that reduces our environmental impact.

Every day we ask ourselves how can we continue to do the work we do? We take on the work day by day ever changing with the needs of those who come to our doors for assistance. To know that our work can be done in a way that has a little less impact on our environment is encouraging. We strive to continue this trend. Stay tuned as H.O.M.E. looks to the future with hope.



Hammer and a Nail group replacing a deck



UCC group from Barrington RI painted inside the learning center



United Church, Hinesburg, VT worked hard in all our gardens



Salem Belleman's Church, Mohrsville, PA painted the trim of the Craft store



UCC, Ridgefield, CT put up the walls of the new Pottery Studio

Volunteer Projects 2019

-By Julie Ream

Another summer of volunteers has come and gone and we here at H.O.M.E., Inc. are so thankful for all the wonderful work that was completed by our tireless volunteers. There will never be enough words to express how grateful we are for the work they do each summer. We are also so very grateful for the Alternative Spring Break college students who grace our campus during some of the coldest times of the year. And, last, but never least, we are thankful to those in our midst who volunteer all year long. Below is a list of volunteer hours and projects completed so far in 2019.

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
- Weeds Whacked
- 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 thus far.**

Individuals:

- 25 individuals volunteered
- Daycare: 3 individuals. 294 hours
- Bargain Barn: 2 individuals. 492 hours,
- Pottery: 5 individuals. 113 hours
- Market Stand: 2 individuals. 98 hours
- Maintenance: 3 individuals. 48 hours
- Grounds/Gardens: 4 individuals 162 hours
- Front Office: 3 individuals. 330 hours
- Volunteer helper: 132 hours
- **1,695 hours thus far**

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, power tools, tarps, backpacks,



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Madison, CT staining the covered bridge



Trinity Church, Rochester, NY built the ramp to the Stained Glass Studio



St. Luke's Parish of Barrington, RI worked on the new pottery studio



United Methodist Church, Meriden, RI finished ramp at Sr. Barbara Hance House and split wood galore



Two young and hardworking volunteers

HOME Daycare



H.O.M.E.’s licensed daycare provides affordable childcare for working families. The daycare has the capacity to serve up to 12 children from infants to 12 years old.

For more information about our program call (207) 469-7961 and speak with Christina.

Check out our Go Fund Me page to see how you can help support a nurturing, healthy, and creative childcare experience.

<https://www.gofundme.com/givingtochildren>

We are also on Facebook at:
HOME Inc Daycare

- H.O.M.E.’s Wish List
- Food
- Pillows
- Fire Wood
- Warm Blankets
- Office Supplies
- School Supplies
- Building Materials
- Tools in Good Shape
- Saw Logs for our Mill
- Winter Coats for all ages
- Winter Boots in Good Shape
- Useful Trucks and/or Cars
- Fitted Sheets for Shelter beds
- Cotton Fabric Pieces for Quilts
- & Large Pieces for Quilt backing
- Windows 10 Computers & Printers
- Big Pots & Pans for our Soup Kitchen
- Appliances
- Stocks or Money

- 2019 September Snapshot
- 8630 hours of volunteer labor were donated.
- 78 Back Packs filled with school supplies were distributed in August of 2019.
- Household goods were provided for 175 families and clothing was provided to 556 individuals.
- 12 seniors participated in the Senior Farm share program
- Heat assistance and firewood was provided for 6 families.
- 20 units of transitional housing were provided during the year.
- Up to 53 individuals were provided shelter on any given night and four houses were sold to low-income families.
- 19 children were enrolled in day care and day care subsidies were provided for 5 children.
- H.O.M.E. staff mentored 6 children attending Summer Camp, providing transportation, lunch and supplies for each child.
- Food boxes were distributed to 1831 individuals from January until September 2019. 23 children and their families received food and fresh produce each Friday throughout Summer.
- Nearly 110 community artists, shelter residents took part in studio workshops, exhibitions and one-on-one instruction in Art, Pottery and Stained Glass.

Guatemala Trip

H.O.M.E. is still planning its next trip to Guatemala. We try to send off a group of interested individuals at least once a year with the goal of providing support to the San Juan Comalapa Emáus Group. We provide this support by buying local weavings produced by members of the group, raising funds to buy corn for families in need and working with other local nonprofits who have similar goals.

For those of us at H.O.M.E., we look forward to the opportunity to be in solidarity with our friends in Guatemala.



Families waiting to receive donations of corn. One bag can feed a family for up to three months.

We Need Your Help!

Contact H.O.M.E.’s Learning Center at (207)469.7961 and ask for Rosa or email assistantdirector@homeincme.org

You can help by:

Joining us on the trip

Helping raise \$1000 for corn

Donating money for weavings

Collecting shoes and school supplies

Holding a pledge or donation drive

Sponsoring a traveler



H.O.M.E. sent a container to Guatemala once before. We hope to send another this year, if we can raise the funds.

Please consider donating these items for our container:

Bicycles, Tools, Shoes, Sewing Machines, Kitchen Appliances, Money



The Emmaus Center Homeless Shelter in Ellsworth received a donation from Brookfield Renewable Energy to support a building renovation

Volunteer At H.O.M.E.!

H.O.M.E. is always looking for volunteers to help out! There are many different ways to get involved, from crafting to repairing houses. Bring your friends too! We have accommodations for individuals or groups. We would love to see you!

If you are interested, call Julie at 207.469.7961 ext 106

Reflections



SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!!



In anticipation of the celebration of
our 50th anniversary in 2020, we are compiling a H.O.M.E. archive.
Send us photos and other artifacts! Questions?
Contact executivedirector@homeincme.org

Refugees

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(Now read from bottom to top.)
Brian Bilston

Fun with Astrology

By Kathy Walton

What's on the Grocery List for each sign

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Aries: | Oranges, chicken tenders and cheese |
| Taurus: | Ham, baking potatoes and asparagus |
| Gemini: | Ice cream! |
| Cancer: | Bread, butter and stocking up on whatever is on sale |
| Leo: | Chocolate mousse, chocolate ice cream, chocolate bars... |
| Virgo: | Spaghetti, sauce ingredients and cat food |
| Libra: | Macaroni and cheese...maybe a salad |
| Scorpio: | Potatoes for baking, mashing and au gratin |
| Sagittarius: | Anything but meat |
| Capricorn: | Carrots, beets and turnip |
| Aquarius: | Cheese and cottage cheese |
| Pisces | Cherries... maybe some blueberries |

"Journeys are no mistake, not made by random choices. We become what our young child needs us to be. Homeless in much of my childhood, I stand here as a survivor of poverty, and am now an active witness. I reach into the mazes of my work led by my heart with my mind as back up."
- Tracey Hair, Executive Director, H.O.M.E. Inc.

Be Kind to One Another

-By Mary Mahan

Positive thoughts, follow through, routine and being kind were my guidelines when raising my children. I recently had the most awesome thing happen with my daughter, Rachael.
First, some background. Rachael is mentally challenged and has always needed special services. She has done well, lives on her own in a nearby town and has staff from an agency who come to work with her. She attends a daily program to interact with others and to get out into` the community.
Recently, Rachael had not been accomplishing her goals and always had a reason not to participate in activities. Her apartment was not clean, her personal hygiene was horrible and hoarding was becoming an issue. Staff was basically giving up and not encouraging her to do her tasks. It felt like they really didn't care if she followed through on her tasks, like she was just a way to get a paycheck.
My husband and I worked very hard to find someone that the agency could hire to work with Rachael. That's when the something awesome happened. Amy, who is a family friend, agreed to be her primary worker. Now, Rachael feels supported and enjoys reaching her goals. Amy's enthusiasm, praise and, basically, her humane treatment of Rachael has made a major difference in her life. It's rewarding to see that someone will take the time to help my daughter achieve her goals. Thank you Amy. You are a God-send.
So, please remember that everyone is different but they all deserve to be treated kindly and with the same respect that you would want from others. Be an Amy.

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

This Time

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Homeworkers Organized for More Employment



H.O.M.E. Inc.'s Management Team, Rosalani Moore, Tracey Hair, Julie Ream and Mary Mahan on the day that Tracey, Executive Director of H.O.M.E. Inc. received her U.S. citizenship



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Proud member
of Emmaus
International.

"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"