

Homeworkers Organized for More Employment

This Time

Orland, Maine 04472

Pottery for a Cause: Empty Bowls

A unique dinner combines art and community to join in fighting hunger.

By Tracey Hair

On the evening of Friday, February 8th, anticipation and the smell of simmering soup charged the air of the soup kitchen. As the clock ticked closer to opening time, community members began to wander in, peering into the kitchen with smiles. Ceramic bowls lay overflowing on the long cloth covered tables as we put the last of the bowls into place.

In H.O.M.E.'s pottery studio tucked in amongst a village of craft studios, stained glass, basket weaving, and knitting, H.O.M.E.'s potter threw 50 bowls in a matter of days. It was the kickoff for H.O.M.E.'s first Empty Bowls fundraiser, what we hope to be the signature annual fundraiser for the food pantry. Bowls were set out on display the day of the event, creating a cornucopia of soup bowls of every shape and color imaginable. Complementing the event was a local father daughter acoustic music group called Rural Roots Revival.

Empty Bowls is an event unlike any other, the core of the event is a supper where, for a donation, guests choose a bowl and fill it with soup. They then sit down among the other guests including homeless shelter residents, eat their soup, and learn a little about how their donation has helped to fill the truly empty bowls of people less fortunate in their community. The bowls are theirs to keep and in some circles become real collectors' items.

The intersection of art, food and charitable giving helps spread community awareness about H.O.M.E.'s mission to break down economic barriers and end the cycle of poverty. The basic purpose of Empty Bowls is to raise money for our local food bank and also to bring people to a common table. People who have access to food and shelter sharing a meal with people who don't. Guests were invited to line up in the soup line when dinner was ready, the soup line format is intended to offer the experience of walking through the soup line at H.O.M.E.'s Soup Kitchen.

H.O.M.E.'s food bank receives and distributes food from food drives, Good Shepherd Food Bank and the USDA. Our food recovery initiative collects unsalable



Local father/daughter acoustic duo, Rural Roots Revival donated their time and beautiful music to the event



Above, Empty Bowls ready to be selected. Right, local friends enjoy tasty, hot soup and wonderful music.

produce, dairy and meat from local grocery stores and adds it to the bank of food that eventually gets consumed. In 2018, H.O.M.E.'s food pantry distributed food boxes to 707 families reaching 1535 individuals. The Soup Kitchen served 6052 meals and the Thanksgiving and Christmas meal programs combined provided food boxes for 244 families.

Empty Bowls was founded 26 years ago by a non-profit group as a grassroots effort to combat hunger. This year, H.O.M.E.'s Empty Bowls fundraiser which was held on a chilly February evening, catered to 52 guests, the event raised over \$520.00 for the food pantry. In exchange for a small donation, guests received a ceramic bowl, created by H.O.M.E.'s lead potter Rosalani Moore, to remind them of all the empty bowls that still fill our world.

Empty Bowls is so much more than collecting checks and tallying up totals. Empty Bowls creates and strengthens our community, supports our local artists, celebrates delicious food and beautiful pottery, and educates people about hunger and poverty.

As guests exited the soup kitchen, volunteers and staff congregated to clean up the space, chatting excitedly about the success of the event. We know that the event will continue to thrive on the enthusiastic and indomitable spirit of our community and the passion it has for serving its community. By turning our commitment to handcrafts into a vehicle to help give back to the larger Hancock County community, this event truly filled an empty bowl in our hearts.



Tearing Down in Order to Rebuild

By Julie Ream

Whether you knew it as Marion's Hous or Tim's House, it will now be a memory many of us hold dear. In January, a group of men from the Knights of Columbus in Barrington, RI came to H.O.M.E. to tear down the little one-bedroom house. The floor had become quite unstable and the general state of the house was, to most, uninhabitable.

Longtime H.O.M.E. resident and volunteer, Tim Rimositis, who had been living in the house for the last few years, suffered a stroke and would not be able to return. Tim survived his stroke and is living in a facility in a nearby town. Prayers are quite welcome for his continued improvement.

Management's thoughts were up in the air in regards to rebuilding a similar house in the same spot or to expand the pottery. Since the pottery is too small to hold classes of more than a few students and it really could use separate spaces for wet and dry work, expanding the pottery is what we decided to do.

The bones of the original house were pretty strong, but the lack of a foundation took its toll. This time around we will be sure to start with a slab and build up from there. Any donations to help with our rebuild would be greatly appreciated.



Tim's house being brought down by the Knights of Columbus of Barrington, Rhode Island. Photo credit: Eugene Hirst, Volunteer Master Photographer



Letters

Please send letters to:
This Time
PO Box 10
Orland, ME 04472
info@homecoop.net

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 H.O.M.E.

I was very impressed with the operation at H.O.M.E. when I visited with the Blue Point Congregational Church last week

The level of faith and commitment you have was evident in every one of the employees we met. What an upbeat, caring place to work!

Please know that you are all in our prayers and I look forward to working with you all again next year. Please let us know if there is something special that you need.

Sincerely,
Donna Ferree

Dear Tracey:

Thank you so much for your message about H.O.M.E. Inc. at our service this morning. Your talk struck the perfect tone. We are strengthened in our confidence that our investment in H.O.M.E. has been sound and productive.

In faith and service,
Rev Margaret Beckman

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Visit our web-site for a digital version of this
Newsletter in full color!
<http://www.homemmausa.org>

Friends at H.O.M.E.:

We want to thank you for continuing to give us the opportunity to learn about your fine work there (sic) in Vermont. We are humbled.

Food and shelter, education and care-your spring appeal letter is an inspiration to us.

Please accept this small check for your work.

We look forward to hearing from you in the fall.

Diane & Bill Trimble

P.S. I'm always pleased to hear about your work with crafts: the hands are the spiritual connection to the spirit.

Dear Tracey:

Thank you so much for the tour of H.O.M.E. yesterday.

We were so impressed with the range of programs & services you are doing. Your energy & optimism along with your obvious compassion are very inspiring!

Cathy Melio & Abbey Frost

Dear H.O.M.E. Friends,

We think of you often and tell everyone we are so amazed at the amount you do for people and the community, especially in the context of limited resources and people with deep needs.

We hope this helps ease getting some of that great work done this year.

Sincerely,
Amy Lockwood & Brad Owens

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

Susie Craig, Chairperson, Jefferson
Jayme Ream, Staff Representative, Bucksport
Dalores French, Treasurer, Orland
Mike Guare, Secretary, Bangor
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Brad Craig, Jefferson
William O'Donnell, Orland
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Lucy Poulin, Founder

Dear H.O.M.E. ,

We had an amazing time helping you guys. It was a great experience for us to see the community you have made. We love the opportunity you are giving people to help them be successful. We wanted to help you in any way that we can. We hope to come back soon.

With Love,
The Nelson Congregational Church
Youth Group

P.S. The youth group had a bake sale and the proceeds are this donation to H.O.M.E.

Dear H.O.M.E.,

The enclosed check is in MEMORY OF BOB HARDINA of Damariscotta, a long time friend and helper of your marvelous ministries who died 3/29/2019. Bob and I grew up together in Agawam, Mass. in the 1940s and 1950s-played trumpets side by side in the high school band, were active in Boy Scouts, and our church youth group, etc. We both attended Andover Newton Theological School near Boston and became Pastors. We remained friends all our lives, Bob & Louise blessed me with hospitality many times in Maine, including last June.

May he rest in peace and may your good works carry on the blessing of his life.

-Rev. Jeffery Atwater

***Rev. Atwater, please accept our condolences on the lost of your friend. H.O.M.E. Inc. Staff**

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



"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"

Dear Friend,

Can you remember a time when you were given a chance that changed everything?

In the bustling crowd of the soup kitchen yesterday, I watched two men as they sat at the table eating. They're well-known men to most of us, one of the men rides more than a mile to get here every day to eat lunch, even in bad weather, and the other man eats with us in spite of his ailing health. Behind the counter, our kitchen staff prepares the food with help from a volunteer who used to stay in the women's shelter. Together they prepare a meal for 30 people.

Since we opened our doors almost 50 years ago, H.O.M.E. has been a leader in hiring and developing peer staff and volunteers – people from our communities with similar life stories, similar lessons, and similar triumphs shared with people who need our help. The people who lead our programs look like the people who use our programs. We're reaching out to you, to support our peer-driven organization. Our approach combines basic emergency services, creativity, and work, as a catalyst for community engagement and inclusion.

Today, we near the next chapter in our journey, guided by the memory of one of H.O.M.E.'s early leaders who, when I first came to H.O.M.E. fourteen years ago, with no money, no shelter and no education, encouraged Lucy to take a chance on me. I'm asking you to join us. Let us look to 2019 and beyond, mindful of taking risks and giving chances... mindful of the power that comes with having access to food, shelter, and community... will you join us?

Please give to H.O.M.E. today in honor of second chances.

With gratitude,

Tracey Hair, Executive Director

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

Stashed away in a corner of the Learning Center is the Bookkeeping Office. The staff in this office are not able to run around the campus meeting all our visitors and volunteers like many of us. They work tirelessly at keeping H.O.M.E.'s budget balanced.

They ensure the bills are paid. They make the deposits. They keep us stocked up with supplies and smack our fingers if they find us being wasteful. They also step up and allow H.O.M.E.'s mascot, Annabelle, to spend time with them when her mom has to run around the campus.

Although they are not always on the front lines, they are a vital piece of the H.O.M.E. family.

Mary Mahan is H.O.M.E.'s finance director and part of the management team. She keeps an eye on the accounts and works out any budget needs we might present to her. She has a Bachelor's Degree in accounting and taxation from Southern New Hampshire University and has been at H.O.M.E. since 2007. Mary emceeds our Annual Dinner and hosts an Easter Party for community children every year. She volunteers during Christmas time to go to a craft fair out of state that helps raise money for H.O.M.E.

If you have ever bought a cutting board from one of our craft fairs or the gift shop, Mary and her husband of almost 40 years probably made it.

Mary says, "I came to H.O.M.E. knowing that I could grow along with it and that working here would allow me flexibility while caring for my children who have special needs issues."



Ruth Bennett has been a bookkeeper at H.O.M.E. since 2006. She likes to comment that she just handles accounts payable but she is so much more than that to all of us. She is ever vigilant on finding the best deal that H.O.M.E. can make when we are contemplating a large purchase. She makes the calls whenever we need gravel or plowing and such. Her connections in this part of Hancock County are plentiful.

Just before Thanksgiving you might find Ruth at a table outside the local grocery store looking for donations to put in the soup kitchen's holiday food boxes.

Ruth's past experience working as a bookkeeper at a lumber mill is a plus for H.O.M.E. and its own mills.

Ruth is a valuable asset to H.O.M.E. plus, if your car breaks down, Ruth is sure to pick you up and get you to work.

Shannon Carpenter has worked for H.O.M.E. in different departments such as day care and day camp, on and off since 2015. In 2017 she landed a permanent position in the bookkeeping office as the Administrative Assistant. Shannon keeps the bookkeeping office in great order. You have to be careful putting papers down because Shannon is apt to file it for you.

Of course, like many of us at H.O.M.E., Shannon's job isn't just answering phones and filing papers. She is attending classes to get her Bachelor's Degree in accounting which will enable her to be even more helpful to Mary and Ruth. During wreath season, Shannon is in charge of the centerpiece decorating and shipping and her professionalism ensures that the lovely holiday decorations get where they need to go.

Shannon states that she loves that H.O.M.E.'s mission is right here in her own community.

VOLUNTEERING MASTER SKILLS

A Community member gives of his time and skill to H.O.M.E.

By Julie Ream



Alternative Spring Break volunteers from Saint Anselm College strike a familiar pose for our new photographer, Eugene Hirst

This Time is excited to have a Master Photographer volunteer his time and camera to help us bring you pictures of a higher quality than our personal cell phones. Eugene Hirst is a new member of our community and his offer of using his skills as a Master Photographer was happily appreciated by staff.

Eugene who is originally from New Hampshire, graduated from the New York Institute of Photography around 1968. When the U.S. Army tried to draft him, he chose instead to join the Navy where he was able to use his photography skills working in intelligence during the Vietnam war. After the Navy, he travelled the world working as a freelance photographer. His travels have taken him all over the United States, including Alaska. He's also traveled to South and Central America and did work for such magazines as National Geographic and Outdoor Life.

Eugene attributes his ability to do what he loves his entire life to his parents. When he was 8-years-old, they bought him his first camera. We thank Eugene and his parents for the skills he has brought to H.O.M.E.



H.O.M.E.'s volunteer Master Photographer, Eugene Hirst will be seen wandering around campus with his camera this coming summer

H.O.M.E. WISH LIST

- Food
- Any Tools
- Fire Wood
- Office Supplies
- Building Materials
- Saw Logs for our Mill
- Twin-Size Sheet Sets
- Blankets
- Twin-Size Mattress Covers
- Pillows
- Art Supplies
- Useful Trucks and/or Cars
- Hygiene Supplies for Men and Women
- Warm Undergarments
- Gardening Tools
- Lawncare Tools
- 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

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

A message from the Executive Director Tracey Hair

Greetings to our community of supporters – 2018 was a wonderful year!

There is so much to celebrate this year. H.O.M.E. Inc. staff and volunteers have gone above and beyond providing support and empowerment to so many. This team of 47 people impacted the lives of hundreds of individuals and families in 2018. It is incredible to watch them guide persons experiencing homelessness to stable housing, and community supports, and to witness the craft shops and studios come alive. It was incredible to watch day care staff inspire children and foodbank staff meet an increased need. It was incredible to watch new programs take hold such as the MENTOR program for children attending summer camp, the warming center for people out in the cold and to watch events such as Pathways to Creativity and the Empty Bowls fundraiser inspire crafters, artists and community members to work together while raising awareness to poverty. It is incredible to witness the Sister Barbara Hance House return to its roots of providing transitional housing for individuals being released from jail or rising out of homelessness. This past year has been about building bridges, opening doors and welcoming everyone to the table.

The year was also about connecting low-income families with homes – four families bought their homes since our last report, a dream we never thought possible within this timeframe. We give thanks to the generosity of the Opportunity Fund of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Castine for providing financial support which we used for down-payment assistance for the families.

Staff embraced a plan for growth with enthusiasm, creating a second shift for our shelter department as well as accomplishing repairs and upgrades in several locations. With the help of our new maintenance supervisor, our heating systems were analyzed and improved, blessing us with the first year I can recall of having no frozen pipes.

H.O.M.E. Inc. shelters which include the Dorr House, Sr. Marie House, Emmaus Homeless Shelter and the St. Francis Inn, provides emergency overnight shelter for up to 53 guests on any given night and our Learning Center serves as a warming center and provided shelter for four individuals when our shelters were full. We celebrate the supports of the Maine Shelter Network for NARCAN training in response to the opioid crisis and training that addresses the challenges of this work.

I'd be dreaming to say we eradicated chronic homelessness in our community, but we've made huge strides in that direction. At the heart of our efforts, staff worked closely with Maine Housing, Maine Continuum of Care, Regional Homeless Councils, the State-Wide Homeless Council and Maine Shelter Network, all charged with the ambitious task of working to end episodes of homelessness for individuals and families in our neighborhoods.

I also want to take the time to thank volunteers that keep us running smoothly, board members and community members who work tirelessly picking up food donated from Hannaford Supermarket, installing playgrounds, making jams for Farmers' Market, and planning for our future.

So inspirational are the crafters who met each week to teach art, knitting, pottery, stained glass and basket weaving...we added three new fairs to the roster this year, which sent staff to Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts and back home to Maine, yielding almost \$20,000 in sales! An art fair was held at the Belfast Food Co-op where volunteers and shelter guests displayed their artwork for sale. The studios experienced a renaissance of sorts, hosting 103 students throughout the year. Adding heat pumps to the stained glass and art studios allowed crafters to extend their winter operating hours.

I am so grateful for our generous community - for your support for the Summer Lunch Program and



Summer Camperships, for continuing to support our winter coat program, for purchasing window inserts for the Hospitality House, for your support for the computer lab for shelter guests and for all of the wonderful people who donated Christmas presents, back packs and school supplies for children from low-income families. You're such an important part of our work!

On the horizon - a wood bank to assist low-income people with heating costs, solar panels on the roof of our shingle mill, increased production in our shingle mill, continued attention to the buildings in Orland, and the Emmaus Homeless Shelter, as well as opportunities for volunteers to reach into surrounding towns to assist with home repairs.

As we move toward H.O.M.E.'s 50th anniversary next year, we do so hopeful and grounded in our work. Guided by one of H.O.M.E.'s early leaders Bonnie Williams, who, when I first came to H.O.M.E. fourteen years ago, with no money, no shelter and no education, encouraged Lucy to take a chance on me,

"Can we hire her for a couple of days a week, give her a chance?"

Let us all look to 2019 and beyond, mindful of taking risks and giving chances... mindful of the power that comes with having access to food, shelter and community...

With Gratitude, Tracey Hair, Executive Director

Bargain Barn

The Bargain Barn entered our second year of operation with enthusiasm and we've been rewarded with another successful year. We managed to raise \$29,564.04 to support the community and have again provided people in need with vouchers for goods in the amount of \$568.50. We continue to move along, always looking for ways to improve how we run the store.

Over the past year we have seen a marked increase in the number of regular customers. There are many people who come in once or even twice a week now. Some come just to shop, but most enjoy hanging out for a while and chatting with friends and staff. The Bargain Barn has become a real gathering point for the local community and we welcome the company.

Our truck continues to be a real asset to the store. We have put it to good use picking up donations of furniture and goods as well as assisting people who are moving out of our shelters. Other improvements this year have been the addition of our own phone line (207.469.3102) and new, much better, racks for our clothing. We also rearranged the storage space in the back to make everything more accessible, so the store is looking nice these days. An increase in our advertising budget is also planned, so hopefully this will help to bring even more people into the store.

The coming year is looking to shape up well. We have great staff and wonderful volunteers, both of which are greatly appreciated. We will continue to do our best to provide income for H.O.M.E.'s activities and resources to the community, both at H.O.M.E. and at large. Thank you everyone for your support. Come in and visit us sometime!

Josh Prochaska, Bargain Barn Manager
Roxanne Poulin, Assistant Manager

Sawmill

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." –Margaret Mead

Clint, Eric and Mike are at the helm of H.O.M.E.'s Sawmill and Shingle Mills. In addition to running the mills, the crew works to harvest more than 40 cord of firewood annually in order to keep our buildings and shelters warm. Maine is known for its picturesque summers, but for residents the winters are infamous. Maine continues to linger in an economic recession. With some of the Nation's highest electricity prices, coupled with grueling winters, residents need additional home heating support when fuel and funds run short.

This year, H.O.M.E.'s wood crew and management have explored starting a Wood Bank. We have the land and we have the equipment. Imagine H.O.M.E.'s food pantry and replace the food with firewood and you have a Wood Bank. Like our food pantry, our wood bank will serve to help people by supplying firewood to people in need who are otherwise ineligible or without access to supports from other programs. We intend to start with a Single-Allotment Wood Bank that will supply a specific amount of cord wood to act as a supplementary heating source for those in need.

Stay tuned for updates on this exciting project... we will need volunteers and donations of hardwood.

Clint Clagget, Eric Snow and Mike Pierce

Learning Center

The Learning Center continues to offer classes to the general community and for residents in our homeless shelters. Classes range from Health Literacy to basket weaving, pottery and creative arts. Our new knitting class has been popular this spring and teacher Lisa Tenney is eager to continue to guide people through the learning process. The Learning Center currently is focusing on organizing primarily crafting classes and hosting other types of classes by providing space for the community to use. In addition to this if community members or residents come with specific educational needs H.O.M.E. staff work with them one-on-one to connect them with educational opportunities or tutors in areas such as math and writing. The new computer lab has been a great success for our programs and allows a low barrier platform for people to access the web as well as develop the ability to use a computer at their own pace through practice. Shelter and administrative staff are always happy to help guide people who may not know how to use the computer when they first enter the lab.

Rosalani Moore, Assistant Director



Bargain Barn Manager, Josh Prochaska and longtime volunteer, Barbara Horgan, happy to assist you with your shopping needs!

Maintenance

The maintenance department is always busy with so many buildings to maintain both on campus and off. Some of the more major projects this year included installing a countertop and assisting with the installation of the electrical in the Millvale build that was finished and sold last year. Transfer switches were installed for heat on the campus. Four permanent generators and two portable generators were purchased and installed near the shelters and main buildings to enable the heat to continue working in case of power outages. The Market Stand was re-piped and heat was piped into the small greenhouse located there.

I continue to work on solving heating and electrical issues in our older buildings while keeping up with the smaller, non-emergency but still important issues that usually crop up when you are in charge of the upkeep of so many buildings.

Jayne Ream, Maintenance Supervisor

Market Stand

In 2018 the Goodness Sake Food Pantry was able to supply a food box to 707 families that fed 1,535 individuals. The Soup Kitchen served 6,052 meals. Our Thanksgiving food boxes totaled 50 with the Emmaus Shelter in Ellsworth supplying 82 families themselves. The Emmaus Shelter also provided 112 Christmas Food boxes. The Market Stand hosted Christmas Dinner to 28 people. Our first ever Empty Bowl fundraiser resulted in 52 people attending and enjoying some live music and received a bowl created at H.O.M.E. and filled with delicious soup. The Easter Party in 2018 was run by our Finance Director, Mary Mahan and was attended by 48 children who enjoyed meeting the Easter Bunny and playing games. Each child left with an Easter basket filled with candy and toys. The Market Stand crew looks forward to hosting more events this year.

Maureen Hayden, Market Stand Manager
Twila Green, Head Cook and Bottle Washer
Bill O'Donnell, Margaret Gilley, Volunteers

Garden/Greenhouse

Our "green" plans for the year include: utilizing all of the growing space in both of our organic gardens, better weed suppression, especially in a major section of the "new" garden, increased vegetable and flower yield and working with the daycare children to help them plant and maintain a small garden space.

We want to increase our flower sales (bouquets) this season and feel we can accomplish this partly through wooden display stands made by Jim, an accomplished carpenter and friend. We would grow more "exotic" flowers such as gladiolas, dahlias and sunflowers.

We hope to revive our butterfly garden primarily to stop the alarming decline in population of the remarkable Monarch butterfly but also as a teaching tool. We want to involve the children in a pumpkin patch near the butterfly garden and plant zinnias among the butterfly friendly plants. We're on the lookout for a new or used rototiller which we desperately need. All in all, Lisa and I are excited about a new growing season.

Millie Grimes



Millie Grimes and Lisa Tenney keep our gardens blooming!



Volunteers helping decorate wreaths to ship during the holiday season

Special Programs

Wreath Season: H.O.M.E.'s 2018 wreath season made a small profit this year to be put towards the heating fund for the shelters. There were 960 wreaths and 98 centerpieces ordered and shipped. More than 1200 wreaths were sold thanks to additional sales from the Gift Shop, craft fairs and the farmers' markets as well as over 110 centerpieces. Volunteers logged more than 300 hours to get us through the season. We bought wreaths from six local wreath makers and they supplied us with beautiful product to decorate and sell.

Backpack: H.O.M.E.'s backpack program has excelled thanks to wonderful donations from inspiring area folks. H.O.M.E. was able to supply 67 packs filled with supplies to area school age children. This included 20 high school students, 24 middle school students, 17 elementary school children and 6 children who were entering kindergarten or pre-k. Thanks to a drive on Facebook from a long-time volunteer, 34 LL Bean backpacks were donated and distributed to the high school and middle school students who did not receive one last year. The Facebook drive also resulted in donations of supplies for the backpacks. Forty-eight backpacks and supply sets were donated by the Witham Family Foundation. Their support of multiple programs here at H.O.M.E. is so welcome and appreciated. The supplies for the backpacks were completed thanks to a donation from Trinity Episcopal Church in Castine. Trinity is a major supporter of all programs that involve the children and their dedication to helping the children at H.O.M.E. makes us appreciative beyond words.

Resource Room: H.O.M.E. has dedicated what used to be called the "small classroom" to storing items that may be needed by shelter residents and people in the community. It has shelves filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, soap, and most any other hygienic item one may need. It contains towels, socks, hats, mittens and clothing of all sizes. It's the perfect place to store supplies for the coat program, Christmas program and backpack program. The mass majority of items are donated to H.O.M.E. Local churches, foundations and charitable community members donate to the Resource Room and it is greatly appreciated. The Resource Room has been of assistance almost daily to either shelter residents, daycare children and local community members. Over 100 individuals were able to utilize the Resource room here at H.O.M.E. in 2018. The Emmaus Shelter in Ellsworth has its own program and they supplied household goods for 75 families and clothing to 556 individuals. We appreciate the effort from our donors in making sure the most basic of necessities is supplied. Current needs are pillows and warm blankets, lip balm and sunscreen.

Christmas Program: 2018 saw H.O.M.E. Inc. distributing gifts to 184 men, women and children who reside in our shelters or our community. The Emmaus Shelter in Ellsworth ran its own program and was able to distribute 306 gifts to area children. Santa made an appearance H.O.M.E.'s Daycare Christmas Party and presented a special gift to each of the over 20 children in attendance. These gifts are made possible by generous donors both near and far and are greatly appreciated by us all.

Julie Ream, Program Coordinator

Daycare

It has been a year of great growth and change here in the daycare. I have an amazing staff that consists of Justine Alley, Denise Bevan, Xzavier Botta and Ashley Worotnik. We also have a young lady named Aesa (Justine's Daughter) that volunteers here a few afternoons a week. Everyone goes above and beyond with the care for the children enrolled here. We have amazing bonds with them and their families. We all are working together as one unit to help these children reach every potential and growth they deserve.

We currently have 19 children enrolled in the daycare. Age ranging from 18 months to age 8. We provide an opportunity for the older children to do their homework following their afternoon snack in a quiet area in our daycare. We assist them if they need help. Every afternoon we go around and say one good thing about our day and talk about why it was good. It is an excellent way to promote communication and patience. Waiting for our friends to speak without interrupting. We also have a Prize Box day every Friday. It is a reward system for the children for making good choices and doing good deeds for their friends. This is something the children look forward to very much. We have seen them grow amazingly with learning about respect, kindness, making good choices and understanding why.

We started a daycare photo album and it is filling quickly. They love flipping through it and laughing with each other. It is a great way for them to develop their friendships.

Over the summer we grew cherry tomatoes and the children loved watering them and watching them grow. They would pull the tomatoes right off the vines and eat them as they were so sweet. This is a project we will definitely do more of with the upcoming summer.

The staff has been continuing our education through Maine Roads to Quality. We have gone well beyond the hours required as we want to keep learning to make sure we can give the best care possible.

Recently our ceiling suffered a massive leak from an upstairs bathroom. We lost furniture, toys, a bookcase and more. The entire floor had to be replaced and new items purchased for the daycare. Trinity Episcopal Church of Castine was beyond gracious enough to collect \$180 in donations to go towards new toys. We were overjoyed with their generosity. We had so much help from a wonderful, amazing group of volunteers from St. Anselm College in New Hampshire. They dove right in cleaning, organizing, doing runs to the dumpster, etc., and all in a snow storm no less. The gentlemen who replaced the floor worked very quickly and with the utmost care. Parents were supportive and understanding of the entire ordeal. We really are very lucky to work in an amazing environment with amazing people. The daycare is just beautiful. The children love the new couch to snuggle on and hear stories. The new floor is so pretty and WATERPROOF.

This coming year we hope to make progress on our playground and grow more vegetables and the children are asking for a "class pet". I am entertaining the idea of a small fish tank for them.

It's been a rewarding year for daycare and we are growing so much in the best ways possible. The children are growing by leaps and bounds. We are very proud to be a part of their lives and helping them grow into amazing young individuals.

Christina Witham, Daycare Director



Craft Store

The annual report for the craft store includes new staff, new paint and a lot of relocating of inventory. Gail Kelley is working at the store two days a week and has been instrumental in a lot of the improvements. Shelves have received much needed paint and student volunteers painted what walls had yet to be touched.

Eunice and Lee are doing a great job keeping the wood stove going strong. Someday I hope to be as good at it as they are.

Sales are just now picking up and there is a rumor that spring is not far away. We have several new crafters who have signed on with us this past year. It is wonderful seeing how creative people are here in Maine. Their additions will be welcomed by our shoppers and those who visit our craft fairs during the holiday season.

The store hours are 10 am-4 pm Monday – Friday and 8 am-4 pm on Saturdays. Please stop in when you are in the area.

Clare McEwen, Craft Store Manager

Stained Glass Shop

In stained glass we have gone through a lot of changes. I am still teaching classes and everyone is welcome to join every Tuesday at 9:00 am.

We are now on the ground floor of the building. There is a new heat pump to keep us warm in the winter and cool in the summer. There will be a ramp installed this coming summer and will be built by the same gentlemen who put in the new door.

Thank you to all the people who helped make this happen.

Roxanne Poulin



St. Anselm College volunteers and H.O.M.E. community member, Hector Vasquez-Cruz, displaying the results from their Stained Glass class.

Living Arts Studio

The Living Arts Studio opened its door in the Spring of 2018 as a place where all kinds of folks could come to explore their creative bent whether it pertained to preventative health issues, art expression, sewing projects, basket making, knitting, or meditation. The door was opened wide to both volunteers, shelter residents, staff and visitors alike.

Participants for the year numbered 103 students and they were encouraged to use their hands to make things for themselves or to sell in the studio or the gift shop. Although Wednesdays were designated as health and knitting days, and Thursdays as art days, folks worked independently on their own projects when the studio was open.

This past year Living Arts hosted “A Class in Clay” for a group of volunteer children, lectures about Chinese Medical theory for two college groups, a workshop about Essential Oils and one about Ear Acupressure. It was part of the “Pathways to Creativity” day that involved all the studios on campus and helped with H.O.M.E.’s first Empty Bowl event.

Julia Demaree



Above, Boston University Alternative Spring Break volunteers spruce up the quilt room of the Craft Store with a new coat of paint. Below, Saint Anselm College student volunteers learn to sew pillows and potholders while listening intently to Sandra’s life advice.



Stitchery

2018 was a good year in stitchery. There is always a need for mending items and this year we saw an increase in sewing machine repair. Jayme from maintenance and I have become a good team working on the machines.

Classes have been held for residents and volunteers throughout the year. The renewed effort into increasing awareness of the stitchery is paying off. The young people are a joy to work with and many have proven to have real talent with a sewing machine. One volunteer student created a pillow and filled it with balsam to send to her mother who has moved away and misses the smell.

Recently, Clare and I have been working on creating a very large quilt. It is quite the project after finishing a very cute quilt covered with images of cats.

Clare is proving to be an adept student and is a pleasure to work with. I am glad to have her assistance because teaching and repairs tend to eat into each others times.

Sandra Potter, Seamstress



Student Volunteers from Boston University Alternative Spring Break program, listen as Julia explains a little about Chinese medicine in the Living Arts Studio.

Pottery

Last craft season went well with strong sales of pottery items from bowls and cups to sculpture and ornaments. The pottery studio was happy to have a number of volunteers come and go throughout the year and add their unique styles to the art which was created. Unfortunately, the studio suffered from some plumbing issues this winter but maintenance is working on resolving the problem and this has created some discussion regarding potential expansion of the studio’s classroom space.

H.O.M.E. had a successful Empty bowls event this February that brought people together throughout our area to hear some beautiful live music by Rural Roots Revival and have a bowl of soup in a handmade bowl. This event was such a success we hope to reproduce it again in the summer months.

Rosalani Moore, Potter

Transitional Housing

All rooms and apartments at Hospitality House, Sister Barbara Hance House and Dedham Transitional Housing are occupied and rents are being paid.

Sister Barbara Hance House had a heat pump installed in a room that has never been heated and this will allow us to rent that room out as transitional housing like the other eight rooms. A resident aide has been hired to spend six hours a day assisting residents with job hunting, apartment hunting, and just ensure the smooth running of the building. This new position will give longtime manager, Brenda, assistance in maintaining the house and establishing a program that assists residents more so than we are able to at the moment. We are bringing the House back to its original purpose of housing those transitioning out of homelessness or jail and giving them a support system to help them navigate to permanent housing.

The Hospitality House is full with great tenants but will need small repairs/maintenance come the spring/summer volunteer seasons.

Dedham Transitional Housing has proved challenging with the snowplowing and we will put our attention on coming up with ideas to lessen the challenge for the plow person and the residents. Thoughts also need to go into the location of the apartments and how far away they are from local stores and services. Residents without vehicles face extra challenges at that locations.

Julie Ream, Program Coordinator

Permanent Housing

In our permanent housing program H.O.M.E. has made great progress towards long term organizational goals over the last year. Last April H.O.M.E. finalized the sale of our house on Patten pond and the new owners are so happy to have been able to purchase the home. They keep in regular contact about the many changes and updates they have made. It was so nice to receive a Christmas card with the couple on their porch!

Last year, H.O.M.E. was the recipient of a grant from the Abbe Pierre Foundation that has provided some funds to support the renovation of the homes we currently own in Dedham, Sedgwick and the one remaining house in Bucksport. The summer was filled with much progress on all of those projects and H.O.M.E. looks forward to completing that work this upcoming season.

H.O.M.E. has finished the new build in Millvale through the dedication of our construction crew and the helpful hands of our generous volunteers. It was such a beautiful and surreal moment after the long process of building when the last fixture was installed and the house was finally deemed complete. Through the help of our realtor, the home was soon sold to a young family looking to start a new life in Bucksport.

In January, H.O.M.E. finalized the sale of one of our houses in Sedgwick to a family that we have been working with for many years. This was really a momentous occasion for both the family and the staff who worked to make this family's dream of homeownership possible. Though it has been far from easy to accomplish, the result of our hard work has been a year of great success and progress in our permanent housing program.

Rosalani Moore, Assistant Director

Volunteer Program

The 2018 volunteer season was very productive. Tracey, Rosa and I along with Jayme compiled a list of needs and assigned projects to the different volunteer groups with the idea of utilizing as much of their expertise as possible. This method of organizing the season worked extremely well and we will be repeating it for the 2019 season.

H.O.M.E.'s 2018 volunteers consisted of 3 college groups, 17 church groups and 4 individuals who spent time here either for an afternoon or an entire week. The time donated was well over 5000 hours. I'm working on creating a system that is better at tracking how many volunteers donate how many hours in what departments.

Our new friend, Maria Simonsen Antonius, came all the way from Denmark to volunteer in North America and chose H.O.M.E. as one of her stops. She spent a couple weeks working with our Wreath decorators and helped us create a very successful wreath season. The wreath season was also blessed with three volunteers working the entire season with a couple of people dropping in for a few hours here and there as well as the mission group from South Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Volunteers worked in four houses that H.O.M.E. is rehabilitating and hopes to sell to low-income families in the area. The new build was finally completed thanks to more than one group and H.O.M.E. was able to successfully sell it to a grateful family. Volunteers assembled playground sets for both the women's shelters, worked on both transitional housing buildings as well as many departments here on campus. And, of course, endless amounts of firewood was split and stacked for the winter season.

Julie Ream,
Volunteer Coordinator



Executive Director, Tracey Hair, with new Sedgwick homeowners, Tammy and Jason.

Shelter Report

In 2018 the shelter department saw some major changes. Mandala Farm no longer operates as an emergency shelter and is now serving as permanent housing under Saint Francis Community. Amy, our primary navigator, went on to different work and we welcomed Karen Botta as our new primary navigator in August. Karen hit the ground running and proved that the Shelter Department is definitely where she belongs. Kathy, who worked in the shelter department being both administrative assistant as well as the manager of the St. Francis Inn women's shelter, retired. Finally, by the end of the year, Julie Ream took on the transitional and rental housing department freeing our shelter staff to concentrate on finding housing for those who come to us for shelter.

Maine Housing has continued to focus on its Housing First and Rapid Rehousing models. These models place emphasis on finding permanent housing for guests as fast as possible and without regard to any preconditions placed on residents. While Maine Housing funding has not fully covered the financial burdens on our system, it has helped us focus on finding permanent, stable housing for many families and individuals.

We sheltered 210 individuals in 2018 with about two-thirds of those having at least one disabling condition. Of those 210 clients, 123 stayed in our Emmaus homeless shelter in Ellsworth with the rest spread over our other three shelters - St. Francis Inn and Sr. Marie House, both shelters for women and children and the Dorr House men's shelter. Nearly 60% (100 of 170 exits) exited from our system into permanent housing!

Thank you to all the people (maintenance staff, construction staff, volunteers and all) who helped with a lot of the work needed in 2018, especially the work on the new playground equipment at the St. Francis Inn and Sr. Marie House.

Gerald Botta, Shelter Administrator
Karen Botta, Primary Navigator



Boston University Alternative Spring Break group for 2019
Photo Credit: Eugene Hirst, Volunteer Master Photographer

Bookkeeping

It has been an incredible year of growth for H.O.M.E. Inc. There has been a lot of teamwork in our department while cross-training each other to ensure adequate coverage. H.O.M.E. has a lot of moving parts and we continue to do our best to keep things running smoothly. We have many reasons to feel supported and encouraged from the community as we have experienced an increase in donors through several events.

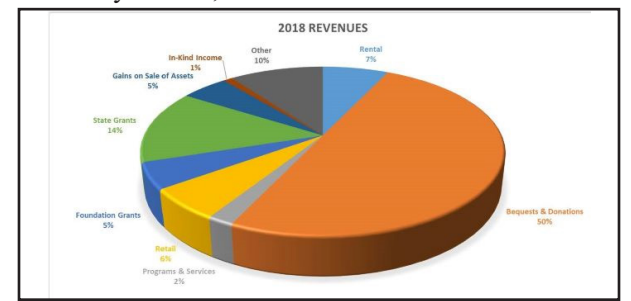
We will be doing an audit for 2018 which is a key part of fundraising. Most philanthropist and foundations are requiring a full audit with the grant application.

This year we are focused on meeting monthly to create and keep the vision and the needs of H.O.M.E.'s future in place.

As we progress in 2019 the focus on awareness continues. H.O.M.E.'s state grants account for only 14% of our income. Below is the graph showing where other revenues are received. The needs of the shelter are great and the community and committed volunteers have helped us to continue to provide shelter, change lives and create a journey of hope. We will, with the help of so many dedicated donors, continue to house and work to eliminate homelessness.

I am so fortunate to have such a great staff in my department and we continue to advance our knowledge-base in order to better our skills with the finances. Positive thinking is a great tool in life. Take the time to say hello to others and to be grateful for everything we have in our lives. Kindness makes a difference.

Mary Mahan, Finance Director



Emmaus

H.O.M.E. continues to be a member organization of Emmaus International which helps connect staff to the big picture of poverty around the world and creates bonds with other member organizations fighting for a fairer world. Our thrift store manager, Joshua Prochaska has had the opportunity to support Emmaus International through holding a spot on their board for a number of years and will soon end his term. Denise Linscott has been H.O.M.E.'s delegate and done a great job connecting with the Emmaus movement and providing an enthusiastic example to our staff and community members. Unfortunately, Denise had to step down as the delegate early in 2019 as she had to move away. Xzavier Botta, from our Daycare department, will be taking over where Denise left off and H.O.M.E. is happy that he is also so enthusiastic about the work. Rosalani Moore currently holds the position of National Delegate representing H.O.M.E. as well as St. Francis Community at certain meetings for the region.

H.O.M.E.'s solidarity sale went well last year and we plan to do even better this year. Groups around the world all contribute to the solidarity fund at least once a year through yard sale or sales in their thrift department or income generating activity. These funds go to Emmaus International's solidarity program. Through Emmaus International's solidarity program, H.O.M.E. has been able to apply for assistance this year to purchase and install solar panels. If the solar panel proposal is funded, this energy production will offset H.O.M.E.'s overall electrical costs and would be very helpful to reduce the costs of running the organization. In the past, the Solidarity fund has helped support H.O.M.E. buy a box truck for our thrift store.

Last fall, Denise, along with Twila Greene, Roxanne Poulin, and Lisa Tenney were able to participate in an Emmaus International event in Geneva, Switzerland. They were encouraged to participate in many workshops hosted by other member groups from around the world and be a voice for people struggling with poverty through participating in a march outside through the streets. It was an amazing opportunity for empowerment.

Rosalani Moore, National Delegate

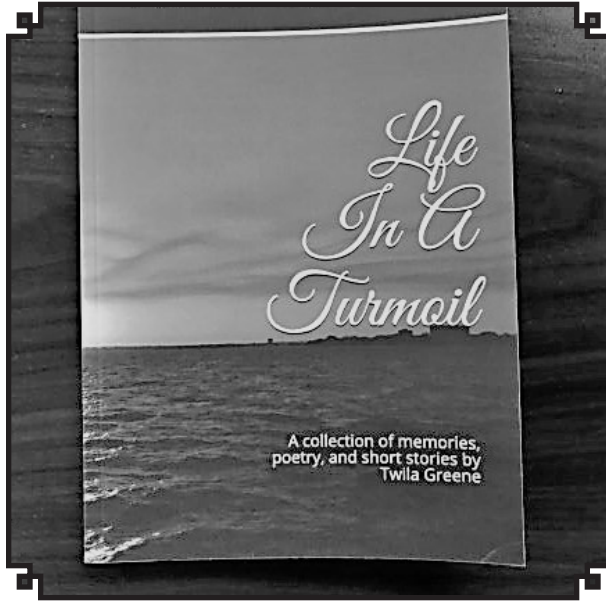
H.O.M.E. Employee Turned Published Author

By Julie Ream

If you are a regular reader of This Time, you have probably read many a writing by Twila Green. When I am looking for material to be put into each edition, I always reach out to Twila for a little tidbit to publish.

Now, with the help of one of her sons, her writings are published in a book entitled "Life in a Turmoil". This collection of memories, poetry and short stories, all written by Twila over the years, will give you a peek into pieces of her life that may have affected us all in similar ways.

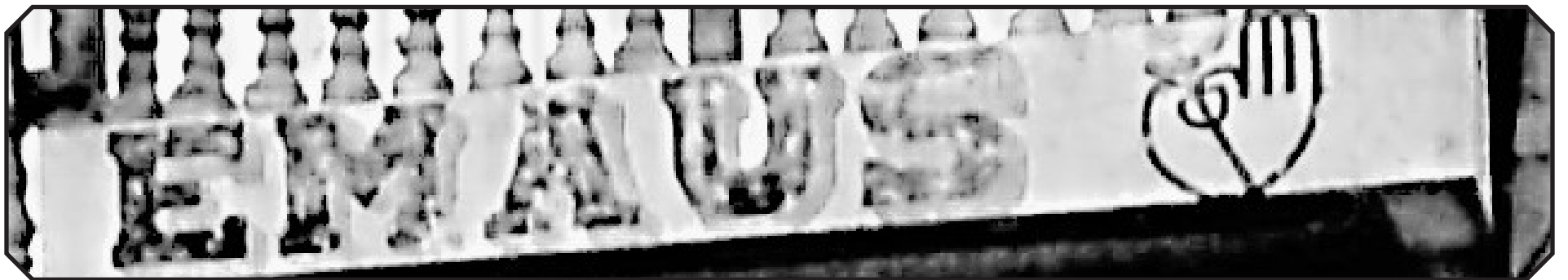
From despair to joy, Twila chooses to express herself in writing that may make you pause and reflect on your own feelings. Twila's book, "Life in a Turmoil" is available at the H.O.M.E. Craft Store and on Amazon. Order your copy today and help support one of H.O.M.E.'s employees who has worked for years helping others even when her own life was in a turmoil.



"We must talk about poverty, because people insulated by their own comfort lose sight of it."
-Dorothy Day

The Spirit of H.O.M.E. Travels with Others

By Julie Ream



Above, Emaus sign from San Juan Comalapa Guatemala. Below, Lovely letter from a friend of H.O.M.E., Right, Erskine Academy students, chaperones and deserving family pose in front of the home they built.

Dear Sr Lucy & Rosa,

Sixteen of us (six being adult chaperones) had a great trip. Thought you might be interested in some of my photos, picked up today. I'll try to send Rosa some photos on Erskine Academy FB. Channel 6 Portland plans to air the story of the home building on "207".

Hope this finds you both well and anticipating Spring.

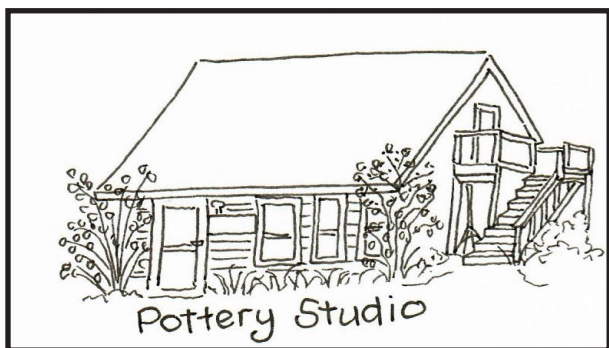
Heidi Chadbourne

This note was received by H.O.M.E. Assistant Director, Rosalani Moore. She was very pleased to receive it from Heidi Chadbourne and to learn of her trip with the American Field Service (AFS) group from Erskine Academy in China, Maine. AFS promotes intercultural learning through worldwide exchange programs. On a local level, AFS takes on more practical functions such as fundraising activities to cover chapter expenses and to provide some assistance for AFS students when possible. The student chapter may also organize a short-term exchange (STE) between U.S. communities for a small group of students who might not otherwise have the opportunity.

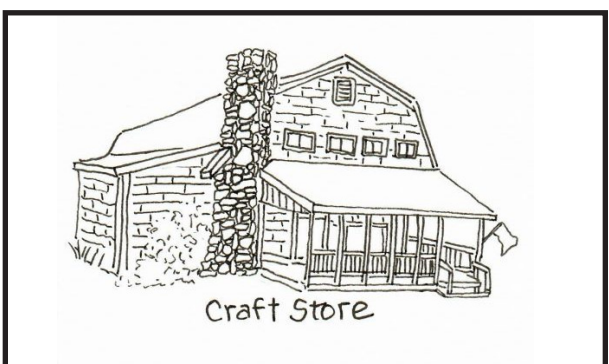
Heidi traveled with a H.O.M.E. group to Emaus Comalapa, Guatemala years ago and Rosa is happy that H.O.M.E.'s trip inspired Heidi to return with others to help. The AFS group, led by Erskine Academy Spanish Instructor and Department Chair, Sonia Stevenson, helped build a home for a local family. They also spent time learning about the colorful Guatemalan culture and what Emmaus is doing in the area.



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



Drawings by Janis Behm



visit ...

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

University of Delaware Alternative Break Students Speak About their Week at H.O.M.E.

For many college students, Spring Break means heading to someplace warm and doing a lot of things we hope our mother's never find out about. The parents of these students should have their heads held up high for raising such aware, proactive and kind people. The University of Delaware Alternative Breaks programs has sent a group of students each spring break for the last five years. These kids bring a lot of joy to our campus and their dedication to helping out is something we can all admire. Here are a some thoughts from a few students who came to H.O.M.E. in 2019.

Dear Julie,

I don't even have words to express how much this entire experience has meant to me. First off, I just wanted to say thank you so much for inviting us into H.O.M.E. This truly has been such an eye-opening and life-changing experience. It has shifted my perspective on so many aspects of people living in poverty. You helped make the transition from University of Delaware to H.O.M.E. so effortless and I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done for us in the short time and more importantly for H.O.M.E. You have been such an inspiration and motivation for both myself and the rest of the group.

I think I learned more about poverty and homelessness just by communicating with the community members. Members of H.O.M.E. are all truly such incredible, hardworking, motivating, inspiring people that now motivate me every day. It has been so special being able to create these amazing relationships with not only you but so many people I would have otherwise never interacted with. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this incredible opportunity and for inviting 20 rowdy college students into your H.O.M.E. This entire trip has really changed my mindset on how I'm going to act and think during school. I hope you tell Jayme how incredible he is as well.

Julie, your story has motivated me and seeing just how committed everyone is, is so truly special. You are an incredible person and thank you again, SO MUCH, for all the incredible things you did for us. I have so,

so, so much love for you and H.O.M.E.

Love, Lucy Qi, UDaB 2019
P.S. Annabelle is the best

H.O.M.E. is a completely different world from where we live in Delaware. The community members here have taught us valuable lessons about what truly matters in life. During my time at H.O.M.E., I have tried to talk to as many new people as I can. One conversation I will never forget was with Sandra in the Stitchery. Sandra taught us how to use the sewing machines while she shared her life experiences. She, along with everyone here, does not stress over material possessions. Sandra worked hard her entire life to support her family, even when all they had was each other. It's so easy to get caught up in the unnecessary living back on the UD campus. Being at H.O.M.E. has reminded me that the most important things are the relationships we build with one another and how we fight through adversity. I admire the members of H.O.M.E. for their unbreakable sense of community and family. With these values in mind, I believe any circumstances can be overcome and the capability to live a full life of love is within reach.

Andrew Ames, UDaB 2019

Dear Julie,

Thank you so much for everything this week. We really appreciate all the hard work you put in to making our experience here the best it could be. We really loved getting to know the people that make H.O.M.E. such an incredible organization. Also, thank you for sharing your experiences with us and allowing us to get to know you. We will not forget our time here and I sincerely hope to have the opportunity to come back in the future.

Best,
Casey Moore, UDaB 2019
P.S. Thanks for always bringing Annabelle around!

During our time here at H.O.M.E. (at least so far) we've had numerous opportunities to learn from community members as well as people from H.O.M.E., making this unlike any service trip I have done before.

While I've mainly been moving or splitting wood with Clint, I also really enjoyed getting to listen to Sandra's stories and advice that she so willingly gives. As the week went on and I got to know more people, I really loved working with Jayme at the older house by the women's shelter as well as bonding over moving tons of wood; then splitting and moving more.

Thank you for all that we are able to do and all that you provide.

Kendra Knapp, UDaB 2019

During my time here at H.O.M.E. my favorite memory has been spending the day with Sandra. In the stitchery, I quickly realized how a seemingly small task can be so tedious and time consuming. Sandra allowed each of us to create our own wall hanging. Through her guidance and teaching of sewing, each person in our group came to greatly enjoy Sandra's company. By the end of our day, Sandra had shared such wisdom with our group. She highlighted the importance of family and community, reminding us how insignificant possessions are in this life. There's no place like H.O.M.E.

Caitie Wisniewski, UDaB 2019

After spending the week at H.O.M.E., I can confidently say that this is where the heart is. The community members that I've had the pleasure of spending time with have taught me more than any book ever has. Through the community members, I've learned strength, resilience and the true meaning of what a community can accomplish when it comes together. Together, we chopped and moved logs, picked up trash around campus, stuffed Easter baskets and folded and stuffed envelopes for the appeal. (I will now appreciate every piece of mail that I receive). Every community member, as well as our UDaB program members have opened our hearts and minds up to each other in ways I never thought possible! Thank you for all of the wisdom, knowledge and laughs. I can only hope that we've impacted you in the same ways that you've impacted us.

Carina Chlarella, UDaB 2019



University of Delaware Alternative Break Students clockwise starting at the left:
-working on wall hangings in stitchery
-cleaning up the large greenhouse
-stacking firewood
-displaying the new garden signs they created
-sitting back and enjoying the fact that they finished stuffing envelopes for the spring appeal



Snapshot 2018-2019

More than 5000 hours of volunteer labor were donated.

1200 wreaths and 95 Centerpieces were shipped around the country.

67 Back Packs filled with school supplies were distributed

Household goods were provided for 175 families and clothing was provided to 556 individuals.

The Learning Center Christmas program distributed gifts to 184 men, women and children.

The Emmaus Homeless Shelter Christmas gift program distributed 306 gifts to area children.

12 seniors participated in the Senior Farm share program

Heat assistance and firewood was provided for four families

20 units of transitional housing were provided during the year.

Up to 53 individuals were provided shelter on any given night.

19 children were enrolled in day care and day care subsidies were provided for 5 children

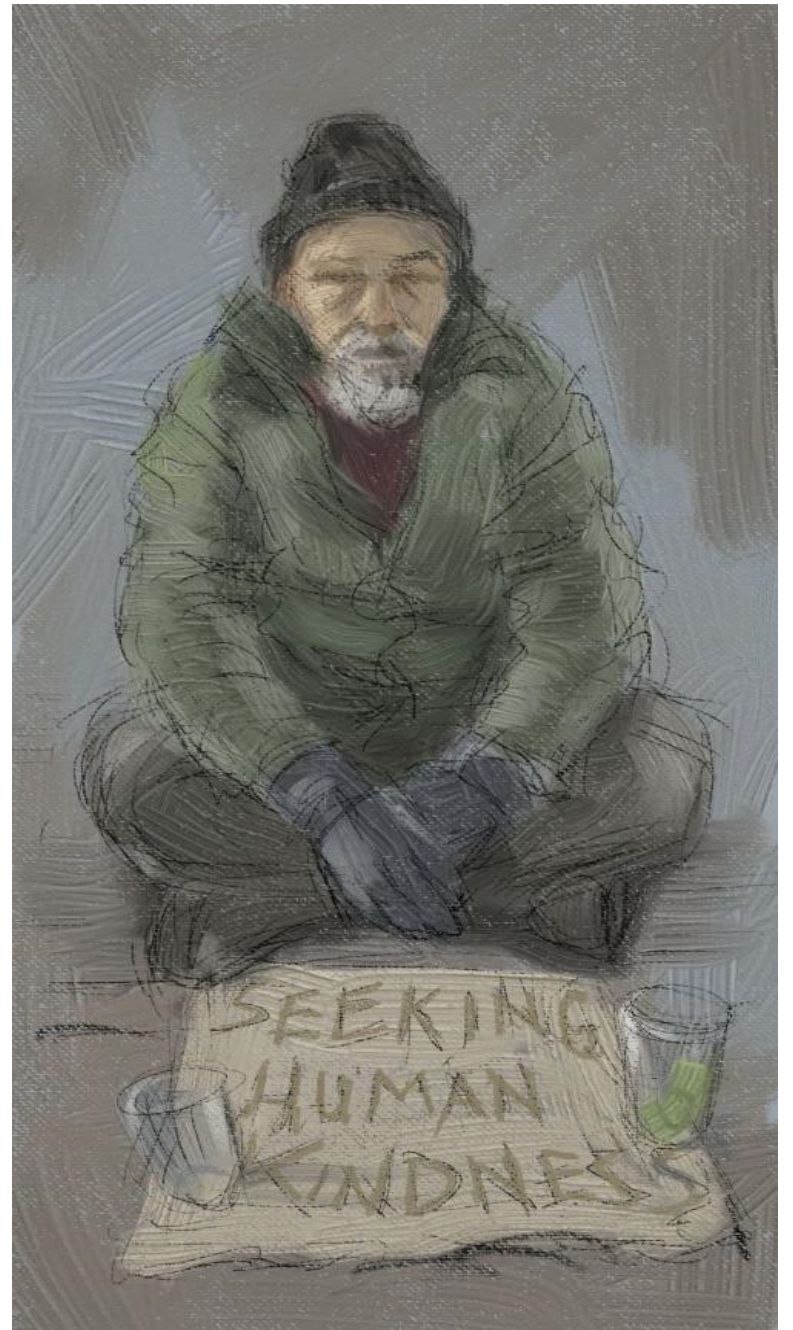
Staff, residents and volunteers participated in eight Holiday craft fairs throughout New England.

Food boxes were distributed to 707 families reaching 1,535 individuals. The Soup Kitchen served 6,052 meals.

Goodness Sake Food Pantry provided 50 Thanksgiving Food Boxes. The Emmaus Homeless Shelter food pantry provided 82 Thanksgiving Food Boxes and 112 Christmas Food boxes

Nearly 250 community residents obtained or maintained permanent housing, or improved their existing housing

Nearly 110 community artists, shelter residents took part in studio workshops, exhibitions and one-on-one instruction in Art, Pottery and Stained Glass.



Artwork by Julius Norman

Guatemala Trip

H.O.M.E. is busy 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.



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

You can help by:

Joining us on the trip

Helping us raise \$1000 for corn

Donating money for weavings

Collecting shoes and school supplies



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

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

“NEVER BE LIMITED BY OTHER PEOPLE’S LIMITED IMAGINATIONS.”

—DR. MAE JEMISON, FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN FEMALE ASTRONAUT

Come 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. Come and bring your friends too! We have accommodations for individuals or groups. We would love to see you!

If you are interested, call us at 207.469.7961

Reflections Reflections

We publish below the beautiful poem "Home" by Warsan Shire, a young British woman of Somali origin

No one leaves home unless
home is the mouth of a shark
you only run for the border
when you see the whole city running as well
your neighbors running faster than you
breath bloody in their throats
the boy you went to school with
who kissed you dizzy behind the old tin factory
is holding a gun bigger than his body
you only leave home
when home won't let you stay.
no one leaves home unless home chases you
fire under feet
hot blood in your belly
it's not something you ever thought of doing
until the blade burnt threats into
your neck
and even then you carried the anthem under
your breath
only tearing up your passport in an airport toilets
sobbing as each mouthful of paper
made it clear that you wouldn't be going back.
you have to understand,
that no one puts their children in a boat
unless the water is safer than the land
no one burns their palms
under trains
beneath carriages
no one spends days and nights in the stomach of a truck
feeding on newspaper unless the miles travelled
means something more than journey.
no one crawls under fences
no one wants to be beaten
pitied
no one chooses refugee camps
or strip searches where your
body is left aching
or prison,
because prison is safer
than a city of fire
and one prison guard
in the night
is better than a truckload
of men who look like your father
no one could take it
no one could stomach it
no one skin would be tough enough
go home blacks

refugees
dirty immigrants
asylum seekers
sucking our country dry
niggers with their hands out
they smell strange
savagely
messed up their country and now they want
to mess ours up
how do the words
the dirty looks
roll off your backs
maybe because the blow is softer
than a limb torn off
or the words are more tender
than fourteen men between
your legs
or the insults are easier
to swallow
than rubble
than bone
than your child body
in pieces.
I want to go home,
but home is the mouth of a shark
home is the barrel of the gun
and no one would leave home
unless home chased you to the shore
unless home told you
to quicken your legs
leave your clothes behind
crawl through the desert
wade through the oceans
drown
save
be hunger
beg
forget pride
your survival is more important
No one leaves home until home is a sweaty voice in your
ear
saying-
leave,
run away from me now
I don't know what I've become
but I know that anywhere
is safer than here.

Fun with Astrology

...When the Aliens have Landed

Aries: I gotta get on that ship!

Taurus: I suspect they're friendly. *shrug* Otherwise we'd be dead.

Gemini: I wonder if they need an agent.

Cancer: Think of the collectibles they must have!

Leo: I'm sure they'll listen to reason.

Virgo: I'll bet they're all slimy and gross!

Libra: Hmm...Likely, they are friendly. Why else would they travel so far to get here? Of course, they could be desperate for our resources and may have no need for us.

Scorpio: They probably already have spies among us.

Sagittarius: I wanna go to their planet!

Capricorn: It's a hoax.

Aquarius: I'd better go change into my leisure suit.

Pisces: *shrug* They've always been here and I've seen them.



Julia and Jayme enjoying the "best seat in the house" at a Market Stand gathering. Personally, I don't think I'd enjoy sitting on a radiator.

Handle Life Well?

By Mary Mahan

I can't say life has been easy for me. But here I am. I have had to make some tough choices.

Raising children is a challenge in itself but adding physical and mental disabilities in the mix it can get pretty overwhelming.

I'm remembering a statement that if I heard it once, I heard it a thousand times. "God won't give you more than you can handle." Well ok, that's true but it did not come without a lot of heart aches, pain and fear.

I have pushed through and with perseverance I have a great outlook on my life and lots of support from others. I am proud of all I have accomplished; as a wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

Strength has kept me going, faith allows me to believe and love conquers all.

Be kind to one another, you may just make someone's day brighter.

Glimpses of Spring

by Millie Grimes

A song by Greg Brown has these words in the refrain – "A spring wind blew my list of things to do away" and this from an older song by the Carter Family – "In this spring of late snow, rain and cold, we can take heart from these words." Spring May yet come! We've certainly had enough wind!

I've seen glimpses of spring in the very small shoots of peony and daylily in a senior housing unit in Belfast, in my cat chewing on our houseplants because he can't find any green grass outside yet, in the tomato and zinnia seedlings in our greenhouse, in the lone robin in our yard who didn't fly south, in the Easter party for the children being planned here at H.O.M.E., and in my dreams of the perfect garden this year. A wider and wilder exploration of the forest and meadows, (if the snow is gone), and my favorite, walking along the shore of the lakes and especially the ever-changing ocean which we are lucky enough to have all around us here, would certainly lift our spirits.

So forget about those chores and blues and go out and discover that glorious spring which awaits you. It will rejuvenate you!

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Volunteer Mascot, Annabelle the English Bulldog, seems to be seriously considering the directions she is getting from H.O.M.E. Executive Director, Tracey Hair.



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