

a publication of H.O.M.E. Inc., Orland, Maine - 04472

## The Little Mandala Hut

By Joshua Prochaska

There are many spiritual symbols which people use to represent their connection, belief, or identity to the world around them. One such of these symbols is the Mandala, which in Hinduism and Buddhism represents the cosmos or universe itself. In practice, the Mandala is used to denote a sacred place or a point of meditation and reflection. The Mandala has been used as a symbol for the action and rhythm of the universe since ancient times and has appeared all throughout history.

In the mid 70's, a young person came to stay at St. Francis Community, with which HOME shares its work and origins. At the time, St. Francis was still becoming established and one of the projects the community wanted to pursue was the construction of a new house. Drawing from the ideas of this young person, they decided that the Mandala would be a perfect inspiration for the project. The community decided together that they would construct an octagonal hut style building with a large central space surrounded by smaller rooms, leaving the design to David Wilson, a friend of the community.

Construction was carried out slowly, but deliberately, since the community had yet to become connected to the electrical grid. All of the work was done with hand tools. The lumber for the project mostly came from Lucy's brother Tony's mill, being cut either by hand or with chainsaws. The features of the household were crafted in a way as to respect the natural world around them; The door handles, for instance, preserved the natural shape and curve of the branches from which they were hewn.

Toward the end of the construction, St. Francis Community welcomed a new member: Sr. Marie Ahern. Marie loved the idea of the new house and expressed a desire to occupy it. She worked herself to finish the floor in the house, which was salvaged from the remains of



an older building in the town of Bucksport. When the construction was finally finished, Marie moved in. the house was very rustic at first, having no running water or even power until the 80s. Keeping the house warm was a constant chore since it was heated completely by burning wood, but Marie worked hard to maintain a space that was comfortable and welcoming. The doors of the house were never subject to locks. Community events were frequent and joyful, including a weekly community supper at which all were welcome. It was a real place for people to come together.

When Marie fell ill in 2012 she made the hard decision to move away from the little Mandala hut that she loved and into the big farm house, where she

*Sister Marie outside of the Mandala house with others*

remained until she passed the following year. The Mandala hut did not remain vacant long. It was home to a needy family until fall 2016 when it was unfortunately lost in a fire. The hut was demolished, the debris removed and the lot was cleared. The lot remains vacant of all but memories.

Looking out from the window, it seems strange to not see the little hut house. It seems strange not to see people gathering there to share meals and stories. HOME and St Francis are not accustomed to idleness and stagnation; we have decided to rebuild. Pooling our collective resources, we have already begun working with one another to put together a plan. After much deliberation the community has decided that with its aging population what we need most now is housing for the older members of our community. An architect has generously volunteered to create a plan for a small cape style house. All of the preliminary work has been done, now that the ground has softened all that is left to do is dig in and start building, but we need your help.

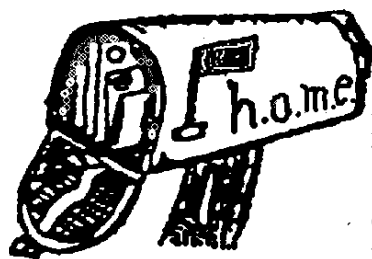
The project will involve many hands and has an estimated budget of 40,000 dollars to complete. Right now we are desperately seeking funding in order to pour the foundation which has an estimated cost of 15,000 dollars. On top of the volunteer labor to do the actual construction, we face the daunting task of raising these funds as quickly as possible. If you are able to help with this cost, I urge you to contact HOME's Assistant Director Rosalani Moore at 207 469 7961 or [rosalanimoore@gmail.com](mailto:rosalanimoore@gmail.com).

We want to have the house closed in by fall of this year, so time is of the essence. We don't want to let the year pass watching out the window at the vacant lot where we once gathered. Please, help us to make this space a home once again.



*The Mandala house after the fire. The fire burned extremely hot and very little of the structure was left in the end*





## Letters

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

## HOME wants to hear from you!

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

**HOME Inc.**  
**PO Box 10**  
**Orland, ME 04472**

Dear Julie,

Thank you so much for letting us have such an amazing week at H.O.M.E. We loved every minute of our stay here. We met so many incredible people who we will all remember forever. This has been such a great experience. Thank you so much for all you did, from helping us turn off alarms to making sure we were dry to help us feel welcomed.

Love,  
Saint Anslem College, SBA 2017

This check for the fuel fund is in thanks for the many years Lucy has led the founding and growth of HOME.

I am 86 years old. My husband is 90. We have followed the newsletter for many years.

God bless Lucy and now the new board who will carry on her work.

Jeanne DeVito

### *This Time*

is published by H. O. M. E. Inc.  
*Part of the World Emmaus Movement*  
Editor: Joshua Prochaska  
Visit our web-site for a digital version of this Newsletter in full color!  
<http://www.homemmausa.org>

Dear Readers,

It's Spring and Easter time, the birds are singing their pretty tune. Time for reflecting on our time and place. H.O.M.E. is surviving and I am woman hear me roar!

God bless,  
Claudia Gilbert

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 HOME Learning Center again this year.

During the tax filing season this year, 91 families were assisted with their federal and state tax returns at HOME during 9 sessions held 11 AM to 5 PM on Thursdays in February, March and April. 74 2016 federal and state tax returns were completed for taxpayers, 5 2015 tax returns and 3 amended returns.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Snyder  
AARP Tax-Aide Senior Coordinator

Dear H.O.M.E.,

We are so thankful for the opportunity to work with you during our Spring Break. We greatly enjoyed getting to know everybody at H.O.M.E. (including Annabelle and Pounce). We look forward to keeping in contact and working with you in the future.

Best,  
Ben and Isabel (Orland Coordinators)  
Boston University Community Service Center  
Alternative Service Break 2017

## H.O.M.E. Inc.

### Board of Directors

Allen Snowman, Chairperson, Bucksport  
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Helen Stummer (Honorary), Metuchen, NJ

Dear Sr. Lucy and Tracey,

You do some much work with others at H.O.M.E. to be of service and improve peoples' lives! I wish there was a scholarship fund we could contribute to to help a high school graduate achieve the dream of going to college.

Diana and John Carroll

Dearest Lucy (and anyone else that remembers us - Femke? Tracey?),

We just wanted to send you love and greetings from the UK at Christmas. Such turmoil, the UK votes to leave the EU - disaster and the USA votes for Donald Trump - We both keep thinking we will wake up soon.

We both continue with our jobs in the local theatre, it pays our bills and keeps a roof over our heads as we nudge towards retirement with lots of travel planned then. We are hoping to come to the USA again in 2018 and would love to visit you all if we are able. Please let us know your news.

We check the website from time to time.

With love and prayers from us both,  
Jane and Paul Bain

## h.o.m.e. / Emmaus Spring Appeal 2017



"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. - Matthew 25:35*

Dear Friends,

A woman who lives in the Tenements in Newark, NJ once said, "I'm too blessed to be stressed." She is a woman of great faith and a friend of ours. She wrote a book about her work in the city and it affected me when I read it – the hopelessness of so many lives, so many lives similar to the lives of people in Maine. Education, healthcare, housing and employment are missing in their lives. What a difference it would make if education were free, if healthcare were free. People could contribute if they had housing and work and were free of those worries.

We try to find solutions to some of these problems through our work. Our Learning Center provides education and our emergency shelters and permanent housing program, responds to the need for housing. Our food bank and soup kitchen addresses the need for community as well as food and our mills, garage and thrift stores offer work.

My mother gave me a very old cook book, it had a quote at the beginning of each chapter. One of the quotes read, "people are like the fish in the sea, the big ones eat the little ones" As more and more services are taken from those in need, it is left to us to respond. By donating to H.O.M.E today, you join us in this response. Please give if you can.

With gratitude,

*Lucy Poulin*

Lucy Poulin, Founder

*J Hair*

Tracey Hair, Executive Director

# Stories from Lucy

## Hard Work

Once I worked at Keyes Fibre Co. packing plates on the 12-6 shift. There were no breaks, falling asleep standing there was easy and often women near me helped me to stay awake. Since I got out at 6am, I went over to mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary church in Fairfield. It was a privilege to go to mass. Then I went to the chicken factory in Waterville and cut the tail out of the chickens as they went by at eye level. This was tiring, but my family was out of money and it helped. I quit this after three months and worked only at the paper mill and at our farm. Soon we were building a new barn and starting a riding school. It all worked out, I was free to become a sister. I had been thinking a lot about it for a long time.

I went to mass as often as I was able between work here and there. It was the center of my life. It was there that Our Lady Mary smiled at me. I never forgot it. It was very powerful for me. I tried to pray all day and during work. In these years, I had a nice boyfriend. He was kind to me and I enjoyed him, but still I went to the sisters. One time at mass at the holy communion I was pledged in Heaven. These things helped me to become a good person, but I am still struggling with selfishness and pride.

When Our Lady appeared in Egypt at the top of the cathedral, she cured people and one of them was a blind man. He was a Muslim and he was quite shocked and grateful. "I am a Muslim" he said, "and she cured me".

We had mass every day at the community. It was a great privilege, but at that time, a great many religious men and women were leaving their religious life. Our priest left. I saved the books he used and we continued with prayers. People continued to come and a great many had been homeless. Some stayed to help and never left.

## Going to the dump with Larry

Saturdays, my nephew Larry and I always had the work of filling up the truck with junk and taking it to the large open dumps in Fairfield. My mother cleaned at the farm once a week.

One Saturday, we were at the dump unloading when a young man from another truck which was surrounded by a large family working together came over. That young man said he could show us how to collect rags and things to make more money. He was trying to help us. He had a beautiful face. I never forgot this.



## Mother

We had no electricity or running water at the farm. My mother insisted she was to live with me. I was the poorest of her 11 children. She was bed ridden and so we had electricity put in and a telephone- it also meant we could have running water. Quite a change for us, also more visitors. We prepared a room, new paint, family photos, etc. and soon discovered we had to visit her. So we moved her to the center of the house. She loved it. We always met to decide what work we would do. She was impatient with the meetings.

When my brother gave her two little kittens, we asked what she was to name them. She did not tell us for several days. Finally, she said call them "Hem and Haw". We got this message. Her bed was near a window and when she saw a little red hen got by she said "Go get that one and I will pluck it for supper". I explained "Where would we get our eggs if we ate our hens. She gave that idea up.

## The Farm

To buy the land that became the farm at St. Francis, we needed help. My mother, who was very poor, had saved \$500. It was the most she had ever saved. She gave it to me to help buy the land that would become the farm at St. Francis.

The owner of the land, Mrs. Perkins, self-mortgaged it for us and in 15 years we had paid for it. My sister Joyce and her husband also lent us money so we could buy it. Then Sr. Barbara and I moved into the one little cabin that was there. We needed to insulate it. We were ready.

## Teddy

One day, while I was yarding out wood with Teddy, I fell down. He immediately stopped and turned around and looked at me to see if I was alright. What beautiful caring eyes he had. I never forgot that. When he died a few years later, we buried him in the pasture. Emma, a young mare, a stablemate stood over his grave for three days. Sometimes when we hauled out fire wood 4' length, we stock it on the sleigh and Teddy pulled it. The farm woods were slippery so coming downhill it was a lot of weight to hold back, but Teddy did what skiers do. He went left to right to so its sleigh edge caught some of the weight. What a smart friend.

## It's a Palace

We tried to build a house for a very poor family in a small town near us. Even board members like Glen Larson came to work there. It was a bit of a distance from us, so it took a bit longer to get there so progress was slow. The family had five children, so it was large enough for all of them. It was not perfect, even I worked on it. When it was close to being complete, the mother of the family came to see it. "it is a palace" she said. I never forgot her gratitude. The work of many hands, a home for a family.

## Gratitude

It is impossible to measure the number of people who have made H.O.M.E. and St. Francis possible. It is hundreds of people over 47 years who have come to help build and make possible all that is here to help the people have a small chance at life. A few have left unhappy, but most loved it and returned or wrote beautiful letters to us.

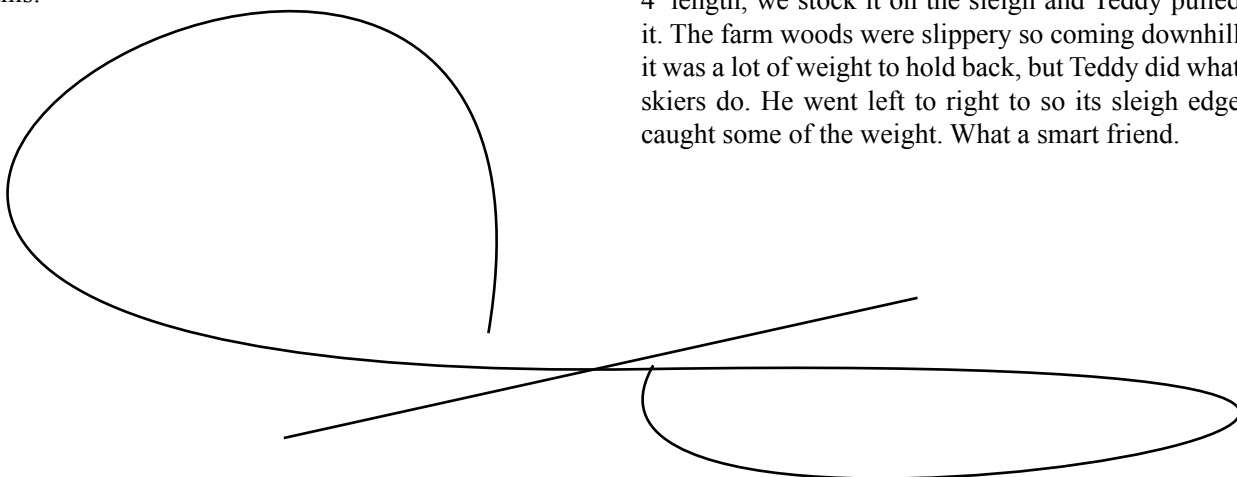
## Jimmy

Iva Morrison with Cathy Tracy, went to pick up Jimmy from the sheriff of Washington County. He was the son of my nephew. Neither he nor his wife were able to care for him at that time. I was very conflicted because I was so busy with work at H.O.M.E. and at the farm I did not know how I was to care for a baby. I prayed a great deal about this. One night, my room filled with a great white light. It woke me up, I did not know who it was, but I was sure I was meant to care for Jimmy. Ellen was a great help and Millie came out one day a week so he was held and read to and was never left alone. He is now 30. I love him. Jimmy has Asperger's and fetal alcohol syndrome.

## Three black Cats

One night, I was awakened by the black cats. They were very urgent, pawing and crying. I went downstairs to see what was wrong. A piece of firewood had rolled out of the stove and was burning and smoking. I picked it up and closed the stove. While I did this, the cats stood or sat and watched me. I had never known cats to do this. The three were part of one family having been born at the farm.

Over the years, many cats have been left at the farm. We just discover them, we have to send them for shots and family planning. One cat lived outside last winter. We could not get him inside til spring. It upsets me that someone would leave a cat out.





# The h.o.m.e. Craft Store Catalogue

**H.O.M.E. CRAFT STORE**  
 PO Box 10, Orland ME 04472  
 phone: (207) 469-7961 fax: (207) 469-1023  
**Visa, Discover, Master card accepted**  
 www.homemmausa.org

## SHIPPING

Shipping costs may vary,  
 please contact us  
 at 207.469.7961 before  
 sending your order.

## FRAGRANT BALSAM FIR PILLOWS

Large 6½" sq. (1 lb)..... \$16.00  
 Small 3½" sq. (4 oz.) ..... \$ 8.00  
*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	

*The following available in small sizes only:*

Lobster	Balsam Tree
Thistle	Seal
Seagull	Tiger Lily

*Not all designs are always available.  
 Please list at least three preferences.*

**BALSAM FILLED DRAFT STOPPERS**  
 in a variety of nature prints  
 40" long by 2" diameter ..... \$16.00  
**BALSAM TRIVETS** ..... \$10.00

## HOME Annual Auction

&

## Huge Yard Sale Aug 19th 2017

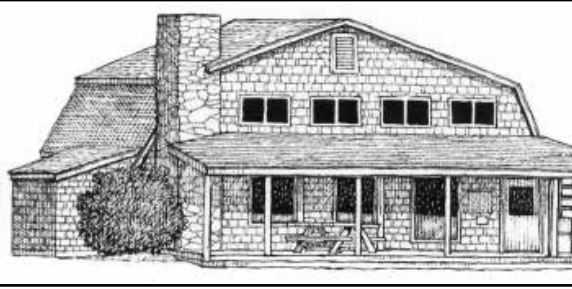
Please, consider  
 donating to the auction  
 to help us get ready  
 for winter and heat our  
 shelters.

## Bargain Barn Now Open!

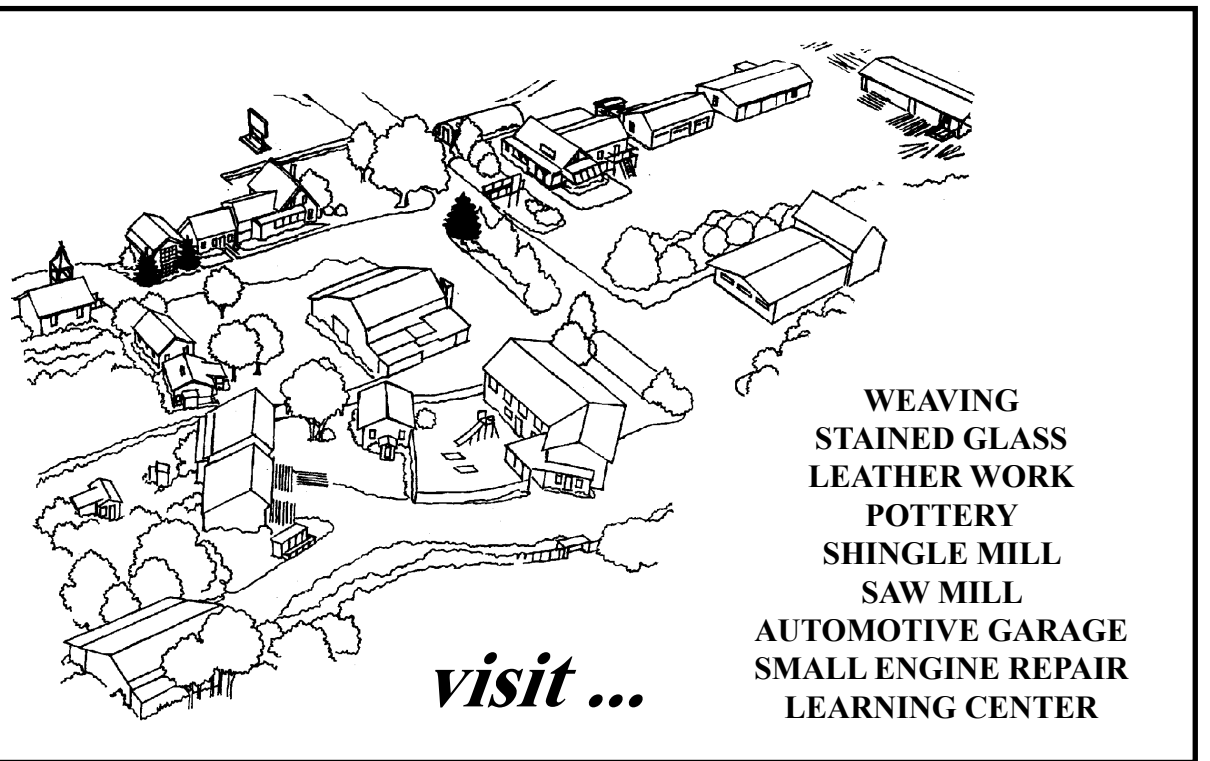
**Thank you everyone for a great first season!**

*We are now collecting donations of great things to put in the Bargain Barn  
 If you would like to make a donation please call us at 469-7961.*

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



## h.o.m.e. Craft Village



**WEAVING  
 STAINED GLASS  
 LEATHER WORK  
 POTTERY  
 SHINGLE MILL  
 SAW MILL  
 AUTOMOTIVE GARAGE  
 SMALL ENGINE REPAIR  
 LEARNING CENTER**

*visit ...*

## Maine Made Food Products

### FRUIT SYRUP IN JUGS

16 oz.....\$7.00 each  
 Strawberry, Raspberry, Blueberry,  
 or Yummy Apple Spice

### MAINE MAPLE SYRUP

3.4 Oz. (Stocking Stuffer)..... \$4.50  
 1/2 PINT..... \$8.00  
 PINT..... \$13.00  
 QUART..... \$22.00  
 1/2 GALLON..... \$36.00  
 GALLON..... \$69.00

### MAPLE CANDY

Pocket pack (5 pc)..... \$4.50  
 Single piece..... \$4.50

### MAPLE PRODUCTS

Granulated Maple Sugar ..... \$6.50  
 Maple Cream (8 oz.) ..... \$11.50  
 Maple mustard Sauce..... \$6.00

### GIFT JAM PACK

Choice of 4 jams in gift box.....\$21.00

**NEW GIFT OF MAINE** ..... \$23.00  
 contains:

half pint Maine Maple Syrup  
 8 oz. Maine Blueberry Honey  
 2 Maine Jams of your choice

### HONEY

Eight-ounce jar..... \$4.50  
 choose blueberry, raspberry, or wild flower  
 Wood Crate of honey ..... \$19.00  
 contains 8 oz. jar of each honey listed above

**MAINE JAMS** 10 oz..... \$5.00 each  
 blueberry wild blackberry  
 raspberry blueberry/rhubarb  
 strawberry/rhubarb raspberry/rhubarb  
 blueberry/yummy blueberry/raspberry  
 yummy toast spread (like apple pie on your toast!)

...and new seedless jams:  
 blackberry raspberry





# h.o.m.e.-Co-op

### GUATEMALAN CRAFTS

Brightly colored, hand woven cotton  
 Barrette, Large..... \$3.50  
 Barrette, medium, 5"x6" ..... \$2.25  
 Elastic hair scrunchie ..... \$1.00  
 Table runners ..... \$12.00



**H.O.M.E. CRAFT STORE**  
 PO Box 10 Orland ME 04472  
 phone: (207) 469-7961  
 fax: (207) 469-1023  
**Visa, Discover and Master card  
 accepted**



Treat your feline friend!

Catnip Mice .....\$6.50 each

Colors vary. If you have a preference, please, request the desired color

## Pottery Studio.



**Please come and explore our  
 Pottery Studio.  
 Open to all.**

**Any skill level welcome.**

Learn the basic elements of pottery or  
 come in and use our space to create your  
 own piece. Also, mugs and plates are  
 available for glazing - design your own!

## h.o.m.e.'s Wish List

- Food
- Any Tools
- Fire Wood
- Office Supplies
- Mechanic's Tools
- Building Materials
- Saw Logs for our Mill
- Useful Trucks and/or Cars
- Cotton Fabric Pieces for Quilts
- & Large Pieces for Quilt backing
- Windows 7 Computers & Printers
- Big Pots & Pans for our Soup Kitchen
- Appliances
- Stocks or Money

## Waterfront Property for Sale

**Dedham – Hancock County – 1+ acre.**  
 A beautiful piece that has already passed an  
 initial soil test with a buildable spot overlooking  
 Harriman's Pond. There is 50 feet of water frontage  
 (one of the last parcels available for sale on  
 Harriman's Pond) with year round road access to the  
 lot. Reasonably priced at: \$40,000.00 or best offer.  
 For more information contact Rosa at  
 207/469-7961



## LUMBER PRICES

All soft wood.....\$.60 per board ft  
 2x4 - 2x10 .....\$.50 -\$.60 per board ft  
 Timbers.....\$.80 per board ft  
 Pickup load Saw Dust .....\$5.00  
 Pickup load Shingle Hair.....\$5.00  
 Shingles #1 and #2 mix..... \$75 per sq  
 Shingles Outs .....\$35 per sq



**Are you interested in having our  
 local-handmade crafts come to you?  
 HOME would like to invite your  
 church or organization to host a  
 craft fair. We have new crafters and  
 new crafts, including our recently  
 established glass lampworking  
 studio. If so contact Claire at  
 207 469 7961**



Roxanne getting into the art of glass working



## Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on 2016, my first thought is to give thanks for community members and volunteers, who care deeply for the homeless and found many ways to reach out to them. Your time, concern, and resources, freely shared, made it possible for H.O.M.E. Inc. to provide the care and services described in this report. We saw an increase from 2015 to 2016 of individuals coming to our shelters, your help was, and is greatly needed.

2016 was a challenging and rewarding year. As the primary provider of shelter and housing services in Hancock County, H.O.M.E. and the Emmaus Center combined, provided 17,270 bed nights of shelter and over 7000 hot meals to men and women in need. In addition to providing basic service, H.O.M.E.'s income producing work continued to provide opportunities for residents and volunteers to create, build and work together in areas as H.O.M.E.'s Sawmill, Daycare and Craft Departments. In these pages you will read about the people – board members, staff and community partners – who make this possible.

It is thanks to you that we were able to:

- Convert an apartment building in Bucksport from emergency shelter space into housing units which can house up to seven individuals in separate apartments.
- Begin construction on a new house in Bucksport. The house is 70% complete.
- Create a resource room to store supplies such as toiletries, blankets, coats and clothing. These items are distributed to residents as they enter our shelters and also to people in need in our area.
- Complete and open the Bargain Barn.
- Install two new roofs on the Transitional Housing units in Dedham.
- Create an in-house subsidy for H.O.M.E.'s Daycare program.
- Maintain, grow and improve all of our programs.
- Purchase and install a new Outdoor Wood Boiler.
- Purchase two new computers.
- Install two heat pumps in the Bargain Barn.
- Install an upgraded phone system.
- Provide 18 transitional housing beds in Hancock County.
- And most importantly, continue to provide emergency shelter at the Dorr House shelter for men, the St Francis Inn and Sister Marie House shelters for women and women with children, Mandala Farm and the Emmaus Center shelters for individuals and families.

One of the highlights of the Shelter department in 2016, was the restructuring of the Hospitality House Shelter in Bucksport which was converted to permanent housing. Chronically homeless individuals are able to rent small apartments at a subsidized rate. This building offers permanent housing, for those who have been chronically homeless or are highly vulnerable. We are excited to have vulnerable people out of homelessness for good.

Despite our progress, the need for H.O.M.E.'s services are greater than ever as more and more look to non-profits to respond to needs such as heating, healthcare and financial assistance in crisis. The patchwork of funding sources still leaves many gaps in the services that are essential to the wellbeing of low-income and homeless people. Through increasing local support and strong partnerships, we are leveraging every resource available to create the greatest impact.

There is still much to do. Homelessness continues throughout Hancock County and our state. Housing continues to outpace incomes, pushing more into homelessness. While we work to relieve this, H.O.M.E. staff continue to do this work alongside our most vulnerable neighbors.

Your support, through advocacy, volunteerism, and financial gifts, is critical to our work. Gratefully,

Tracey Hair.

Executive Director

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

### Learning Center

HOME is continuing to provide classes, one-on-one tutoring, and transportation services to individuals working towards higher levels of education or job training. Along with supporting individuals academically, HOME continues to support people in the pursuit of personal enrichment. Painting is still a very popular class, as well as our Spanish class. We are in hopes of getting some new classes to start up in the fall. We have started a class on the exploration of Chinese medicine during the winter and spring called Bodies Speak and the Heart Listens.

We also have new staff in the Learning Center. Shannon Carpenter is back and Heather Burgos is here to help with the scheduling of classes and administrative support. So far the transition is going smoothly.

— Shannon Carpenter



### Sawmill and Shingle Mill

**Sawyers** – Clint Claggett, Eric Snow and Hanes

Thibedeau

**Shingle Mill** – Clint Claggett, Eric Snow and Josue

Tuc Tuc.

**Wood Crew** – Clint Claggett, Eric Snow, Josue Tuc

Tuc, Hanes Thibedeau and Sam Lowell.

H.O.M.E.'s Sawmill continues to produce! The Sawmill is not only critical and central to our house building and rehabilitation program, it also provides an income through the sale of lumber to the public. In 2016, H.O.M.E. purchased a skidder. The primary purpose of the skidder is to pull logs out of the woods once they are selectively harvested. H.O.M.E. sells lumber, cedar shingles and edgings. What is not sold to the public or used for construction is used for firewood or sold as scrap wood. Last year the logging crew, which consists of Clint Claggett (sawyer) Hanes Thibedeau and Sam Lowell, brought in 7358 board feet of logs for the mill and we still have another truck load ready to haul. As I write this report the sawmill is humming!

The wood crew prepared almost 100 cord of firewood for H.O.M.E.'s winter season. Many of the buildings on campus in Orland are heated with Outdoor Wood Boilers. Many thanks go out to local residents and loggers who donated tree length firewood for the wood crew to process. We are grateful for these donations which help us keep the shelters warm for the winter months.

Total sales for the Sawmill in 2016 were \$6344.00 and sales from Cedar Shingles were \$6706.00. Eric and Clint are optimistic that sales will continue to increase as customers start to hear that we sell quality cedar shingles at lower prices.

### Garage

H.O.M.E.'s Automotive Garage is moving into new territory this year. With Joe York as head mechanic and Arthur Linscott, as assistant mechanic, the shop is pursuing an Inspection License. Joe York comes to H.O.M.E. Inc. with many years of experience working on vehicles and a great reputation for his work.

Joe and Arthur have begun repairing H.O.M.E.'s fleet of vehicles which include a plow truck, construction van, a dump truck for hauling wood and a van used for picking up donations of food and items for H.O.M.E.'s thrift store.

H.O.M.E.'s Garage removes barriers to transportation by providing low cost repair. Our goal is to repair cars and get them back on the road. In addition to car repair, our head mechanic, repairs donated vehicles for resale to people who live with low-income.

If you are interested in donating a running vehicle to H.O.M.E. Inc., please schedule an appointment with our mechanic at 207-469-7961.

Joe York – Head Mechanic

Arthur Linscott – Assistant Mechanic

*Clint poses with volunteers after while working on splitting firewood*

### Craft Store

The Craft Store is benefiting from some spring cleaning. It is also having a reevaluation of how to best display the inventory to facilitate sales.

Speaking of inventory, it is a goal to have the complete inventory finished by the end of March. This has been started by going through the stored items upstairs. Some changes will be that merchandise will be all down in the store area (unless damaged or being picked up by the crafter).

We have a few new crafters who have recently brought in some new products. It is inspiring that people want their merchandise in the H.O.M.E. Craft Store. One lady drove down from Houlton to bring her things down.

Give us a month and we will have things all tucked away. Please drop by to see the changes.

Many of our items are available by mail order. Check out our catalog items at

<http://homemmausa.org/Crafting.html>.

### Front Office

This year the Main Office has had a complete change in staff. Julie is now working in fundraising and sadly Maggie passed away in October. Karen and Sandy are the new receptionists along with continued support from Pounce the Cat. The Trombe wall has been completed and the office is warmer than ever.

— Karen & Sandy



## Emmaus International

This year in our work with Emmaus International we have seen several changes. We were able to send three participants to the World Assembly in Jesolo Italy. Each of them came back with enthusiasm about the movement which they shared with those at HOME.

Marking the 10th anniversary of Abbe Pierre's death, Emmaus International is putting the spotlight on the work of groups. Throughout the world, through collecting descriptions of projects and creating short documentaries, groups hope to carry on the memory and legacy of Abbe Pierre. These short stories give the viewer a snapshot into the diverse, grassroots struggle that is the reality of combating poverty throughout the world.

Since then there have been two regional council meetings in which one participant from each country is able to attend. In September the meeting was held in Pereira, Colombia and in February the meeting was held in Montevideo, Uruguay. The topics of these meetings were varied and diverse. They included everything from practical matters to workshops on working relationships to philosophical debates. Both HOME and St. Francis were well represented at these events.

St Francis and HOME are working together to gather donations and secure the funds to send a container to Emaus San Juan in Guatemala. Volunteers have been working hard for the last few months to separate and sort clothing and shoes from the overflow of donations in our thrift stores. We are currently looking to the community to help us collect additional donations of tools including hand tools, carpentry tools, gardening tools etc. We are also looking for donations of bicycles, sewing machines, and small appliances to fill the rest of the container. With support from Emmaus Internationals container fund and additional financial support from other community members, our goal is to send the container by the end of the summer.

This year, HOME has applied to the International Solidarity fund of Emmaus International for the purchase of a new truck for the purpose of donation reclamation. The purchase of this vehicle will greatly aid us in our effort to collect and resell donations of furniture and household goods. Right now, HOME collects all donations with a van, so purchasing a truck would streamline the process and save the backs of our workers. We hope to know if we will be receiving this support by May of this year.

In terms of upcoming activities, Emmaus in the Americas will be holding a training camp for thrift management and social work in the next year. Our groups are invited to participate. Members attending will learn good practices of their respective trades and will have a chance to exchange ideas with members from groups all around the world. Groups from regions other than America are also invited to participate and HOME would like to participate as well.

Having gained a year of experience, our National Delegate, Rosalani Moore, and our Group Delegate, Karen Botta, are becoming more comfortable and effective in their respective positions. Joshua Prochaska, who joined the board of Emmaus International last year, is also becoming accustomed to his responsibilities. We look forward to the coming year and the chance to contribute to an ongoing worldwide movement for peace and social justice.

-Joshua Prochaska, Emmaus International Board

## Bookkeeping

2016 was a very busy year for bookkeeping. We are always striving to keep the finance department running smoothly. Ruth and I work very hard to get all tasks completed.

With the transition of our executive director from Lucy to Tracey, we work closely to keep her aware of HOME's financial needs. She is a great asset to HOME. With the changes in donations and our new volunteer groups we hope we can create new donors for the future.

We all need to remember that HOME helps the less fortunate and we take pride in providing those services. We all need to be kind and considerate to everyone.

Happy Days Ahead  
Mary & Ruth

## Bargain Barn

The new Bargain Barn opened last August after much anticipation from the community. The eight months since then have been extremely eventful (and profitable)! This is all thanks to the many donations we receive from the public and the hard work of our dedicated volunteers! Thank you to everyone! One of the big steps forward during this season was the installation of two heat pumps, which keep the store nice and toasty. We were able to afford this expense due to a very generous donation from one of our benefactors.

We would not have been able to stay open over the winter months without this. It was starting to get awfully chilly around October, when they were installed. Staying open over the winter months allowed us to generate much needed income for HOME.

As for the future, we would like to start advertising through newspaper and perhaps radio. Up until this point, all of our advertisement has been through word of mouth, which has been surprisingly effective. One of our wonderful volunteer groups will be building a handicap accessible ramp very soon, about which we are very excited. We would also like to start having sales more regularly to bring in new customers.

Once again, I would like to thank our volunteers and our customers for their continued support. Let's make 2017 a great year in the Bargain Barn!

-Joshua Prochaska, Manager

## Gardens & Greenhouses

We hope to have a more productive high tunnel greenhouse this year with better pruning and staking up of the tomato plants, more production of peppers and cukes. (We're looking at last season as experimental.) Some new items for the Farmer's Markets include pots of oxalis (shamrock), some with dainty pink flowers and dark pink "shadows on the leaves." Also we want to make note cards or bookmarks with pressed flowers from our gardens. The Bucksport market in particular is a fun meeting place for old and new friends, and often we enjoy musical performances. It's work but fun too!

Happy Spring,  
— Millie

## Stitchery Department

The stitchery department is lucky to have the state (ABLE) program people, which has increased the amount being made and added to the Craft Store inventory. Repair work on zippers, tears, hemming and shortening pants seems to be picking up and keeping us busy. We would like to see more lessons given and a lot more projects to bring more money in for H.O.M.E. We want to welcome Claire in and it seems that she is very personable and capable. We had good sales in the craft fairs this fall and hope for better sales next fall.

— Sandra

## Abby's Attic Thrift Shop

Route 1, East Orland, Maine

Sales were down a bit, mainly due to shortening the hours of operation, which was done because of budget and hiring limitations. There is, however, a sizeable regular and loyal customer base which helped get us through.

Thank you for your donations and patronage.

## Volunteers

As the new Volunteer Coordinator I hope to keep H.O.M.E.'s Volunteer Program running smoothly. I look forward to working with our regular groups this summer and excited to meet our new groups! If anyone is interested in bringing a group to Volunteer at H.O.M.E., please feel free to email me at

[volunteer@homecoop.net](mailto:volunteer@homecoop.net).

### REPAIRS NEEDED

New floor for volunteer center.

Mattress covers for all mattresses in volunteer center.

— Julie Ream

## Daycare

My name is Jade Linscott and I have been working in the daycare for almost 3 years. I've had the title as director for roughly 6 months. H.O.M.E Daycare has seen a lot of positive changes over the past year.

In that time we have accomplished many things on our "to do list" for improving our program and the daycare's appearance.

Our staff includes Allison Norris who is also on her 3rd year and Amy Smith who joined our team mid-year in 2016. Changing staff can be scary at times but I feel that our new team has been very effective in working together and making sure we provide the best possible child care we can offer. After some of these changes were made, we noticed an increase in enrollment and interest from the surrounding communities.

We hope it continues as we come into 2017!

Our staff has applied fresh paint to almost all our interior walls including vibrant animated pictures and cartoons. The atmosphere in our play room now portrays a welcoming, kid-friendly area where the children can play freely and let their imaginations be expressed widely.

We look forward to continually improving the appearance of our facility as an ongoing goal.

Every year we have annual trainings we are required to complete which includes renewing staff CPR/First aid (when necessary), basic water safety and our mandatory training through a government funded program called Maine Roads to Quality. In this training, we complete a course that meets the hourly annual requirement and offers a varied selection of topics that stretch across the child care field.

Another training we do yearly is for our food program (CACFP) which is a program we use that encourages and supports young healthy minds and bodies while providing meal plan guidelines to follow for a healthy diet.

We have found over the years that the children are happy to eat according to our meal menus. They also learn the importance of eating healthy food while learning how to independently make good eating choices.

In 2016, our daycare provided services to 20 families with a total number of 30 children enrolled at some point during the year.

As we come into the new year, I hope to continue providing services to a multitude of families, both low-income and from the surrounding communities.

Let's make it a great, fun-filled year!

Thank you!

Daycare Staff; Jade, Allison & Amy.



*A life-saving procedure takes place in HOME's Daycare*





*Millie participating in one of the local farmers' markets. HOME attends several in the area*

## Marketstand, Soup Kitchen, and Food Bank

Over the past year, many changes have occurred in the Market Stand/Food bank at H.O.M.E. Our biggest shock was losing Mark. We were all grieved and confused by his sudden demise and it set us back. After we could collect our wits again we set about trying to pick up the pieces and begin to function, Maureen H. was hired as Market Stand manager and we discovered that she was more than capable of carrying us through.

The food bank has been running like precision clock work. We have stepped up production considerably in response to increase need for services. In review, last year we were able to serve 38 food boxes for January. This year 71 food boxes were given in January. Six days a week we serve a hot meal to an average of 30 people. We are delighted to have the availability to serve so many. We are thankful for all the help we receive that enables us to continue our mission.

## Beekeeping

Another year has begun here at H.O.M.E. Inc. The anticipation for what is to come this year is very exciting as we begin new programs designed to benefit our gardens and the food we grow for the community.

In our endeavor to provide healthy, organic foods we are pleased to announce that we will be joining the *Tri-County Bee Keepers Association of Maine*. With the decline in the bee populations from chemical spraying or mites that can wipe out whole colonies, we are working together to bring the bee population up and more sweet honey to our area.

Learning experience for ALL  
— Denise M Linscott

## Pottery Studio

Over the last year pottery has remained a consistent source of joy for those seeking an escape from their daily work and a chance to be creative. In the early part of the year we worked to increase our capacity to make ceramic sculptures. After creating a stock of sculptures, people are now able to come into the studio and finish pieces.

Volunteers have the opportunity to have fun painting and decorating these sculptures which are later sold in our craft store to benefit HOME's many programs. This is a great way to give back to the community.

## Shelter

There was much change in the shelter department in 2016. Maine State Housing Authority changed their funding and program focus dramatically! Their new program is called Emergency Shelter and Housing Program (ESHAP) Maine Housing's new focus is on housing first and rapid rehousing models. Emergency shelters are now tasked with more responsibilities with a focus on permanent housing. For our office it means a renewed focus on finding permanent housing for those in our shelters especially those who have been in our shelters for a long time. While MSHA funding has not fully covered the new burdens on our system, it has helped us focus on finding permanent stable housing for many families and individuals

HOME provided about 11000 bed nights for guests in 2016. Those nights were spread over our five shelters: Hospitality House, Dorr House, Mandala Farm, St. Francis Inn, and Sister Marie Ahern House. On any night, there were 42 possible guests in our shelters. During 2016, we saw an increase of 25 people in our shelters. Our Emmaus shelter in Ellsworth provided roughly another 6000 bed nights and 25 beds for the homeless.

The shelter office continued to run a backpack program and Christmas program. Thanks to the support of many individuals and churches, we were able to provide gifts for over 180 adults and children. About 80 children also received backpacks full of school supplies. Our Emmaus Shelter also ran a Christmas program helping many in the Ellsworth area.

Beyond the emergency shelters, we manage 20 permanent and transitional housing units. Beginning on January 1, 2017, we transformed the Hospitality House to permanent housing. While we helped many through the years, permanent housing fits the need of many of the people we have helped in the Hospitality House.

Saving the best for last are the new peeps patrolling the shelter office. Amy Gray is our new primary navigator. The navigator position is a new position created through Maine Housing and their ESHAP program. Her role is to work with clients to navigate them into permanent housing. This includes building bridges between our clients and landlords. Once housing is found for a family or individual, her focus changes to helping clients to keep their housing. Kathy Walton has also joined the shelter office as part time navigator, part time administrative assistant, and full time helper. 2017 will be a great year with a great staff.

Sincerely,  
Gerald Botta, Shelter Director  
Amy Gray, Navigator  
Kathleen Walton, assistant

**We are constituted so that simple acts of kindness, such as giving to charity or expressing gratitude, have a positive effect on our long-term moods. The key to the happy life, it seems, is the good life: a life with sustained relationships, challenging work, and connections to community.**  
**-Paul Bloom**

## Housing

In housing we are working towards homeownership for at least three families over the 2017 year. The process can be long and hard however we are always optimistic. One of the greatest barriers for low-income families in obtaining home ownership is finding the money for the closing costs and the cost of the down payment. In addition to the struggle to save the money needed to close on a house, families tend to have a difficult time meeting the initial credit requirements in order to obtain financing. With new vigor, HOME is reaching out to donors, banks and foundations to help find a way to meet families half way in this process.

HOME recognizes that for the program to make the biggest impact, each party must make a concerted effort to reach their goals. Families feel the most connected and take the most responsibility when they take an active part in purchasing and sometimes renovating or building the house they hope to call home. Our housing department hopes to incorporate these aspects more closely into the program through connecting prospective families with first time homebuyer courses and planning ahead for future builds with families in mind before construction even begins.

This year, HOME is still in the process rebuilding a home that burnt down in Millvale. HOME currently has twelve houses for sale. Many of these houses are in the process of being rented by perspective homebuyers while they work on overcoming the barriers to homeownership. Day to day, HOME is working with families on an individual basis to find financing and become educated about what it means to be a homeowner as well as part of a community.

## Maintenance

Plumbing, plumbing, plumbing – this has been the theme for H.O.M.E. Inc. maintenance requests during the last year. We've replaced the plumbing in our "situation room" which is the central location for all of the water pipes leading to the buildings on campus. After two major freeze-ups this winter, we have upgraded the system with help from Osbourne's Plumbing and Heating Company.

In addition to plumbing fixes, fence repairs and stove maintenance, the primary focus for the Maintenance department continues to be keeping the shelters maintained. H.O.M.E. Inc. has five shelters for the homeless and 18 beds for transitional housing. Our goal is to keep the water flowing, stoves burning and buildings safe... Many thanks to skilled volunteers who donate their time and the Orland Fire department for their support in keeping our buildings safe. A big thank you to you for your part in supporting this work  
James Taylor. Maintenance



## Green Thumbs

By Millie Grimes

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines the work "spring" (verb) as "to shoot up, out or forth; to issue as a plant from seed, a stream from its source. As a noun, "season of the year when plants begin to vegetate and grow, the vernal season." In the garden, I think of spring as a time when baby plants do spring up out of the earth, but also a quieter time before the explosive growth and hectic weeding, watering, and harvesting of veggies in the summer months, a time to get ready for summer. Another definition of "spring beauty" is "any of a genus of plants, especially one which sends up in early spring a 2-leaved stem bearing delicate pink flower." As a child, (many moons ago!), we picked these flowers, (we call them mayflowers) and gave them to friends and relatives on May Day.

Spring is a time for us to check on the growth and possible winter damage to our young balsam fir trees and prepare the ground to plant some more. We hope to sell them as Christmas trees in several years. Our shitake mushrooms, grown as plugs in short logs, have been pretty much dormant all winter, but many explode in growth in the heat and humidity of summer. We want to plant in our large new greenhouse much earlier this year to tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, herbs, and maybe flowers or other crops. Our yield should surpass last year's with more pruning of the tomatoes, cutting out the suckers, and better "stringing up" of the plants. We want to sell many perennials plants such as daylilies, bee balm, and potted house plants of bulbs such as oxalis (shamrock) at our two Farmer's Markets. Here's a recipe for spring:

### Fiddlehead Quiche

- 2c. Fiddle heads
- 1 Tbsp Fresh lemon juice
- ½ Tsp salt
- 3 large eggs
- ½ c shredded mild cheddar cheese
- ½ c shredded swiss cheese
- ¾ c milk
- ¾ c half and half
- 1 unbaked 9" pie shell

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Wash fiddle heads, steam 'til tender, about 10 minutes. Mix with lemon juice and salt, set aside.

Separate one of the eggs, beat the white and brush it on the pie shell bottom. Combine remaining yolk and other 2 eggs, beat slightly.

Sprinkle cheddar cheese into pie shell and arrange fiddle heads on top of the cheese. Mix together eggs, milk, and half and half, pour over fiddle heads, sprinkle Swiss cheese on top, bake for 35 minutes until set and golden brown. If a knife inserted in center of quiche comes out clean, it's done. Let set for 10 minutes before slicing and serving. Enjoy!

—From the Belfast Co-op Cookbook

Fiddle heads can be purchased in the grocery store or gathered on the banks of rivers or streams around Mother's Day. Get them while they're still tightly curled. Happy Spring!



A bunch of freshly harvested fiddleheads

## Risking Life and Lens: A Photographic Memoir

A Book By Helen M. Stummer

Book Review by Julia Demaree

Not every soul is destined to venture out of one's "comfort zone" in one's lifetime. One such brave soul is Helen M. Stummer whose recently published book *Risking Life and Lens* describes, in a photographic memoir, her journey from being a young mother in a New Jersey suburb to a social photographer of the "mean streets" of the Lower East Side and destitute neighborhoods in Newark. During the Newark years, she and her husband spent the summers in their secluded cabin near Brooklin, Maine. It was with joy that she discovered the H.O.M.E. community in 1984. Although she loved the beauty of idyllic Maine, she missed her passion of documenting the poor. After she found H.O.M.E., she looked forward to her summer months.

Her transformation began in the 1970's when her photography teacher told her to "take a walk" downtown to East 6th Street on New York City's Lower East Side, a predominantly white neighborhood riddled with poverty and drugs. Initially, she received moral guidance from The Children's Aid Society. Although often paralyzed with fear, she nevertheless persisted to document the sad conditions of life. Wearing a bandanna as a kind of "badge of courage", she was often mistaken for a nun. She was respectful and caring as a person and always came armed with prints of the portraits to give to the people. Heroin warlords drove her out as the 80's began.

For the next twenty years, she documented poverty-stricken African American communities in downtown Newark. This time her home base was St Ann's Church. After four years, she bravely entered Building 322, a place she had felt a deep attraction to from the beginning. Building 322 was symptomatic of all the problems that the people had to endure day after day: drugs, prostitution, stabbings, lack of heat and hot water, peeling lead paint, early deaths. She made friends with Tonya and her family, a relationship that allowed her to deepen her commitment to her passion of documenting the poor. She published her book *No Easy Walk* as a tribute to the residents.

Lack of building repairs and fires took out one tenement structure after another. Building 322 was the last to stand. After it was bulldozed in 1998, Tonya and her family moved to "Hoodlum City" where their physical living space improved but the crime problem was worse than before. Many black males died young and their peers mourned and immortalized them with beautiful memorials that Helen photographed. A grandmother of one of the victims told her, "We shouldn't be burying our children. They're supposed to be burying us."

Helen discovered H.O.M.E. in the summer of 1984 when she and her husband were attracted to the sprawl of buildings in Orland on Highway #1 driving by in their car. A woman in the office explained to her that H.O.M.E. stood for Homemakers Organized for More Employment and it was dedicated to helping the destitute and the working poor. She directed them to the quilters' cabin where Helen took her first photos.

In time, she came to know Sister Lucy who had founded and directed this community since the early 70's. She explained that H.O.M.E. had grown organically. Abused women with small children needed shelter and daycare. Food pantries and transportation became priorities. The poor developed skills from the job opportunities on site. A land trust and a saw mill were added to address the lack of low-income housing. As Lucy said, "We just grew because of the needs of the poor."

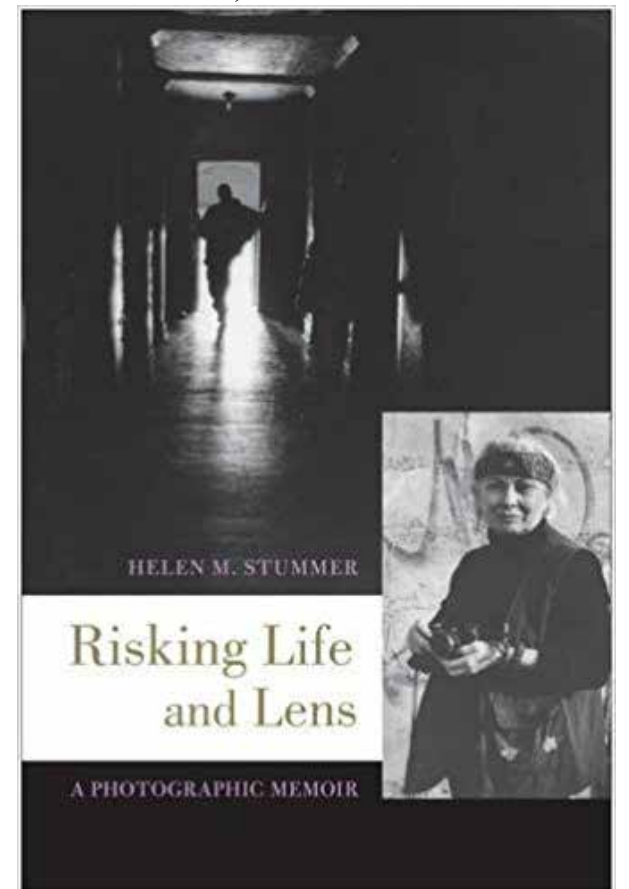
Lucy lived up the road from H.O.M.E. at Mandala Farm with two other important community leaders, Sister Marie and Ellen. Helen took a stunning photo of the three of them loading a large donated tree onto their truck. Sister Marie built her own hexagonal house next to the large farmhouse where Lucy and Ellen lived. Ellen was in charge of the many animals and together they provided sanctuary for undocumented people and other people in extreme need.

From the beginning they "served first those who suffer most" on a daily basis. This philosophy made them natural members of the Emmaus organization that attempts to address justice and poverty worldwide. Helen met some of the volunteers from France who invited her to visit their Emmaus communities abroad.

As part of an educational exchange program, she also traveled with Lucy and others to Comalapa, Guatemala to support a Mayan community that lives in extreme poverty in an oppressed police state. Besides bringing many needed goods, they helped build structures and farmed on "an unforgiving terrain." In turn, some of the people came to Mandala Farm to live and help.

Besides fifteen years of documenting the community, Helen and her husband contributed by producing the annual calendar as a source of fundraising and publicity. Helen also began the summer auction that brought in good income and continues until this day. In declining health, Helen and her husband decided to sell their Maine cottage in 2001. With one last gesture, they gave of its contents to H.O.M.E. Helen stays in touch with Lucy and is thrilled that the community is thriving and has new, dynamic leadership.

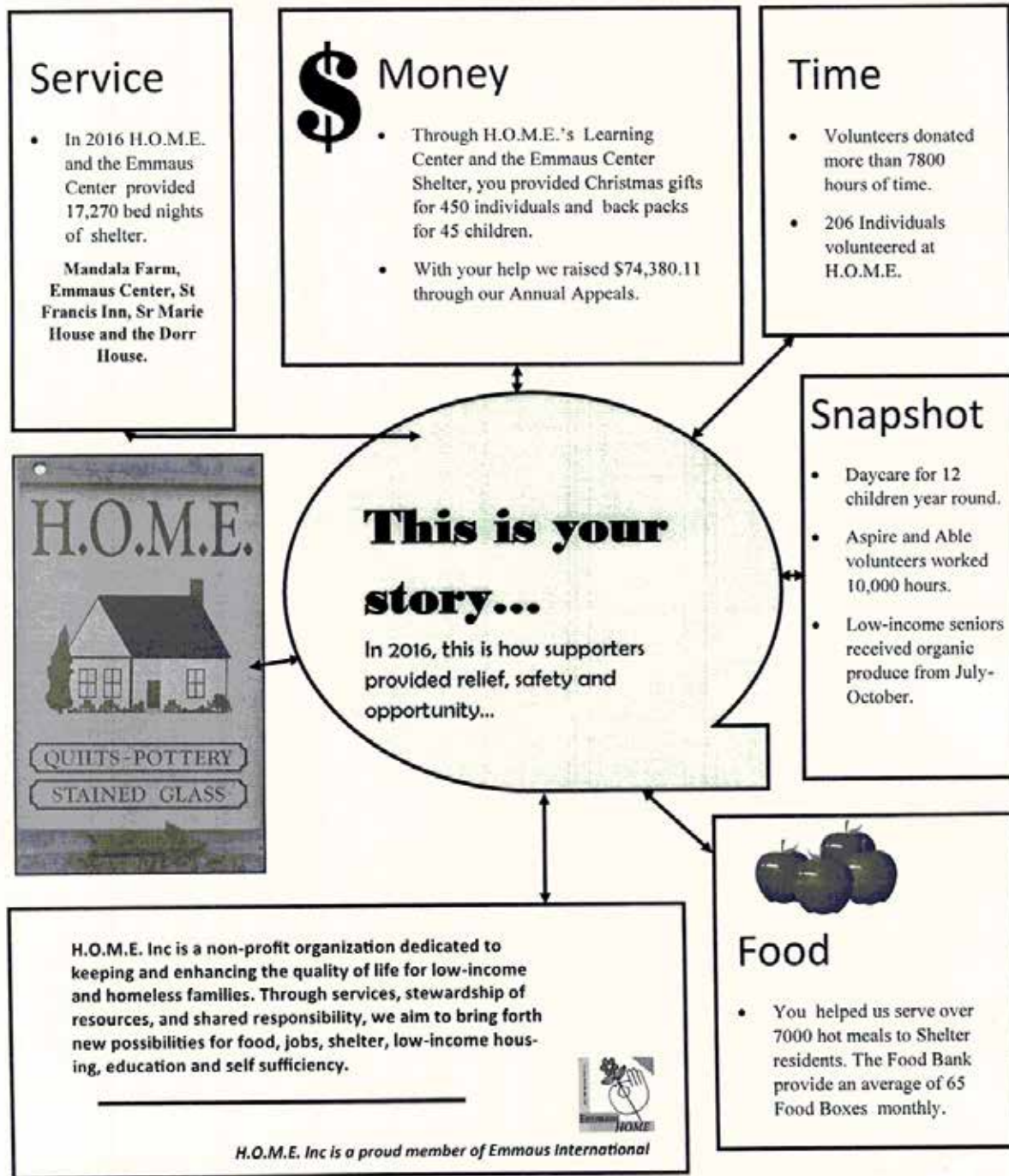
Throughout the memoir, there is a palpable tension between Helen's attraction to poverty that is only matched with an equal fear in venturing out to capture it with her lens. This tension is explained in the chapter called "Bringing it all Home" where she tells her personal backstory. Her story is a match to the stories she documents and is an example of how our life journeys are guided by deep waters. Kudos, Helen, for such a beautiful, brave book.



*Helen Stummer has helped HOME immensely through her involvement in the work and service to the board of HOME. She remains an honorary member of our board.*

If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin.  
-Charles Darwin





## Come Volunteer At HOME!

**HOME 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**

## Granny Squares

by Sheila Holtz

All over Maine there are an unknown number of Little Old Ladies in trailers and Senior Apartments, crocheting granny squares while watching "Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune." Granny squares are easy and fun to make; they are also a great way to use up yarn left over from other projects. In this way, they pile up, one by one, over time.

I am sure the ladies are always intending to assemble the squares into an afghan one day. But, somehow, they never get around to it. Then, they die.

As the kids and grandkids go through Grandma's things, wondering, "What are we going to do with all this?" they sometimes remember the H.O.M.E. Stitchery Department. In this way, H.O.M.E. gets many donations of unfinished sewing and needlework projects, quilt squares, granny squares, fabric, and yarn.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.  
Thank you for thinking of us.

Throughout the past winter I worked on making finished afghans from one large donation of granny squares. I completed four of various sizes. As I sat crocheting in a chair in the Stitchery Department's outer room, I liked to envision the aforementioned Little Old Ladies, sitting in their cozy homes, doing likewise. I liked to imagine them surrounded by their knick-knacks, family photos—artifacts and memorabilia of a long and variegated life—a life containing hardships and pleasures, fun and challenges, and, most important, love. I have met many of these ladies at H.O.M.E. over the years.

Sometimes, I liked to imagine a nice, fat cat perching on the back of the sofa as they worked. And I liked to imagine, and sometimes did feel, that I was connecting with them at a spirit level, through touching and handling their work.

The truth is—I am becoming one of them. And that is okay. That is fine, in fact. My life is good. I am now Socially Secure. And I find that crocheting soothes and pacifies the mind.

One day, in the not too distant future, I will die and all MY unfinished projects and unused yarn and fabric will end up at H.O.M.E., and we will have come full circle. What goes around comes around, eh? Not to worry. It's all good. Eh?



Sandy, Jerry, Millie and Ralph at the Marketstand

# Guatemala Trip

HOME is busy planning its next trip to Guatemala. We 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*



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

**We Need Your Help!**  
Contact HOME's Learning Center at (207)469.7961 and ask for Rosa or email [rosalanimoore@gmail.com](mailto:rosalanimoore@gmail.com)

**Please consider donating these items for our container:**  
**Bicycles, Tools, Shoes, Sewing Machines, Kitchen Appliances, Money**



# Reflections

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# Reflections

Stitches of Love

By Twila Greene

A patchwork quilt is a thing of beauty. Thousands of stitches, and colors galore, it is a miraculous artwork of genius. The time spent in creating this masterpiece is hours of patience and fortitude.

Years ago, quilting was a frequent form of necessary entertainment. People would gather and sew and talk. They would share joys and sorrows and all of the news in the neighborhood. Lifelong bonds of friendship were stitched, as well as the colorful squares of fabric.

We occasionally see the handiwork posted on the internet with the results of the craft. Cousin Julie, of my hometown creates beautiful quilts of great value. Aunt Mable used to hold quilting bees. I believe they were usually a winter activity. Certainly, that would be a time that one would be thinking warmth, and quilt thoughts. I have never attempted quilting, or attended a bee, but I admire those who create those works of art. I was too busy raising children, and looking after infirmed relatives.

I remember my grandmother Lilly, claimed that she intended to produce a quilt for each grandchild as a wedding gift. Since I happened to be the first to marry, I opened the package with great anticipation. I thought of the hours of love that were crafted into the masterpiece. It was certainly a work of beauty to behold. Bound in a violet border, I was so proud of it.

Tragically, within a few short months, granny Fanning died suddenly of a massive heart attack. Did she know how much I loved it? Did she realize I loved her? Did I ever say those words?

Sadly, the quilt was lost in the schoolhouse tragedy. I am not sure if any of my Fanning cousins were the recipients of one of her marvelous creations, but I doubt it, because she was gone.

Why is it that past memories sweep over us, and things of the moment can be a confusing puzzle?

This planet can be compared with the intricate patchwork quilt. A thing of beauty to behold. Such a variety of shapes and colors. Such grandeur and majesty. Each piece a perfect part, each color a glorious and intricate hue from the Master Creator. Connected in place in elaborate precision, through millions of stitches, and loving plans. A miracle of perfection.

But wait... I so love this world and all it has to offer us, yet I feel a sense of impending doom. Will it become another schoolhouse catastrophe? Is it being destroyed and ruined? Are we to blame for the rapid decline of perfection? Clouds obliterate the sky. Drinking water is in danger of contamination. Ice caps are melting at a rapid pace, air is being polluted. Hate runs rampant. War and rumor of war abound. Crime and dissent proliferate. Build walls! Don't trust anyone! Don't accept differences!

Everyone should look the same, think the same, worship the same, or they are to be shunned. Send them home, even if their homes have been destroyed, demolished, and their loved ones are under siege. Let them suffer. Let their children die.

We are the only species that matter. We are entitled to hate. Why? There are good and bad in all places. We are a world made of individuals. We all bleed the same, have the same needs, require the same things to survive. We are more alike than different.

We are more fortunate for now than many others whom have suffered under our idea of ownership. Why are we the only ones entitled? It is a frustrating concept, this concept of hate. I wish that we could build a world of togetherness. Loving stitches, and patient understanding, work, unity, and empathy. People of the earth unite, love, build a patchwork of beauty, stability and warmth. We can begin building now to ensure a future. Work together, share our wealth. Show our love. Build love, build unity. Make a patchwork world stitched together in love and harmony.

Please act now while there is still time. Give peace a chance. Let's build a quilt.

Fun With Astrology

*In a Thrift Shop...*

**Aries** I'm going to the book section. Ooh, is this hat cool or what? Hey, shoes!

**Taurus** I was sitting on this couch waiting for you for so long I almost fell asleep. It's so comfy that I'm going to buy it.

**Gemini** Seriously, these shoes would look stunning on you, since they offset those beautiful green eyes of yours.

**Cancer** There's a sale on hot pink nylons! I'd better buy at least a dozen pairs. You just never know when you might need them.

**Leo** I think I'll redo my whole living room around this sumptuous Victorian chair.

**Virgo** Someone needs to organize these books into the correct categories.

**Libra** Don't you think this looks great on me? What do you mean? Should I get it? Maybe not. On the other hand...

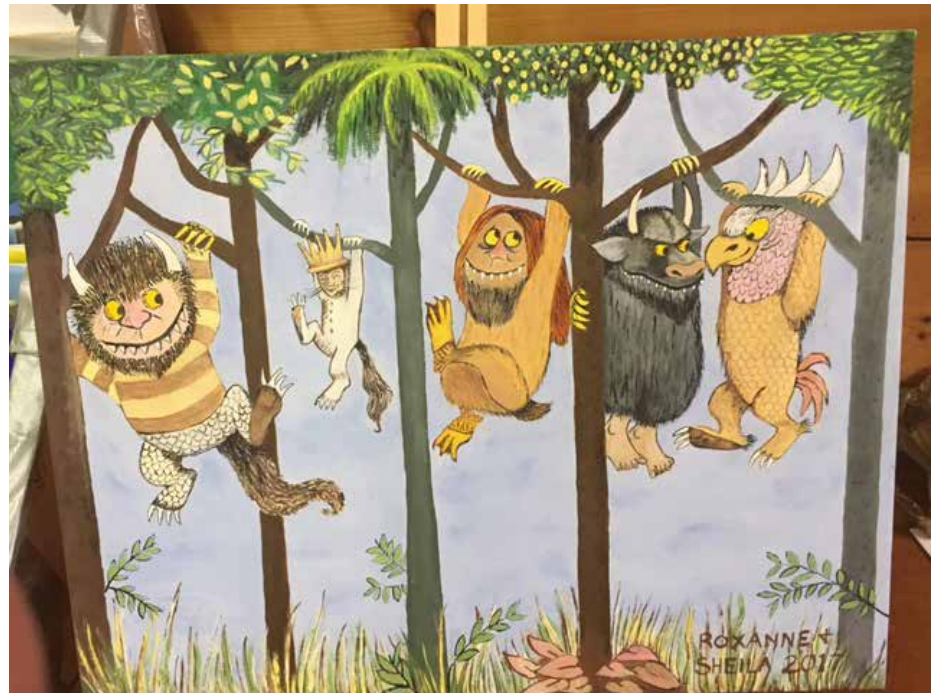
**Scorpio** I wonder when that cute cashier gets off work...

**Sagittarius** Hiking boots! And they fit me!

**Capricorn** This laptop is easy to fix and I could use it to work from home, as I always wanted.

**Aquarius** Whoa! This coffee table made from an elephant foot is awesome! Wonder if they have another one...

**Pisces** This crystal ball looks just like one I saw in a picture of The Great Madame Karnax! Do you think it could be hers?



*A painting from one of our talented artists in the Art Therapy class*

I cannot help it. I hope I am not being unjust or uncharitable. But to me, the readiness to use nuclear weapons against other human beings - against people whom we do not know, whom we have never seen, and whose guilt or innocence it is not for us to establish - and in doing so, to place in jeopardy the natural structure upon which all civilization rests, as though the safety and the perceived interests of our own generation were more important than everything that has ever taken place or could take place in civilization: This is nothing less than a presumption, a blasphemy, an indignity - an indignity of monstrous dimensions - offered to God!

-George Kennan  
Former Ambassador to U.S.S.R.



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*This Time*



Ralph, Julia, Tracey and  
Millie participate in the End  
Violence Together rally in  
Bangor



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