

Homeworkers Organized for More Employment

This Time

Orland, Maine 04472

Food Pantries are a part of my story...

By Tracey Hair

It's winter in Maine. Cold. Snowy. Grey. The wind moves off the Penobscot River, rips through your jacket and makes a home in your bones.

It's Tuesday. Cars start to pull up to the Goodness Sake Food Pantry on the hill. One by one the people get out into the cold, their bags in tow, careful to don their face masks before they line up for today's food gathering. Clint, H.O.M.E.'s sawyer of thirty years, unloads the produce he picked up from the local Hannaford in Bucksport.

The first thing you learn when you rely on the food bank to feed your family is that you can't rely on the food bank to feed your family. Not entirely, anyway. The truth is many families struggle with hunger despite regular visits to their local food pantry.

One of the people in the cars, an out of work woman, watches and waits for Clint to unload the last box, waiting for her turn to dig through the produce. The produce line happens in the morning, rain, or shine. On occasion, when the snow rises to a foot, the produce line is on hold until the plow guy comes.

Just inside the building, there's a food pantry under renovation. We're working to expand the service so we can feed more people more food. You must call to make an appointment to pick up the food box because of the pandemic. When you do, a full box of food according to family size is given. Not enough to get by but just enough to get one through a couple of weeks.

I often went with my mum to the food bank, skipping school to help her carry the bags home on the train. She couldn't carry the box of food herself. But I could also feel that she didn't want to go there alone. She was a

single mother with two kids on public assistance. She was already alone. For my family, there was a sense of adventure in going to the food bank. I was a kid and immune to the stress my mum was feeling working to keep us fed.

We didn't want to ask for help, especially when we needed it the most.

While other families went to the grocery store for food, we were at the Salvation Army for hours. My mother's shame cut so deep that she would remove the food from the 'Salvo Boxes' and place it in bags just so people wouldn't see. What was once a source of shame for my family is now an important part of my story.

The food pantries are especially crucial in Maine because many of its 'working poor' don't qualify for federal food stamps, known as SNAP. Eligibility standards for that program are set at a certain income level, often excluding families in places where the cost of living is higher. H.O.M.E., which organizes the Goodness Sake Food Pantry, now serves people twice as much as it did previously due to a rise in need.

The food bank not only plays a lead role in fighting hunger, but also a vitally important role in tackling the food waste problem and helping the environment. Our food and grocery rescue operations last year saved 101,357 pounds of food from Hannaford and TradeWinds.

Without this food, vulnerable Mainers would go hungry. For more information on the work being done on the front line of food insecurity at H.O.M.E., check out page 5 of this issue



Tracey Hair, Executive Director (right) and Julie Ream, Program Coordinator showing their approval for the food pantry renovations.



Tracey and her mom, Glenda, were frequent visitors to food pantries while she was growing up.



Clint Clagett, H.O.M.E.'s sawyer, stands in the back of the box truck waiting to distribute food boxes to the community.

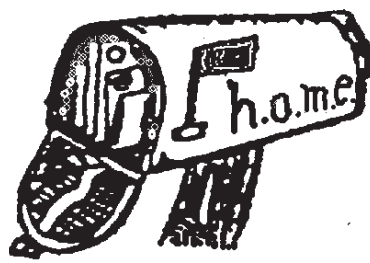
Pantry News!

The Goodness Sake Food Pantry is being expanded and spruced up with a new paint job and equipment. Beginning in April, the pantry will be distributing two boxes per month.

A van donated to H.O.M.E. is being used immediately to deliver food to shut-ins as well as to pick up food from our partners: Hannaford Supermarket, Healthy Acadia, and Good Shepherd Food Bank.



H.O.M.E.'s new delivery van will be used to bring food boxes from the pantry to the doorsteps of shut-ins and those without transportation.



Letters

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

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

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

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

Rosa,

Enclosed is a check for the “DownEastAcadia” mugs.

I’m using the 4 larger ones as “official recognition” and the 2 smaller mugs as personal gifts. The latter only hold about 8 oz while the 4 larger mugs hold 8-10; they also have a more oval shape. I liked the speckled glaze and white interior.

Thank you for the work you do for H.O.M.E. and our community.

Sincerely,
Alvion

To H.O.M.E.,

Please use the enclosed contribution to support your much needed work.

Gratefully,
Elaine Burgess

New hats I knit for children in shelter--or wherever needed (plus 1 pair of socks).

God bless!
Carol Green

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

Dear H.O.M.E., Inc.,

Please accept the attached Fall Appeal donation in loving memory of Donna A. DeLena, who always enjoyed stopping by.

Thanks!
Lou DeLena

Still fondly remember the two times our UCCUF youth group spent a week up there, and we still have the stained glass cat we bought hanging in our kitchen window!

Hope this helps a bit.

Sincerely,
Ed Hafer

Dear Tracey and H.O.M.E. community,

Thank you for what you are doing for and giving to the people of Hancock County.
I keep you all in my prayers.

Love,
Sister Elaine

Hello--

Many years ago I lived in your area and I remember all the good works you accomplished back then. I will continue to support you because of the direct manner in which you carry out your mission.

No complex administration to create overhead. I am very pleased to support your efforts!

John C. Loomis

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

Mike Guare, Chair, Bangor
Susan Lessard, Treasurer, Bucksport
Tammie Cox, Secretary, Sedgwick
Jayme Ream, Staff Representative, Bucksport
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Denise Keene, Verona Island
Helen Stummer (Honorary), Metuchen, NJ
Lucy Poulin, Board Member Emeritas, Orland

I have been so very blessed with more than adequate shelter, food and loving family that I wish to share my good fortune.

Hoping that this will help someone.

Regard,
Susan Kleemeyer

Dear Tracey Hair and all H.O.M.E. workers and volunteers,

I continue to be amazed, impressed, grateful for your work and accomplishments. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Barbara Yuodsnukis

Dear Tracey,

I have great respect for your work at H.O.M.E., Inc. and the need is so great.

May this donation be a blessing and help to folks in need of your services.

Peace be with you,
Anne Gordon

H.O.M.E. Inc.
Spring Appeal 2021



“Serve First Those Who Suffer Most”

Dear Friends,

Last week, while reflecting on the challenges people have faced during the pandemic, I was reminded of the Haitian proverb, “Beyond mountains there are mountains”. Sometimes it feels that way, doesn’t it? As you solve one problem another presents itself. Our work is to solve problems.

Occasionally, the impact of our work is easily measured. Such was the case last week when a young single mother turned the key to her new home ending a homeless journey that began with domestic violence. During my first encounter with her, I learned what it meant to be a ‘helicopter mother’ as she put it. She reminded me as if I should already know, that it means she hovers around her children. She reminds me of my mother and the times we spent living in a homeless shelter when I was young.

More often, the impact of our work is not so easily measured, but no less meaningful. H.O.M.E.’s maintenance man came to H.O.M.E. after doing time in jail, ending many years of housing instability and addiction. He escaped the grip of addiction and found stability at H.O.M.E. - much like we all did - He’s a hard-working man, with skills in just about anything, although he still pays attention to his ‘addict mind’ as he puts it. Our hope is that his success can serve as a beacon for those who aren’t as far along on their journey.

Everything we do, the opportunities we extend to men, women, and children who are homeless, hungry, or lonely are made possible through your generosity. For that, we are deeply grateful.

Much work remains and we are asking that you consider renewing your support during this annual spring appeal. Please consider contributing today. You can contribute by check, using the enclosed reply envelope, or visit our website www.homemmausa.org to donate.

As we look to 2021 and beyond, we’re mindful of the mountains people face along their journey, please join us by making a donation today.

Tracey Hair, Executive Director



Signs of H.O.M.E.

By Julie Ream

Driving along Acadia Highway in Orland, Maine will lead you to H.O.M.E. It always makes me laugh with understanding that despite all our signs, many people outside of the Orland/Bucksport area have never heard of H.O.M.E. or know why we are here. Mostly because I, a lifelong resident of Maine, grew up across the river and never knew.

Our signs are of a variety of shapes and sizes. They are all welcoming and informative. Some were created by volunteers, some were donated by supportive church groups, others we created ourselves. Some, like the large lettering on the side of the shingle mill are outdated (H.O.M.E. no longer has a museum, but we love the history of it).

Recently, H.O.M.E. staff noticed that the sign at the corner of our road was on the ground. It looked like maybe someone hit it with their vehicle but no one reported it to us so we may never know. The loss of the sign is sad as it was a gift from one of our long-time volunteer groups at St. Luke’s Parish in Barrington, RI. The debris was cleared away but the sign was not salvageable, believe me we tried.

Just the other day Executive Director, Tracey Hair,

received a phone call from our sawyer, Clint, informing her that the brown H.O.M.E. sign just down the road had been knocked down by the strong winds. Thankfully it wasn’t destroyed and he was able to lean it against a tree until he has the time to stand it back up properly.

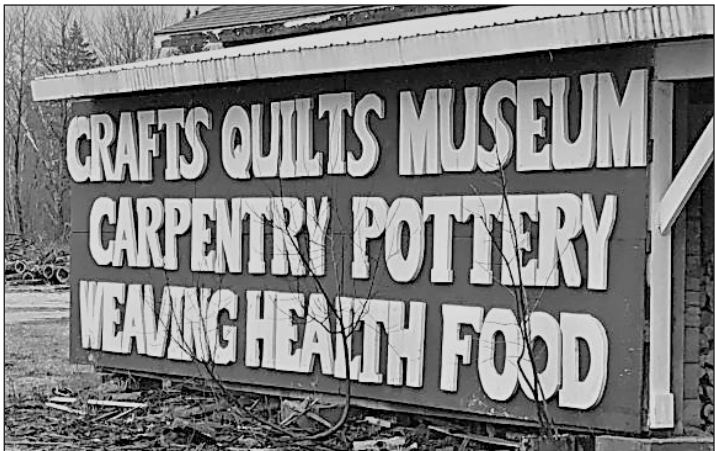
I think my favorite sign hangs outside of Tracey’s office. It’s from the old Bargain Barn that was dismantled after the building was determined to be unsafe. It’s rough and gray with the words Bargain Barn carved out of wood, attached and painted red. It’s a piece of H.O.M.E. history that deserved a place of honor.

Despite the havoc the strong winds may wreak on our signs, H.O.M.E. does what it always does in any situation, we spring into action and get those signs back up on their feet or, we recognize that their hard work is done and we keep them close to care for and honor them. If we do that with our signs, imagine the energy we put into caring for the people who arrive on our campus.

Life knocks most of us down in one way or another no matter our situations. When it happens to you, pay attention to the signs. There may be one right in front of you pointing the way H.O.M.E.



Above, the brown h.o.m.e. sign rests against a tree after being blown down by strong winds. Below left, the old Bargain Barn sign outside of Tracey’s office. Below right, the wall of our shingle mill facing Acadia Highway is left alone for it’s history.



Family Traditions are Important at H.O.M.E.

By Julie Ream

When young people in our community want to volunteer or work at H.O.M.E. it makes us very excited. Just knowing that there are young people in our midst that will be here to carry on our work eases our minds for the future. When the young people are carrying on a family tradition, it not only eases our minds, it makes us very proud.

Chloe and Dhane Smith are the grandchildren of Bonnie Williams, long-time employee of H.O.M.E. who passed away in 2014. Bonnie, along with the legendary Sister Marie, ran our shelter department for decades. H.O.M.E. Executive Director, Tracey Hair says of Bonnie, “In spite of her enormous fear of spiders, she was fearless in every other aspect of her work.” Chloe and Dhane seem to share both those family traits.

Chloe, a student at REACH, an alternative high school in nearby Bucksport, is the school’s Volunteer Coordinator and organized a school project to create Hygiene Bags. Along with her brother Dhane and 11 other classmates they filled over 150 sandwich bags with trial-size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash, lotion, small soaps and other items from H.O.M.E.’s Resource Room. The hygiene bags were given to the Goodness Sake Food Pantry at H.O.M.E. to be distributed upon request with a food box.

As a junior, Chloe has already accumulated the 40 volunteer hours required by the school district for graduation. Her mother, Erin, who is the Front Office Manager at H.O.M.E. stated that Chloe has already volunteered to help at H.O.M.E. on future projects. Not surprising since on her volunteer application she answered the question, How did you hear about H.O.M.E.? by writing “I was born here”. “My hope

was to raise my children to never feel that they were too good to support others and their self-driven eagerness to volunteer makes me beyond proud of them.”

Dhane recently volunteered to help with a special food distribution day at the food pantry and has been hired as a part-time helper in the Bargain Barn and Craft Store after school. His strong back, happy smile and willingness to help are blessings to the managers of both shops. Bargain Barn Manager, Stevie Bridges agrees with that description. Stevie states that working with a young person who is energetic and willing to help is so heartwarming and she is happy to have him on board.

Dhane and Chloe aren’t just following in their grandmother’s footsteps. While their mom currently works at H.O.M.E., their father, Jayson Smith, Bonnie’s youngest son, has worked at H.O.M.E. in the past and

so has one of their uncles. Jayson says, “I just love that my kids recognize that everyone has a duty to help those less fortunate and enjoy doing it.”

Family traditions are important to many of us and we hope our children will keep them up once we are gone. We believe Bonnie is resting easy knowing that H.O.M.E. will endure thanks to the traditions she left behind.



Above, Chloe (left) and Dhane Smith with the over 150 Hygiene Bags they and their classmates put together for the Goodness Sake Food Pantry. Left picture shows Erin holding infant Chloe at a H.O.M.E. gathering.

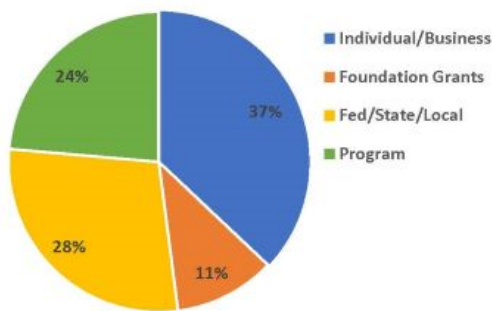


H.O.M.E., Inc. 2020 Annual Report

FINANCIALS

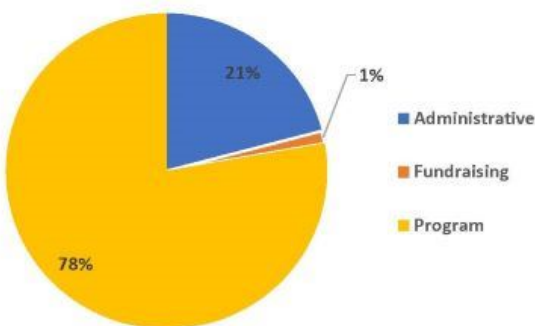
Thanks to the continuation of support both from individuals and foundations that believe in our mission and vision, we are empowered to provide programming with solutions we know work. We are less than 30% funded by State and Federal programs. With continued support from our community, volunteers and agency partners, we will continue to provide shelter, food, clothing, child care and community, while changing lives in Downeast Maine. H.O.M.E., Inc.'s most recent Audited Financial Statements and Form 990 can be found at www.homemmausa.org.

REVENUE 2020



Individual / Business	\$711,133	37%
Fed/State/Local	\$545,437	28%
Foundation Grants	\$209,200	11%
Program	\$453,477	24%

EXPENSES 2020



Administrative Expenses	\$435,212	21%
Fundraising Expenses	\$26,766	1%
Program	\$1,618,548	78%

SHELTER

- **8,916 Bed Nights---178 Guests**
- **54 People moved into permanent housing**
- **Percentage of guests who exited to permanent housing:**

Dorr House: 20%
Sr. Marie House: 40%
St. Francis Inn: 50%
Emmaus Homeless Shelter: 22%



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- **Backpack Program: 75+ backpacks with supplies distributed**
- **Christmas Programs: 439 individuals received gifts**
- **Resource Room: 200+ items disbursed to 50+ families including basic hygiene supplies and warm clothing including hats, mittens and coats**



H.O.M.E. Executive Director, Tracey Hair (right) accepting a donation of pillows for our shelter guests from local business owner, Naomi Graychase who organized a pillow/blanket drive.

HOUSING

- **Transitional: 17 people housed in 2020**
- **The average length of stay in transitional housing was 8 months**
- **Rentals: 12 apartments rented**
- **8 rentals subsidized by H.O.M.E. at 30% of income level, 3 rentals subsidized by an outside program**
- **Ownership: 2 of 3 H.O.M.E. built houses sold in 2020**

FOOD PANTRY

- **An average of 157 food boxes provided each month**
- **105 food boxes home delivered**
- **747 meals served in the Soup Kitchen (pre-pandemic)**
- **Farm to Table food boxes distributed to households:**
November: 69
December: 85



H.O.M.E. sawyer, Clint Clagett and construction/wood stove superstar, Glenn Tarbox help carry in a food delivery from Good Shepherd Food Bank.

Strategic Planning has been on H.O.M.E.’s Board agenda for the last several months. While we anticipate the Strategic Plan being adopted early in 2021, here is a glimpse of the renewed Vision Statement of H.O.M.E.:

H.O.M.E., Inc. enhances the quality of life of people who have fallen on hard times by honoring their dignity, attending to such basic needs as food and shelter, supporting their long-term health and development, and fostering a vibrant and mutually supportive community.

CORE VALUES:

ACCESS – We are committed to including the people we serve in our decision-making process and eliminating barriers to substantive involvement and upward mobility.

LIVED EXPERIENCE – We are committed to engaging people with lived experience of poverty and homelessness in leadership roles for the delivery of our mission.

STEWARDSHIP – We steward our resources responsibly and take seriously our role as a community partner, acting with honesty and transparency and holding ourselves to high standards of professional competence and financial accountability.

CARING FOR OUR OWN – We care for our dedicated team of employees by providing competitive compensation and benefits and maintaining an environment where they can share their gifts and continuously grow.



Special food distribution days means all hands on deck. Pictured here from left to right are Mary Mahan, Finance Director; Rosalani Moore, Assistant Director and Justine Alley, Finance Administrative Assistant.

DAYCARE

- January-March: 18 children enrolled from 12 families
-Closed April and May due to pandemic
- June-December: 10 children enrolled from 8 families
- 4 families received H.O.M.E.’s in-house subsidy
- Weekend grocery bags distributed to 6 families
- Weekly fresh produce by Blue Angels was given to 6-8 families

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

- 93 families received a Christmas food box
- 170 families received a Thanksgiving food box
- 20 families were provided heat assistance (firewood or heating oil)
- 8 quilts made for guests of our shelters

LOCAL STATS

- #1 reason for homelessness in 2020 was lack of affordable housing
- 26% of all renter households are extremely low income
- 18% of Maine children live in poverty
- Maine is 12th in the nation for food insecurity with 1 in 5 not having enough to eat
- 37% of Maine’s food-insecure population doesn’t qualify for public assistance
- Food costs in Maine are nearly 18% higher than the rest of the country



A large part of H.O.M.E.’s Christmas Program is supported by the First Congregational Church of Old Greenwich, CT. Here, congregation member, Paul Ghaffari, and H.O.M.E. Program Coordinator, Julie Ream, stand with a van full of presents heading to Orland.



A picture of all the pillows, blankets and even coats delivered by Naomi Graychase for our shelter guests. The generosity of our neighbors never ceases to humble us. We thank you all.

We Got This...

By Tracey Hair

This is an ode to the humble maintenance worker... Behind those familiar garage bay doors sits one of H.O.M.E.'s hardest-working players working to keep our buildings in good shape, our pipes thawed, and our structures up-to-date with green energy. He spends his days filling work orders and solving maintenance problems across more than a dozen buildings.

There are some people who see the need and, rather than feeling stuck by the magnitude of the world's pain, they move toward it. For many years, Jayme battled with an addiction that led him to spend time in jail. Jayme leads our maintenance department and serves as a mentor for others who come with the same struggles. For some it works out and they stay a while... for others it doesn't, and when it doesn't Jayme's reassuring smile patiently reminds us ... "it wasn't their time yet, they're not ready."

Today, he and his wife both work at H.O.M.E and have a compassion for helping anyone who has hit hard times. It's not hard to find people in crisis at H.O.M.E. after all, this is our work. Born and raised in Texas, he's no stranger to poverty and homelessness himself, he's also no stranger to second chances and the challenges of finding work when you have a criminal record - 1 in 3 Americans have a criminal record which makes it harder to find a job.

Soon after I came to H.O.M.E. to work, I read a book by Father Greg Boyle, called "Tattoos on the Heart" I was amazed by the random chaos and downward spiral that characterized the lives of gang members who had all but been forgotten. Since we opened our doors 51 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.

H.O.M.E. is a place to awaken and nourish the work spirit within each of us, a space for work, for painting, for gardening, for writing, for sewing, for listening, for reflection, a place where each person is welcome, a place where the only thing asked of you is that you give back to the service of others.

Recently we hired a young man to work with Jayme, he comes with similar struggles and the same 'hard-working, I want to give back attitude.' When we first met Thomas, he was helping us deliver food boxes to people. Just a stranger there to help. He's the newest guy Jayme has taken under his wing and although maintenance has never been his work, he's eager to stay on despite a chance to go back to lobster fishing. "I've never worked at a place that means something," he said to me, "this is the best job I've had."

Jayme teaches us that we can't turn the light switch on for anyone. But we all own flashlights. With any luck, on any given day, we know where to aim them for each other. We don't rescue anyone at the margins. We stand at the margins with them and as Jayme reminds me daily "we got this!"

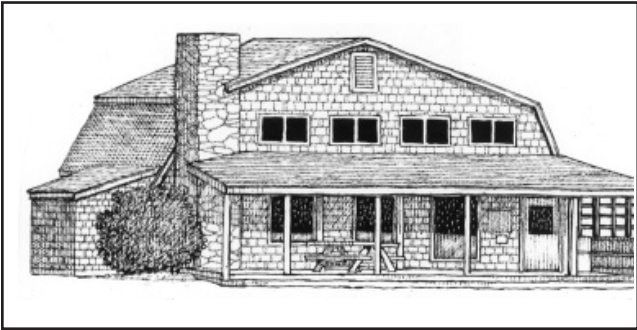
Have
enough
courage to
start and
enough heart
to finish



Above, Thomas spots Jayme as he retrieves a misplaced item. Below, Jayme and Hazel cut a rug at a community event.



visit ...



Castine Wood Bank Makes it to the New York Times

By Gil Tenney
-reprinted with permission from The Common newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine, March 2021

The phone rang recently. A very nice voice introduced herself as Marguerite Holloway, an environmental journalist teaching at Columbia University and writing an article for the NYT on wood banks in Maine. <https://journalism.columbia.edu/faculty/marguerite-holloway>. I never would have guessed that our small and sometimes struggling wood bank would make the circulation of such a media giant. We're thrilled when the Castine Patriot picks up our story.

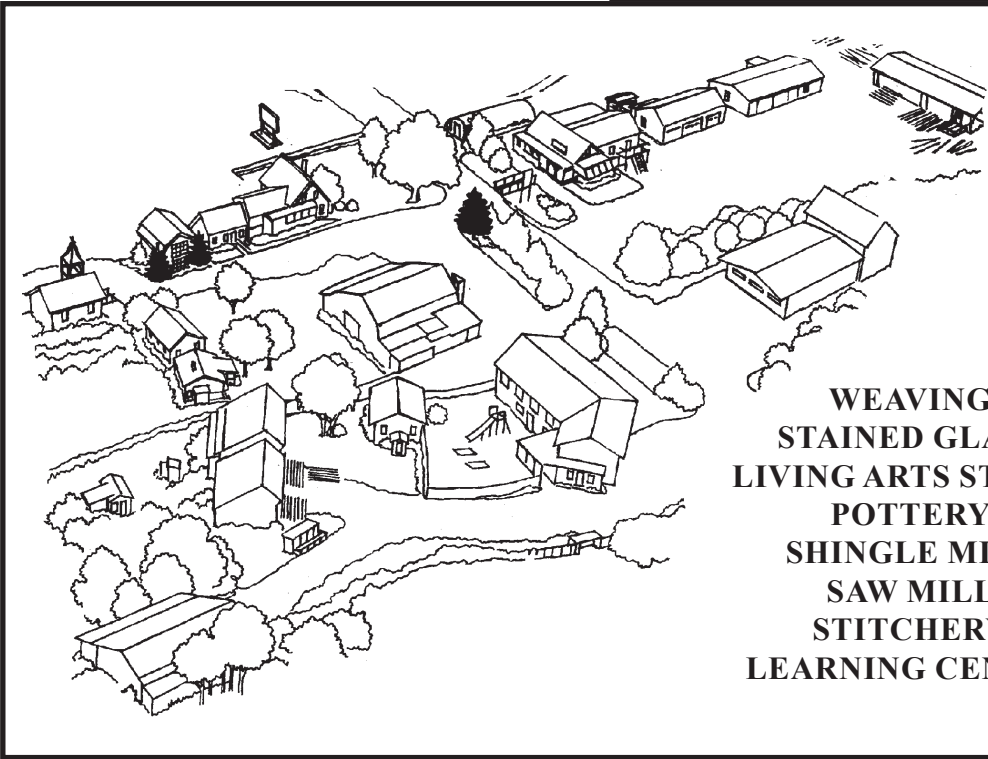
Marguerite arrived. The first day she interviewed Tracey Hair, H.O.M.E.'s Executive Director, and Clint Clagett who does "everything wood" for H.O.M.E. from making shingles to H.O.M.E.'s wood bank. I found this an intriguing article on H.O.M.E., its people, its history and the impact of climate change on those struggling with the stresses of poverty and homelessness.

The second day, Marguerite came to the Castine wood bank then on to Surry to view a new site provided by the Blue Hill Heritage Trust. It is gratifying to see the emerging network of concerned citizen working together for a worthy cause. Here is the link to "Where there's no heat: You Need Wood, You Get Wood" by Marguerite Holloway published Feb 19, 2021 and updated Feb 20, 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/19/climate/wood-banks-winter-maine.html>.



Volunteers work to fill the new woodshed built specifically to store wood for the community.

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



WEAVING
STAINED GLASS
LIVING ARTS STUDIO
POTTERY
SHINGLE MILL
SAW MILL
STITCHERY
LEARNING CENTER

F.A.B.R.I.C.

By Rebecca Alley

-Article reprinted with permission from The Ellsworth American, December 31, 2020 edition

ORLAND — There is something about wrapping up in a cozy, homemade quilt that makes you feel right at home.

At H.O.M.E., guests will get to experience that traditional sense of comfort thanks to local quilters who will be busily sewing this winter as part of a project initiated by the nonprofit organization. For years, H.O.M.E. has provided food, overnight shelter, transitional housing, instruction in various crafts and other services to those in need.

H.O.M.E. Executive Director Tracey Hair says the five volunteer quilters’ completed creations will be given to the facility’s guests to keep and take with them when they move into permanent housing. Over the winter, she said the volunteers will have the chance to safely meet with individual guests to enjoy a conversation, a cup of coffee and “explore what [the guest’s] interests are and try to create a quilt to that theme.”

H.O.M.E. is a haven for crafters, Hair said, noting that the 23-acre village is dotted with art studios, including spaces for pottery, woodworking and quilting. Additionally, a craft retail store enables the public to buy local crafts. Some of the items are made by shelter guests, who receive 100 percent of the sales revenue for their work.

The COVID-19 pandemic, of course, has changed some aspects of the Orland complex’s operation. The craft store has been temporarily closed while the staff and volunteers focus on their guests’ immediate needs such as emergency housing and food assistance.

Still, the craft store’s closure did not deter its manager, Lisa Tenney. She conceived of the quilt project as another way for volunteers to connect with H.O.M.E.’s guests in a safe and meaningful way and provide a piece of the shelter to take with them. Keeping alive the sense of community there is important. The creation of quilts also honors the craft tradition that is near and dear to many Mainers.

“Sometimes, when folks leave [the shelter], they miss the connection,” Hair said. “Shelter has to be more than three ‘hots’ [hot meals] and a cot.”



Above, the porch of the Hospitality House needs to be replaced. Below, the duplex housing the Sr. Marie Ahern House and the Dorr House men's shelter will receive new windows.



Additionally, the project maintains crafting as an integral part of H.O.M.E.’s program and underlying vision of the Orland campus as a handcrafters’ village.

“The village is supposed to be inviting for shelter guests to come into a community,” Hair said, explaining that by fostering an artistic community, a more relaxed, while expressive environment is created.

Through crafting she said, shelter staff can work with guests on addressing barriers to housing “without wearing a case manager hat,” that can often feel isolating.

Last March, the shelter’s craft store was renovated right before it was forced to close.

Thankfully, the quilt project has been “a wonderful way to engage our craft department through the winter when they can’t let the public in,” Hair said.

It is also a way to “keep the sewing machines humming,” something important to the shelter’s troop of diligent volunteers, who want to remain safely active with the shelter amid the pandemic.

“They’re super excited,” Hair said of the volunteers, noting she is “also mindful of rural isolation,” and that she could “sense a loss in [the volunteers]” due to the craft store’s closure.

Volunteers Julia Demaree, Stevie Bridges and Sheila Holtz have been working in H.O.M.E.’s stitchery department, which is large enough for the three volunteers to safely socially distance. Volunteer Joanne Jackson is busily quilting from her Maine home while Carol Green has been actively quilting all the way from North Carolina. She already has produced quilts to the shelter — including some for children.

Her handmade patchworks feature brightly colored fabrics printed with flowers, butterflies and polka dots, made complete with a tag that reads “one who sleeps under a quilt is comforted by love.” Hair said that she expects the crafters to produce about one quilt per week.

While the craft department remains closed to the public, Hair is “hoping for a grand reopening” in the future.

“As soon as it’s safe to do so, we will open,” she said.



Above, Artist, Julia Demaree and Shelter Navigator, Amy Smith displaying a quilt made especially for a veteran in shelter. Below, Craft Store Manager, Lisa Tenney delivering quilts at the woman's shelter.



H.O.M.E. is Committed to Improving Ourselves to Better Serve Others

By Julie Ream

The last few years at H.O.M.E. we have been putting a lot of thought and effort not into constructing new buildings, but into improving some very important structures that deserve our attention.

Hospitality House located in Bucksport, Maine, is a very important building to H.O.M.E. Originally known as the Dorothy Hance House, this decades old structure served as H.O.M.E.’s first homeless shelter. Now it serves as permanent housing with seven one-bedroom apartments for low-income individuals or couples.

H.O.M.E. Assistant Director, Rosalani Moore, has been working tirelessly on fundraising to make much needed improvements to the building structure and the apartments inside. She has been writing grants and meeting with contractors and inspectors with hopes to have work begin before spring ends.

The basement will receive work that will support and stabilize the structure while the roof will be re-shingled on the back portion to prevent water damage. Gutters will also be installed to assist in directing water away from the building. There are plans to re-side the back exterior wall while the front entry porch that is deteriorating will be rebuilt. Rebuilding the retaining wall beside the driveway and grading said driveway will complete the work needed for the outside.

Inside the building, new flooring will be installed in the common hallways. Renovations for each of the seven apartments include redoing the kitchen and bathroom areas and replacing the flooring if needed. With a fresh coat of paint, the tenants will feel like they upgraded to a new living space.

Rosa says these renovations will increase the useful life of the structure and allow H.O.M.E. to continue to provide affordable, permanent housing for those in need for the foreseeable future.

While doing all this work to improve the Hospitality House, Rosa has also been getting things together to renovate our shelters here in the Orland village.

The Duplex, located behind the chapel here on campus, is home to both the Sr. Marie Ahern House for women and women with children and the Dorr House shelter for men. Although the building isn’t nearly as old as Hospitality House, issues have arose that require our immediate attention and help to increase the usefulness of the shelter space and increase H.O.M.E.’s ability to shelter those in need.

One goal is to replace the existing windows throughout as the windows open with cranks and are faulty. The plan also includes building an accessible downstairs bedroom and bathroom which will expand capacity for H.O.M.E. to shelter men with mobility challenges. The kitchen area in the Dorr House will also need to be renovated.

On the outside, gutters will be placed to direct water away from the building and enable the failing retaining wall to be rebuilt. Lastly, the area around the playground will be built up to provide drainage.

Thanks to the hard work that our Assistant Director has put in these many months, two of our buildings will get the loving care their mission so richly deserves. And the tenants who inhabit these buildings will do so without worry.

Roll-up-your-sleeve kind of Financial Support Oxymoron or Brilliant Concept?

By Tracey Hair

One crisp day a few years ago a group of Unitarian Universalists toured H.O.M.E.’s campus in Orland. We’re just about 13 miles from their home base of Castine. We knew they were interested in social justice, but what we didn’t know was that we were gaining a friend and supporter who would be there to help us grow our organization as well as respond to a global pandemic. H.O.M.E. is no stranger to poverty – poor since its founding, we have turned a corner and this enthusiastic group has helped us tremendously along the journey.

From helping us create a Down Payment Assistance program for people below the poverty level, to providing funds for us to purchase heat pumps for our craft program. The purpose of revitalizing the studios was to increase social inclusion among people experiencing homelessness and to improve their mental health. A gift of \$5000.00 moved us closer to green energy by installing heat pumps, but the unseen impact was in the hearts of the 108 people who visited the studios that year. - We changed lives together.

As an organization that works intentionally in community, we were hit hard by COVID -19 – moving mountains to ensure that the most vulnerable among us had access to the same supports as you and me. While temporarily losing the physical presence of the community we cherish, The Opportunity Fund of the Unitarian Church of Castine was there, once more, to help us respond to this crisis with an unsolicited, unrestricted grant of \$15,000. In a time when a virus

threatens our breath, we were able to take a breath that day. The social worker we had hired 3 months earlier decided to stay on and we directed those funds to improve the mental health of our guests and staff.

The tour of our village on that crisp day a few years ago has grown into a partnership that has changed lives and hearts of our struggling neighbors—a partnership that has built bridges between social classes – the financial gifts came packed with a roll-up-your-sleeve kind of love, and for that, we are truly thankful.



Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Castine stand behind staff members at the conclusion of a campus tour.

Kindness Matters

By Mary Mahan

If you look up the word Kindness in the dictionary it says “the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate” how simple is that. Recognition and a thank you goes so far in a person’s day. I feel that being kind requires far less effort than trying to be mean and nasty.

I grew up in that environment of meanness. Most of my family had major drinking problems and could have cared less who they hurt.

Growing up in that type of environment can really affect your future personality. I was very lucky to have my father as a role model. He was my hero. He worked so hard to provide for his family with his clam business. His life was hard but still had time to show kindness and love to me. I worked side by side with dad no matter what the job was. He always said to treat others how you want to be treated. That is how I got through many tough moments.

I now feel that I am a kind and loving person and I have empathy for other people’s suffering. Reaching out to them with a kind word, hoping that you can help them feel good about themselves and maybe they too will pass along the same kindness to others.

So, remember being kind can make a difference in everyone’s life.

There are three ways to ultimate success.

The first way is to be kind.

The second way is to be kind.

The third way is to be kind.

-Mister Rogers

More Letters

H.O.M.E receives many notes and letters from supporters throughout the year. We try to add as many as we can to our Letters section of the paper. Unfortunately, we never have room to showcase all of them. Longer letters sometimes don’t make it just because of lack of space. Here are a few of the letters we received that we wanted to share:

To the folks at H.O.M.E.,

Fifty years of caring for the folks of Maine. You have done a great job.

Forty-eight years ago, I had the opportunity to be a part of this project. I remember Lucy driving the tractor, and Father Mike McFadden who came for two weeks and stayed for the whole summer.

We brought a group of teenagers from the Gardner, Mass. area. It was a wonderful experience for all of us.

I’m not surprised that it is still going strong. Over the years, we have been back several times. It’s great to see the expanded services from the humble start so many years ago.

I’d say “keep up the good work” but I know that’s exactly what you are going to do.

May God continue to bless you and your work.

Sincerely,
Bill Webber & Joan too

Dear Tracey,

What a nice surprise to hear from H.O.M.E. again. I visited H.O.M.E. in July of 1981 with my husband, son and another family. My daughter Elizabeth (Betsy) spent the summer of ’81 working there. She lived with Sr. Marie and we met Sr. Lucy then too.

I am Elizabeth’s (Betsy’s) mom. I turned 96 on Oct. 7th this year. I have so many happy memories of our week’s stay there. I have often wondered if Sr. Marie & Sr. Lucy are still there. I loved the stories of how they started H.O.M.E. and kept growing on all the

programs to help the local people.

I used to get your monthly paper with news. If you still publish it, I would like a copy.

Betsy took a year off medical school to volunteer at H.O.M.E. in ’81. She graduated in June of ’85, practiced medicine in Seattle till June of 2020.

I’m happy to contribute to your work. May God bless you all. Keep in touch!

Lots of love,
Eileen Strickland

Dear Julie and friends at H.O.M.E.,

I was sorry to hear about the fact that Christmas Wreaths won’t be available outside of Maine this year—but I understand. COVID-19 has changed a lot of things!

I think of you often—each of you, even the many I don’t know—having been away for so long...

I wanted to send along this donation for the wreath makers.

Wishing each and all a happy and blessed holiday season. Hope all is well.

Best wishes & prayers,
Clare Barry

Dear Tracey,

This looked like a cheery card when I bought it but let’s fact it, the likely chance of a happy every day,

hmmmm, very slim. But take them when you get them and rejoice...

In the past I have sent these credit cards to Twyla (sic) Greene but since I do not know who is in charge of the kitchen operation, I’m sending it to you. (Keep the sales slip with the card so I’ve been told).

Yesterday I mailed a package with the Valentine decorations and some clothing & odds & ends. The K. crew loved the surprise of it. I forgot to include a self-addressed card so someone could write the package arrived...

Onward and upward Tracey.
Blessings,
Claire Kaiser

Dear Tracey,

Your work helping people with so much need is humbling to everyone I share H.O.M.E.’s story with.

I hope this will help in a small way, and I will try to send another donation in the summer.

Sincerely,
Cheryl DeVine
P.S. Please reuse your envelope!

Getting snail mail is one of my favorite indulgences, and I think receiving mail is actually a common joy.

-Mary Lambert

Shelter’s New Program Manager Introduces Herself

By Liz Franck

Greetings. My name is Liz Franck, and I am the Shelter Program Manager for H.O.M.E., Inc. I am very excited to be filling this new role at H.O.M.E., as I have been a patron and friend to H.O.M.E. long before becoming a resident of this area. My professional background has been an eclectic adventure, eventually leading me to a Master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Maine. During my graduate schooling I had particular interest in learning about the effects of Trauma, along with the good fortunate to intern with the Maine Wabanaki State Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Wabanaki Health and Wellness. Prior to coming H.O.M.E., I worked for Preble Street’s Veterans Housing Program as a Rapid Rehousing case manager, later serving as Supervisor for the program’s Bangor office. My work with Preble Street connected me with clients who were guests at H.O.M.E.’s emergency shelter, allowing me to work with Shelter staff, prior to joining this team.

While I enjoyed my work with Preble Street tremendously, H.O.M.E. offered the opportunity to help expand services in my own backyard. This speaks to values that are dear to me, as I have served as a case manager in Hancock and Washington counties for the last few years. I have witnessed the gaps in services

available to these communities, but also believe that we have work to do in assessing community needs. At times, the strength and resilience of our community members adds challenge to determining resources



H.O.M.E.’s new Shelter Manager, Liz Franck, brings with her years of social work and marks a turn in the services offered to our guests.

needed. Additionally, the tools available for assessment may not adequately reflect the challenges unique to these rural communities. I hope that my contribution will not only strengthen the direct services that H.O.M.E. offers to our community but, also, assist in identifying and better serving our broader community.

I have long been an admirer of the creative solutions that H.O.M.E. presents to community challenges, and look forward to collaborating with agency members. On the H.O.M.E. campus, we hope to expand our staffing pattern to offer guest support on a 24/7 basis, and to continue in the training and development of our Shelter team. When we are able to resume programs, we hope to be able to encourage guests to participate in the many educational opportunities available at H.O.M.E. One program of particular interest is the development of a healing center, offering multiple forms of esoteric arts which will be available to our guests. As a longtime Reiki practitioner, I am especially aware of the benefit this program can offer to those who are in crises. It is my hope that this program will not only attract guests of our shelters, but folks from the broader community who are looking for alternatives in self-care and healing opportunities.

Do you have a story about H.O.M.E. that you would like to share? The staff for H.O.M.E.’s biannual newsletter, This Time, would love to read it! Whether you were helped with a food box, stayed as a guest or volunteered on our campus, H.O.M.E. wants to hear it and share it! Please email any stories, anecdotes or even poetry to: programcoordinator@homeincme.org
This Time is available every Spring and Fall!

Daycare Update: New employees, new safety guidelines, same passion for caring

By Christina Witham

Here at H.O.M.E. Daycare everyone has been healthy and practicing safe measures. It’s been quite a historic year of changes to our world. We all have had to make many revisions to our day to day lives. It’s important to remember to support each other, lift each other up and work together as we pave this new road together.

Daycare is very lucky to be part of an organization that has supported us in so many ways. We have been kept abreast of all the latest information from the Maine CDC (Center for Disease Control) and have had continuous ongoing training to ensure our staff and children are kept safe and healthy.

I (Christina Witham/Director of daycare) and Denise Bevan our Lead Teacher have been working on our Maine Credentials over the past few years through Maine Roads to Quality which is affiliated with The University of Southern Maine and The State of Maine. I am applying for the Maine Directors Credential this October. This covers all aspects of running, and operating a licensed daycare facility, and Denise Bevan will be applying for her Infant/Toddler Credential. This covers all aspects developmentally supporting infants and toddlers. Thank You to H.O.M.E. Inc. for supporting and encouraging Denise and I over the past few years. It’s been a lot of hard work to reach this stage and we would never have reached the point we are at now without H.O.M.E.’s support.

We have a couple of new employees who have really helped balance out daycare nicely. Cade Seavey, who is a wonderful male role model for the children. The children enjoy playing with him, climbing all over him and Cade is very engaged with the children. Janet Johnson does so many wonderful projects with the children. We recently had a “tea party”. Janet made the children hats, ties for the boys, napkin holders with



Above, siblings Abby and Andrew shine in their Tea Party attire. Below, the table awaits the guests. Right, Cassandra enjoys her cuppa at the Daycare Tea Party.



little suits and dresses on them. We had tea sandwiches and tea cakes. We ALL enjoyed ourselves very much. Daycare is grateful to have Cade and Janet with us and for all they do.

This summer has lots of activities in the works for the children. We have hanging plants they will be putting together to attract hummingbirds, we will be planting other flowers and doing a small garden. We have picnics, walks, and other things planned for them. We hope to make it an enjoyable and fun summer for them with lots of memories to cherish.



Green Thumbs

By Millie Grimes
Reprinted from the Spring 2002 edition of This Time

The days are getting warmer and the snow has almost melted away; my thoughts turn to the crocus and the tulips inching their way up toward the sun. We're starting seeds and transplanting seedlings in the small green house and getting the larger outside one prepared for selling "6-packs" of flowers, herbs, and veggies, beginning in May.

If you haven't tried starting seeds yourself, you should! It's not hard, and very satisfying (plus cheaper) to set out your own transplants in the garden. Tomato or broccoli are very dependable plants to start from seed, also marigold or zinnia for a flower. Sage and parsley for herbs also work well.

For containers, you can use milk cartons (with one side cut out-becomes the top) any shallow plastic containers that you can punch drainage holes in, peat pots, plastic greenhouse six-packs, (already have holes) or, as a last resort, egg cartons (they get wet quickly and may rot through). Fill with sterilized soil (you can buy seed starting mix or regular potting soil), sprinkle seeds thinly, and cover with small amount of soil. A common mistake is to cover too deeply. Press soil firmly over seeds. Water with warm water very gently until soil is wet, not waterlogged. Cover with plastic wrap and put in a warm place- on a shelf near the wood stove, top of the refrigerator, etc. Most seeds will sprout in 7-10 days, some, like broccoli and cabbage, much sooner, so check each day. Keep moist and move to your sunniest windowsill (east or south) as soon as sprouts first emerge. A greenhouse of course is the best place. In the house, you can also use gro-lights to lengthen hours of light to 12-14 hours per day. Turn containers frequently and fertilize every week with liquid fertilizer, half strength at first. Transplant when first true leaves appear (or later) if seedlings are close together; if not, leave in original container until ready to plant in the garden. First two leaves to appear are not true leaves. Transplant to a garden on a cloudy day if possible or in late afternoon after "hardening off" for at least a week by exposing transplants gradually to outdoor conditions.

Congratulations! You have helped seed turn into the miracle of a healthy plant. Happy Transplanting!

The Bargain Barn is OPEN!!!

Stop in to see Eunice & Stevie
Wednesday-Friday
10 am-3 pm

*if dropping off donations,
please call 469-3102 to set up
an appointment.



Millie and Ralph Grimes have been employees of H.O.M.E. since the late 1980s. Now semi-retired, they work together daily in the gardens and greenhouses on campus. They also run a stand at local farmers' markets for H.O.M.E.

THE GIFT SHOP IS OPEN!!!

If you are in Orland, Maine this summer, don't forget to stop at the Gift Shop here at H.O.M.E. This year we are putting a twist on a product we have had in our shop in the past. Pictured below are three balsam trivets that were created on campus in our Living Arts studio. They are the result of a collaboration between volunteer artists Julia Demaree and Sheila Holtz along with the excellent coloring skills of our Finance Department's Administrative Assistant, Justine Alley. Each trivet's design is hand-drawn and colored and make excellent gifts. They've even started adding the word HOME to some designs for visitors and volunteers who would like to purchase a souvenir to remember us by.

If you are interested in purchasing a trivet, or any item from our Gift Shop stop in or give the manager, Lisa a call at 207-469-7961 and select option 4.



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

COVID's Gift

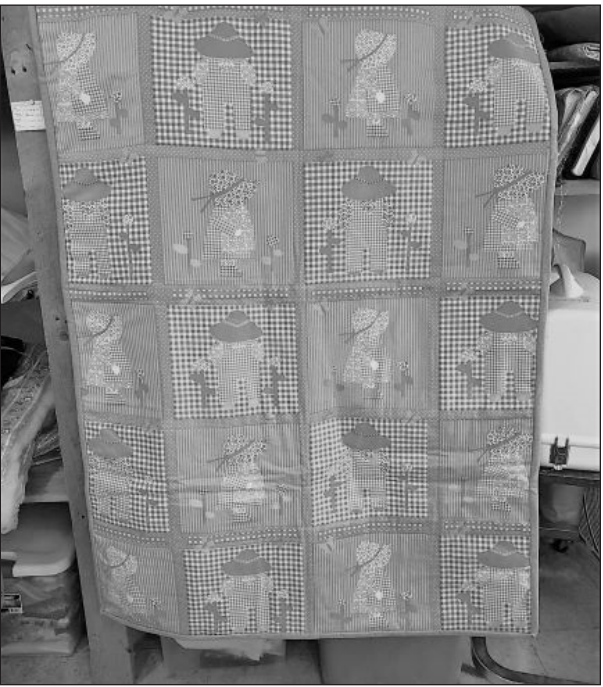
By Julia Demaree

Spring has come to Maine but I am thinking about last winter when we were all huddled inside and rethinking our lives. COVID was holding our old ways hostage and keeping us in lockdown.

Out of these dark, perplexing times Lisa, manager of our Craft Store, got the brainstorm to make Custom Quilts for our shelter guests and their children. So Lisa, her sister Joanne and I began to raid the fabric boxes in Stitchery and before winter was out we managed to finish nearly two dozen quilts.

Our inspiration for each quilt came from the "interview sheet" used by H.O.M.E.'s navigator, Amy who noted the guests' favorite colors and themes. The single words "ocean" and "rainbows" would become a point of departure for a quilt.

A culminating moment of the whole project came on the stoop of a single mom's new lodging when she opened it up and with incredulity asked, "Did you really make this for me?"



Another quilt made by the wonderful volunteers for our Craft Store. Sending each shelter guest off to their new home with a H.O.M.E.made quilt is a program that we believe shows our guests that we care about them as a people.

Come Volunteer!

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

LONG LIVE THE DEAD

By Sheila Holtz

Names and numbers, light and color,
Smooth black stones and dry brown leaves
Soft green moss and small blue flowers
Soft gray mist and rough gray trees

The broken wall, the ancient graves
The dead at rest, the dead at peace
The dead reach out to comfort me
The dead invite me to their kingdom

The dead enfold me, humming, singing,
Wrap me in their cool embrace
The dead will rock me, rock me doo-dah
As they body forth their dream

And their vision, la-la-lovely
Vision pure and sweet, oh yeah
Vision warm like winter firelight
Vision vast and deep as space

And their kingdom fills the heavens
And the earth, the earth, amen
And their kingdom fills me also
Kingdom without end, amen

All the dead get down and party
When I come into their land
They're so happy to be with me
I'm so glad to be with them

All the dead sing hallelujah
When my boat lands on their shore
Yes, the dead dig and adore me
We'll have fun forevermore

We'll sing songs and laugh and giggle
Whoop-dee-doo forevermore
La-dee-dah and rock me doo-dah
Rock me doo-dah, evermore.

Fun With Astrology

Kathy didn't make it so Julie filled in her thoughts of the signs.

Aries: Always bossing me around. (It's my boss).

Taurus: Demands I be the funny Aunt. (I am).

Gemini: Certainly less bossy than Aries, but she has her moments. (Cherish your Assistant Director if you have one).

Cancer: Acts like she's the more responsible sister. (She is).

Leo: Some of my closest friends are leos. (That's a few of my 17 first cousins).

Virgo: Spat up on me and refused to have separate birth days. (They are my kids, so...).

Libra: If there is an illness roaming around, he will catch it and call me for grocery deliveries. (The kid catches everything but he calls me mom, so I'm off to the grocery store).

Scorpio: Calls every time she has a sore throat so I can assure her that she doesn't have throat cancer. (My oldest, and I didn't make this up). PS: I would go to the grocery store for her as well, if needed.

Sagittarius: Tattled on me as a kid but they actually had my back like they do now. (Gotta love aunts).

Capricorn: Can't complain about this one cuz she gave me life. (Thanks mom!).

Aquarius:: Again, no complaint as I vowed to spend the rest of my life with him. (I would like to be able to keep doing that).

Pisces: Married my brother and forces us to have family get togethers. (She's actually amazing and we are so happy she puts up with him).

Grandmother

By Julie Catherine Ream

A year without you,
A year of sorrw.
We pray acceptance
Comes tomorrow.
Your strength we miss it
Most every day.
Yet we must use it
To find our way.
But there is something
You know from above.
Down here on earth
You are greatly loved.

A tribute to my grandfather: A Valiant Man

By Julie Catherine Ream

For many years you showed us
how to keep our heads held high.
To preserve, to fight our fights,
to lay our feelings nigh.
You taught us by example
through brotherhood and strife,
That on our own we could
achieve great happiness in life.
Your noble kindness and val-
iant strength we hold dear to-
day.
As we say goodbye yet, self-
ishly, wish for you to stay.
So, heads held high, we per-
severe and shall fight through
this test.
As we thank you through our
tears and wish you peaceful
rest.

Food for
the body is
not enough.
There must
be food for
the soul.

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This Time

"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most" Homeworkers Organized for More Employment



The pandemic had the Bargain Barn opening and closing its doors a few times this past year, but we are open for the summer and hoping we get to stay that way!



Part of the World Emmaus
Movement



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