



These images were created by J. Woody Norman. His imagery of homelessness touches our hearts in a deep and meaningful way. We hope you appreciate them as much as we do. Thank you Woody!



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H.O.M.E., INC.

ANNUAL REPORTS
MAY 2020



50th Anniversary Logo Designed by Rosalani Moore

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newly shingled, Living Arts porch trim painted, Craft Store trim painted, Craft Store upper front has new cedar shingles, Duplex deck flooring replaced, Wood shop cleaned up/wood reorganized, White Barn cleaned/organized, Bargain Barn shingles clear-coated, Craft Store new shingles clear-coated, Stitchery fabric sorted and organized, Snow shoveled, Memorial Garden fence painted, Decorative well painted, Trash box for SMH constructed/placed, Volunteer shed painted, Painted at 23 in Dedham, Gazebo started, Wood Bank shed started.

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

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

Materials donated:

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

Julie Ream, Program Coordinator

Alternative Spring Break volunteer group from Saint Anselm College.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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

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

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

Projects: Hallway of Learning Center painted, Spring and Fall appeals, stuffed envelopes, applied labels and stamps, Split and stacked over 4 cord of wood, Quilt area of Craft Store painted, New pottery build begun, Secret garden tilled, Fence made for new garden, High tunnel tilled and weeded, Blueberries picked, Craft Store deck stained, Learning Center deck stained, Bridge Stained, Back stairwell wall painted (halfway), Daycare playground erected, Stained Glass studio ramp built, New floors in 6 bedrooms at SBHH, Ramp at SBHH completed, Living Arts porch roof

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

For us, it's about access – who can reach us for help? Our work is designed intentionally to be low-barrier, an example of this is our wood bank, a simple phone call and intake interview can ensure that wood is



delivered within three days of the request and similarly, warm winter clothing can be found in a permanently unlocked classroom in the Learning Center where no staff engagement is needed to get warm clothing.

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

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

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

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

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

We hope you will take a few moments to read our Annual Report and take pride in knowing together we are changing lives and strengthening the future of this community and beyond, through your support of and belief in our work. We are grateful for you and encourage you to visit our little village here in Orland and see for yourselves the impact of your efforts.

With gratitude,



Tracey Hair, Executive Director

SAWMILLS

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

Project Woodstove was an early H.O.M.E. program (1970s) that provided firewood to elderly residents to help keep them warm throughout Maine's long winter. We have resurrected Project Woodstove to help fill gaps in fuel assistant programs in our county. Residents in need sometimes have to wait months for an appointment with local fuel assistant programs or make just a bit too much income to qualify. H.O.M.E. was able to help 16 families with assistance to bridge the gap. The volunteers who worked with us splitting and stacking firewood should feel a sense of inner warmth knowing that their hard work helped keep many in our area from freezing this past winter.

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

Regards,
Clint Clagett, Sawyer
Glenn Tarbox

St. Anselm College helping with Project Woodstove. Young volunteers are always an inspiration.



POTTERY

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

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

The new studio will be a larger open space for holding classes a community – like atmosphere within the building and help people accomplish their goals to live their best life moving forward.

Rosalani Moore, Potter

STAINED GLASS STUDIO

The Stained Glass Studio is open for business. Over the past year we had the pleasure of welcoming students from the community including residents from H.O.M.E.'s shelters. Students learn basics of cutting, foiling and soldering to create a sun catcher to hang in their window. We also continue to do repairs and make original work for sale in our craft store. Many students reported that working in stained glass has enriched their lives and continue to create beautiful works of art.

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

Roxanne Poulin

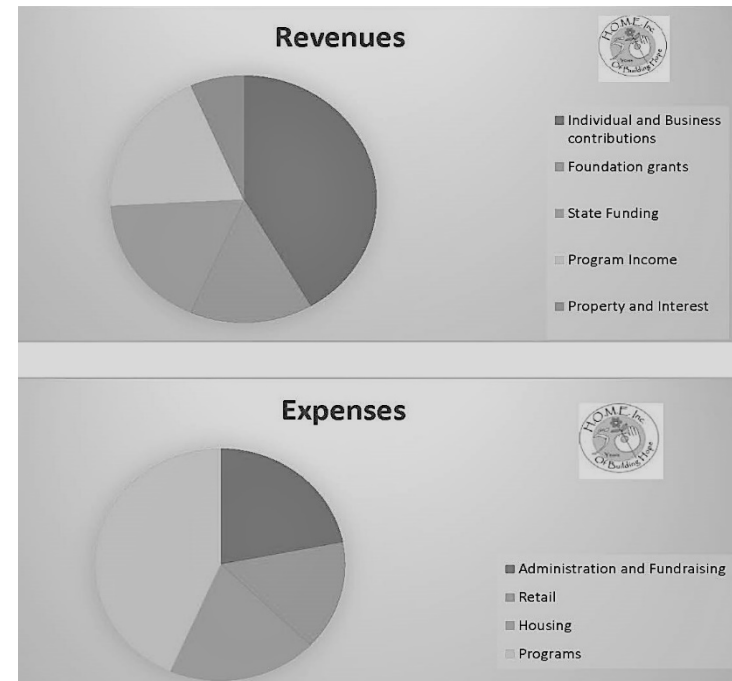
BOOKKEEPING

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

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

It takes a community to raise a family and H.O.M.E. continues to work hard to “Serve first those who suffer most”.

Mary Mahan, Finance Director



SHELTER

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

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

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

Gerald Botta, Shelter Administrator

Karen Botta, Primary Navigator

BARGAIN BARN

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

The Bargain Barn was closed during the slow months of January February and March for staff to clean out items that have lingered too long.

rescued food donated by Hannaford in Bucksport, we are able to offer vegetarian alternatives as well. In 2019 we served 5,427 meals to staff, shelter residents and community members. Donations for the meal are welcomed but not required.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Hayden, Market Stand Manager



Clint and Glenn help carry in a delivery for the food pantry from the Good Shepherd Food Bank.

MAINTENANCE

H.O.M.E.'s Maintenance Department addressed many emergency issues and many potential issues in 2019. In January we ran new pex lines for a water heater at the rental on Powers Drive. We also did an outreach service by helping a local homesteading family with a water heater installation. In February we did work on the mounted tire balancer and wired it for 220. Being able to work on H.O.M.E.'s vehicles is a money saver for us.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jayme Ream, Maintenance Supervisor

MARKET STAND

The Goodness Sake Food Pantry aims to serve a hot, nutritious lunchtime meal five days a week. Thanks to generous donations and the

and make room for the many donations we receive weekly. The Barn has had a thorough cleaning and the stock has been refreshed We look forward to opening our doors when the shelter in place order in Maine is lifted.

CRAFT STORE

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

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

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

Clare McEwen

Lorraine Moore ran the Craft Store for many years. The new manager learned from Lorraine and looks forward to carrying on her legacy.



STITCHERY

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

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

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

Sandra Potter

GARDENS

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

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

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

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

Nature's Way

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

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Cross Creek, 1942.

Happy Spring, everyone!

Millie Grimes
Gardens Departments

SISTER BARBARA HANCE HOUSE

As the Senior Residential Aide most of my time at SBHH is invested into the residents and helping them through their transitional journey into finding permanent housing and stability.

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

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

Residents have a maximum time of 2 years here, however the average length of tenancy in 2019 was 7 months. During this time, residents establish a steady income, save money, learn about different resources within the community, set goals, obtain housing vouchers and ultimately, find their own place to call home.

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

Affordable housing has been difficult to find on a constant basis for most of our tenants, they pop up here and there but never last long with such a wide-spread need in the community. I make it a priority to search daily for any new listings to help aid the residents in their pursuit of stable housing. As I enter my 2nd year here at SBHH, I hope to continue a community-like atmosphere within the house and help people accomplish their goals to live their best life moving forward.

Jade Grindle, Senior Residential Aide

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

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

Our transitional duplexes in Dedham provide 2 or 3 bedrooms for families. Heat and electricity are included in the rent to help those struggling to get by. All four apartments are currently occupied.

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

The Sister Barbara Hance House in Ellsworth is a nine room, single-room occupancy transitional house to help those coming out of homelessness or incarceration.

Julie Ream, Program Coordinator

OUTREACH

In 2019 H.O.M.E. increased its' transportation services from two to four days a week. Residents of our shelters are still able to schedule rides two days a week but now there is a driver available two more days to be used by members of the community.

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

Thirty-five people utilized the Outreach Program for 96 appointments from July until the end of the year. The towns service was provided to included Bucksport, Orland and Dedham.

Justine Alley, Outreach Coordinator

HOUSING

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

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

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

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

Rosalani Moore, Assistant Director



Left to right: Rosalani Moore - Assistant Director HOME Inc., Linda Greer - proud new homeowner, Lorianne Jackson - Mortgage Loan Officer First National Bank (Photo permission obtained)

DAYCARE

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

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

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

Given that Christmas time can be so financially stressful, we were pleased to be able to gift our families \$300.00 towards daycare expenses from our subsidy program. Trinity Episcopal Church in Castine also graciously helped us throw an amazing Christmas party for our children, their families and shelter children and families. Trinity also thoughtfully provided 16 children with presents. We are so grateful to have this amazing congregation always willing to help support our program. Employees are continuing training and education through Maine Roads to Quality. We understand the importance of working with children and having knowledge and skills to help promote social and emotional development, problem-solving skills, motor development

area who were willing to sell us their beautiful handmade products. There would have been nine but she was blessed with her son receiving a kidney transplant that he had waited for far too long. We wish her family many happy years together!

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

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

Backpack Program

H.O.M.E.'s backpack program aims to supply local school-aged children with a backpack filled with supplies to help start off their school year. In 2019, H.O.M.E. distributed 78 backpacks with supplies such as pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, notebooks, composition books, folders, binders, pencil sharpeners and glue sticks.

Thanks to a generous volunteer and long-time H.O.M.E. supporter's Facebook campaign, every school-aged child in our shelters received an LL Bean backpack basically guaranteeing the family will not have to buy a replacement pack before the school year is over. Backpacks were received by 17 high school students, 27 middle school, 28 elementary and 6 k & pre-k students. The towns supported were Bucksport, Orland, Dedham, Ellsworth and Brewer. The items supplied were generously donated from church groups and individuals. H.O.M.E. was able to purchase binders, colored pencils and folders (items that we received the least donations of) thanks to a generous donation from Trinity Episcopal church in Castine who do their best to support the children in our midst.

Thank you to all who donate so generously every year.

Julie Ream, Program Coordinator

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Resource Room

2019 was a booming year for H.O.M.E.'s Resource Room. The Resource Room is where people in our shelters and our community can come for some of the basic needs in life. Soap, toothpaste, shampoo and other hygiene necessities are kept there to be given freely to anyone in need. Other supplies stored in the Resource Room are hats, mittens, winter coats, socks and long underwear, blankets, sheets, school supplies, and toys for children coming to shelter with nothing or to be given out at Christmas for people who miss the deadlines for area Christmas programs.

People were so generous in 2019 that we actually had to reach out to some donors and tell them that we had over a thousand toothbrushes. It is rare that we ask for an item to not be donated but this year, we did so. (Please do not worry about the thousand toothbrushes, we shared our bounty with others to distribute). The generosity of our friends has made it so that the Resource Room has grown beyond one room. All items contained within the Resource Room program are donated.

In 2019, H.O.M.E distributed 700 items to shelter guests and community members. A special thanks to the wonderful people at the First Congregational Church in Ridgefield, CT who sent us home from our yearly craft fair with a box truck almost full with donations to the Resource Room. The sight of that truck upon opening it brought tears to my eyes.

We here at H.O.M.E. are so grateful for all who contribute and look forward to sharing the love to others in 2020. For those interested in donating to the Resource Room, we are always in need of twin size sheet sets, pillows and warm blankets for our shelter guests.

Wreath Season

One of the busiest times of year here at H.O.M.E. is Wreath Season. In 2019, H.O.M.E. was blessed with eight wreath makers in our

and overall physical well-being. We encourage family involvement and input.

Working with families and having an open communication helps us be better able to give the children the best quality of care.

Christina Witham, Daycare Director

LIVING ARTS STUDIO

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

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

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

Warm Regards,
Julia Demaree

Handmade, hand-colored balsam trivets are being produced in the Living Arts Studio. A collaboration between volunteers and staff.



In honor of H.O.M.E.'s 50th Anniversary we would like to share these photos of days gone by from our archives.

