

# H.O.M.E. Inc.

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*Serve First Those Who Suffer Most  
Proud member of Emmaus International*

## Fall Appeal 2021

Dear Supporter,

I began writing this Fall Appeal letter to you around mid-September. As you know, in our work, things can change in a day. I wanted to share a story with you about one of our board members earning her accounting degree earlier this year. Shannon came here for help first, then worked here, and moved on only to return to serve on our board. While this is an exciting story of resilience amidst the turmoil and troubles around us, I must also share another story of resilience.

Last week, I walked down to one of H.O.M.E.'s shelters to deliver the news to shelter guests that they were close contacts to a staff person who tested positive for COVID-19. As I delivered the news, a single mother with another child on the way became overwhelmed with the crisis, this, on top of the crisis of homelessness...we understood...we understood at that moment how powerless families experiencing homelessness are during this global pandemic. I watched in awe as one by one the men and women in our shelters lined up to get a test in our on-site testing room. I also watched in awe as our shelter team bravely performed test after test, potentially exposing themselves to the virus as well.

Can you imagine for a moment being homeless and not in control of one's own safety?

Last year, 178 people came through our shelters and we provided an average of 157 food boxes each month across both of our pantries. Our daycare experienced full enrollment as it trudged through a year of stops and starts. The work this year has been about stops and starts... openings and closings. One thing remains consistent through it all... our efforts to bring shelter, food, and community to our neighbors, never stops, it simply reinvents itself and adapts to the crisis before us.

We realize the tremendous toll this virus has taken on all of you, and we also know your generosity and loyalty help us meet our goals. On the back of this letter, you will see our program numbers. I've included this because when everything seems so challenging, we cannot forget the impact your help makes on the fabric of our work. Like Shannon, who now serves on our board, you are the reason we continue to reach so many.

We're steadfast in our mission. Please join us and give to H.O.M.E. today.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tracey Hair'.

Tracey Hair  
Executive Director



The #1 reason for homelessness we saw in 2020 was lack of affordable housing. #2 is substance use.

18% of Maine children live in poverty.

26% of all renter households are extremely low income.

There are only 59 available rental units for every 100 extremely low-income families looking for one in Maine.

Maine is 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation for food insecurity with 1 in 5 Maine kids 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.

## Program Numbers 2020

### SHELTER AND HOUSING

- **8916 Bed nights provided – 178 guests were sheltered.**
- **Dorr House Men's Shelter** – 34 guests – 20% exited to permanent housing.
- **Sister Marie House** – 46 guests – 40% exited to permanent housing.
- **St Francis Inn** – 37 guests – 50% exited to permanent housing.
- **Emmaus Homeless Shelter** – 61 guests – 22% exited to permanent housing.
- **4 households provided hotels.**
- **17 households housed in H.O.M.E.'s transitional housing spaces.**
- **11 households housed in H.O.M.E.'s permanent housing unit.**

### FOOD AND RESOURCES

- **75 children provided with Back Packs and School Supplies.**
- **439 Individuals received Christmas Gifts.**
- **18 unduplicated Daycare Enrollments – 9 subsidies provided.**
- **An average of 157 food boxes provided each month – 105 home deliveries of food boxes.**
- **747 meals served pre-pandemic – program is paused.**
- **170 families received Thanksgiving Food Boxes.**
- **93 families received Christmas Food Boxes.**
- **50 households received assistance with linens, hygiene, and household items.**
- **20 families received heat assistance – firewood or heating oil.**
- **8 quilts made for Homeless Shelter Guests.**