VOL. XLIX NO. 2 FALL 2022

Homeworkers Organized for More Employment

This Time

Orland, Maine 04472

A Message for 2022 by Executive Director Tracey Hair --

In a Time Like No Other, You Keep Hope Alive

Would any of us have believed it, had we known 18 months ago, what lay ahead? The huge changes we'd all have to make just to keep going and be safe. When everything H.O.M.E., Inc. stands for was thrown into turmoil, your kindness shone through.

When our neighbors needed help more than ever, you stayed the course with them. You kept the flame of hope alight at H.O.M.E...

It must be the cruelest thing about covid - that it thrived on everything wonderful about being human. It struck at the very core of H.O.M.E.'s ethos - our welcome at the door. Warm smiles. A comforting touch on the shoulder. A friendly chat over a hot cup of coffee in the market stand. You helped us find whole new ways of reaching out with support and love to people who had nothing and nobody.

Many new people became homeless since the pandemic hit. Some were in emergency accommodations for the first time, fearful of where they found themselves. Others decided to take their chances sleeping in tents. Anxious and desperate, they wondered why there were so few services open. CDC guidance meant the number of guests we could safely have in our four shelter buildings was severely reduced.

But you made sure we could still provide vital services all the way through. Your commitment helped us adapt our services - bringing the heart of H.O.M.E. out in different ways. You helped expand our Outreach effort so that help could be brought to people where they lie. Out in the woods and winter approached, the team carried backpacks full of basic supplies like food, water, hats, gloves, wipes, and hand sanitizer. Your gift of kindness found the way through so people knew they weren't forgotten. We have the honor of doing all this work in your name. Thank you. Thank you for the amazing gift of hope you give. Every day of the year.

Meeting people where they are...

Excerpt from H.O.M.E.'s 2022 Community Impact Report...

The sudden surge of the health crisis created a sense of urgency among our team to reach and engage with individuals staying in encampments. Staff participated in a resource drop and mapping effort at the onset of winter to ensure that no one gets left behind. The first step of the process was to start mapping out where reported sites were by reaching out to organizations serving those areas.



Knowledge of and engagement with all partners leads to more strategic use of resources, more comprehensive coverage, and more accurate information about and identification of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This included reaching out to first responders, law enforcement, behavioral healthcare providers, and faith-based organizations. Six sites were reported to us from this effort, and we encountered three tent sites in our search and two of those were abandoned. By January, all the sites had been abandoned and their tents collapsed by snow. Those occupants are reported to be seeking shelter in hotels further north. Early efforts to build trust started with leaving items to keep warm and information detailing how to reach staff. Efforts in January meant walking through the snow to search for the sites.

Although H.O.M.E. does not have an official Outreach Team, we recognize that outreach to encampments is closely related to the diversion work we are doing, and we anticipate continued relationships with partners to develop a more efficient and regular system for helping people who are unsheltered.

100% Funded... By You

The following programs, projects, and services for people in dire need were funded by you in 2022.

- thank you

 Expansion and renovation of our Food Pantry and Volunteer Center, which provide essential basic food items to families in need.



 The Wood Bank, your kindness provided firewood to families experiencing a heating crisis.



Resource Room, providing resources such as toiletries, warm clothing, tents, sleeping bags and backpacks to people sleeping outside.



• The Back-to-School program, providing high quality backpacks to more than 60 children returning to school this Fall.



The Christmas Gift program, which provides gifts to more than 400 children in our communities.



Program, where staff venture out to encampments to offer resources to people who are unhoused.





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

Dear Tracey,

Appreciated your letter and the reminders of what you all do at H.O.M.E.

Know that you and your ministry are in our thoughts and prayers.

Jacqui Hart

Thanks for kindnesses! No need to send thank you letter by mail. We appreciate your work.

Judy & Jim

This Time

is published by H.O.M.E., Inc.

Part of the World Emmaus Movement

Editor: Julie Ream

Visit our website for a digital version of this

newsletter!

http://www.homemmausa.org

Please accept this donation in honor of Fran Plank a long-time supporter of H.O.M.E. She requested a donation be made to H.O.M.E. in lieu of a Mother's Day gift, a testament to her compassion & unselfishness.

Thank you, Peter & Annette Plank

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

Enclosed is a donation for your 2022 Spring Appeal in loving memory of Donna A. DeLena who always loved stopping by.

Thanks! Lou DeLena

We were so glad to be at H.O.M.E. volunteering of the 21 volunteers, 19 were new volunteers. We are already talking about coming back next year. H.O.M.E. has touched out hearts

Sarah Valentine Volunteer from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Madison, CT

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

Mike Guare, Chairman, Bangor

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Denise Keene, Verona Island

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

I feel such gratitude for being able to be apart of your "work".

Thank you, Mary Jean Holt Cape Elizabeth

H.O.M.E., Inc. Fall Appeal 2022



"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"

Fall Greetings,

I've been thinking about this year's Fall Appeal and how best to paint the picture of how important your support of our work is. I had a story in mind to share with you, but, like so many times in the past, another story unfolded as I sat down to write. Both are worth sharing.

Last week a woman who is living in a tent with her husband called our office. Her husband was in the hospital, and they couldn't discharge him because he needs electricity to run his oxygen machine. Our shelters were full that day, and yet, as is the nature of our team, they set to work finding a hotel room and resources to cover the cost. We celebrated for a moment until we discovered someone had stolen their shower passes and their personal possessions while they were at the hospital.

On any given day we see the impossible choices people face and we witness celebrations at the same rate. Our work reminds me of a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. who said, "We must accept finite disappointment but never lose infinite hope."

In August, a family of five closed on their forever home. We've witnessed their journey through school changes, health emergencies and a long homeless shelter stay and as we look back, and celebrate Amy and her family, we celebrate the hard-working nature of the children, families, and individuals we work with, day in and day out. Despite the continued challenges of inflation and the housing crisis gripping our state, forty-four families moved out of our homeless shelters into permanent homes this past year.

For 53 years, generous supporters have made it possible for families like Amy's to secure and sustain permanent housing and transform their lives. We can't wait to hear how Amy's life unfolds and I hold hope that my next letter will report a radically different outlook for the couple in the tent.

Imagine you are that family. Now imagine what you can do to support their journey, please consider a gift in support of H.O.M.E.'s Annual Fund. Your gift makes a difference. Your gift will provide resources that families and individuals affected by homelessness and poverty need to achieve self-sufficiency, resources such as housing navigation and affordable childcare for families living on the edge. Your generous support is crucially important today.

With Gratitude,

Tracey Hair
Executive Director



Christmas Wreaths and Centerpieces

We offer several choices of wreaths and centerpieces. Our wreaths are first quality 22" double-faced wreaths made of fresh balsam fir. They are available either undecorated or fully decorated with red velvet ribbon, pine cones, and berries. Our centerpieces are hand crafted at H.O.M.E., using fresh greens: Balsam, Cedar, and Pine. The centerpieces are available either as a single (one candle) or as a triple (three candles) with cones, berries and ribbons to complement the arrangement. The single and triple centerpieces are available with either the traditional red berries, candles and ribbon, or our winter feature which includes; white ribbon, frosted cones and white candles. Enclosed is our order form for this year's wreaths and centerpieces. We hope that you may be interested in ordering one for yourself and/or giving one or more as gifts to friends or family members. If so, we would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible as we prepare for this year's wreath project. Orders are processed and shipped in the order in which they are received. Shipping begins on Wednesday, November 16th. If you would like to include a personal card, please include it with your order. We must collect the 5.5% sales tax from Maine residents. Please add this to your order total. Thank you.







To Purchase Wreaths:

- Fill out the order form. Orders must be received by Dec. 5^h. (Or get this form online at www.homemmausa.org).
- Please note that H.O.M.E. now needs mailing addresses not street addresses.
- Mail this form (or call/fax) along with your payment in U.S. funds to the address

2022 Retail Order Form

Send to:

H.O.M.E. Wreaths P.O. Box 10 Orland, ME 04472 Phone: (207) 469-7961 Fax: (207) 469-1023 (call to confirm receipt of fax)

Please include all information below for ALL ORDERS.

Your Name:				
Mailing Address:				
City:				
State: Zip:				
Phone #:				
E-mail:				
(In case we have questions)				
My Order				
Ship me: Decorated Wreath(s)				
Undec. Wreath(s)				
Centerpiece(s) - (Circle color)				
Single - Red / White				
Triple - Red / White				

Refer to price lists and include in the totals at right.

	<u>Gift Order:</u>	
Ship:	Decorated Wreath(s)	

_____ Undec. Wreath(s)

Centerpiece(s) — (circle color) Single - Red / White Triple - Red / White
Name:
Mailing Address:
City:
State: Zip:
Phone #:
Gift Order:
Ship: Decorated Wreath(s) Undec. Wreath(s) Centerpiece(s) — (circle color) Single - Red / White Triple - Red / White
Name: Mailing Address:
City:
State:Zip:

Please include phone numbers. We cannot send refunds for any undeliverable orders

Please enter the total charges Order Summary and Total

Number of items 1	otal of Prices
Dec. Wreaths: @ 47.00	\$
Undec. Wreaths: @ 35.00	\$
Single Centerpieces: @ 37.00	\$
Triple Centerpieces: @ 46.00	\$
Subtotal:	\$
Maine residents please ad 5.5% Sales Tax :	d \$
Total of Order:	\$

Visa, Discover or Mastercard Make checks payable to "H.O.M.E." Card# _____ Exp. Date: ____/___

Check, Money Order,

Security code: ___ __

Signature: _____



Volunteers Work to Improve the Volunteer Experience at H.O.M.E.

By Julie Ream

Volunteers are extremely valuable to a non-profit. Without them, places like H.O.M.E. would not be able to accomplish half of what we do.

Over the decades, H.O.M.E. volunteers have assisted in building over 50 homes for low-income families, donated and raised money for our community programs such as the Backpack Program that provides a backpack with school supplies to children in our community. They built many of the buildings you find in H.O.M.E.'s little village here in Orland, Maine. They've gardened, folded appeal letters and painted fences. They have been a tremendous blessing to H.O.M.E.

H.O.M.E. is lucky to have a space above our soup kitchen/food pantry dedicated to housing our volunteer groups during their week of service. The Volunteer Center provides a bunkroom and a large kitchen/lounge area and each volunteer group uses the space in some capacity during their mission trip.

Over the last few years, the Volunteer Center has seen very little upgrade. A new stove was donated by a group after they realized the old stove's oven didn't heat up quite so well. Other than the occasional donation of a used mattress for one of the nine bunkbeds made out of two by fours, it rarely got any attention.

This past spring, H.O.M.E. management decided that the Volunteer Center could use some love and attention and that became a major focus of our volunteer groups' work.

Before the first group arrived in July, a couple of local teen volunteers assisted staff with dismantling the bunkbeds, saving what they could of the graffiti covered boards to be used elsewhere. They stashed the old mattresses in the small bedroom off the kitchen area and any other furniture that would not be remaining in the

building was removed by H.O.M.E.'s construction crew.

The construction crew ripped out the old kitchen counter and sink and a small closet that wasn't useful. They tore up the painted floor boards and laid new boards, leveling the floor as well as they could in preparation for new vinyl flooring that we hoped could be purchased and installed. The walls and ceiling which had years' worth of drawings and poems and some general graffiti were painted with primer but not after we took photos of the more impressive artwork.

The first group of the season arrived in the second week of July and a few members of their group went to work applying more primer to the walls and ceiling before they painted everything a nice light color. The group from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Madison, CT, were happy to cover up the confusing mess of writing that covered every nook and cranny, creating a space that was light, airy, and very welcoming.

The next week brought the group Hammer and a Nail from Connecticut as well as a trio of volunteers from the Trinity Reformed Church out of Pultneyville, NY. The trio of gentlemen laid the vinyl flooring in the entire Volunteer Center. H.O.M.E. was able to purchase the flooring with the help of a generous donation from The First Congregational Church of Ridgefield, CT. Hammer and a Nail went to work replacing a support post in the lounge area and installing new treads on the steps that lead from the bunkroom to the lounge/kitchen area. They also installed a new back door for the bunkroom. A few dedicated volunteers stayed later than usual on their last day to insure that the door was put in properly and fitted with new hardware.

What is impressive about these two groups is they worked well at staying out of each other's way while

getting much done. Even when the contractor arrived to put in the new windows, work didn't stop.

The last group came from St. Luke's Parish in Barrington, RI. They went straight to work remodeling both bathrooms in the Volunteer Center. Without losing any of the bunkroom area, they restructured both bathrooms creating larger spaces. They purchased and replaced the shower stalls, toilets, vanities and light fixtures. They also added much needed exhaust fans.

They knew as they started that they had taken on a large project and so only one bathroom was completed to the point that the plumber can come in and finish up. We do have the promise that a small group will return to get the second bathroom online before the return of the college spring break volunteer groups in March.

While many of the St. Luke's volunteers were working on the bathrooms, another group was working on building a new fire escape for the back door of the bunkroom. A fire escape ladder was ordered for the window of the bedroom located off the kitchen but it was determined that it would not work out and so a chain ladder that can be rolled out the window in case of an emergency will suffice until a replacement is figured out.

These groups did so much good work in the Volunteer Center and other members of their groups did great work attaching new shingles to the outside of the Market Stand and other projects, the majority of which had to do with improving the building and outside area.

H.O.M.E. hopes that future volunteer groups enjoy the space that H.O.M.E. and its' dedicated volunteer corps have created for them. The hard work they do for H.O.M.E. year after year is greatly appreciated and we look forward to their return next year when they can enjoy the fruits of their labor.







Above, three pictures of volunteers from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Madison, CT work on removing shingles and applying new shingles on the Market Stand and painting the walls in the Volunteer Center. Below left, volunteers from Hammer and a Nail based out of Connecticut cutting trim boards for the outside of the Market Stand. Right, Trinity Reformed Church of Pultneyville, NY volunteers lay the new flooring in the Volunteer Center.



































The H.O.M.E. Cra

CONTACT DAVE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER 207-469-7961 option 4
Please do not send orders without calling to confirm cost of shipping.
Thank you



MAINE MAPLE PRODUCTS MAINE JAMS & JELLIES INC.

10 oz----\$5.00 Maine Wild Blueberry Jam, Strawberry Jam, Red Raspberry Jam, Pepper Jelly, and Seedless Blackberry Jam

MAPLE SYRUP
Gallon--\$69.00
Half Gallon--\$36.00
Quart---\$22.00 Pint-----\$13.00
1/2 Pint--\$8.00 3.4 oz---\$4.50
1.36 oz---\$2.00
Moose/Loon Painted Glass container250ml--\$12.00

HONEY
12 oz. Large Bear Honey-----\$6.00
2 oz Small Bear Honey-----\$2.00
8 oz Jar Honey available in
Wild Blueberry and Wildflower----\$4.50

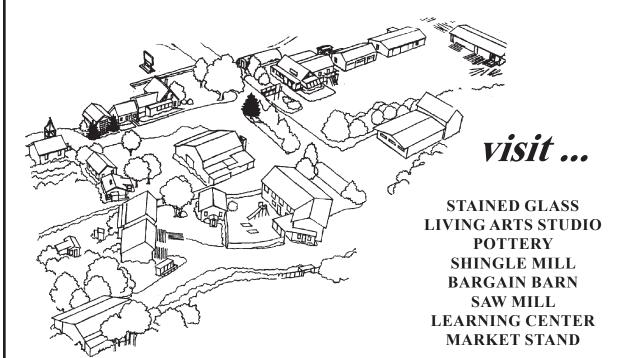
GIFT PACKS contains 8 oz. Maple Syrup, 8 oz Blueberry Honey and 10 oz Wild Blueberry Jam--\$18.00

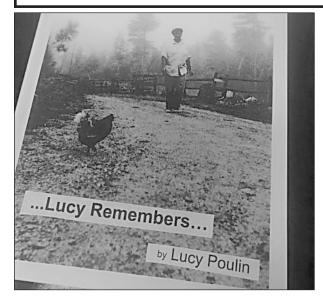
> MAPLE CANDY Pocket pack-----\$5.25 Single Large Piece-\$5.25 Maple Drops-----\$4.50

ODDS & ENDS
Granulated Maple Sugar--\$6.50
Maple Cream 11 oz-----\$12.00
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Cook Book------\$14.00
Maple Pepper------\$6.00
Maple Coffee-----sm-\$3.00
Ig-\$10.00
Blueberry Syrup 10 oz----\$6.00



H.O.M.E. Craft Village





...LUCY REMEMBERS...

This memoir, written in a series of short vignettes, gives us snapshots of Lucy's early life, her spiritual foundations, and her mission as it developed through H.O.M.E. and St Francis Community.

Limited First Edition copy: \$18.95+shipping

POTHOLDERS

Many Maine themes available including lobsters, lighthouses, blueberries, loons and more.
\$4.00 each



TLIL BROWN SHACK SOUTH OF THE TRACK BIRDHOUSES

Rustic birdhouses created with recycled materials. Prices ranged according to size. \$65-\$125

Available in wall mount or pole mount designs.



DRIFTWOOD LAMPS & BIRCH CANDLE HOLDER

Each hand-crafted, working lamp is unique thanks to the use of driftwood. Prices vary up to \$29.00. The Birch Candle Holders hold a tealight candle--\$4.00



aft Store Catalog





WELCOME/HOLIDAY DOOR SIGNS

Welcome your friends and family with a decorative door sign. Available in different colors and holiday themes.
\$55.00 plus shipping.

HAND WOVEN BASKETS

Crafted by hand in H.O.M.E.'s Living Arts Studio, these charming little baskets are a wonderful display item or a useful vessel for holding treasures. 100% of the sale proceeds benefit H.O.M.E. programs.



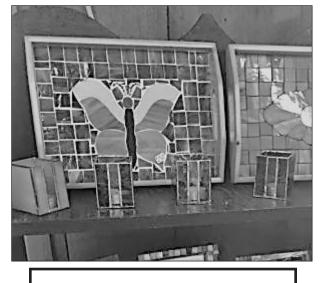


GUATEMALAN CRAFTS

Brightly colored, hand woven cotton purses and runners of many color and sizes and various prices. Made in our fellow Emmaus community in Comalapa. Prices vary.

POTTERY

H.O.M.E.'s pottery is a big hit at our craft fairs. Bowls, cups, plates, vases and more are available. Many made right here in H.O.M.E.'s own pottery by our resident potter, Rosalani Moore. Prices vary.



There's no place like h.o.m.e.

BALSAM FIR PRODUCTS

Bring the scent of Maine Balsam Fir trees to your home with these amazing products.

Available in a variety of Maine themes.

Draft Stoppers-----\$17.00 Trivets-----\$10.00 4"x4" Pillows-----\$7.00 Pillows-----\$16.00 3'x3" Pomanders--\$5.25

STAINED GLASS

Hand-crafted by Roxanne Poulin in H.O.M.E.s stained glass studio. Classes available.

Candle Holder:---\$10.00

Picture Frames---\$15.00

Suncatchers----\$25.00-\$35.00

Candy Dish--Sm.-\$30.00/Lg-\$50.00

Serving Tray----\$35.00

Enamel Necklace-\$18.00-\$20.00

Enamel Earrings--\$15.00-18.00

H.O.M.E. T-SHIRTS

We all agree that there is no place like H.O.M.E. and we have the t-shirts, hoodies and caps to prove it. Available in a variety of colors and sizes.

T-shirts: Sm, Med, Lrg, XL-\$12.95 T-shirts: XXL, XXXL-\$14.95 Sweatshirts, Sm, Med, Lrg, XL-\$19.95 Sweatshirts: XXL, XXXL-\$21.95 Ballcaps: \$7.95



QUILTS

Different styles and sizes available. Made by local crafters and our own stitchery. Price depends on size and type. Visit us to pick one as a gift to be treasured.

Empty Bowls Lead to Full Hearts

By Julie Ream

The last two winters, H.O.M.E. has missed hosting their annual Benefit Concert and Empty Bowls fundraiser. The Management Team decided that we didn't have to wait for the winter cold to arrive to hold the fundraiser again. So this year it was held outside in the warm summer air.

Of course, 80 degree days don't really scream "feed me hot soup" and the suggestion was made that cold soups and salads should be on the menu with the offer of homemade bread alongside.

The Empty Bowls fundraiser has a goal of promoting hunger awareness while raising funds to better support our mission to feed those who are hungry and provide shelter for people experiencing homelessness. For a suggested donation, participants receive a handcrafted bowl created in H.O.M.E.'s pottery studio to keep as a reminder of the empty bowls on tables of the families throughout our community.

The soups and salads prepared by staff members were of various types in an attempt to assure there was something for everyone. The homemade baguettes donated by the local Edward's Bakery were fresh and delicious. There wasn't a single slice left by the days end..

The Benefit Concert portion of the fundraiser was provided by local musician, George Rossi, who is known in the community for his volunteer work. He sang popular songs that many in the crowd knew and he had the guests singing along with him.

H.O.M.E. potters, Steve Weslow and Rosalani Moore, worked tirelessly to provide 160 beautiful bowls for the event. The bowls were of various sizes, colors and styles with no two being exactly alike. At the end of the event there were only 20 bowls left.

A highlight of the fundraiser was the arrival of Darling's Ice Cream for a Cause truck. While looking like a typical ice cream truck we see in the summer, this truck offered a variety of free novelty ice creams with the option to donate. All donations collected were given towards the event.

H.O.M.E. management and staff enjoyed the outdoor event and are discussing moving the yearly fundraiser to the summer permanently or going to a twice a year schedule. No matter what is decided, we are thankful to our community for supporting us in our endeavor to raise awareness about a continuing issue in our community and our country.



Above, musician, George Rossi, takes a much needed water break. Below, attendees enjoy their soup and salad while listening to great music by George.





Emmaus International Update

By Jackie Perkins, H.O.M.E./Emmaus co-representative



Global

Emmaus International held it's fourteenth World Assembly, which began in Piriapolis, Uruguay on May 9, 2022. This was the first time the World Assembly had been held in South America and the Regional Headquarters for Emmaus Americas is located in Montevideo, Uruguay. H.O.M.E. is included in this region and I traveled to Uruguay as their representative to participate in the meetings and workshops to discuss how to effectively fight against poverty and it's causes. One of the ways we do this is to strive for economic, human and political independence.

The World Assembly is held every four years with the objective to develop and discuss issues that make up the life of the movement. Serve first those who suffer most is the cornerstone of the movement's mission.

The assembly hosted 41 countries with 450 participants from four regions, which include the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia.

The purpose of Emmaus International, through a circle of support, is to help people meet their own needs and they in turn continue this circle by helping others with the ultimate goal of fulfilling themselves through communication, sharing and equal dignity. This is an important goal for H.O.M.E. as well and we will continue our work here locally to support it.





Above, the Solidarity Sale set up outside the Bargain Barn. Below, a customer browses the items for sale.





Local

H.O.M.E. held it's annual Solidarity Sale on Saturday, October 1st. This sale is part of our obligation as Emmaus International members. By organizing the sale we contribute to the Emmaus International Movement's solidarity initiatives. We had a great turnout and were able talk about the ways we are trying to eliminate poverty through Emmaus International with the many individuals in our community that came out to support and learn about our cause.

The annual Solidarity Sale is Emmaus International's main resource for implementing solidarity and campaigning programs. Without it, some groups would not be able to continue with their struggles and initiatives in the service of the most disadvantaged people. It is therefore a meaningful act to which groups around the world contribute to overcoming poverty and inequality.H.O.M.E itself has benefit from this fund recently which enabled the purchase of new kitchen appliances for our soup kitchen.

Our strength lies in our capacity to tackle challenges together, and to carry out our work in such a way that resources can be pooled, so that anyone is able to take action, regardless of their means. Our strength also lies in taking the time to reflect on the situation, speaking out, and addressing situations of injustice.



Left, H.O.M.E.'s Emmaus co-representative, Jackie Perkins with a fellow Emmaus International representative. Center, Jackie at a group meeting at the World Assembly in Uruguay. Left, Jackie outside the Bargain Barn running the annual Solidarity Sale with her co-representative, Liz Frank, (not pictured).

The Emmaus Homeless Shelter Celebrates 30 Years of Service

By Stacey Herrick

On June 10th, 2022 the Emmaus Homeless Shelter hosted a "Thank you BBQ" in their parking lot. The barbecue was in celebration of the Emmaus Homeless Shelter's 30 years of service to the community of Ellsworth and all who have helped keep the doors open all these years.

Staff served burgers and hotdogs to community members, past and present guests, volunteers, staff, other local organizations, family and friends. The turn out was wonderful.

The evening was perfect. Music played in the background by local musician/volunteer George Rossi and the Darlings Ice Cream Truck for a Cause was there with dessert.

Opened in 1992 by Sister Barbara Hance and Sister Lucille MacDonald, the shelter helps with providing a safe and comfortable environment for those who need temporary shelter and are working towards ending their homelessness. The Emmaus Homeless Shelter provides beds for men, women and even has space to accommodate families without always having to split them apart.

Like many programs at H.O.M.E., The Emmaus Homeless Shelter does more than provide shelter. They have a free clothing store, a food pantry, Christmas and Thanksgiving basket distribution programs all from their location in downtown Ellsworth.

Here's to another 30 years of giving to our community and thank you to all who have helped us along the way.



Above, guests enjoy good food and music. Below, Staff gather for a celebratory picture.



Soup Kitchen/Food Pantry Remodel Close to Completion

By Julie Ream

H.O.M.E. has dedicated time and effort into improving the buildings in our little village over the last few years. As reported in our Community Impact Report 2022, The Market Stand building that houses our Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry had quite a list of improvements that were needed. This past spring and summer many local contractors, along with our crew have completed much of that list.

In the spring, Dorr Roofing came and replaced the entire roof while Andrew's General Repair went to work gutting the dining area and replacing the drywall, flooring and windows. The area is now bright and welcoming and we believe the new layout will give folks that feeling of community we all desire while dining there.

The concrete slab for the kitchen itself was poured by Doane Foundation; and CJ insulation used spray foam to insulate the front wall. Doane Foundation also poured the concrete for the front porch to replace the old boards that Andrew's General Repair ripped out. Travis Johnson, a local electrician, upgraded the electrical for the building and installed LED lights throughout. Travis also replaced the wiring in the rebuilt dining area.



All the plumbing and the pump station installed in the kitchen was completed by Birmingham Plumbing and Heating after which Andrew was back to finish off the kitchen floor with a watertight sealant.

The work done by all these wonderful local contractors (all of whom are located in Orland or neighboring Bucksport) was possible thanks to funds set aside for capital improvements by the H.O.M.E. Board. The Emmaus International Solidarity Fund awarded H.O.M.E. a grant to purchase new kitchen appliances to complete the Soup Kitchen.

Of course, we also need to thank our own crew for their work. Bob Nichols did much of the trim work and other carpentry jobs including a beautiful counter with storage made out of rough-cut wood. Jayme Ream, Clint Clagget and Glenn Tarbox were on site to help move appliances and assist in areas their skills were most helpful.

This fall, we are finishing with upgrading the heating system throughout the building, completing the trim work and getting the appliances in place.

We are grateful to all who helped either with monetary donations or the sweat of their brow.



Left, Dana Doane and his crew of Doane Foundations smooth the concrete they poured for the porch of the Market Stand. Right, Jayme Ream, Maintenance Supervisor and Clint Clagget, Sawyer, work together to get the new stove into the soup kitchen.

Home Ownership Dream Comes True

By Tracey Hair

H.O.M.E. has built 53 houses over the years. Back in 2016, H.O.M.E. had 12 homes that needed to be sold and our team worked tirelessly to find families to purchase them. Now, in 2022, the last of the houses has finally found its' forever family.

Amy Smith, her husband, and their three children came to H.O.M.E. seven years ago seeking shelter. A while after leaving shelter for an apartment, Amy was hired to work at H.O.M.E. and has trained to be a Housing Navigator. (You can find the family story by Amy in This Time Spring 2020). All the while Amy kept her eye on her dream to buy a home. In August, that dream came true, and she closed on a house built by H.O.M.E. in partnership with the land trust.

We have so many people to thank...Many thanks to Rosa Moore, H.O.M.E. Assistant Director, who guided her through the process; to the generous benefactor who contributed the down-payment; and a big thank you to H.O.M.E.'s Board of Directors for their thoughtful discernment. One thing the pandemic has taught us is that humans are resilient and unstoppable when we join to solve a common problem.

H.O.M.E. staff wish Amy and her family a long and healthy life in their forever home.



Tracey Hair, Amy Smith and Rosa Moore give a thumbs up at the closing of Amy's new forever home.

HERE'S YOUR SIGN



Bob Nichols works at H.O.M.E. during the summer months and brings with him many skills from his career in construction.

A while ago he asked H.O.M.E. Sawyer, Clint Clagget for a board of rough-edge lumber for a project he had in mind. Little did Clint know that Bob had something in mind for Clint himself.

This summer, with management approval, Bob presented Clint with a hand-made sign that says CLINTS SAWMILL. Considering Clint's dedicated service to H.O.M.E. of over 30 years, we all approve of the new signage to be hung in H.O.M.E. 's sawmill. Thank you to Bob for such a considerate gift and thank you to Clint for his years of service.

Winter Wish List





A wish is a simple thing, pure of the heart for the hope it will bring. As the cold weather heads our way, your gift can brighten the most difficult days. If you find yourself with extra to spare, the following items will make a difference to a person in need:

- New, packaged underwear, hats, scarves, and gloves.
- Toiletries shampoo, body wash
- **Tents and Sleeping Bags**
- **Side Table Lamps for shelters**
- Phone cards
- **New Pillows**
- **New Towels**
- **New Twin sheets**
- Men's shoes size 8 and 9

H.O.M.E., Inc. can also accept donations by mail or over the phone towards these items. Or you could hold these items until you can arrange a time to drop them off. Call Julie at 207-469-7961 extension 106 at any stage and we can discuss the best option.

"We must talk about POVERTY, because people insulated by their own comfort lose sight of it."

~Dorothy Day

Follow us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/ **HOMEINC1970**

or visit our webpage at www.homemmausa.org

and learn what we are doing and how you may help.

A "Homeless" Journey: The Story of Tori and Tru

By Julie Ream

Working with people experiencing homelessness can be an emotional rollercoaster. Some guests have a hard time living in a shelter and just leave one day. We worry for them but there is nothing we can do if someone doesn't want our help and that's ok. Other guests thrive in our shelters because they know their family is safe and warm and they welcome the assistance of a housing navigator during their housing search. Tori and Tru are guests who thrived in our care.



The happy faces of Tori & Tru's family

after finding safe, affordable housing.

Tori and Tru's "Homeless" Journey, as they refer to it, started in July 2018. Tori lost her job due to medical issues, which lead to them not being able to afford their rent. They were unable to find a suitable apartment before they had to move out and ended up staying in tents on Tru's aunt and uncle's camp property right here in Orland. Two of their four children stayed in the tents with them until October when the temperature dropped too low for the children to be sleeping outside. They were able to find a safe, warm space for the kiddos, but Tori and Tru continued sleeping in the tent until November.

Apartment hunting was still not going well and having no other choice; they rented a motel room so they could be warm, safe, and together. The stay in the motel was miserable. There were mice everywhere, rats, mold and no heat most of the time.

An intense confrontation between Tori and the manager ended up with the family being asked to leave. Fortunately, when facing homelessness again in January 2019, they called H.O.M.E. and were happy to hear there was a family room available for them at the St. Francis Inn.

Tori and Tru are grateful for their stay at one of H.O.M.E.'s shelters for women and women with children. Tru states, "I loved that it was in a more rural setting, but still close to Bucksport for the kids to go

Another part of staying at the St. Francis Inn they were grateful for was their Housing Navigator, Karen Botta. Karen, along with Tru's case manager worked with the family to help them apply for a housing voucher.

"Any questions we had about the voucher process, other recourses, pretty much anything, Karen was there to help," said Tori, "If she didn't know the answer right off, she always got back to us when she found out. I can't say enough about her! Karen is phenomenal."

Even their children who stayed in shelter with them listed Karen as one of their favorite things along with her dog and cat. Hunter, who was 10 years old, enjoyed sleeping in the same room as his parents and sibling. He said it made him feel safe. Mickey, who was 15 years old at the time, liked that it was warm and she met nice people. She was not, however, a fan of the narrow, steep staircase that is a part of the old farmhouse.

Working together with Karen and the case manager, the family was able to obtain ahousing voucher and found a suitable apartment close to Bangor. Karen assisted the family in applying for the last \$86 they needed to make the security deposit. She also directed the family to Dorsey Furniture to find what they needed to outfit their new home.

As their Housing Navigator, Karen worked with the family for an entire year after they were successfully housed. She

assisted the family with any issues that arose with their new apartment and checked in often to make sure things were going smoothly.

Now, in 2022, the family is flourishing. Both Tori and Tru have returned to college. Tru is attending the University of Maine, Orono and is working towards her Bachelor of Science in Social Work. "This is my true passion," she says. "Being homeless really got me to think." After obtaining her Bachelor's, Tru plans to continue her education and get a Master's Degree to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and work with at-risk children.

Tori is also continuing her education and has started her first semester back attending the University of Maine, Presque Isle. She is working towards a nursing degree. During this first semester she is taking Business Communications and reached out to H.O.M.E. about a project for her class. Tori offered to update our informational brochure not only to get the college credit, but also to give back to a place that had offered so much to her family. H.O.M.E. is very appreciative of any offer to assist us with our mission, but when the offer comes from someone we assisted first, it makes everything we do worth the effort.

Tori, Tru, and their children's appreciation to H.O.M.E. humbles us. We all know that our efforts would be fruitless if the drive to get back on their feet wasn't present. These women deserve the abundance of the credit for their current, happy housing situation.

When asked if they had any guidance for others who may need to enter shelter they both had similar advice. Tru said, "If you're going to the shelter, chances are you're at an extreme point. Going into this with an open mind, willingness to put the work in, things will go wonderfully for you." While Tori encourages folks to "Hang in there! Everything will be ok. Follow the rules and do what you need to do and ask for help."

This wonderful family and their story are one of the many reasons the employees of H.O.M.E. continue to do what we do. It also shows that many of us are just a paycheck away from being homeless but that doesn't mean that we can't find our way back to stable housing and turn around to give back to those who gave to us.

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 Betlections

Reflections Reflections

There are no kings in America

Aileen Cassinetto

we are not that kind of country. We are sanctuary for the hungry, the homeless, the huddled, held together by an idea our immigrant fathers believed in. Rendered, it meant independence. Pursued, it kindled war, ordinance, a fighting chance. Forty thousand musket balls, by themselves, did not shape the boundaries on which we map our days. To draw our borders, we needed more than firecakes. More than a pound of meat with bone and gristle, or salt fish and a gill of peas. We needed the faith and grit of people who were not yet Americans. To be an American is to recognize the sacrifice of the widow and the orphan; it is to understand the weft of tent cities expecting caravans, and the heft of a child in a camp not meant for children, or sitting before a judge awaiting judgement. What do we say to the native whose lands we now inhabit? What do we say to our immigrant fathers who held certain truths to be self-evident? Do we now still pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, our sacred honor. There are no kings in America. Only gilded men we can topple again and again.



How...

By Anonymous

How does one look at an unhoused person and think, they don't deserve a tent.

They don't deserve to be protected from the elements of rain and snow.

How does one look at an unhoused person and think, they're trash disturbs me, I don't care that they have nowhere else to go, littering is against the law.

How does one look at an unhoused person and think, I don't care that they are struggling, They should pull themselves up by their bootstraps and stop begging for help.

How does one look at an unhoused person and think they deserve it, instead of thinking "there but for the grace of God go I".

Nevermind. Forget I asked. Don't tell me...my heart couldn't handle it.

Daycare Artist Gallery

Featured Artists: Lily, Barry, Scarlett & Weston





Kindness

Naomi Shihab Nye

Before you know what kindness really is you must lose things, feel the future dissolve in a moment like salt in a weakened broth.

What you held in your hand, what you counted and carefully saved, all this must go so you know how desolate the landscape can be between the regions of kindness.

How you ride and ride thinking the bus will never stop, the passengers eating maize and chicken will stare out the window forever.

Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness

you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho

lies dead by the side of the road.
You must see how this could be you,
how he too was someone
who journeyed through the night with
plans

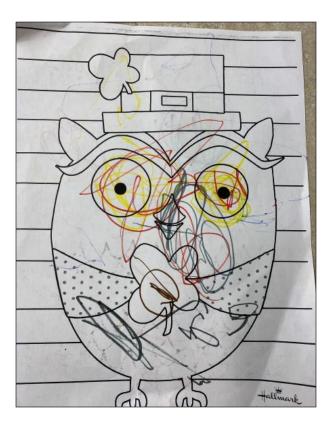
and the simple breath that kept him alive. Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,

you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.

You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice
catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.
Then it is only kindness that makes sense
anymore,

only kindness that ties your shoes and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,

only kindness that raises its head from the crowd of the world to say It is I you have been looking for, and then goes with you everywhere like a shadow or a friend.



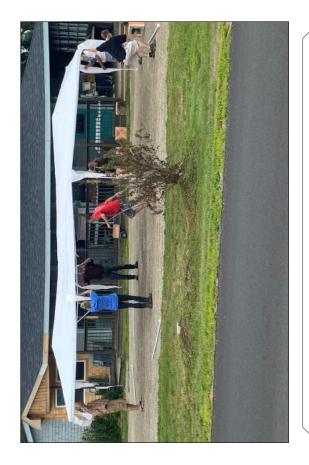
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This Time

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Homeworkers Organized for More Employment



A picture that embodies the essence of H.O.M.E. A tent for our Empty Bowls Fundraiser being erected by staff members, shelter guests and consumers of our produce line.



Proud member of Emmaus International.

"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"

Visit us on Facebook

