

*H.O.M.E., Inc.*

# *This Time*

*Orland, ME 04472*

## **H.O.M.E., Inc. Receives \$600,000 Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to Help End Homelessness for Families in Hancock County, Maine**

*Fund grants \$123.45 million to 40 nonprofits across the U.S. to move the needle on re-housing and supporting families experiencing homelessness.*

*By Tracey Hair*

ORLAND, Maine – (November 22, 2022) – H.O.M.E., Inc., a largely peer-run program that provides a variety of services to families experiencing homelessness in rural Maine, is proud to have been selected as a Bezos Day 1 Families Fund leadership recipient. Launched in 2018 by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, the Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to leading organizations on the frontlines that are employing compassionate, needle-moving work to help families move from unsheltered homelessness and shelters to permanent housing with the services they require to achieve stability.

“The trauma of homelessness can be incredibly disruptive for families experiencing homelessness in rural communities where there are fewer specialized services to meet their needs,” said Tracey Hair, executive director at H.O.M.E., Inc. “Support from the Day 1 Families Fund will have a profound impact on our ability to address the crisis of homelessness for families through a multilayered approach.”

This one-time grant will help H.O.M.E., Inc. in its tireless work to support families as they reel from skyrocketing rent costs, limited services and insufficient incomes. H.O.M.E., Inc. plans to use the grant funds to develop a family homelessness outreach program to engage more families who are unsheltered or staying in vehicles or homeless shelters. We plan to use this generous \$600,000 investment to develop a Homeless Family Outreach program and acquire a multi-unit building to serve as permanent supportive housing for families experiencing homelessness.

As we continue to help families navigate through an uncertain economy, we’re especially grateful for the Day 1 Families Fund’s support, which will allow us to double down on our work to serve and provide stability



for families in our community.

**Does this influx of support decrease our need to raise money?**

**No.** This investment enables us to undertake activities and services that we hadn’t planned – our “dream projects.” We still need to raise money for our regular, ongoing activities and services not covered by this funding.

**These include:**

**Emergency Shelter** – ours is the only one in the community that will accept a family of any kind  
**Supportive Housing**  
**Food Services**  
**Affordable childcare**

H.O.M.E., Inc. was selected as a Day 1 Families Fund grant recipient by a group of national advisors who are leading advocates and experts on homelessness and service provision. National advisors brought expertise on housing justice, advancing racial equity and helping programs employ resources effectively to assist families out of homelessness.

Over the past five years, the Day 1 Families Fund has provided 170 grants totaling more than \$520 million to organizations around the country working to combat homelessness and help families gain housing support and stability.



Left, a painted rock found in Bucksport, Maine. Above, children at play on the H.O.M.E. Daycare playground.

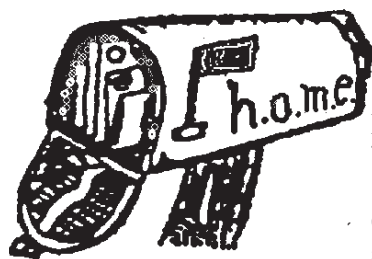


### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Our emergency shelters are the only shelters in our region that serve all types of families and keep them together?

- Families are the fastest growing segment of the population experiencing homelessness, accounting for 45% of households experiencing homelessness in Maine.
- On January 25, 2022, 4,411 individuals were experiencing homelessness in Maine that day as identified in Maine’s annual Point in Time Survey
- Lack of affordable housing is a primary cause of homelessness in families; often one or both parents are working, but not making a livable wage. Additionally, events such as illness, unemployment, accidents, and violence limit the ability to secure stable and affordable housing.
- A typical homeless family is comprised of a single mother with her two young children. Family homelessness is a growing social problem affecting families in every state. Nationwide, 85% of providers have seen family homelessness increase in recent years.
- Housing is essential to ending homelessness, but it is not sufficient. Families need basic supports beyond decent affordable housing to thrive food, education, employment, childcare, transportation, health and mental health care, trauma-informed care, and children’s services.





# 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 H.O.M.E.,

Every year at Christmas, our Book Club makes a donation to a worthy cause. Once again, we decided on H.O.M.E. because it is local and because of the work you do. Thank you for caring for our community.

Sincerely,  
Kathie Burrett for Bonnie Copper, Gayle Yesley, Nancy Berkowitz, Becky Gagne and Susan Farrah.

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*Part of the World Emmaus Movement*  
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Visit our web-site for a digital version of this Newsletter in full color!  
<http://www.homemmausa.org>

I am honored that Lucy put one of my photographs on the cover of her novella. I wish her the best and have enclosed \$50 for the expenses of one and a little left over.

I have many remembrances of my summers volunteering at H.O.M.E. and am also honored with being an honorary member of the board.

Sharing a memory is my pleasure...At the end of August when we were getting ready to go back to New Jersey there was a full moon. The tide was farther out than I could ever recall. And took buckets to fill with the huge mussels, packed with seaweed. The H.O.M.E. residents loved them and I remember Millie and her husband being very excited.

Thanks to everyone for the treasured memories.

Love and Caring,  
Helen

This gift is in memory of James C. Driscoll, Jr.

Thank you for all your blessed Action of Christ's love in all you do for our fellow men, women and children.

Ellen Driscoll Moy

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

Mike Guare, Chair, Bangor  
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Susan Lessard, Treasurer, Bucksport  
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Lucy Poulin, Board Member Emeritas, Orland

May God bless you all and the selfless work that you do every day. H.O.M.E. has given more to me than I will be able to give back, however you are truly changing lives every day. Thank you.

Anonymous

## H.O.M.E., Inc. Spring Appeal 2023



"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"

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

As I sit here humbled by the task of reflecting on the past year in my Spring letter to you, **I'm nervous yet hopeful.** I know there's no way around it, **the last two years have been hard, transformational years for many of us.** Never have the people we serve faced and overcome such significant challenges.

**Can you imagine...** warmer weather is just around the corner, and while your friends and neighbors are busy making plans and preparing gardens, **you're struggling to simply keep enough food in the house** — and make this month's rent, let alone recover from rising heating and food costs from the winter just passed.

That's the story of the people we meet each day needing shelter, food or help with firewood. I remember last year one family in particular, who, with a recent cancer diagnosis in the household, a dead furnace, and a case of Covid-19 all within one week, reached out to H.O.M.E. for help. **I think you'll understand how distressed the father sounded when he called.** H.O.M.E.'s diversion and homeless prevention work came to the rescue in time to help the family replace their heating system, prevent frozen pipes and keep the home habitable through Mom's first round of chemo.

We now know the public health crisis was just the beginning. The ensuing economic fall-out was rapid and vast, and hit our community especially hard. It is difficult to over-estimate the collective grief, and weariness that it brought. Yet it also brought moments of clarity and joy, and forged within many of us a renewed commitment to the mission and community we all serve. That together, we maintained services without interruption and, in fact, increase them to meet the need. **Instead of succumbing to the moment, we stood up to meet it.**

There are so many lessons to draw from the fortitude, creativity, and compassion that we see all around. The main one, for me, is that even as the world is going back to normal, this level of care and commitment is and always will be our normal. Already in 2023, we've launched a new **Homeless Family Outreach program** and are busy laying the groundwork to purchase a multi-unit building to provide supportive housing for homeless families with children. Thanks to the unwavering generosity of our community, we provided shelter to 25 more households than the year prior, and we're on track to rescue and distribute over 118,000 pounds of food.

Your support allows us to connect people — people who are working hard to make ends meet — with the resources they need to sit down and enjoy a meal with their families and the security of knowing they have a roof over their head. It will be the difference that gives people thrown into crisis by circumstances beyond their control, a chance at a stable life.

Will you help us sustain this level of care in the months ahead? Will you contribute \$50, \$100, or more to help us serve the people who need us most?

We know this is our new normal, I've never seen demand like this in the 19 years that I've been with H.O.M.E. and yet I've never seen our supporters so willing to jump into the trenches with us.

With warm regards,

Tracey Hair  
Executive Director



P.S. Can we count on your support to help us keep up with the increased need for our help?

# Excerpts from the 2023 Annual Report

## A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

A couple of years ago I was given a gift of an ornament made from old wood with the words “Broken crayons still color” inscribed on it. I’ve hung it on my door as a daily reminder of the beauty in each human being we encounter.

This year’s Annual Report gives us an opportunity to tell a story and express our gratitude to H.O.M.E.’s staff, volunteers, donors, partners, and other friends who make up this incredible community. A community dedicated to serving our most vulnerable neighbors through a variety of services, including emergency homeless shelters, homeless prevention, permanent supportive housing, food access, affordable childcare, a firewood bank and so much more.

**The last two years have been hard and transformational for many of us.** Never have the people we serve faced and overcome such significant challenges. We now know the public health crisis was just the beginning. The economic fall-out that followed was rapid and vast, and hit our community especially hard. It is difficult to overestimate the collective grief, and weariness that it brought. Yet it also brought moments of **clarity and joy**, and forged within many of us a renewed commitment to the mission and community we all serve. That together, we maintained services without interruption and, in fact, increased them to meet the need. **Instead of succumbing to the moment, we stood up to meet it.**

There are so many lessons to draw from the fortitude, creativity, and compassion that we see around us. The main lesson, for me, is that even as the world is going back to normal, this level of care and commitment **is and always will be our normal.**

The year ahead of us promises growth and change - including a renewed commitment to H.O.M.E.’s community garden and increased craft program capacity, a new family homeless outreach program and improved food pantry services. What will remain steadfast is our commitment to providing services with compassion, wisdom and understanding in partnership with people needing our help developing a path to independence.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to shape a better world. Whether you have volunteered, donated food or linens, made a financial donation, attended a zoom meeting, written a letter, shared a social media post, or cheered from the sidelines, you are an important part of our work and our hope for the future.

I wish you all a 2023 full of good health, safe shelter, and food in your cupboard - we could not have moved through this year without you!

Regards,  
Tracey Hair, Executive Director



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It has been a busy, productive and inspiring year for H.O.M.E.’s Board of Directors. Although we have sadly lost one Board Member - Fr. Brent Was, who was forced to resign from the Board due to health concerns - we have added two new Board Members in the last year. They are Dennis Foley, who brings a wealth of experience in administrative and governmental positions to H.O.M.E., and Rev. Dr. Stephen York, the pastor of the Elm Street Congregational Church in Bucksport, and host for this year’s annual meeting. Best wishes to Fr. Brent and a warm welcome to Dennis and Dr. York. We were also very happy to welcome the new staff representative, Karen Botta, to the Board.

Among the many things which the Board has been involved this last year is our work with Mary, Shannon, Ruth and Jade in taking some significant steps in ensuring that H.O.M.E.’s finances and financial systems are in good shape. Many thanks to Board Member, Sue Lessard, who worked very hard with our financial staff to greatly improve our budgeting process and our financial reporting systems. This progress is important, because it helps present H.O.M.E. in a positive light to funders.

Speaking of funders, it has been very exciting to support all the great work that Rosa and Tracey have done in obtaining a substantial number of grants to H.O.M.E. - including the very large grant recently from the Bezos Day 1 Foundation, which we hope will enable us to significantly improve the work we do with families experiencing homelessness.

It was also very satisfying to the Board to authorize the provision of health insurance to H.O.M.E.’s staff for the first time in our history. The Board has a deep understanding of what a talented and dedicated staff we have at H.O.M.E. and we are genuinely very happy that our staff now has this benefit.

We have also been very happy to support the many other big steps forward at H.O.M.E., including the expansion of shelter staffing and the addition of navigator staff, the major repairs to the Food Pantry/Volunteer Center building, and so many others.

In closing, I know that I speak for the entire Board when I say that our progress toward financial stability, the many facility improvements which have been made, our great leadership and our truly awesome staff H.O.M.E. is in an excellent position to continue the work begun by our founders for many years to come.

Regards,  
Mike Guare, Board Chair



9,780  
BEDNIGHTS  
PROVIDED  
IN SHELTER



118,180  
POUNDS OF FOOD  
RESCUED  
AND DISTRIBUTED



1,976  
INDIVIDUALS SERVED  
THROUGH THE  
FOOD PANTRY





# H.O.M.E., Inc. 2023 Community Impact Report

## FINANCIALS

As we look back in the rearview mirror of 2022, we enter the second year of H.O.M.E.'s Five-Year Strategic Plan. We are on track with the proposed timelines, and we entered 2023 with revenue and expenses within budget expectations.

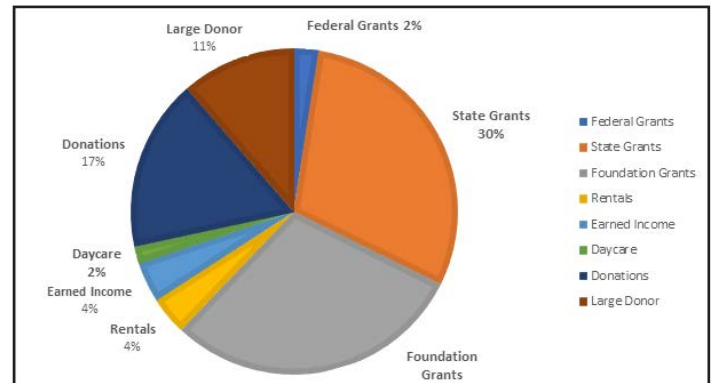
A highlight for revenue for 2022, was the one-time grant award of \$600,000 from Bezos Day 1 Families Fund. This one-time grant allows H.O.M.E. to prevent and end family homelessness through homeless family outreach, and production or acquisition of permanent supportive family housing.

Due to the lingering pandemic in 2022, we were limited in the number of in-person events that we were able to have. However, we successfully held our 3rd Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser. We are grateful for the artists and community members that make this event a success. In 2022, we updated our website to improve communication with donors and our community. The updated site is live and provides a convenient way to donate to H.O.M.E.

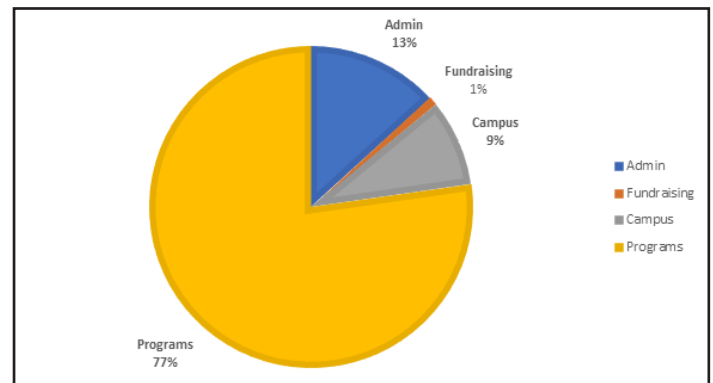
Finance Staff added a new member to its team and staff continued to successfully manage added revenue streams such as the one-time Bezos Day 1 Families Fund as well as private foundation grants supporting Diversion.

For the most recent audited financial statements, please visit our website at [www.homemmausa.org](http://www.homemmausa.org).

### REVENUE STREAMS



### OPERATING EXPENSES



## SHELTER

In 2022/23, H.O.M.E. developed a strategy to expand its shelter services to achieve two goals. First, provide shelter space for families that responds more effectively to their needs, and second, lower the barrier in the adult shelters. By reconfiguring the current shelter spaces and designating two shelters to serving families and two solely for single adults, we achieved both goals simultaneously. Our four shelters can now serve families with children, single fathers, single mothers and single or coupled adults with no children as well as all gender identities.

The shelters are back to full capacity coming out of Covid and continued to house 53 individuals through 2022. The year saw an increase of 25 households seeking shelter than the previous year. During the pandemic we shifted to a 24-hour staffing pattern across all four shelters and intend to keep staffing patterns at that level in perpetuity. Increasing staffing patterns provided opportunities for more positive interactions with guests experiencing the trauma of homelessness. A highlight of the program is the ability for H.O.M.E. to accommodate people with animals.

Over the past year, H.O.M.E. staff have redoubled it's efforts in three priority areas: pushing State and Local governments to invest in the creation of affordable permanent housing at a scale to meet the vast level of need; ensuring that homeless families and individuals have access to decent, accessible, and appropriate shelter; and ensuring that unsheltered individuals are not criminalized and have access to shelters and supportive housing.

## EMMAUS HOMELESS SHELTER

It was business as usual serving our community with the help of our community. From farmers giving us a portion of their harvest, to volunteers pitching in for the holiday season, it always feels like a team effort. Our volunteers stood out in the cold where they were loading gifts and food boxes into the vehicles of our wonderful people reaching out for a little help while we were inside taking care of those who we are sheltering. It's a team effort and we are very proud of our team.

We offer our produce service in the parking lot to keep everyone safe and healthy. Our produce line was accessed over 9000 times by members of our community. It's nice to know that food is going to people and not the landfill

Let us not forget our fabulous 30-year Anniversary BBQ celebration!! Of course, that could not have happened without the help of our shelter supporters. Their support keeps us going daily.

The staff at Emmaus Homeless Shelter thanks everyone for their continued support of our programs to help those in need. We look forward to serving our community as long as we are needed.

The Emmaus Homeless Shelter through the seasons.

### Year 2022 Shelter Stats

**50** Households Moved to permanent Housing.



**48** Individuals Diverted from Homelessness



**18** Households with Children Diverted from Homelessness



**9780** Bed Nights Provided



**202** Guests Sheltered

**52** Households with children Sheltered

**Average Length of Stay**  
48 Nights

**Warming Center** Opened from December through April



Freedom is meaningless if people cannot put food in their stomachs, if they can have no shelter, if illiteracy and disease continue to dog them.

– Nelson Mandela





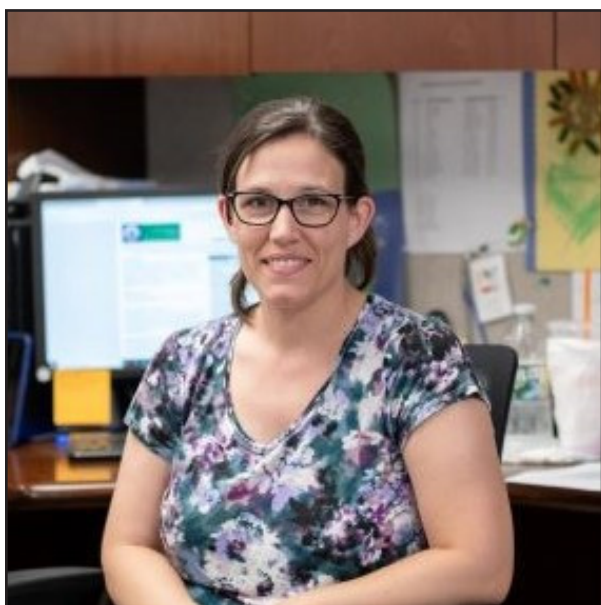
# FAMILY HOMELESS OUTREACH AND DIVERSION

A variety of circumstances can lead to a family becoming homeless. Sometimes, those situations can be addressed quickly and simply through the light-touch approach of Diversion. Diversion has been used successfully to help people identify alternatives to entering shelter and prevent them from becoming homeless. Now, many of the same elements of Diversion that help prevent homelessness are being used to help families exit homelessness. This extension of Diversion to families that are already experiencing homelessness carries great potential for the field - and for the families being served.

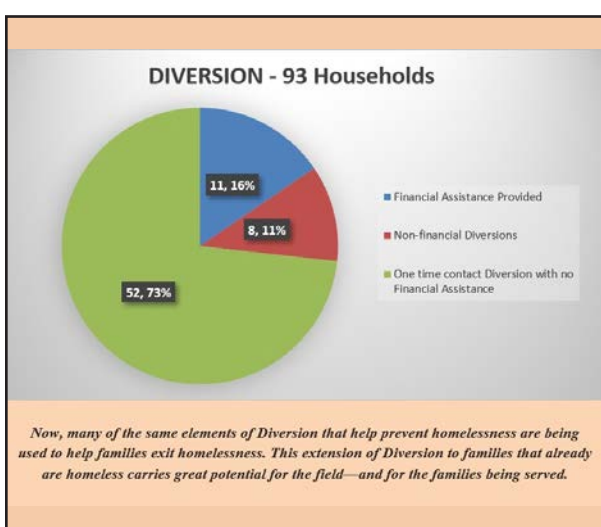
In 2022, the pilot program helped to keep 93 households. The program has continued into 2023 and we have recently received additional funding to greatly expand this service to reach households with children who are already experiencing homelessness.

New to H.O.M.E. is the Family Homeless Outreach Program led by the Homeless Family Support Worker who is a central contact within the organization to map and locate families who are experiencing homelessness, staying in cars, or tents. Mapping includes a coordinated effort with providers, RSU's and municipalities to locate families who are unsheltered.

The program aims to develop relationships linking people to resources and services to transition them from literal homelessness into housing compatible with their needs. The program links directly with Diversion and at the same time provides for people's most basic needs to ensure health and survival while they are experiencing homelessness. When a provider, neighbor, or community member discovers a family experiencing homelessness, the Homeless Family Support Worker immediately begins outreach to them so that families, where possible, can bypass shelters and go directly into housing.



Erin Smith, the Homeless Family Support Worker.



# DAYCARE

H.O.M.E., Inc. Daycare had a slight growth in enrollment in 2022. We had sixteen children enrolled, which totaled nine families. Nine children are enrolled in our after-school program. Seven children are enrolled as full-time to part-time.

All nine families benefited from fresh produce in collaboration with Blue Angels. Blue Angels is a nonprofit organization that works with local farmers to give families with food instability fresh produce and bring awareness to hunger in Maine.

Trinity Episcopal Church in Castine financially supported our food program. Daycare provides breakfast, a morning snack, lunch, and an afternoon snack. They also financially supported Daycare's Christmas party and supplied 16 children with multiple presents. H.O.M.E. financially helped one family with our "In-House Subsidy" while they waited for their CCSP approval.

Professionally with daycare staff, we had some exciting opportunities take place. The Director of Daycare, Christina Witham continues to participate in an advocacy group with Maine NAEYC called LEAP. This is an advocacy group designated to help promote the attainment and retention of individuals to enter the field of early education, and economic support for early childhood educators. They met with Senator Susan Collins, Senator Angus King, plus other politicians to help advocate for policy changes to support our fellow educators.

Christina also was recently selected to join the advisory board for GO NAPSACC. This is a nationally recognized organization promoting healthy eating, behaviors, and policy changes to improve the quality of care and continue educational opportunities for those working in the early education field. She is also finishing applying for her Maine Directors Credential with Maine Roads to Quality.



Above, Daycare children being silly. Below, the children enjoy a proper tea party.



# FOOD PANTRY

Food rescue is the process of safely recovering excess food and distributing it to people in need. In the United States, up to 40% of the food we produce is wasted. Much of this food is perfectly good and healthy to consume. By redirecting that food to our neighbors in need, we are fighting hunger through food rescue.

### How do we do it?

We have a cargo van that picks up food seven days a week from Hannaford Supermarket in Bucksport and Ellsworth. We distribute this food through our food pantries.

We rescue and deliver more than 118,000 pounds of food each year to help feed our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

### What effect does food rescue have on the environment?

With every pound of food H.O.M.E. redirects to a family that needs it, we are also working to reduce food waste, a key contributor to climate change. When food goes to a landfill, it produces methane gas - a greenhouse gas at least 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Wasted food is the single biggest material placed in municipal landfills, according to the U.S. EPA. Municipal landfills are one of the biggest contributors of human-related methane in the country, accounting for more than 14% of all such emissions.

In 2022, the Food Pantry distributed food boxes up to twice monthly to 1,976 individuals across 721 households. H.O.M.E.'s food distribution centers are located in Ellsworth and Orland and serve 16 towns and the City of Ellsworth. The year saw an increase of 67 households seeking assistance. Both food pantries provided one time Holiday Food Boxes which were sponsored by St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church in Blue Hill and Gil Tenney from Castine Unitarian Congregation. The Holiday Food Program reached 171 families or 618 individuals. Also, 73 families (302 individuals) were provided Christmas Food Boxes. We are grateful to our committed supporters for making this program a success.



Above, H.O.M.E.'s Daily Produce Line cooler with produce. Below, volunteers from St. Anselm College enjoy the renovated dining area of the soup kitchen.





## VOLUNTEERS

H.O.M.E. has been slowly bringing our Volunteer Program back to full swing. 2022 saw the return of the volunteer groups that have been helping H.O.M.E. for many summers. Some groups have been coming to H.O.M.E. longer than many of us employees have been here.

The 2022 Volunteer Season was dedicated to our beloved Market Stand which houses our food pantry and soup kitchen downstairs and our volunteer center upstairs.

The majority of volunteers worked on removing the old cedar shingles from the outside and applying fresh shingles from our own shingle mill in their place. The four groups managed to get about 75% of the outside shingled before the end of the summer. The remaining shingles will either be applied by our own crew or by the first few groups of this year's season.

The volunteer hours donated to H.O.M.E. by these groups and by individuals throughout the year totaled 2231.75 hours. The in-kind donations of materials, tools, and other miscellaneous items totaled \$16,117. We could not do this work without our volunteer supports!

### Other projects completed by volunteers...

- The dismantling of the old bunk beds made of 2x4s in the volunteer center.
- The priming and painting of all the walls in the volunteer center.
- New flooring laid in the volunteer center.
- New steps made for an apartment at Hospitality House.
- Wood stacked.
- New trim on Market Stand installed. Some painted.
- Posts over culvert in Market Stand driveway created and installed.
- Food Pantry sign painted to freshen it up.
- New door in Volunteer Center installed.
- Fire escape at back of Volunteer Center built.
- Bathrooms in Volunteer Center completely remodeled.
- New treads installed on steps in Volunteer Center.
- New support post installed in Volunteer Center.
- Trim installed in bunk room of Volunteer Center.



Two young volunteers from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Madison, CT listen as their group leader explains how to attach cedar shingles on the Market Stand.

## HOUSING

H.O.M.E., Inc. continues to provide not only safe shelter for people experiencing homelessness; it also strives to provide safe, affordable housing to low-income individuals and families in our community.

In 2022, H.O.M.E. management realized that the two rental duplexes located on Bald Mountain in Dedham are too far away from services to make them suitable for low-income families. The duplexes were listed for sale and, after a few false starts, were finally sold. It is H.O.M.E.'s intention to use the money from the sale along with monies granted to H.O.M.E. by the Bezos Day One Families Fund to purchase a building with three to four apartments located in nearby Bucksport.

It has been our experience that one devastating financial disaster can cause a family to be stranded far from medical care, transportation services, grocery stores and other services. H.O.M.E. is currently searching for a building that will suit our purposes and allow us to continue to provide affordable housing to our community.

Hospitality House in Bucksport, which provides seven one-bedroom apartments to low-income individuals in our community, maintained the same tenancy throughout the year and all tenants are in good standing. All work to the property through the facilities committee has been completed and we are thankful for the repairs and improvements made by many local contractors and to H.O.M.E. Assistant Director, Rosa Moore, for overseeing the grant writing and project planning.

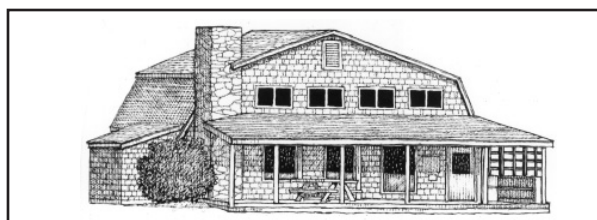
Sister Barbara Hance House (SBHH) in Ellsworth provides single-room occupancy for up to nine individuals experiencing homelessness to give them a safe, affordable place to live. In January of '22, management of SBHH was moved from our Orland offices to the Emmaus Homeless Shelter. Due to their closer proximity, it made more sense for the running of the site.

The program also changed from transitional housing to permanent housing as the rental market in Maine is making it difficult to find permanent housing even when an individual or family have a housing voucher in hand. This allowed 11 individuals to maintain a permanent residence during parts of 2022.

Last, but most certainly not least, H.O.M.E. is happy to announce that the last H.O.M.E.-built home has been sold! Amy Smith and her family were able to obtain a mortgage for their new home. Assistant Director, Rosa Moore, assisted Amy in navigating through the process.

Everyone at H.O.M.E. is so proud of Amy for all her hard work of navigating her way from homelessness to home ownership. H.O.M.E. is very proud of the house-building programs that were a big part of our past.

We express thanks to all our supporters both financial and hands-on volunteers that assisted in building over 53 homes for low-income families over the years! And look forward to continued support for the programs that H.O.M.E. currently runs.



## CRAFTS

The Pottery Studio had 11 students in 2022 for a total of 108.75 hours. Potters Steve Weslow and Rosalani Moore worked tirelessly to create bowls for the Empty Bowls Fundraiser during the summer and created many different pottery items for the craft fairs.

The Living Arts Studio had many visitors. One volunteer, Sheila Holtz, donated over 269 hours to the studio. Her volunteer work included quilt making for the Shelter Quilt Project, creating items to be sold in the Gift Shop and at craft fairs, and tending to the flower beds that bring even more color to the outside of the studio. The Living Arts Studio artist, Julia Demaree, donated over 275 hours. Many of those hours were dedicated to the Shelter Quilt Project and talking with visitors who came to check out the studio and what it has to offer.

The Stained Glass Studio had one student in 2022 due to its' limited opening during the year. Stained glass artist, Roxanne Poulin, is in the studio every Tuesday now and she puts a lot of imagination and talent into creating jewelry and stained glass items to be sold in our craft store and they are a big hit at craft fairs throughout the year.



A young student of potter Rosalani Moore tries her hand at the pottery wheel.

## BARGAIN BARN

What is the Bargain Barn? The Bargain Barn is caring and passionate staff: Cindy and Melissa.

The Bargain Barn is community: customers, collectors, family and friends.

The Bargain Barn is patrons, benefactors and angels.

The Bargain Barn is the heart and soul of the co-op; assisting guests starting new lives, raising funds for programs and supporting the community, initiatives and family.

The Bargain Barn is privilege: to be able to help so many and impact lives.

The Bargain Barn is Emmaus and H.O.M.E.

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



visit ...

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

**“The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members”**

**—Mahatma Gandhi**



# Faces of H.O.M.E.





## What's New in H.O.M.E.'s Gardens

By Julie Ream

H.O.M.E.'s Garden Program has been under the care of Millie Grimes for decades. Now that Millie and her husband, Ralph, have become semi-retired, the Garden Program was in search of a fresh new start. Management at H.O.M.E. reached out to a volunteer from the past and asked if he was interested in coming on and running the program. Tyler Baker responded with a resounding yes! The following is a short interview of introduction for Tyler.

TT: This is not your first time at H.O.M.E. When did you first hear about H.O.M.E. and what was your experience like back then?

TB: My first stint at H.O.M.E. was back in 2009 when Karen Botta (Editor's Note: At the time, Karen was the Learning Center Director, today Assistant Shelter Manager in our Shelter Department) told me about an opportunity to volunteer in the gardens. I worked for about a month on the volunteer stipend and was asked to come on as the assistant gardener shortly thereafter. For the first few months I was here, I assisted Millie in the fields and at farmer's markets during the day. At night and on my own time, I spent weeks cleaning out and getting the Market Stand Greenhouse ready for the propagation and sale of houseplants.

TT: What made you want to come back to H.O.M.E. and its' Garden Program?

TB: I have always had a passion for gardening and plants in general. When Tracey reached out to see if I was interested in taking over the Garden Program, I



Above, H.O.M.E.'s new Garden Manager, Tyler Baker, busy pruning husk cherries. Below, a few of the beautiful plants growing in Tyler's office.



jumped at the opportunity. This has always been my dream job, and I am excited to explore what potential this program has to offer!

TT: Is your career background in gardening or is it a hobby you are making into a career?

TB: Gardening has always been a hobby for the most part, as I have never had the opportunity to make a career out of it. With the exception of having taken the Maine Master Gardener course, I am mostly self-taught.

TT: What does your vision of H.O.M.E.'s garden look like?

TB: I am mainly looking to bring H.O.M.E.'s Garden Program into the 21st Century. Ultimately the primary goal will be going from a tillage system to a "No Till" system. The key concept is to minimize the amount of soil disturbance to better work in harmony with the soil microbiology. I am also looking to get our program certified by MOFGA (Maine Organic Farmers and Growers Association). Ultimately, I would like us to be able to grow a sufficient amount of fruits and vegetables to sell at multiple farmers' markets while being able to supply our food pantry and soup kitchen.

H.O.M.E. management and staff are excited to have Tyler on staff. His ideas have us hopeful for an expansion of the program which will, hopefully, be facilitated by the use of volunteers in our community. If you see Tyler in our fields, green houses or at the Farmer's Markets, be sure to say HI! and welcome him back to our community.

## SPRING BREAK IS NOT JUST FOR PARTIES

By Julie Ream

College is a special time in the lives of many a young person. It can be the first chance they've had to live away from their family and experience the world as an adult. Some take the opportunity to run wild and have a "good time" doing things of which their parents would not approve. Others take the opportunity to learn much more. Many students at St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH are the "others".

Before the pandemic, students from three different colleges would send a volunteer group to H.O.M.E. during the schools' spring break. These young people take their break and devote themselves to the service of others. The last group to serve at H.O.M.E. before we all experienced the shut-down was from St. Anselm College in early March 2020. Even though H.O.M.E. opened its' volunteer season back up partially in 2021, the college groups were not able to return until this year. It's only fitting that the first (and only) college group to return in 2023 was from St. Anselm's again.

The group of nine young people arrived on a Saturday afternoon and are the first group to stay in the Volunteer Center since it's remodeling. The group proved to be quite the troopers as they arrived to a bunkroom with brand new bunkbeds and no mattresses. They slept on air mattresses or in sleeping bags on the floor until the mattresses finally arrived on Tuesday. They stated that they slept quite well on their last night here.

Although the group were not able to work the entire week as they have in the past, they managed to get a lot accomplished during their two and a half-day stay.

They first attacked the organization and cleaning up of the Stitchery. H.O.M.E. quiltmaker, Lisa Tenney, was able to get some old, broken items out of the Stitchery which created more room for her to have volunteers and students work up there with her. They also cleaned out the large room behind the Stitchery where H.O.M.E. plans to set up an area for shelter guests to gather and participate in our crafting programs. A little paint and some new flooring are planned for summer volunteer projects to help complete the room. Some old furniture



St. Anselm students unpack the new mattresses for the bunks in the volunteer center.

that had been stored on the Craft Store porch for the winter was removed and taken to the dumpster as well.

Of course, there is always firewood to be gathered and stacked. H.O.M.E. Sawyer, Clint Clagget, is happy to have the volunteer help in getting all the woodsheds set up for when community members are in need of firewood. The young people really enjoy working with Clint and the smiles on their faces as they work would make one think that stacking wood is fun.

The nine students also cleaned out some storage areas on campus and assisted Market Stand Manager, Maureen Hayden, with the Produce Line each morning. And let us not forget that they hauled all 18 new mattresses upstairs to the Volunteer Center and put one on each bunk.

H.O.M.E. staff are grateful to these wonderful young people who took time out of their schedules to come to Orland, Maine while it's still cold out and work to help others. Many folks in the world think that the upcoming generations are too entitled but H.O.M.E. has met the future with these students and with people like them coming up, the world is going to be just fine.

### Comments from the St. Anselm College Volunteers

**Cassidy:** My favorite part of our stay was learning more about H.O.M.E. and getting to know all of you here. Preparing the produce line and knowing how appreciative you are of our work.

**James:** I participated in this program because I wanted to get involved in serving the homeless and serve God.

**Kylie:** I feel very called to service and I have heard nothing but amazing things about H.O.M.E. I wanted to have a new experience and learn more about the organization.

**Cora:** I came because I wanted to get out of my comfort zone and help people who are in need because I have never done anything like this before.

**Faith:** My favorite part was meeting the people who work here. Julie, Lisa, Clint, Maureen, and Tyler are all amazing!

**Ally:** I came because I want to do what I can to help.

**Adysn:** I learned about this program through campus ministry and heard only good things about H.O.M.E. from my friends who have visited, so I wanted to come and experience it myself.

**Fiona:** I have always participated in service trips but this was something new for me as H.O.M.E. does so much.

**Austin:** My favorite part was bonding with my school peers and getting to know the campus workers. .



**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](mailto:programcoordinator@homeincme.org). This Time is available every Spring and Fall!**



# Highlights from 2022/2023



**FUNDRAISING AND AWARDS** - We're proud that a group of leading experts in the field selected us as one of the 40 organizations nationwide to receive a 2022 Bezos Day One Families Fund grant! This game-changing \$600,000 contribution will help get us one step closer to ending family homelessness in our community! A huge thank you as well to the Next Generation Foundation for selecting H.O.M.E. as a recipient of the Evie Award in recognition of our advocacy for vulnerable people.

**DAYCARE** - Did you know H.O.M.E. has a licensed Daycare Center and Afterschool program? H.O.M.E.'s Childcare Director, Christina Witham, has been selected to be on an advisory group that represents diverse voices in the field. In addition, Christina has also been selected to present at an upcoming Child Abuse Prevention Webinar. She was selected on her prevention efforts in her work and her outstanding leadership.



**FIREWOOD BANK** - H.O.M.E.'s Wood Bank was awarded \$13,000 to purchase a wood splitter and items to help meet the heating needs of needy households. Modeled after food banks, firewood banks depend on wood donated by tree trimmers, towns, and homeowners to distribute to community members. There are more than 100 firewood banks around the country.

**HOMEOWNERSHIP** - Amy, her husband, and their three children came to H.O.M.E. seven years ago seeking shelter. After leaving shelter for an apartment, Amy was hired to work here and has trained to be a Housing Navigator. All the while Amy kept her eye on her dream to buy a home. One thing the pandemic has taught us is that humans are resilient and unstoppable when we unite to solve a common problem. Join us in congratulating Amy and her family!!!



**EVENTS** - H.O.M.E.'s Third Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who joined us. We started out with more than 160 handmade bowls and by the end of the night only 20 were left. Thank you to Edward's Kitchen in Bucksport for donating fresh artisan bread, and Darling's Ice-Cream for a Cause for rolling into our parking lot. Special thanks to George Rossi for his wonderful music and Rosalani Moore and Steve Weslow for their creative talents in making the bowls.

**EXPANDING OUR SHELTER TEAM** - For the first time in H.O.M.E.'s history we will have 24/7 staffing patterns across all four shelters. H.O.M.E. performed minor renovations to reconfigure its current shelter spaces to achieve two goals. First, provide shelter space for families that responds more effectively to their needs, and second, lower the barrier in the adult shelters.





### Walking the Walk

By Julie Ream



Shelter Administrator, Gerald Botta, has been an avid walker for many years. When he lived in Bucksport, he was known to occasionally walk the over three miles to get to work. He walks every morning, on his work breaks and every evening. He walks for his cardiovascular health, to keep fit and because he enjoys it.

On December 10, 2022, Jerry participated in the Honolulu Marathon in Honolulu, Hawaii with the goal of walking the 26.2 miles in paradise to complete the race. And complete it he did. Gerald finished in 9693rd place out of 14,276 finishers. He completed the marathon in 6 hours, 59 minutes and 22 seconds.

According to their website, honolulumarathon.org, the Honolulu Marathon is the fourth largest marathon in the United States after New York, Chicago and Boston. There is no time limit and everyone is allowed to finish.

H.O.M.E. staff are very proud of Jerry and look forward to his next walking adventure.

### Laughter is Still the Best Medicine



As much as we all have been trying to “get back to business,” COVID likes to remind us that it hasn’t gone away. Mask mandates are no longer a requirement but when a shelter has an outbreak, the dreaded masks are pulled out once again. Pictured here is a guest of the Emmaus Homeless Shelter who decided staff and guests could use some lightheartedness to get through an outbreak in the shelter. He had drawn on his mask in hopes to make people laugh and smile. For the staff it worked. Finding a little happiness in hard times is how we all make it through.

### H.O.M.E. QUILT RAFFLE WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT



The return of H.O.M.E.’s Quilt Raffle has made a Rhode Island resident the lucky recipient of the amazing quilt pictured above. Zoe Allard’s ticket was drawn by the quilt’s creator, Lisa Tenney, on February 27, 2023. The drawing was witnessed by H.O.M.E. Executive Director, Tracey Hair; Assistant Director, Rosa Moore; and Program Coordinator, Julie Ream.

According to Lisa, if she had put this gorgeous, full-sized, patchwork quilt in the Craft Store to be sold, she would have priced it at \$450.

Eighty-nine tickets were sold via H.O.M.E.’s Craft Store, at Craft Fairs and by H.O.M.E. volunteer, Diane Nichols. The raffle raised over \$600 which will benefit the Stitchery Department where Lisa is already preparing to create the next quilt to be raffled off.

Keep an eye out on H.O.M.E.’s website: [www.homemmausa.org](http://www.homemmausa.org) and our Facebook pages for when the raffle for the next quilt begins.

We thank all who bought raffle tickets. Your support keeps our craft programs available to the guests of our shelters and other folks in our community.

### The Bargain Barn is OPEN!!!

Stop in to see Cindy and Melissa  
Monday-Friday  
9 am-3 pm

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



### Summer Wish List



A wish is a simple thing, pure of the heart for the hope it will bring. If you find yourself with extra to spare, the following items will make a difference to a person in need:



- New, packaged underwear
- Toiletries - shampoo, body wash
- Sunscreen
- Visored Caps
- Tents and Sleeping Bags
- Side Table Lamps for shelters
- Phone cards
- New Pillows
- Towels
- Twin sheets
- Men’s shoes size 8 and 9
- Backpacks

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.

### COME SEE H.O.M.E.’S GIFT SHOP!!!

H.O.M.E.’s Gift Shop is open from April to the end of December. If you are in Maine during those months, don’t forget to stop at the Gift Shop here at H.O.M.E. If you are interested in purchasing any items from our Gift Shop stop in or give the manager a call at 207-469-7961 and select option 4.





# Reflections Reflections

## This is for the women

By Leslé Honoré

With 9 to 5s  
 And 7 to 3s  
 First shifts  
 And graveyard  
 With full times  
 And part times  
 Who have more month left  
 Than money  
 But still make rent  
 With passports  
 With no stamps  
 With vision boards  
 Of destinations  
 They are saving to see  
 With dreams they tuck away  
 Pull out late at night  
 Or early in the morning  
 While the babies are still sleep  
 Turn it over in their hands  
 Then shelve it again for safe keep  
 This is for the women  
 Without titles without pensions  
 With some college  
 A lot of loans  
 With late night classrooms  
 Online studies  
 Who won't give up  
 Who run the world  
 On grit and perseverance  
 This is for the women  
 Who are anything but  
 Ordinary  
 But the world sees as regular  
 This is for the magicians  
 Who weave spells of hope  
 For their children  
 While putting their hopes on pause  
 This is for the over the counter  
 Beauty Queens  
 With Wet and Wild Lips  
 And Walgreens legs  
 And Suave smelling hair  
 For the women who look in the mirror  
 To see some one familiar  
 Because they rarely see reflections

Any where else  
 For the hustlers  
 With tired feet  
 And tired backs  
 With spirits whispering  
 Keep moving  
 We are almost there  
 For the women who know  
 Liberation isn't found in the clothes they wear  
 The shoes on their feet  
 But the dignity in their souls  
 This is a song for you  
 Resourceful  
 And resilient  
 Moving mountains for your family  
 I see you  
 Stunning and Strong  
 I see you  
 Brilliant and beautiful  
 I see you  
 Making a life  
 Out of thin air  
 Today is for you  
 An ordinary day  
 Unmarked on the calendar  
 No decorations at target  
 No songs to commemorate  
 Just an ordinary day  
 Full of promise  
 Full of possibilities  
 Full of hope  
 Full of magic  
 Just like you  
 You who pushes on  
 You who doesn't give up  
 You who bends but doesn't break  
 You  
 This is for you  
 You with the stars in your hair  
 Sun on your lips  
 Moonlit cheeks  
 This is for you  
 You are anything but regular  
 You are the  
 UNIVERSE

## The Peace of Wild Things

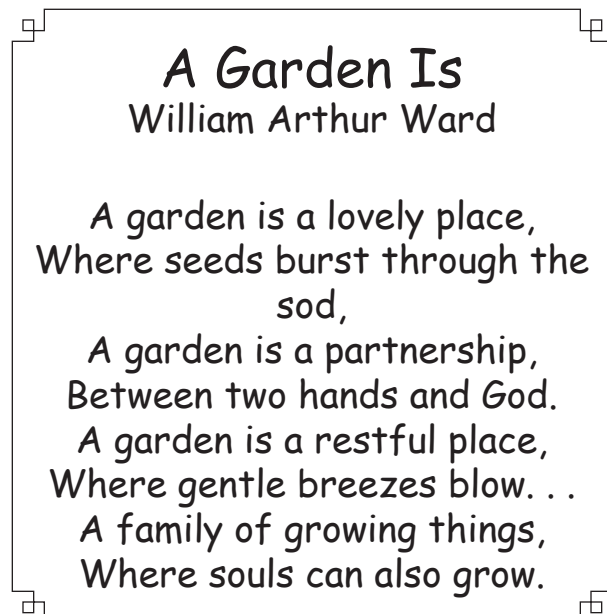
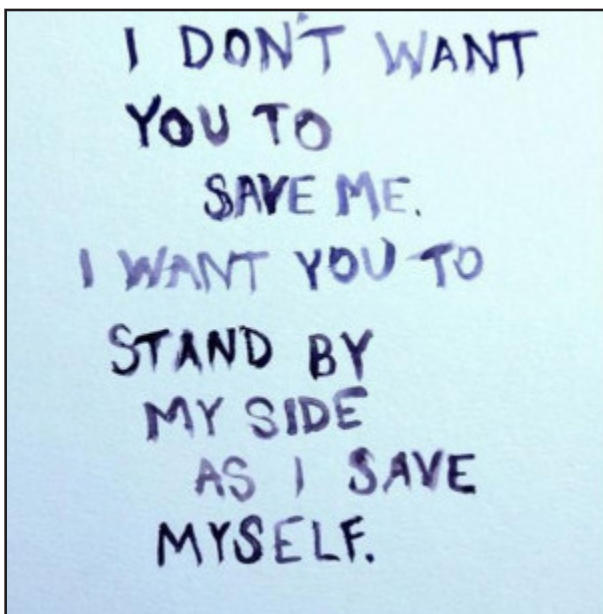
by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows  
 in me  
 and I wake in the night at the  
 least sound  
 in fear of what my life and my  
 children's lives may be,  
 I go and lie down where the wood  
 drake  
 rests in his beauty on the water,  
 and the great heron feeds.  
 I come into the peace of wild  
 things  
 who do not tax their lives with  
 forethought  
 of grief. I come into the presence  
 of still water.  
 And I feel above me the day-blind  
 stars  
 waiting with their light. For a time  
 I rest in the grace of the world,  
 and am free.

### Children Are: Children Need:

Amazing, acknowledge them  
 Believable, trust them  
 Childlike, allow them  
 Divine, honor them  
 Energetic, nourish them  
 Fallible, embrace them  
 Gifts, treasure them  
 Here now, be with them  
 Innocent, delight with them  
 Joyful, appreciate them  
 Kindhearted, learn from them  
 Lovable, cherish them  
 Magical, fly with them  
 Noble, esteem them  
 Open minded, respect them  
 Precious, value them  
 Questioners, encourage them  
 Resourceful, support them  
 Spontaneous, enjoy them  
 Talented, believe in them  
 Unique, affirm them  
 Vulnerable, protect them  
 Whole, recognize them  
 Xtra special, celebrate them  
 Yearning, notice them  
 Zany, laugh with them

~author unknown





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# This Time

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# "Serve First Those Who Suffer Most" H.O.M.E., Inc



St. Anselm college student-volunteers stacking seasoned firewood in our wood bank.



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Part of the World Emmaus  
Movement