

# 2023 Year-End Appeal

## H.O.M.E. Inc.

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Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Dear Friend,

*I'm writing to you because* over the years, our supporters have helped thousands of people. It doesn't matter whether you have given \$5 or \$5,000 in the past—it has taken all of you to bring us to where we are today. As I write this, I'm reminded of a quilt, a patchwork of material sewn together into a blanket—what an apt comparison to what we do here at H.O.M.E. People whose lives have been ripped apart by homelessness, made whole again through the generosity of people like you.

People like the **father and daughter we rescued from a condemned house recently**, who lived for a year with no electricity, no water and facing significant mental health challenges. Today, they are in shelter, warm and with a safe place to rest. The work behind the scenes will include housing navigation and connecting them with their healthcare providers whom they haven't seen in more than a decade. It will also include helping them apply for a housing voucher, and when the time finally comes and they are housed, we'll assist them with furniture and household items and stay in their lives for as long as it takes to make sure they have all they need to stay on track.

A few years ago, I recall writing to you with a reflection on the proverb, ***"Beyond mountains there are mountains"***. It seems things are getting harder for the people we serve, and more and more families are unable to afford housing, or keep up with rising costs of heating oil and food. **And while the needs are greater, so is our response.**

**In Maine, homelessness has doubled**, and the level of crisis for people has grown. That means our work has grown. We've stepped up our navigation services, especially for households with children, and that effort is paying off. Within the last three weeks **9 people have left shelter for permanent housing.**

We're also embarking on a new construction project which will provide **Permanent Supportive Housing** for families with **children experiencing homelessness**. We hope to build it on our 23-acre site in Orland. I know this has gotten your attention if you're a volunteer! There will be ample opportunities to contribute in kind to this wonderful project, which is a three-year dream in the making.

*I'm writing to you* because today you have a unique opportunity to continue to write H.O.M.E.'s history with a generous gift. While we have experienced a serious economic crisis in the past, we haven't had the reach of service we have today, and with your help, H.O.M.E. can show the resiliency that has carried us through our more than half-century history. I know that, because we have **adapted to this difficult time**, and our work has come out **stronger than ever**.

**Please donate to H.O.M.E. today**, help us weave this quilt together, by supporting our unwavering goal to provide solutions to the crisis of homelessness and poverty. You can either donate online at [www.homemmausa.org](http://www.homemmausa.org), call us at 207-469-7961 ext. 101 or send a check in the pre-addressed envelope included in your letter.



Most sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Hair".

Tracey Hair  
Executive Director

*P.S. Thank you for your rich participation in not only our work, but everything we stand for. I'm asking to please make a gift to H.O.M.E Inc. today - the work must go on and we need strong supporters like you to make it happen.*

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