

We are...

H.O.M.E. Inc.

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

*committed to
including the
people we
serve in
decision-
making and
eliminating
barriers to
involvement
and upward
mobility.*

*committed to
engaging people
with lived
experience of
poverty and
homelessness in
leadership roles
within the
organization.*

We are...

here for you.

Spring Appeal 2024

H.O.M.E. is a place where you can come and it is easier to be good because human values are the ones that are the bottom line. ~ Lucy Poulin

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

Last night the police called looking for help for a young man unsheltered through the early April snow storm. Our doors were open, as they always are, even on the harshest nights. We are thankful that spring has come. Winter has been challenging. Throughout these difficult months, our community has faced unprecedented hardships, loss and change. Amidst it all, our commitment to our community never wavers, but the reality is that **our efforts are only possible with your support.**

During one of my last visits with H.O.M.E.'s founder Sister Lucy Poulin, as her life was gently dimming, she imparted one last lesson. I sat by Lucy's bedside with her niece Roxanne. Each of us held a hand as we talked. Lucy drifted in and out of sleep and wakefulness. In the background faint discussion could be heard regarding critical building repairs. Lucy no longer needed to worry. She could rest now.

For a brief moment she woke and reached into her denim shirt pocket. With frail hands, she pressed her palm into mine, whispering, "take this for the repairs." I looked down to see my hand was empty yet my heart was full. I'll never be sure what Lucy imagined she had given me but I was overwhelmingly touched by her spirit. Lucy spent her life giving to others, and in her final days, her concern was still for how she might give more. She was a humble hero for so many. I am thankful for the moments I have been blessed to spend with her.

I am also thankful to Tracey Hair, my mentor and friend, who has moved on to a new venture at Maine Community Foundation. I am so fortunate to have learned from her. I have worked hand-in-hand with Tracey for many difficult years, some of the hardest of my life. Our H.O.M.E. as it is today has been fortunate to have grown through the direction of Tracey and Lucy. Their strong, compassionate leadership has helped to transform and uplift so many lives.

Now, I ask you to consider what you can give? Every donation, no matter its size, brings immediate and crucial flexibility to our operations. This flexibility is **vital**—It means we are able to meet people where they are when they find themselves out in the cold at our door. This type of funding is **powerful**—It allows us to tailor our response to the need, at times preventing homelessness altogether.

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.

Snapshot

50 Households moved to permanent housing.

15,863 Bed Nights Provided

222 Guests sheltered.

52 households with children sheltered.

Average length of stay in shelter – **63 nights**.

1971 Individuals provided with food.

23 households received firewood for the 2022 /23 season.

30 Daycare enrollments.

316 Holiday Food Boxes distributed.

390 Christmas gifts distributed.

63 School backpacks distributed.

304,918 pounds of food rescued and distributed.

This tailored response is *transformational*—It allows for us to be human.

Living in the shelter can be hard. Sometimes friends are made. Sometimes it is difficult to get along. Everyone has their own separate journey but for a moment we are all together here at H.O.M.E. We have the opportunity to connect and build community. For many, like myself who found themselves unsheltered, H.O.M.E. has provided not just shelter but long-term stability and a sense of belonging.

Homelessness is increasing in our area. In 2023, H.O.M.E. provided 15,863 bed nights through our shelter programming—a staggering 182% increase since 2021. H.O.M.E.'s programs not only provide shelter but also promote long-term health and development through creative arts and community programs, fostering a vibrant, supportive environment that, as Lucy put it, ensures *“human values are the ones that form our bottom line.”*

However, we now stand at a critical juncture. With the end of Covid relief funds homeless shelter providers across the state are struggling to keep their doors open. The cost of running our programs has increased, yet support from federal and state resources remains stagnant, creating significant financial gaps.

Please, make a donation today. Consider becoming a sustaining supporter. Your gift is crucial. Even if it feels like there is nothing left to give, there is always a way. I have witnessed it. Help us ensure that H.O.M.E. remains a cornerstone of hope in our community.

With heartfelt thanks,



Rosalani Moore

Executive Director



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

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