

Homeworkers Organized for More Employment

This Time

Orland, Maine 04472

St. Francis By the Sea and H.O.M.E.

By Judy Rountree

One of the most wonderful gifts to St. Francis By the Sea Episcopal Church in Blue Hill, Maine, for many years has been our relationship with H.O.M.E. in Orland. Every twenty minute drive from Blue Hill to Orland is uplifting because we will soon enter the grounds of their compassion, dedication, and love for their clients and each other. We know St. Francis Church is one of so many churches and organizations that have a meaningful relationship with H.O.M.E.

When I moved to Maine and became part of St. Francis Church in Blue Hill, one of the first people I met was Maren Rosborough who introduced herself and in the same sentence invited me to join her at H.O.M.E. for a visit. I was so new, I thought she was talking about her own home....in fact it was a gift to go to H.O.M.E.! Instantly I became so impressed with who and what they are. Sister Lucy and Tracey Hair were there to welcome the Rosboroughs and me; and a wonderful new relationship has been part of my life for over twenty years - years of Thanksgiving boxes, coats, connecting with The Emmaus Shelter, and so much more.

Here are three of the successful programs St. Francis Church enjoys for the benefit of H.O.M.E. We hope you will join us wherever you are picking up this short message and may even be inspired by one of these programs.

First, in recent years (before the beginnings of the COVID virus) St. Francis Church established a program with H.O.M.E. of \$25 Gift Cards to Hannaford Stores for guests of H.O.M.E. These cards (often multiple cards) have been met with instant success- gifted to tired incoming families who needed shelter and immediate food for individuals, parents, and children. Alcohol free and within a ten-minute drive, exhausted families

could take a break as they were settling into H.O.M.E. In recent years, St. Francis has gifted hundreds of these gift cards specifically to H.O.M.E. and that program has begun to spread to other communities in Maine. Hannaford currently has 173 grocery stores throughout Maine and the gift cards can be used at any of them. This program proved instantly successful when COVID hit so hard and human contact was limited. We gift 60 cards twice each year.

Second, about 10 years ago a number of us St. Francis parishioners began wearing those silky long-sleeved insulating Eddie Bauer undershirts which Sam's Club sells in their women's clothing department at a huge discount. We realized what a difference these shirts make on cold winter days. Better yet, they never wear out! Thus began another relationship with H.O.M.E.! Several dozen of these high quality, colorful shirts travel down the road every year to H.O.M.E. with our big Thanksgiving Baskets (accompanied by an equal number of men's socks) and both have been handed out and well received. One year we were spotted at Sam's Club with a basket full of shirts by a gentleman who is active with a shelter in Bangor...he got out of the paying line and ended up with fifty of the shirts for their guests!

Three, The Emmaus Shelter in Ellsworth is actually St. Francis' longest gifting program of the church. Christmas tree shaped tags are taken off our tree in the Narthex which simply say boy or girl, and an age. The tags and gifts are brought into the church several weeks before Christmas and sometimes rolls of wrapping paper show up, as well. The Emmaus Shelter sends their happy drivers to the church and the whole program is easy and effective-usually around one hundred children's gifts. Many brand new books are brought along for

wrapping and gifting as well. This year a shiny new bike surprised all of us!

So, those are just three of the successful projects of St. Francis Church. It is our relationship with the very professional staff of H.O.M.E. that keeps bringing us back to their wonderful organization in Bucksport. Hannaford acknowledged this relationship this past Thanksgiving with an additional gift of fifty turkeys, much needed this year. We treasure our relationship with both H.O.M.E. and Hannaford.

If you have any thoughts or questions about any of the mentioned programs, just give the church a call at (207) 374-5200.

Judy Rountree
Just one member of Outreach at
St. Francis's Church, Blue Hill, Maine



Judy oversees H.O.M.E.'s Clint Clagget loading up turkeys donated from Hannaford.

H.O.M.E. Programming Receives Gift from Local Congregation

By Julie Ream



Pastor Lisa Durkee with Executive Director, Rosalani Moore and Program Coordinator, Julie Ream.

In September of 2024 Executive Director, Rosa Moore and Program Coordinator, Julie Ream, met with members of the First Congregational Church of Blue Hill who were interested in learning more about H.O.M.E.'s programming.

Diane Page and other members of the congregation were part of the committee assigned to interview local non-profits of interest with the goal of identifying a worthy program to support.

How amazed we all were to find out that the congregation voted to assist H.O.M.E. and its Diversion Program. The gift of \$50,000 was made with proceeds from last year's sale of the church's parsonage, undertaken as a cost-cutting measure but with a provision that a tithe from the sale would help meet community needs.

"We've seen the work done by H.O.M.E. for years, with various shelters, with crafts and job training, with childcare – always responding to the community needs," said Pastor Lisa Durkee in a news release.

"The congregation discussed many different ways to respond to the problems affecting people around us, but the key issue is housing. H.O.M.E. has the experience to take on this challenge."

The congregation chose the Diversion program, which helps prevent homelessness by identifying alternate housing opportunities, connecting families to services and sometimes offering financial assistance.

"We will be so glad to assist people in our community who may end up unhoused without a bit of help" from the Diversion Fund, said Rosa Moore.

H.O.M.E. is grateful for having such amazing support in our own community.



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 Friends at H.O.M.E.,

We were saddened to learn of Lucy’s passing. She was loving and persuasive, and she accomplished so much. I volunteered at H.O.M.E. several years ago and never forgot the experience. Blessings on all of you and your work.

Wishing Tracey well in her new job. It sounds like it’s difficult and rewarding, not unlike her work at H.O.M.E.

I have always been impressed with how much you accomplish with so little. You are all doing God’s work. Thank you for all you do.

I’m enclosing a donation of \$100 to help out a bit. Wish it could be more. Please keep us in your prayers, as you are in ours.

Sincerely,
Marguerite Krupp

This Time

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

Dear H.O.M.E.,

Please accept my family’s gift towards your mission to your community.

My Son, Paul Almira, used to volunteer in your home project for many years. He went through the First Congregational Church of Ridgefield, CT.

He had stopped volunteering during COVID and once the churches resumed going to Maine, a change on who qualifies to join was for church members only. Paul is not a member of the church.

But, I would say that he has wonderful memories of his volunteer days at H.O.M.E. and very thankful to help.

Take care,
Pablito Almira

Merry Christmas to all you giving, serving people at H.O.M.E. The people of Hancock County and surroundings have been blessed to have you in their midst.

I have seen you develop from my first visit in the ‘80s to an amazing operation in all ways.

Onward and Upward in the coming year.

Peace be with you,
Claire Kaiser

H.O.M.E., Inc.

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Dear H.O.M.E. Friends;

Please accept the enclosed gift from my mother, Carol Smith. She has been a long-time supporter of H.O.M.E. going back to it’s beginnings with Sr. Lucy Poulin.

Although mom is now 98 and quite limited in her mobility, she still strongly believes in the vital ministry of H.O.M.E.

God’s Blessings!
Rick Whitefleet-Smith

I was a volunteer at H.O.M.E. more than 50 years ago, YIKES!

H.O.M.E. has always been near and dear to my heart. Please use my gift in the area of greatest need.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth (Strickland)

H.O.M.E., Inc. Spring Appeal 2025



“Serve First Those Who Suffer Most”

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

Right now, many of us are feeling the weight of uncertainty. The safety nets that once protected our most vulnerable neighbors, those experiencing homelessness and poverty, are fraying. It is hard to know where to turn for support and strength. Funding cuts and rising costs are threatening the very programs that provide stability and hope when a person faces a crisis.

For people already facing homelessness or hardship, the road to stability is long and only getting longer. **Please donate today!** Help us combat the uncertainty of the world and provide a sense of security for those we serve.

When someone comes to H.O.M.E. in need, we walk beside them. Whether it’s offering a warm meal, a safe place to sleep, or help finding permanent housing, your generous support makes it all possible. But what we offer goes beyond shelter. With your help, we offer support, community, and dignity -- and in those moment, those things mean the world to someone in crisis.

In our art studios, guests and community members can step away from immediate struggles to create, reflect, and heal. These creative spaces, our Living Arts, Pottery, and Stained Glass Studios, offer more than just self-expression. They help people have the space to find confidence, stability, and focus as they begin to rebuild their lives. In this moment those extra encouragements mean the world to those in crisis.

Your support is more critical than ever. In a time marked by economic uncertainty and deepening community need, H.O.M.E. is doing everything we can to hold the line. But we cannot do it alone. Your gift today helps keep our doors open. It ensures that families facing eviction, individuals battling isolation, and young parents seeking stability have a place to turn. A place where they are seen, supported, and surrounded by a caring community.

In this moment, your donation is not just a gift -- **it is a lifeline** -- together, we can push back against this tide of uncertainty. Together, we can preserve the programs that so many depend on to rebuild their lives. We can’t do this without you.

Your gift grants us the ability to give back, to provide comfort, support, and connection to those who have fallen on challenging times. Every donation helps us respond to the unique needs of poverty and homelessness with compassion and strength. Support allows us to keep showing up for those who need us most when it matter most. Help us ensure that H.O.M.E. remains a cornerstone of hope and stability in times of uncertainty.

With Gratitude,

Rosalani Moore
Executive Director



Excerpts from 2025 Community Impact

Director’s Report

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I am both humbled and inspired by the strength, dedication, and resilience of the H.O.M.E., Inc. community. 2024 was marked by many successes, heartbreaking losses, and enduring stories of strength in the face of adversity - each interaction reaffirms our commitment to providing essential services to those experiencing homelessness and poverty. With the unwavering support of our staff, volunteers, and generous donors, we continued the vital work that Lucy Poulin began so many years ago.

One of our lasting achievements this year was the renovation of a housing space for low-income individuals, reinforcing our mission to expand access to safe and stable housing. This renovation was made possible with the support of a \$10,000 grant from Maine Association of Realtors along with the help of many dedicated volunteer groups over the summer. This investment strengthens our ability to offer housing and resources to individuals and families in need, providing a foundation for long-term stability.



A formerly homeless father and daughter now have a place to call home.

In total, H.O.M.E. provided shelter to 249 individuals across our four homeless shelters, offering a crucial lifeline during times of hardship. By alleviating the daily burden of seeking shelter, we empower individuals to focus on rebuilding their lives with dignity and hope. Each family or individual is assigned a housing navigator who works with them to find solutions to housing needs and access to other wraparound services.

Another critical success was the impact of our Diversion Program, which prevented 28 households from experiencing homelessness. This proactive approach helps to prevent families from becoming homeless in the first place and/or helps make homelessness as brief as possible by breaking down barriers to housing. In this way, Diversion ensures that families remain in safe, stable environments, reducing reliance on emergency shelters while keeping families together and mitigating the trauma of displacement as much as possible.

Food insecurity remained a pressing concern in our community and we took significant strides in addressing it. Our food rescue initiative saved over 229,049 pounds of food from landfills and provided nourishment to approximately 15 households per day. Additionally, our food pantries supported 771 households with monthly food boxes, and our soup kitchen served at least 21 individuals on Wednesdays, ensuring that those in need had access to nutritious meals.

Beyond meeting basic needs, we remain committed to fostering creativity and personal growth. Our Creative Arts Program continued to provide a nurturing space for

self-expression, where individuals facing homelessness and poverty could engage in meaningful artistic endeavors. This program offers more than just creative opportunities. It also builds a sense of belonging and community.

Additionally, we were able to make a flexible living space above our craft store. This space will be used for housing interns, volunteers, and visitors who need a space to stay while attending classes, teaching, volunteering, or visiting our area. Our Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser was a huge success raising over \$4000 for our Goodness Sake Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen.

2024 marked the passing of our beloved volunteer, Julia Demaree, who worked many hours in our living arts studio providing access to creative outlets for our guests and visitors. She will forever be missed by our team and those who knew her vibrant personality. Her spirit lives on in her former studio space.

The generosity of our supporters was particularly



Julia's Dragon dances in the streets.

evident through our thrift store where donated items provided affordable options for our community and, in many cases, were distributed free of charge to those facing significant hardship. We were blessed to have a team of dedicated volunteers, Gwen and Donna, keeping the store running through the end of the year.

Additionally, our firewood bank assisted households with emergency heating resources, ensuring warmth and security during Maine’s harsh winters. Support of a \$5000 grant from Alliance for Green Heat in September meant we were able to purchase enough wood to ensure the program will be available for the 2025/2026 season.

Supporting families remains at the heart of our work. Our licensed childcare program provided care for 28 children, offering working parents access to affordable, reliable support. Guests in our shelters also benefited from drop-in childcare access, giving them the stability they needed to focus on securing housing and employment. Five children were supported to attend the Young Bucks YMCA Summer Camp through scholarships from H.O.M.E. Moreover, we helped prepare children for academic success by distributing backpacks filled with school supplies to 47 children. During the holiday season, we spread joy by providing Christmas gifts to 377 children including all shelter guests, reminding them that they are valued and supported.

As we move into the next year, we remain committed to strengthening and expanding our programs. We will continue advocating for policies and initiatives that address the root causes of homelessness and poverty while seeking innovative solutions to better serve our community. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and donors who make our mission a reality.



Creativity creates smiles in our Stained Glass Studio.

On behalf of everyone at H.O.M.E., Inc. thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the lives of those who need it most.

With gratitude,
Rosalani Moore
Executive Director

**“We make a living
by what we get.
We make a life by
what we give.”
-Winston
Churchill**



**Support our Shelter
and Housing
Navigation**

Board of Director’s Report

Dear Friends,

2024 was a year of great changes at H.O.M.E. Long-time employee and Executive Director, Tracey Hair, left us for another opportunity. We miss her greatly but wish her the best in her new endeavors. We know she will stop to visit now and then. Rosalani Moore took over as Interim Executive Director in February and was officially made the Executive Director at the June Board meeting.

H.O.M.E. also lost one of their artists, Julia Demaree, who passed away from colon cancer in 2024. Julia ran the Living Arts Studio on campus for almost 10 years and was well loved and respected by the community. She will be greatly missed by all at H.O.M.E.

In 2024 we elected two new board members, Rev. Dr. Andi Lloyd and Adam Sheehan. Both were voted in during last years Annual Meeting. Dr. Lloyd is the Pastor of Trinitarian Congregational Parish of Castine and has joined the Development Committee. Adam Sheehan resides in Verona Island and our Finance Committee is thankful for his finance background. We welcomed both to the board as they share H.O.M.E.’s passion for supporting community members and those in need.

In 2024, the Board worked with the Management

Team to create a Development Committee. The Development Committee is working hard to create new fund raising ideas to help close gaps in our budget. We were also glad to have sponsorship of our Empty Bowls Fundraiser from WERU and the Witham Family. H.O.M.E. is finding more partners to help our community than ever before.

H.O.M.E. has started using MERIT. MERIT is a workplace retirement savings program for employees who do not have access to a plan through their employer. MERIT is a voluntary program and many of H.O.M.E.’s employees are now enrolled for retirement savings.

Rosa worked diligently on an application to Maine State Housing Authority to receive monies towards renovations at the St. Francis Inn Shelter which was awarded. The renovations will include the opening of a second stairwell, the creation of a laundry area, new flooring in all the bathrooms, new kitchen cabinets, as well as paving outside. Many of the renovations have been completed. Paving of the parking lot is waiting on warmer weather.

H.O.M.E. continues to keep up with what is going on in their community and will create new programming whenever a need in the community is detected.

Thank you for your support making H.O.M.E.,

Inc.’s work possible. We look forward to another year of great work serving our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Guare
Board Chair
H.O.M.E., Inc.



28 families/individuals moved into permanent housing.

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.

Finance 2024

2024 was a year for changes. The Finance Department added another staff person to the mix to help with the day to day activities.

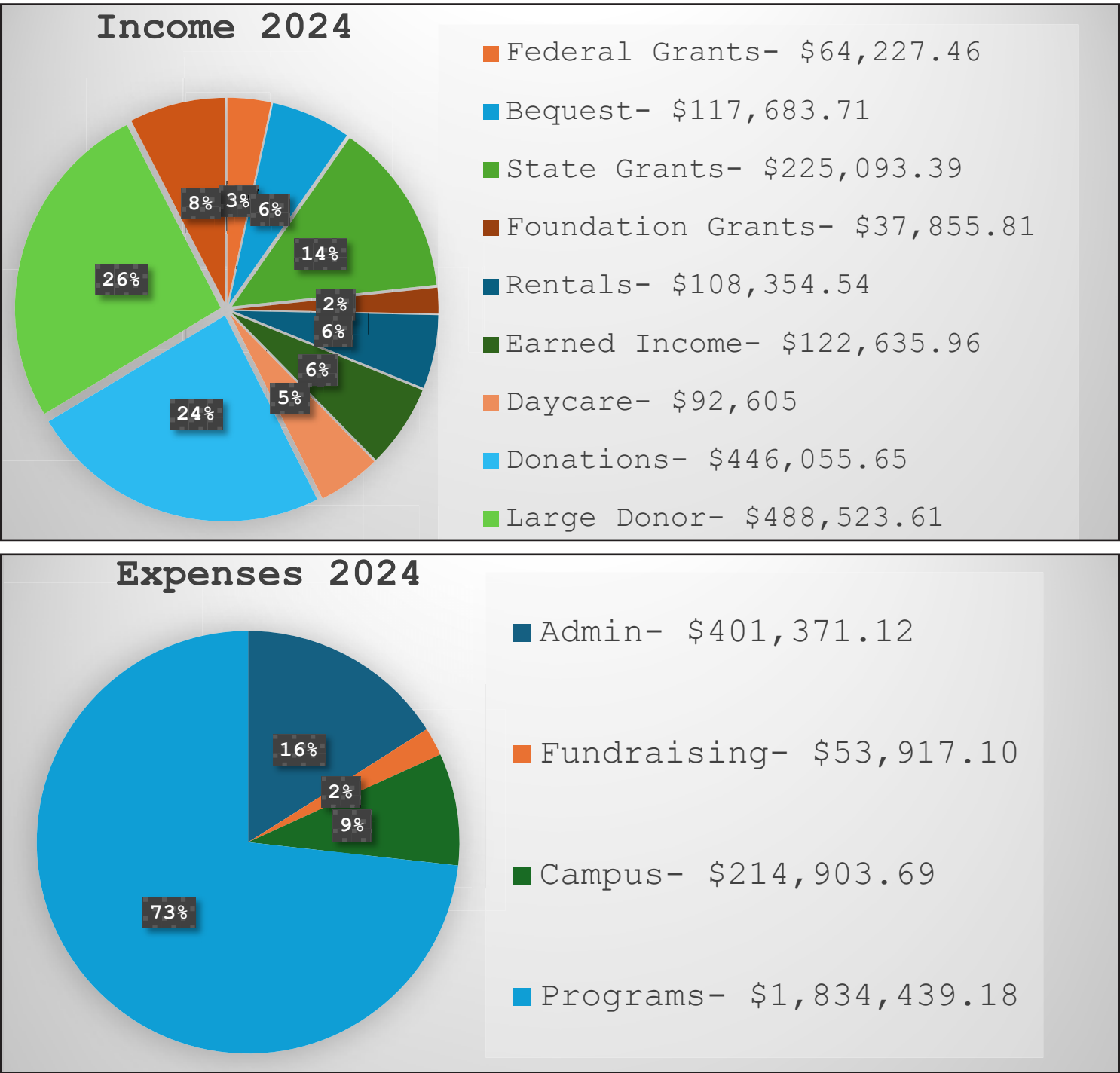
We had renovations of our office space thanks to volunteers, Bob and Tammy Roth of First Congregational Church in Ridgefield, CT. Along with help from their daughter Sydney, her friend Benton and H.O.M.E. volunteer Bob Nichols, they took down a wall to create a larger reception area and laid new flooring. Thanks to the remodel, the reception area can be utilized more efficiently. People can now wait in the seating area and not do not have to stand around in the back office.

H.O.M.E. was able to secure another successful audit as well.

The Finance Office oversees distributions from H.O.M.E.’s Hardship Fund and assisted 20 households in the form of fire wood from our wood bank or financial assistance.

As we look at the year, we can see that our funding has had some short falls. Our management team is working on creating new fund raisers to try and make up for the shortfall. As well as reaching out to both large and small donors in hopes of increasing their donations.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Carpenter
Finance Director



Shelter

Throughout 2024, H.O.M.E., Inc.'s Shelter Program saw multiple changes including staff changes and program development. We laid the groundwork for some exciting programming that will be implemented next year with the help of a two-year \$100,000 grant awarded by MeHAF (Maine Health Access Foundation). At a time when it is more challenging to establish housing and stable community services such as access to medical care, H.O.M.E. will be better able to support more enduring shelter stays for the guests who come to us for assistance.

This year our Shelter Team has seen a restructuring that includes more intentional team-building with our shelter campuses in Orland and Ellsworth. There were some changes in current staff roles and we welcomed new staff. Moreover, the team has participated in several trainings that will enable us to expand support to our shelter guests in various capacities. Multiple staff training in providing Recovery Support, Psychological First Aid, and de-escalation techniques through the MANDT System of training. The Mandt System is a comprehensive approach to preventing, de-escalating, and intervening when an individual's behavior poses a threat of harm to themselves or others. It helps develop a culture that provides emotional, psychological, and physical safety for everyone involved. The system builds skill development through gradual and graded alternatives for de-escalating and assisting people.

Liz Franck, LMSW-cc, and acting Shelter Program Manager, will now serve as Director of Social Work, overseeing shelter programs, facilitating campus unification, and supporting our community members with mental health coaching. Karen Botta has assumed the Shelter Manager position for the Orland campus. Karen will be responsible for staff oversight and

guest support. Gerald Botta will continue as Shelter Administrator while supplying management support for the shelter program offering assistance with data gathering and program planning.



Housing Navigator, Amy Smith with former guest, Sharon, celebrating the keys to Sharon's new apartment.

For too many months of the year, our housing navigation was dependent on one amazing staff member, Amy Smith. As the Primary Housing Navigator, Amy carried an extremely high case load with grace while consistently facilitating the housing of our shelter guests. She did an extraordinary job in spite of the worst housing market many of us have ever endured. Easing Amy's burden was the hiring of Shawna Lovely

as part-time Housing Navigator. Reese Keller was hired as weekend Shelter Aide.

With much hard work, H.O.M.E. shelter staff saw 37 independent adult households exit shelter to positive housing outcomes. Moreover, we facilitated 11 households with children finding permanent, stable housing. Lastly, we were able to complete expansion of our women's shelter, the Dorr House, to include a first-floor room and an additional bathroom which has enabled us to provide more space for those with mobility challenges.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Franck, LMSW-cc
Director of Social Work

15,745 Bed Nights provided - 249 guests were sheltered.



Another happy family with keys to their new home.

Diversion/ Homeless Family Outreach

H.O.M.E.'s Diversion and Homeless Family Outreach programs were able to assist 28 households by providing financial assistance needed to remain housed or attain housing.

Assistance provided by Diversion included:

- Payment of Utility Bills
- Security Deposits
- Rent/Rent Arrears
- Home Repairs
- Motel Stay

Many households in our area are just one missed paycheck away from homelessness. Programs such as General Assistance will not assist people with security deposits or rental arrears. Diversion bridges that gap in services allowing for more households to attain or retain their housing.

"People who are homeless are not social inadequates. They are people without homes."

-Sheila McKechnie
Housing Activist
1948-2004

Daycare

H.O.M.E. Daycare had a total of 28 children enrolled in full-time, part-time, after-school care, and drop-in care. Twenty-six of these children reside throughout Hancock County. Two of these children were shelter guests.

H.O.M.E. assisted four families with our in-house subsidy program while they either awaited acceptance with Maine's Child Care Subsidy program or requested supplemental help during a hardship period.

With the assistance of a special grant and additional help from Trinity Episcopal Church in Castine, we were able to mentor four children and send them to the Young Bucks Summer Camp Program with the YMCA on a full-time basis for the entire summer. This is the second year we have been able to send children to the Young Bucks Summer Camp. The children made lots of friends, did many activities, and had an amazing summer. We greatly hope to be able to continue to offer this to our families.

H.O.M.E. Daycare was able to also provide 12 of our families with turkey baskets for Thanksgiving, and ham baskets for Christmas. With the generous support again of Trinity Episcopal Church, we were able to purchase Christmas presents for all enrolled children. Families and friends attended our Christmas party and Santa handed out presents to all the children.

We are greatly appreciative of all the support Joan and Karl Austin from Trinity Church have given to our families. Their church family has gone above and beyond to make sure our families have special holidays, extra support for families' needs and/or supplies.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Witham
Daycare Director



Daycare swing fun and a visit from Petra's bunny rabbit, Bert.

Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen

By Julie Ream

The Goodness Sake Food Pantry on our Orland campus was awarded a grant from Hannaford Charitable Foundation in 2024. The \$10,000 award helped H.O.M.E. to purchase two new refrigerators and two new freezers to be used in the food pantry and soup kitchen allowing us to properly dispose of old appliances that were no longer energy efficient. We are grateful for Hannaford Supermarket and its support over the years.

Another award from Good Shepherd’s Nourish and Flourish grant allowed our food pantry to purchase new carts, shelving, and grocery bags. This grant is the first step of H.O.M.E. remodeling the Goodness Sake Food Pantry into a client-choice model. Many food pantries are moving to a client-choice model for many reasons including:

- Allow people seeking food assistance to choose for themselves what products they receive
- Resemble small grocery store, with products arrayed on shelves and in coolers/freezers
- Clients can fill boxes or bags with the items they desire
- Allocated based on household size
- Clients can select their own food instead of receiving a pre-packed or standard bag of groceries
- Allows clients to choose from a wide variety of foods to meet their own personal dietary needs and tastes

H.O.M.E. believes in ensuring those we help in our community can receive that assistance with their dignity intact. H.O.M.E.’s summer volunteer crews will be the work force on a majority of the remodeling.

The food pantry on the Orland campus and the emergency food pantry at the Emmaus Homeless Shelter distributed food boxes to 771 families feeding 1799 individuals. Thanksgiving food boxes were distributed to 299 households and Christmas boxes to 109 households. We would like to acknowledge an amazing supporter in the form of Judy Rountree. Judy heard that H.O.M.E. would not be receiving turkeys for the Thanksgiving food boxes from Penquis CAP and she jumped into action. Thanks to Judy we were able to secure 50 turkeys from Hannaford Supermarket in Blue Hill. Judy and

the congregation at St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church in Blue Hill have been supporters of H.O.M.E. and its programming for many years.

The soup kitchen was able to serve free lunch to the public every Wednesday since February. In those 11 months, almost 100 individuals were served in the soup kitchen monthly. H.O.M.E. was very happy to have the good people from Christ Church Anglican in Bucksport serving lunch on the last Monday of each month. We are very grateful for their good work. The support of our community is a real blessing to our soup kitchen. It is our hope that other congregations and community groups learn of this opportunity and help get our schedule back to 5 days a week.

H.O.M.E. continues to bring rescued food from Hannaford and Tradewinds Supermarkets to distribute to the public free of charge. Our rescue lines in Orland and Ellsworth were accessed over 5000 times during 2024. This resulted in preventing 229,049 pounds of food waste from being sent to a landfill.

The food pantry and soup kitchen as well as the food rescue program will continue to help the people in our community living with food insecurity as much as we can.



H.O.M.E. management team members pose with representatives from local Hannaford Supermarkets.

Arts & Events

In 2024, the Craft Department saw many new volunteers helping us in every studio and beyond. More classes were offered and they helped out at craft fairs during the holiday season.

In Living Arts, we presented seven workshops and over 30 classes during the year, including watercolor, inspiration flags, weaving, crochet, and origami. We had several volunteers teach classes during the season, including guests from our shelters as instructors.

Janis Behm taught watercolor, Marybeth Allen fixed and set up a small loom for weaving instructions, Tristan taught crochet, and Stephen educated us in the art of origami. Sheila tended the beautiful garden next to the Living Arts studio and brightened the space with her stories and creativity during open studio time. At the end of the year, Lucy spent long hours organizing and cleaning to get the place ready for a new group of artists, volunteers, and students.

In the Stained Glass studio, our own Roxanne Poulin, trained and was assisted by volunteer, Shawna Lovely, to create pieces that we sell in the H.O.M.E.-Made Gift Shop. Roxanne continues to teach weekly classes to the shelter guests and our community. We held four workshops with mosaics and had a total of over 60 classes combined in Stained Glass and Mosaics.

In early May we had our seasonal open house in the H.O.M.E.-Made Gift Shop and at the end of May we hosted our annual Pathways to Creativity event. The studios were open with demonstrations by our talented artisans and volunteers in pottery, stained glass, and living arts.

In our Stitchery Department, Linda Greer has been volunteering weekly. She has organized and quickly set

up the sewing room for creating. She was often joined by her granddaughter, Summer, and volunteer, Joyce Kuzman, to create pot holders, bowl cozies, and small quilts to be sold in the gift shop and at craft fairs.

In the Market Stand that houses our Soup Kitchen, volunteer, Lori Bryant, presented three Art Power Hour workshops with drawing and painting.

The Pottery Studio had many artists volunteer to make and glaze bowls for our annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser. Steve, Elena, Christine, and Keith were among the many that helped with the event that was held in August. Volunteers from the shelters and the community also assisted. We had our highest productive year yet and raised the most amount of money to date for that event. This fundraiser aims to raise awareness around our mission of combating food insecurity in our community. We continue to have weekly classes in the pottery that are open to the public and shelter guests.

The classes and workshops provide some of the funds that support the studios ability to teach weekly classes offered free to our shelter guests. This facilitates the opportunity for our guests to learn a new skill which fosters a creative outlet while they are at H.O.M.E. Shelter guests that sell their creations in the gift shop receive 100% of the proceeds. Local crafters have the opportunity to sell their work on consignment in our shop and volunteer with us in the store and at craft shows.

Several craft shows were added this year with much help from volunteers. Stephanie, Lori, Pam, and Dex were among the many who helped to pack, set up, sell, and break down for these events. We could not have done any of this without them.

In November we hosted an art show at the Buck

Volunteer Projects completed in 2024...

- New windows installed in daycare
- Remodeled Finance Office lobby
- Installed new flooring in room 8 at SBHH
- Remodeled apartment at SBHH
- Living Arts accessibility ramp installed
- Chapel ramp replaced
- Apartment in Stitchery started
- Assisted with Habitat for Humanity
- Assembled and painted new picnic tables
- Assisted with making bowls for Empty Bowls fundraiser
- Started remodeling wood shop for storage use
- Cleaned out Solidarity Barn
- Stacked wood

Memorial Library in Bucksport. “Together We Create” showcased art work from the H.O.M.E. community. It featured art from shelter guests past and present, volunteers, staff, and the local artists who sell their creations in our gift shop. The show was a great success and we have planned to make it an annual event.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Perkins
Arts and Events Coordinator



Momentum volunteers working on mosaics to be sold in the H.O.M.E.-Made Gift Shop

Volunteers

H.O.M.E. volunteers are still going above and beyond our expectations with their skills, willingness to help, and accomplishments for the 2024 season.

H.O.M.E.'s first group of every year comes from the University of Delaware Alternative Spring Break (UDaB). They worked hard at creating storage space in our wood shop. These spaces enabled H.O.M.E. to discontinue using local storage facilities and saved us a few thousand dollars in storage fees. Jackie Perkins, Arts and Events Coordinator, was glad to learn one of the students, Casey Schaeffer, had experience throwing pots on the pottery wheel. Casey not only helped make bowls for our Empty Bowls Fundraiser in August, she took the time to show her fellow volunteers how to do so as well. Jackie estimates they helped make 30-40 bowls. After throwing the bowls and firing them in the kiln, they helped fellow volunteers from our shelters to glaze the bowls. Altogether, the UDaB students volunteered over 576 hours at H.O.M.E.

The summer volunteer season welcomed four groups that have been coming to H.O.M.E. to volunteer longer than many of our employees have been employed here. The First Congregational Church of Ridgefield has had a hard time getting their program up and running after the lock-down but their group leader, Bob Roth, has not missed a summer to help. In June 2024, Bob, his wife Tammy along with their daughter, Sydney and her friend, Benton did a remodel of our Finance Department. They created a large lobby area, removing walls and moving doors. The Finance Office is now a larger space to accommodate the traffic they see in and out of their office all day. Bob Nichols, a volunteer from another large group assisted Bob in the remodel.

In July, the group from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Madison, CT, arrived to help in many areas. They sent a small group to work with the Hancock Habitat for Humanity Aging in Place program. These high school students and their chaperones helped a local woman with repaving her walkway to help keep it from flooding. Other students assisted with

putting together new picnic tables they purchased and painting them. They worked in Ellsworth at Sister Barbara Hance House (SBHH) to rehab a small house in preparation of a dad and daughter to move into from shelter. They also helped with the flexible living space being created on the second floor of the gift shop. They hosted a community dinner during the week that staff, shelter guests, volunteers, and local residents attended. We are always grateful for the hard work of this amazing group of teenagers and their adults.

Next came a new group from the Hingham Congregational Church of Hingham, MA. This small group accomplished so much in their week. They helped clean out the solidarity barn of items that had been ruined because of the leaking roof (now fixed by contractors). They helped with the rehab of the small house at SBHH and laid a new floor in Room 8. Their pastor, Pete, even came back after their week to leave a donation. We are always impressed with how much work a small group can do.

Speaking of small groups, Trinity Reformed Church in Rochester, NY has been sending 2-5 individuals to volunteer for a very long time. In 2024, the pastor, Steve, and dedicated volunteer, Sam, arrived yet again and worked on the flexible living space in the gift shop. Sam and Steve are wonderful people who always bring a smile to the faces they meet.

The last group of the season was from St. Luke's Parish out of Barrington, RI. These hardworking folks and the teenagers they bring with them accomplish so much when they are on campus. Last summer they replaced all the windows in the daycare, replaced the accessibility ramp on the chapel, built an accessibility ramp into the Living Arts studio as well as worked on the flexible living space. As they usually do, they hosted a community dinner for all who wished to join.

H.O.M.E. is so grateful for these groups and all the work they help us with each year.

H.O.M.E. saw a big uptick in local volunteers this year. From the many folks who assisted with



Above, Hingham volunteers clean out the barn. Below, UDaB students in the wood shop.



making bowls, holding classes, helping out at craft fairs, assisting at the H.O.M.E.-Made gift shop pop-up events, working at the yard sales, and in the Bargain Barn and Food Pantry. Sandi has returned to work in the front office.

The Bargain Barn is now completely run by volunteers. Bargain Barn manager, Cindy Marks, had to leave due to health reasons and volunteers, Donna Faulkingham and Gwen Tracy stepped up to fill the gap. Donna volunteered for over 175 hours and Gwen put in over 515 hours in 2024. We are grateful for their hard work.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Ream
Program Coordinator

Volunteer Heart

By Julie Ream

H.O.M.E. has had the privilege of having some of the most amazing volunteers, dare I say, in the world. Many of our buildings on campus and all of the homes we have built over the years were done so with volunteer labor. Volunteers help us by repairing buildings, assisting at craft fairs, and working in the Bargain Barn. I'm not sure H.O.M.E. could survive without its volunteer force.

Our volunteers come in all shapes and sizes but one of my favorite sizes may just be Peggy Nolan size. Peggy showed up to H.O.M.E. along with her worker, Sarah, and signed up to volunteer in any way she could. In November, when Peggy heard H.O.M.E. was worried about having enough turkeys and fixin's for Thanksgiving food boxes, she asked if it was all right if she set up a table at the Shaw's in Ellsworth to try and get enough fixins' so no one would be going without a Thanksgiving dinner. H.O.M.E. happily agreed to be the recipient of her generous spirit.

I'm here to tell you, Peggy was a woman of her word! She set up on a Saturday morning and spent a few hours telling folks about how she was collecting food for Thanksgiving boxes and the shoppers of Shaw's did not let her down. Peggy showed up to the Goodness Sake Food Pantry with two workers and bags of groceries in both cars.

It took four of us to unload all Peggy had gathered for the pantry. She managed to collect enough fixin's to meet H.O.M.E.'s need with a bit left over to save for Christmas food boxes. Peggy also collected over \$300 to donate to the food pantry.

At 75 years-old, Peggy does her volunteering with



Julie and Peggy after her food drive, left. Rosa and Peggy at the Shelter from the Storm Fundraiser, right.

the help of her workers and her handy-dandy rolling walker. Her passion to help others is contagious and when we did our Shelter from the Storm fundraiser in January, we invited Peggy to join Executive Director, Rosalani Moore, and myself to once again sit in the breezeway of Shaw's sharing information about H.O.M.E. while collecting cash donations as well as donations of warm hats, gloves, and mittens. Peggy is very out-going and was not shy when telling people about the work H.O.M.E. does and how they could help.

Peggy doesn't put her energy into fund raising alone, she is a big help at the Bargain Barn sorting and folding clothes that are donated. If you stop in, make sure to say hi. I'm sure we will be finding her in the studios volunteering here pretty soon.

Peggy is proof that we can give back to our community no matter our age or abilities. A big heart and generous spirit can bring so much joy to those around you and Peggy brings us joy all the time. I hope you have a Peggy in your life!

Arts and Well-Being Series, Part Two: How H.O.M.E. Supports Unhoused Families Through Creativity

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ASH HOLLAND, STAFF WRITER
21 November 2024

ARTS ENGAGEMENT

Participating in arts experiences — or even just observing music, theater, or visual arts — brings countless benefits to a person’s life, including improved self-esteem, reduced stress, and stronger, more empathetic community engagement.

In part one of our series, we outlined the research that shows the profound benefits the arts have on our individual and collective well-being. But it’s the organizations that connect people to various artistic activities that bring these benefits to life everyday — organizations like Homeworkers Organized for More Employment (H.O.M.E.).

In addition to providing a shelter, a food pantry, and childcare services for unhoused or low-income individuals and families, H.O.M.E. offers creative studios with skill building workshops in areas such as stained glass, woodwork, stitchery, and pottery. Indeed, art making is central to H.O.M.E.’s programming, underscoring the fact that access to creative expression isn’t just enriching, but essential to our lives.

A H.O.M.E. for All

H.O.M.E. was founded in 1970 as a crafting cooperative designed to help Maine residents from low-income backgrounds create and sell handmade crafts. While the organization continues to value the arts as a source of both well-being and income generation, it’s also evolved to become a hub for housing and economic support in Hancock County.

Today, residents can access shelter, food, and a number of arts workshops through which they can learn new skills and foster a sense of community. After creating original artwork in pottery, stained glass, or stitchery studios, shelter guests can then sell their work at H.O.M.E.’s gift shop to earn money and purchase goods at a low cost.

For H.O.M.E.’s participants, these studio experiences are a vital channel for self-expression, empowerment, and restoration. “Arts programming provides an escape from crisis,” says Rosalani Moore,



Watercolor artist, Janis Behm, in a class she taught last summer in our Living Arts Studio. Janis is a volunteer who lives in Arizona and visits family in Maine during the summer months.

H.O.M.E.’s Executive Director. “It allows people to re-frame where they are and come back to the work of figuring things out or filling out housing applications with a refreshed mind.”

In this way, art provides not only an avenue for earning income, but also a therapeutic medium for working through difficulties and connecting with others. “It’s extremely challenging to be in a shelter and live with different people,” Moore says. “And people who come into the arts program often have some greater barriers around being in community. The arts can

provide a release from that.”

Arts and Well-Being: A ‘Circle of Giving’

H.O.M.E. operates from a specific motto: “Serve first those who need(sic) it most.” “What that means to us is to simply help people in need,” says Jackie Perkins, crafts and activities coordinator. “It’s a circle of giving. You’re helping somebody, and then they want to help others.”

One way Moore, Perkins, and the rest of the H.O.M.E. team embody this motto is by offering flexible programming tailored to the needs of their shelter guests, which often inspire those guests to connect with others and share their skills. That programming includes:

- Community art workshops led by experienced artists. These workshops are free for shelter guests and available at sliding scale rates for community members.
- Small-group classes that start with the fundamentals of stained glass, pottery, stitchery, or other arts. Participants advance their skills gradually over time alongside other students and visiting artists.
- Open studio days, through which crafts people can showcase their work and build stronger community connections.

In each of these activities, the work starts with the guests. “We really try to home in on what people want to do, and then we find ways to do it,” says Perkins.

Moore agrees: “I used to teach the pottery class, and part of my philosophy was having the students guide the work,” she says. “I have them learn the limitations and the expanse that pottery can provide. We start with ‘what do you want to create,’ and then we help them learn what’s possible.”

The Deep and Lasting Impact of Art on H.O.M.E.’s Shelter Guests

Following the shelter guests’ leads has resulted in an expanded arts program, which provides various opportunities for participants to realize the significant impact the arts have on individual and communal well-being.



Student volunteers joined our shelter guests with decorating pottery bowls to be glazed for H.O.M.E.’s Empty Bowl Fundraiser.

cont. on next page...

Arts and Well-Being Series, Part Two

cont from page 8....

“Art is a basic need,” says Perkins. “For a lot of people, it helps with depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, connecting with people, being able to express yourself in different ways. It gives you self-confidence and the ability to cope better with things in life.”

Take Tori (a chosen pseudonym), a shelter guest who initially struggled with depression, anxiety, and bullying, as an example. After taking stained glass and pottery classes at H.O.M.E., Tori began opening up and expressing themselves through their art. Soon, they started teaching Perkins to crochet, an art Tori used to decompress during anxiety episodes.

And what started as one connective activity quickly turned into multiple bigger classes, through which Tori taught other shelter guests. Tori even began creating crochet animals to sell in the gift shop. “You could just see Tori overcoming some of those doubts they had about themselves,” Perkins says. “Even after they’ve found housing, they still bring items in to sell.”

Similarly, a shelter guest named Sean (another pseudonym) also found community and confidence through H.O.M.E.’s art program. Sean had a difficult time connecting with others in the shelter and often expressed feeling alone or isolated from the group. Perkins recommended that he take pottery classes, and after he did, he flourished. “His self-confidence was building throughout the classes,” Perkins says. “He could connect with people differently because they were creating art together. In the house, it created a more tolerant, kind atmosphere.”

Like Tori, Sean’s blossoming courage led him to

teach classes of his own. After expressing his passion for origami, for example, Perkins immediately bought special paper and materials to enable him to share his knowledge with other shelter guests.

Moore and Perkins have seen stories like Tori’s and Sean’s play out time and again: A single parent uses H.O.M.E.’s art programming to help their children better understand each other. A neurodivergent shelter guest finds an avenue for self-expression and relationship-building. A shelter guest uses art to support their sobriety journey.

“It’s a place of infinite possibilities,” says Moore. “We can support people in their creativity and lives in so many ways.”

Art: An Essential Part of Our Lives

Going forward, Moore and Perkins hope to expand their arts programming to help more guests find channels for artistic expression. They’ll be hosting an arts show in Bucksport’s library to highlight guest and staff creations, and they’re discussing ways to bring back previous open mic and street dance classes.

These and many other arts experiences that H.O.M.E. nurtures showcase what the research says: Art has a profound impact on individuals and communities. By combining arts and well-being workshops with day-to-day essentials like food and shelter, the organization is supporting shelter guests’ needs holistically, caring for both body and mind.

*You can find part one of this story at: <https://the-onion-nextjs-sanity-git-develop-divelement.vercel.app/posts/arts-and-well-being-series-part-one>



Volunteer, Marybeth Allen, working on a small weaving loom in Living Arts Studio with her granddaughter, Sylvie.

Beloved H.O.M.E. Artist Passes Away at the age of 86

By Tracey Hair

Julia Hazel Demaree, passed away on July 11th at her home in Bucksport, Maine. Known for her love for nature, she died in the arms of her wife, Tracey Hair, by her favorite window overlooking maple trees and surrounded by candlelit images of her beloved children and grandchildren who watered the seeds of her greatest happiness.

Whatever Julia's eyes fell on she touched with life. Julia was a lifelong creator, artist, and, later in life, a practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine. She was a bridge builder for people on the margins.

Julia was born in Detroit, Michigan to Cherrie Morgan, and James Demaree, but largely spent her life between Chapel Hill, NC where she earned her fine arts degree, Iowa City and New York, to finally settle in Bucksport, Maine. Where she lived with her wife for the last ten years of her life.

Julia worked in Harlem with a psychiatric community, creating the "Souls in Motion" studio which existed for 25 years. She studied Traditional Chinese Medicine with Taoist priest Jeffrey Yuen for 20 years and became an acupuncturist. She ran a ministry for homeless residents of Harlem, called Emmaus House of Harlem where she met her wife. In 2015, she moved to Maine where she ran an art studio at H.O.M.E. for



people experiencing homelessness where she led by allowing the smallest of creative impulses to take hold.

Julia was deeply inspired by the writings of Thich Nhat Hanh and lived the last part of her life according to Taoist principles. Julia is predeceased by Cherrie Morgan; her mother, James Demaree; her father, June Demaree-Lamirande; her sister; and her former husband and father of her children; Mathew Norman.

Julia is survived by her wife, Tracey Hair, their cat Zoe, and dog, Bailey; her two beloved children, Addie Norman-Patuto and husband Mathew Patuto of Nags Head, NC; Julius Wood 'Woody' Norman, and wife Lee Chen-Norman of Monterey Park, California as well as her two cherished grandsons Zachary Li Norman and Perry Chen Norman.

Julia will be dearly remembered by all of them, as well as numerous members of her extended art, healing and acupuncture family, Joselyn Barnes, Anita Nyar, Elizabeth Rice, Louise Rosenberg and Michael Taylor as well as her friend of 50 years, Linda Hjortshoj and family, including her namesake Julia Brown. Julia will also be fondly remembered by her H.O.M.E. family and will forever be recalled as an inspirational force of love and generosity; a mother; compassionate, creative and generous friend; and a lover of the arts, film, literature, poetry, the Penobscot River and a wide range of music, from Ruth Cunningham spirituals to Amy Winehouse.

Julia spent the last years of her life, cultivating

friendships with her close circle of friends in Bucksport at her favorite gathering place The Crumpet, as well as embracing her call to nature by writing her auto story 'Obits and Me' from her home studio which is surrounded by a beautiful garden she shared with her wife.

*Note: H.O.M.E. was honored to host a memorial for Julia in August. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her.



Saying So Long

By Julie Ream

The Emmaus Homeless Shelter, sadly had to say good-bye to long-time employee Brian Hain at the beginning of this year. Brian retired after almost 17 years of hard work and dedication. Shelter Director, Stacey Herrick said that Brian brought a positive face to Emmaus Homeless Shelter and as a community liaison. H.O.M.E. wishes Brian the best and hope he enjoys retirement.



Brian at the beginning above and at his retirement dinner below.



H.O.M.E. Becomes Pit Stop for One Man's Dream

By Julie Ream

In June 2024, Jo, a citizen of Germany, made a stop in Orland looking for a place to rest. Lucky for him, H.O.M.E.'s volunteer center was unoccupied and we were able to provide him with a hot shower and a warm bed. Our staff were amazed to hear the story of how his wife had gifted him his dream of biking across North America after years of caring for her through a terrible illness.

During his 40 years of professional career, Jo prepared and carried out many expeditions to the Himalayas. These experiences taught him that life has a lot to offer, as long as you are willing to broaden your horizons and take on new adventures.

Having already done a similar bike tour in 1983, he discovered and lived out his passion for alpine climbing, free climbing, and high mountain hikes. He experienced nature in its most original form and explored the beauty of the mountains and the sky.

In addition to nature and the landscape, Jo says he is particularly fascinated by meeting people. He looked forward to meeting new friends along the way and sharing stories that bring us all a little closer together.

Jo finished his adventure in San Diego and flew home from there. If you would like to read his blog and see pictures of his extraordinary journey, visit www.josdream.de

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
- Backpacks
- Toiletries - shampoo, body wash
- Sunscreen
- Caps with visors
- Tents and Sleeping Bags
- Grocery Store Gift Cards
- Phone cards
- New Pillows
- Towels
- 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 207-469-7961 and select option 0 at any stage and we can discuss the best option.

In Memorium

Jackie Burpee

October 16, 1959 - December 31, 2024



Jackie Ellen Burpee (Clark), 65, of Orland, Maine, passed away on December 31, 2024 at Northern Light Hospital. Born on October 16, 1959 in Bangor, Maine, she was the beloved daughter of Hilda (Lounsbury) Jordan and the late John Clark Jr. Jackie was the middle of five siblings and grew up in Bangor, where she attended local schools before embarking on a career that brought her many cherished friendships, most recently Leslie and the team at Osborne's Plumbing and Heating.

On April 15, 1978, Jackie married Marcus Burpee in Orland. Together they celebrated 46 years of marriage and built a life filled with love and devotion. Jackie was a proud mother to her two sons, Marcus II (and his wife Megan) of Bangor and Robert (and his partner Sarah) of Brewer. She found immense joy in her grandchildren – Cameron, Zachary, Kaileigh, and Chaylynn – and great-grandchildren Jaxson and Colton. Jackie often said their births changed her life for the better, a sentiment reflected in the unwavering love and support she gave them.

Jackie's nurturing spirit extended beyond her immediate family. She was a second mother to Megan, often criticizing (jokingly) her choice of a husband, and grandmother to Chloe, sharing a special bond with her nieces, nephews, and their children. Her warmth was perhaps most evident in her cooking; she will forever be remembered for her lasagna, rolls, pies, and other treasured recipes that brought her family together.

Jackie enjoyed simple pleasures like playing Yahtzee with her dear friend, Bev, chatting with Olivia and Leslie, and found true happiness in seeing the children in her life smile. She was preceded in death by her father, brothers John and Robert Clark, and nephew Corey. She is survived by her husband Marcus; mother Hilda; sisters Deborah Parks (and husband Ed) of Macksville, Kansas; and Brenda Burgess (and husband Tony) of Auburn; as well as many extended family members.

*Jackie was a member of the H.O.M.E. community since the 1970s. She worked in our shelter department and is remembered for her kind heart and wicked sense of humor. She will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved her.



Jo with H.O.M.E. staff and volunteers before continuing on his journey.

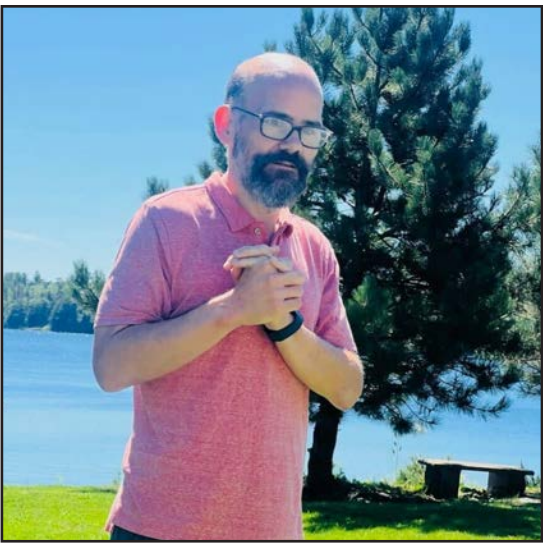
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