

H.O.M.E., Inc. Community Impact Report 2026



H.O.M.E. crew Jackie, Gerald, and Robert with a nostalgic piece from First Congregational Church of Old Greenwich

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

Christine Witham, Chair, Bar Harbor
Mike Guare, Vice Chair, Bangor
Dennis Foley, Secretary, Orland
Adam Sheehan, Treasurer, Orrington
William O'Donnell, Bucksport
Rich Feldmann, Ellsworth
Paige Johnston, Ellsworth
Veronica Breceda, Bar Harbor
Debbie Murray, Eddington
Lisa Reynolds, Staff Representative



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Community,

2025 certainly had its challenges with federal budget cuts and program needs continuing to rise at a sharp pace. I am happy to report that our staff held up strong as ever and met those challenges head on and services were uninterrupted.

Rosa Moore is settling in quite well in her new role as Executive Director. Her willingness to support the Board has been a true and trusted asset. Lisa Reynolds has moved into the role of Staff Representative from the Emmaus Shelter. Lisa also participates in our monthly Board Meeting.

An update about our current board members, Sue Lessard retired from her position with the Town of Bucksport and has also retired from our Board in June 2025. Sue will be missed, and her insight was invaluable to our Board over the many years she served as our Board Treasurer. We wish her the best in her much-deserved retirement. Rev. Dr. Andi Lloyd has stepped down from the Board as of August 2025. She has been transferred to New Hampshire from Castine. We wish Andi the best with her new move. Mike Guare stepped down from Board Chair after many years of serving but continues to remain in the role of a Board Member. We appreciate Mike's willingness to continue serving.

We welcomed three new members to our board, Rich Feldmann, Paige Johnston, and Veronica Breceda. Our Board is strong, and I deeply appreciate all who continue to serve on our Board, and your unwavering compassion to support H.O.M.E. and its mission.



H.O.M.E. Board Members and Management with State Sen. Grohoski and State Rep. Bishop

Our committees are solid. Adam Sheehan leads our Finance Committee and has been instrumental in navigating our finances during these uncertain times. Rich Feldmann has been unstoppable in leading our Facilities Committee. He has great insight as well as solutions to resolve issues around our campus. Rosa has been leading our Development Committee, resulting in many successful events and fundraisers.

Our Board attended a retreat with Starboard Leadership Consulting in April. As a result of our retreat, we were able to formulate a solid strategic plan for the next several years. This has been instrumental in focus and goal-oriented benchmarks. We are committed to staying on track with our 2026 Strategic Plan and look forward to reporting our successes in 2026.



Board Member Debbie Murray and her daughter Angel at trunk or treat

H.O.M.E. has designed a new road sign which we are all excited about. We hope to install it in the spring.

We would like to also recognize our volunteers and their dedication that helps shape H.O.M.E. with continued services. There is a lot that goes on behind-the-scenes at H.O.M.E., and the fabric of our community allows us to continue to provide compassion to all.

We welcome anyone who would like to learn more about H.O.M.E., and we offer campus tours. We would like to recognize all who have continued to support H.O.M.E. and our mission. On behalf of the Board, we would like to thank all of you. You allow us to continue to serve our community in ongoing vital needs.



Board Member Dennis Foley played Santa for our Daycare kiddos

Christine Witham
Chair, Board of Directors





A Message from the Executive Director

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the extraordinary community that surrounds H.O.M.E. This year was one of challenge, growth, advocacy, and renewed commitment to our mission of honoring the dignity of people experiencing challenging times by providing safe shelter and other critical resources in a vibrant and mutually supportive community.

The need in our region continues to grow. In 2025, H.O.M.E. provided more than **18,000 bed nights** of shelter to individuals and families across Hancock, Washington, Waldo, and Penobscot Counties. Our shelters remained at or near capacity throughout the year. The average length of stay has increased as affordable housing remains scarce and rental costs remain high, meaning families and individuals are staying longer because there is simply nowhere else to go. Even so, our team continues to meet each guest with compassion, perseverance, and a focus on long-term stability.

In 2025 our Maine Health Access Foundation grant supporting Wraparound Housing Navigation and Stabilization Services was implemented in our shelter programming. Through this work, we strengthened our shelter work with individuals experiencing high barriers to being successfully housed and expanded housing navigation capacity, while deepening coordination among shelter staff, case managers, and community partners. We also continued our collaboration with Downeast Restorative Justice through a grant from Northeastern Workforce Development to strengthen facilitation skills and trauma informed practices across our team. Our goal is not simply to provide a bed, but to support people towards long-term stability and moving forward through the crisis that led them into homelessness.

We were encouraged by the enactment of **LD 698**, which provided one-time statewide shelter support. The funding represented meaningful bipartisan recognition that emergency shelters are critical infrastructure needed to keep people safe and alive. We remain committed to ongoing advocacy for sustainable operational funding so that rural shelters like H.O.M.E. can continue to serve as a safety net of last resort.



E.D. Moore and fellow directors at a wood bank conference at UM Machais



Shelter Directors speaking at the State House in Augusta advocating for shelter funding

In addition to strengthening operations, we made significant progress toward expanding permanent housing opportunities. We acquired and began renovation of a home on Facticeau Drive behind our Orland campus that will become permanent supportive rental housing for a chronically homeless family with children. Volunteer groups, staff, and partners have worked tirelessly on demolition, drywall, roofing, plumbing, and systems upgrades. With additional support from the Emmaus Habitat Fund and generous donors, we anticipate this home becoming available in early 2026. This project reflects our long-term commitment to creating pathways out of shelter and walking with families towards better futures.

2025 also marked the completion and adoption of our **Three-Year Strategic Plan** for 2026 to 2028. This plan was the result of deep collaboration between board, staff, volunteers, and our consultant Mary Budd of Starboard Leadership. It affirms our commitment to sustainability, lived experience leadership, responsible stewardship, and strengthening our core services. The process itself renewed our clarity and shared purpose at a pivotal moment for H.O.M.E. as we focus our attention on sustainability.

Beyond shelter and housing, our broader programming continues to serve as a foundation of community support. Our food pantry and soup kitchen remained busy throughout the year, offering meals



Restorative Justice Training for shelter staff

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*127 Maine Veterans were unhoused in 2025

*See www.mainehousing.org 2025-point-in-time-report.pdf



twice weekly and holiday food distributions during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Special meals at Easter, Thanksgiving, and our Christmas meal brought warmth and connection during seasons that can otherwise be isolating for people struggling with homelessness and poverty. We are transitioning toward a self-service pantry model with new shelving and improvements that allow patrons of our pantry greater choice in selecting food for their families.

Our Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser was our most well-attended celebration yet, raising over \$6,000 for our food security programming. We are especially grateful to the volunteers from **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church** of Madison, CT, who helped make the event such a success. The spirit of community, art, shared meals, and mutual support remains central to who we are.

Our **25 Days of Christmas** campaign to heat the shelters was another highlight. With strong seed funding and widespread community support, we raised over **\$28,000** to offset heating costs in our shelters during the coldest months of the year. This effort ensures that families and individuals in our care remain safe and warm throughout the winter.

The Bargain Barn continued to provide earned income and essential household items for families transitioning from shelter to housing. Our daycare program navigated enrollment challenges while continuing to provide nurturing early childhood care and access to healthy meals. Our craft store and art studios expanded memberships, took part in regional fairs, and created opportunities for connection, creativity, and earned income. These programs are at the heart of our work and are part of what makes H.O.M.E. a community rather than simply a service provider.

We successfully completed our annual financial audit with no findings, strengthened internal controls, and welcomed new leadership capacity with plans for a dedicated HR role and an expansion of our volunteer coordination. Our board remains deeply engaged in governance, facilities planning, with a keen eye on long-term sustainability. I am also deeply thankful for a dedicated team that supported the work of H.O.M.E. through my recent maternity leave. There is no place like H.O.M.E. when it comes down to what matters most and no better place to be when a friendly face or a helping hand is needed.

The reality is that the math of shelter operations remains difficult. It costs far more to provide safe, staffed, year-round shelter than we receive in public reimbursement. Yet 2025 demonstrated what is possible when community members, donors, volunteers, staff, and public partners work together. From a **\$225,000** major gift supporting housing stability work, to **\$5,000** community grants, to small individual donations dropped off in envelopes at our office, every contribution matters.

H.O.M.E. began more than fifty-six years ago with a simple commitment to serve first those who suffer most. That commitment continues today. In 2025, we did more than keep our doors open. We strengthened programs, deepened partnerships, advanced housing solutions, and reaffirmed who we are.

Thank you to every staff member, volunteer, board member, donor, and community partner who makes this work possible. Because of you, our greater community, we are able to continue our work bringing shelter, food, warmth, dignity, and hope to those we serve.

With gratitude,
Rosalani Moore
Executive Director



Baby Eva wins cutest trunk or treat decoration at Voices by the Fire



Shelter staff participate at a demonstration to bring awareness about homelessness in Augusta

DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONT...

***549**
Individuals
in Maine
were
chronically
homeless

*See www.mainehousing.org 2025-point-in-time-report.pdf



Opening Doors to Stability

The Shelter Department had experiences throughout 2025, that contained a common thread - “Collaboration.” This thread wove through our work on every level. We saw it in our direct client work with guests in our shelter and warming center. At our local community level, we experienced collaboration through outreach efforts and support with donations of time, funding, and advocacy. Still, at the broader community level we see it reflected in our combined work with other organizations to petition legislature that is in support of those experiencing what it means to be unhomed.

In our direct work, shelter staff made amazing contributions. Together we managed to exit **45 households without children** to permanent housing outcomes, and **11 families with children**. We have continued our work with our MEHAF grant funded program, Wraparound Navigation, and to date have successfully supported 100% of our housed participants, to remain in their homes. Lastly, we have continued our effort to grow professionally, through trainings and our combined knowledge and experience— Go team U.N.I.T.Y.! Furthermore, we managed all of this, while experiencing staffing shortages and program interruptions that impacted our guests.

While all staff participated in an introductory training in Restorative Justice methods, our Shelter Managers began to implement the techniques in our house meetings. This fostered empowerment for those in our houses in meaningful ways and contributed to a mutual sense of seeing and being seen within this community. In addition, shelter staff participated in annual navigation and multiple interagency training opportunities. Moreover, multiple staff members participated in Trauma Trainings, with **Orland Shelter Manager, Karen Botta**, completing a program qualifying her as a **Certified Trauma Informed Coach**. This service is something that we have strived to build over the last year, as experiencing homelessness is a traumatic experience in and of itself.

Community outreach efforts led to multiple opportunities to connect and collaborate with other service-work agencies. This year we had a team travel to Washington County to participate in a McKinney-Vento meeting. While two members travelled, the remaining staff attended this meeting by web. Having noted that an annual source of funding, \$750 per child, was no longer available, it was imperative for our team to share knowledge of our resources with this group of education professionals. Our team was acknowledged by the presenters for our commitment to supporting school-aged children who are experiencing homelessness.

At a time when funding cutbacks and federal freezes have an impact on the lives of so many of our community members, making access to basic needs a difficult task. When food, housing, and heat become ever more challenging to afford, we need to continue to work together. We need all of us to continue to contribute our gifts so that everyone in our community can meet their most basic human needs.

It is on that note that I share an especially important and beautiful collaboration which our shelters received in 2025, which happened at the close of the year. In December, remarkably close to Christmas, our Emmaus shelter experienced a flood. This flood destroyed necessities and gifts we had gathered for multiple children in our community. Promptly, a call was put out to the broader community to help us gather bedding and toys for the children. The response was overwhelming. *In no time at all, we had met our losses – and then some.*

It is my honor to acknowledge our Shelter staff and commend them for the work they do. Ellsworth Shelter: Stacey Herrick, Lisa Reynolds, Anita Black, Susan Walsh, Linda Reidy, Brad Perry, Karley Perkins, Matt Mulvey, Jimmy Merrill, Brailee Joy, Madison “Evan” Carter. Orland Shelter: Karen Botta, Amy Smith, Shawna Lovely, Gerald Botta, Reece Keller, Michelle Lindsay, and Dalores French.

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



Primary Navigator, Amy Smith with a former guest at his new apartment

SHelter MAnager

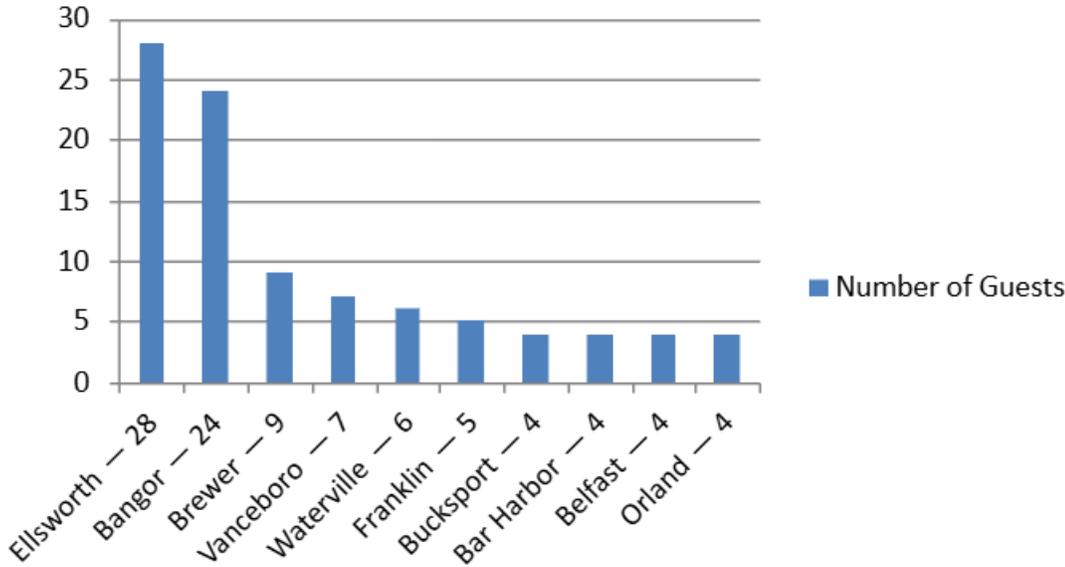
***2413
Mainers
were
unhoused
in January
2025**

*See www.mainehousing.org 2025-point-in-time-report.pdf

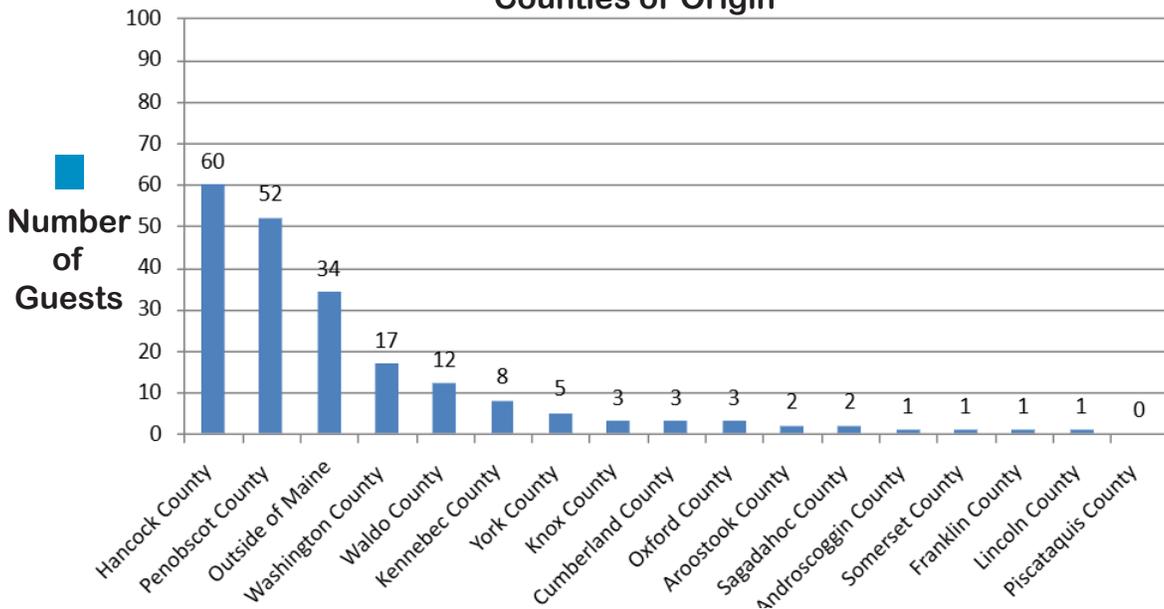


SHEET NUMBER 5

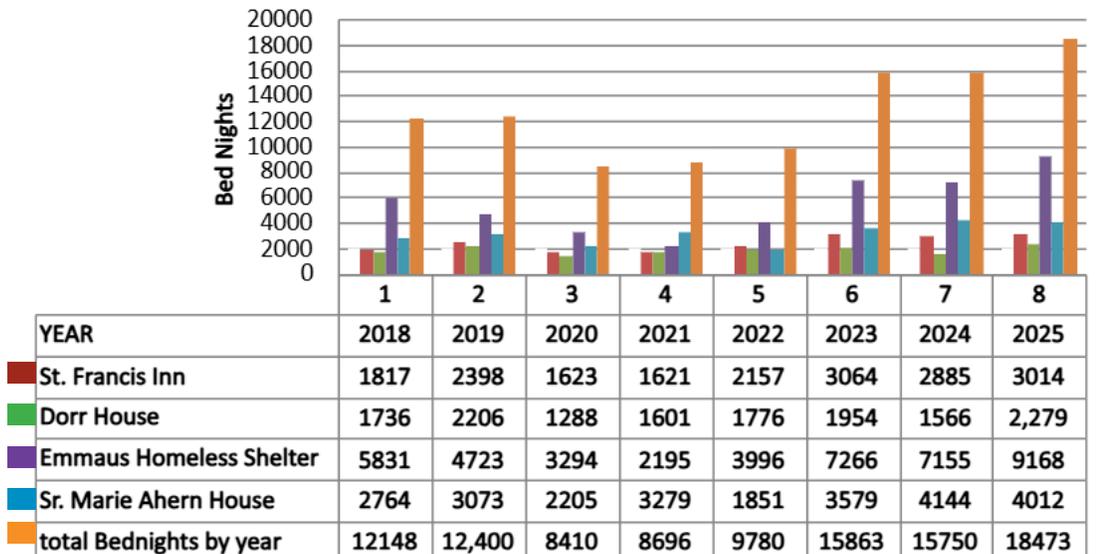
Top Ten Home Communities of Shelter Guests



Counties of Origin



Bednights Over the Years



***271 Maine households with children were unhoused in 2025**

*See www.mainehousing.org 2025-point-in-time-report.pdf



Empowering Choices, Preserving Stability

Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them retain/return to permanent housing. Diversion utilizes a number of familiar homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing approaches.

In 2025, H.O.M.E.'s Diversion Specialist was able to assist **71 households** representing **155 individuals**. Within these households there were **97 adults and 58 children**. These families underwent a full Diversion intake.

Diversion distributions were as follows:

- **\$35,250** from H.O.M.E. funding
- **\$22,434** by sourcing outside agency funding. While this dollar amount represents approximately **39%** of the total funding, it may be closer to **50%** when considering non-financial contributions for several cases. (e.g. donated wood stoves and furnaces, discounted appliances, and free labor/installation)
- **42%** of cases were in financial partnership with other agencies
- **28** households were assisted with security deposits toward new homes (nearly 40% of cases)
- **14** households received utility assistance (20% of cases)
- **27 families** were provided with rental assistance (non-deposit, 38% of cases)



Donated gift cards can help folks who are struggling to maintain their housing

The top three communities assisted by the Diversion Program were Orland, Ellsworth, and Bucksport.

In addition, in the last nine months of the year, a minimum of 49 more calls were fielded from individuals seeking assistance bringing the total of cases to **120 households**. These ranged from non-successes (e.g. disconnected phones at callback) to probable successes (e.g. steering callers in Penobscot County to services available in their community). Some cases were unsuccessful in preventing homelessness but did result in getting the caller safely housed in shelter.

Diversion Breakdown by County:

Hancock-26	Waldo-2
Penobscot-9	York-2
Unknown-5	Piscataquis-1
Washington-3	Somerset-1

Respectfully submitted,
Reese Keller
Diversion Specialist

***Maine needs 84,000 housing units**

Support our Shelter and Housing Navigation



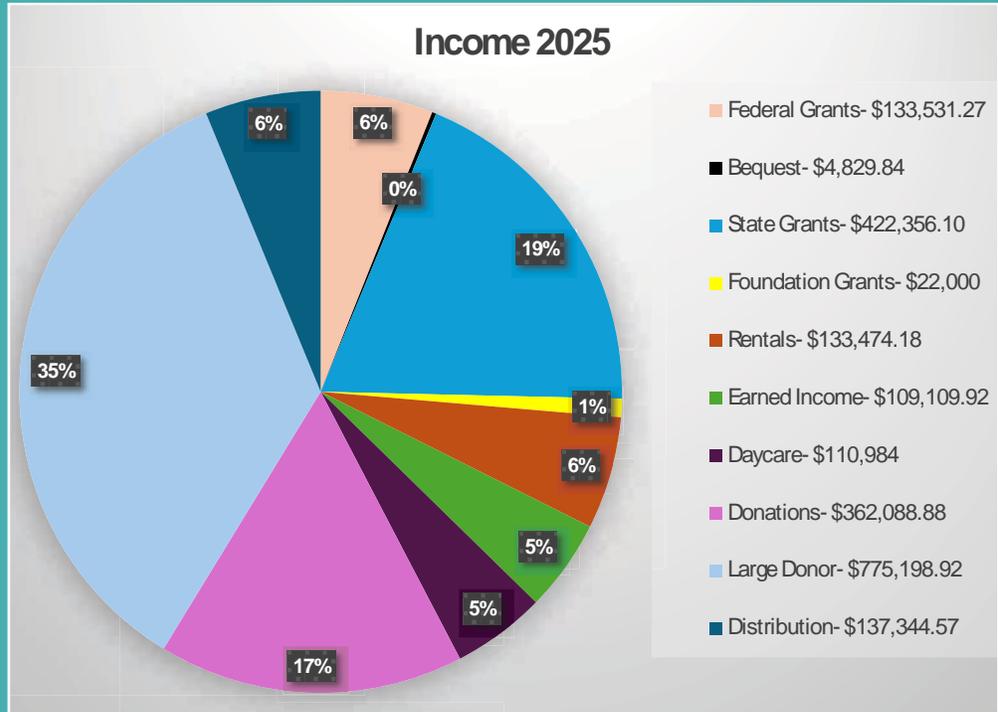


Funding Hope, Fueling Change

H.O.M.E.'s Finance Department reports a year-end deficit of over \$200,000.00 despite the fact that donations were up from 2024 to 2025. The deficit required us to seek funds from our endowment to be able to balance the budget. H.O.M.E.'s fundraising department continues to diligently work at increasing donations from fundraising activities such as our Empty Bowls Fundraiser, and from the amazing supporters of our programming who answer our spring and fall appeals. They continue to bring awareness to our community of the great need we are seeing on a daily basis.

In December 2025, long-time H.O.M.E. employee, **Ruth Bennett, retired.** Ruth began working as our Accounts Payable clerk in 2006. Ruth's relationship with H.O.M.E. goes far beyond the 20 years she spent in the finance department. Ruth graduated from the alternative high school that was a part of H.O.M.E. in the early years and lived at Hospitality House when she was a young mom. Ruth is a generous spirit who would go out of her way to assist her coworkers or folks who accessed our programs in whatever way she could. She refused any repayment in any form many times. H.O.M.E. staff wish her a very happy retirement though we will miss her and look forward to seeing her face out and about in the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Carpenter
Finance Director



FINANCIAL

***40% of
 Maine
 households
 struggle
 financially**

*See www.mainehousing.org 2025-point-in-time-report.pdf



Sharing Food, Sharing Hope

H.O.M.E. is always trying to improve our services to enable us to provide for those in our care in the most dignified way possible. From not requiring shelter guests to leave during the day where they may have to find a place to stay warm and dry, to making access to our programs as low barrier as possible, dignity is high on H.O.M.E.'s list of values. We consider it a fundamental value that reflects the intrinsic worth of every individual and is essential to ethical treatment and respect in society.

In 2025, H.O.M.E. began working on renovating the Goodness Sake Food Pantry. Our goal is to move from a standardized food box/bag model to a client-choice model. **The client-choice model allows consumers of the pantry to walk through and select** the items they want or need and leave anything they know they will not consume. This not only preserves the dignity of our consumers by allowing them choice, but it also prevents consumers receiving items their family would not eat.

The renovations began in the summer with volunteers from St. Luke's Parish of Barrington, Rhode Island. They removed old wooden shelving that was no longer useful and installed metal shelving that will better display what is available to our patrons.

During the winter, H.O.M.E.'s construction crew, when not busy with other projects, began the process of opening walls in the food pantry area to allow for more space in which items can be displayed for folks doing their "shopping." A grant from the **Good Shepherd Flourish and Nourish Grant Program** provided us with **\$5000** allowing us to buy the shelving, carts, shelf label holders, and tote bags to get us started off on the right foot. H.O.M.E.'s goal is to finish the remodel by the end of summer 2026, if not sooner.



New metal shelving installed in the food pantry by volunteers

In 2025, H.O.M.E.'s food pantries were able to distribute **453 food boxes** to community members. H.O.M.E.'s pantries also distributed **278 food boxes** for Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday meals.

Each morning before any of the programs open, H.O.M.E. staff and volunteers are at the local Hannaford, TradeWinds, and Shaw's supermarkets to gather all the food that was pulled from the shelves but weren't ready for the garbage can or compost pile. Both the Goodness Sake Food Pantry and the Emmaus Homeless Shelter make the food available to the public at **no cost**. It is also a low-barrier program as income information is not gathered from the individuals who access this program. The rescue food lines together were **accessed a total of 8424 times**. The program prevented **204,983 pounds** of food waste from ending up in a local landfill.

The H.O.M.E. soup kitchen served **1895 meals in 2025**. Presently the soup kitchen serves lunch every Tuesday and Wednesday, and we are hopeful to be able to serve lunch five days a week before the end of the year. Christmas and Thanksgiving meals were served the Wednesday before each holiday to anyone who wished to attend.

H.O.M.E.'s food pantries will continue to look for ways of bringing our services to the community while maintaining everyone's dignity and sense of self-worth. There is no shame in needing help, and H.O.M.E. works hard to make sure everyone in our community feels included and valued.



Staff, volunteers, guests, and community members fill the soup kitchen twice a week

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Hayden
Market Stand Manager

FOOD PROGRAMS

***12.9%**
of Maine
households
are food
insecure



Caring for Children, Supporting Families

H.O.M.E. Daycare had a total of **31 enrolled children** during 2025. Sixteen were enrolled in our After-School Program, nine were full-time, four were part-time, and two were drop-ins. Two of these children were guests of our shelters. *All of these children resided in Hancock County.*



Santa visits every year!

H.O.M.E. Daycare assisted **two families** with our in-house subsidy to help during a hardship period when other child care subsidies were not available.

With the assistance of a special grant, The Hatch Community Youth Fund, and additional financial support from the Trinity Episcopal Church in Castine, we were able to send **seven children** full-time to the Young Bucks Summer Camp Program with the Bucksport YMCA. This is the third year we have been able to provide this amazing experience to children.

H.O.M.E. Daycare was able to provide **12 families** with turkey or ham holiday baskets for their Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. They were provided by local churches with the help of H.O.M.E.'s food pantry.

Sixteen of the children in daycare were provided with new backpacks and school supplies for the 2025-2026 school year through H.O.M.E.'s Backpack Program. Many of the backpacks were from LL Bean.

We were very saddened to learn that Joan Austin, a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Castine, had passed away earlier last spring. Joan would bring the needs of the daycare to her congregation's attention and secured donations from the church multiple times a year. She had a way with words and raised so much support for our daycare. She will be greatly missed by many. Thank you Joan and our condolences go out to her husband, Karl and her friends and family.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Witham
Daycare Director



Four smiles, endless giggles going on in H.O.M.E.'s Daycare

Warmth, Relief, and Holiday Joy

Wood Bank: H.O.M.E.'s Wood Bank was able to distribute **32 cords of firewood** to households in need in Hancock County.

Backpack Program: H.O.M.E.'s Backpack Program distributed backpacks with school supplies to **41 children** who attend RSU 25. Once again, friend of H.O.M.E., **Libby Craig**, held a Facebook Backpack Drive and brought in over **30 LL Bean backpacks**. Parents appreciate the sturdy backpacks.

Christmas Program: The Christmas Programs in Orland and Ellsworth were able to distribute **341 presents** to shelter guests and children of the community.

Hardship Fund: H.O.M.E.'s Hardship Fund covers those facing a crisis who do not qualify for our Diversion Program but are still in need of assistance. In 2025, H.O.M.E. distributed **\$619.22** to members of the community in need.

Winter Coat Program: At least **44 coats** were distributed to community members through the winter coat program.

Resource Room/Free Clothing Room: The Resource Room at the Orland Campus was accessed by shelter guests for hygiene supplies and warm clothing **117 times**. The community in Orland had **54 households** access the Resource Room. The Free Clothing Room at the Emmaus Shelter was accessed over **1494 times**.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandy Baron
Finance Admin

Julie Ream
Program Coordinator

DAYCARE/SPECIAL PROGRAMS

*1 in 5
Maine
children
are food
insecure

*See www.mainehousing.org 2025-point-in-time-report.pdf



Where Imagination Meets Connection

If you stepped into the Craft Department at H.O.M.E. this year, you could feel it immediately—the hum of creativity, the laughter drifting from the studios, the quiet focus of someone learning a new skill, and above all, the unmistakable presence of community. This was a year shaped by the hands and hearts of volunteers, both seasoned and brand new, who brought our studios to life day after day.

We expanded our offerings to more than **15 workshops** and over **150 combined classes** in Stained Glass, Pottery, and Mosaics. Thanks to the generosity and expertise of our intern, Ryan, and other instructors, each class became a gathering place where volunteers, guests of our shelters, and community members learned side by side.



Volunteers glazing bowls for the Empty Bowls Fundraiser

demonstrations that highlighted not only artistic skill but the generosity of those who share their gifts with others.

The pottery studios were a whirlwind of activity throughout the year as volunteers gathered to prepare for our annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser in July. They shaped and glazed over **400 bowls**, our most productive year yet. The fundraiser raised the highest amount to date, supporting our mission to combat food insecurity and homelessness.

In October, Janis led a watercolor workshop at the gift shop that spilled out onto the porch through our new door installed by volunteers, letting artists paint in the crisp autumn air. We also held a “Voices by the Fire” fall event, where we invited people to participate by singing, telling stories, face-painting and pumpkin carving.

In November, the Buck Memorial Library hosted our second annual **“Together We Create”** art show. The exhibition featured work from shelter guests, volunteers, staff, and local artists who sell in our gift shop. The show was a beautiful reflection of the H.O.M.E. community — diverse, creative, and deeply connected. Its success has now made it a cherished annual tradition.

We expanded our craft show lineup this year, and volunteers were the backbone of every event. Their dedication made it possible for H.O.M.E. to shine in new spaces and reach new supporters.

Every class taught, every bowl glazed, every stitch sewn; every garden tended — these moments were made possible by volunteers who showed up with open hearts and willing hands. Their generosity fuels our mission and fills our studios with life.

This year, we did not just create art.
We created community.
We created opportunity.
We created hope.
And we did it together.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Perkins
Arts and Events Coordinator

Paula and one of her crafts at the library art show



ARTS AND EVENTS

***90
Individuals in Hancock
and
Washington
Counties
were
unhoused
in January
2025**



Building a Better Community, One Volunteer at a Time

H.O.M.E. is grateful to all who volunteer to help us do all that we do. In 2025, the Bargain Barn was able to be staffed completely by volunteers. **Gwen and Paul along with Nick** and others, keep the thrift store open 5 days a week. This has enabled H.O.M.E. to bring in retail income to help run our shelter programs.

Summer of 2025 once again brought volunteer groups from the states of Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, and Pennsylvania. These amazing groups helped begin the rehabilitation of a home that was built by H.O.M.E. in the early 2000s but had gone through foreclosure and extensive disrepair.

H.O.M.E. staff began the project by removing the majority of personal items and debris from the house. This enabled our groups to jump right into the rehabilitation process.

Bob and Tammy Roth of the **First Congregational Church in Ridgefield, CT**, started the summer off at the end of June by removing the damaged drywall from the walls and downstairs ceilings.

Next came the amazing folks from **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Madison, CT**. They put up drywall and ceiling boards. They gathered trash and debris from all around the house and made a pile for metal and filled multiple construction dumpsters. They built a new back porch, making it a much safer entrance/exit. New this year for the St. A's crew was participating in our Empty Bowls Fundraiser that we hold each year to raise money for our food programs and bring awareness of hunger in our state and country.



St. Paul's crew installing drywall

The next group to arrive came all the way from Fleetwood, PA. Members of **St. Paul's UCC** did a great job to put up drywall through most of the house. Their crew of **11 individuals** were newcomers to our program and did fantastic work. We hope they visit again!

In August, the experienced crew from **St. Luke's Parish in Barrington, RI**, arrived to put in the windows and doors as well as new siding on the front portion of the house. They also created a new door on the porch of the gift shop so that classes held in the back area could spread to the porch during the warmer months and other small projects around campus.

Our last group, though small, is very mighty. Steve and Sam from **Trinity Reformed Church in Rochester, NY** along with their friend Dan, came and put in the trim for the windows and doors of the house.

We cannot forget our super volunteer, Peggy, who raised over **\$800** all on her own, as well more than **30 grocery bags** full of Thanksgiving fixin's for our food pantry Thanksgiving food boxes. We are grateful to Shaw's Supermarket in Ellsworth for allowing Peggy to set up inside where it is warm while she does an amazing job of reaching out to people to tell them about H.O.M.E. and how they can help her help others. In total, **volunteers donated 7301 hours** to H.O.M.E. in 2025.

Lastly, H.O.M.E. would like to welcome our new **Volunteer Coordinator, Brooke Dunkel**. Brooke may be a new employee but she is very familiar with H.O.M.E. as Sister Lucy was her grand aunt and our Stained Glass Artist, Roxanne Poulin, is her mum. We look forward to more of the new energy Brooke has already put towards the volunteer program. You can find out more about Brooke in our annual newsletter available on our website.



Peggy and her amazing food drive!

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Ream
Program Coordinator

**If you would like to volunteer at H.O.M.E., visit our website at www.homemmausa.org and scroll down to the bottom of the home page to fill out the volunteer form.

**If your group would like to volunteer, reach out to Brooke at volunteer@homeincme.org

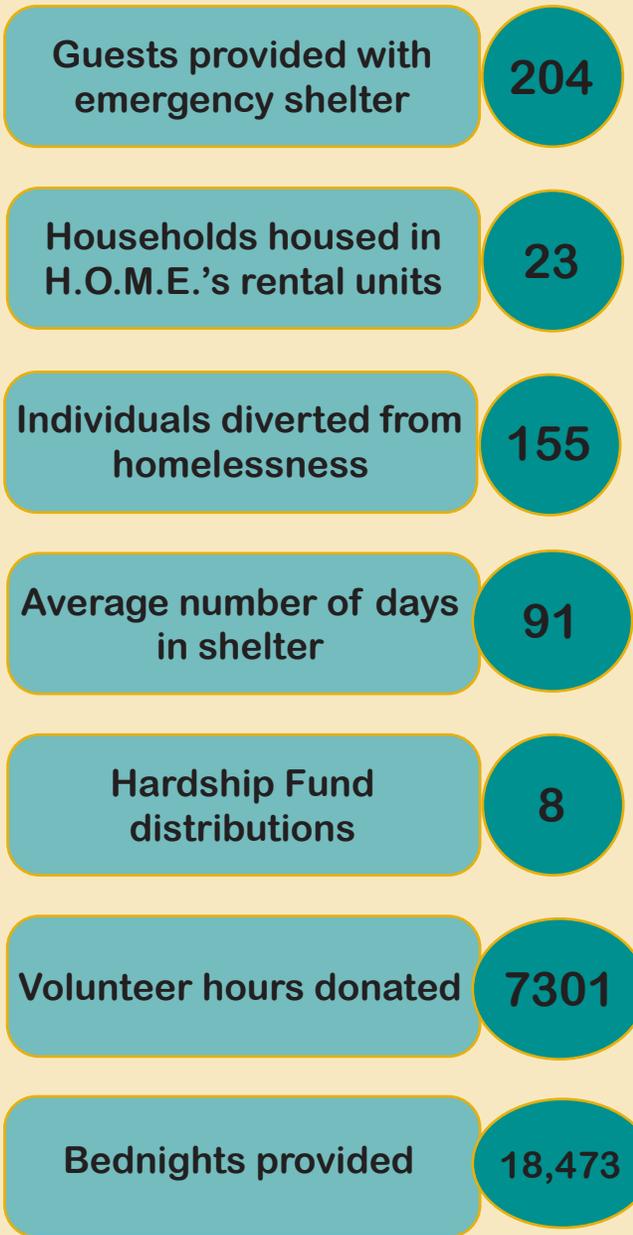
*See www.mainehousing.org 2025-point-in-time-report.pdf

VOLUNTEERS

***1551**
Maine
households
without
children
were
unhoused
in January
2025



SNAPSHOT 2025



ARTS AND EVENTS

Individuals attended classes in H.O.M.E. art studios 131 times

298 classes held in H.O.M.E.'s art studios

Shelter guests accessed art studio classes free of charge 384 times



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