



Volume  
7  
2014

# The BRICK Ministries quarterly newsletter



TWO YEARS!?! It's hard to believe, since the time's gone so fast, but it's true. I've been with The BRICK for 24 months!!

When I came to The BRICK, I had no clue what I was really getting into. I had vague notions of working with the board and staff, but what would that be? I had little idea of all that it would become.

From the outside, you might not notice many changes. But on the inside of the organization there's been a real shift. The Board of Directors is committed to ensuring that The BRICK is serving our program participants in the best way possible. Each aspect of how we accomplish our goals has been evaluated and a course has been set for further improvement. We all have grown.

I'm grateful for all the people who have worked so hard for that growth! Look inside this issue and you'll see so many ways The BRICK has matured. From volunteers, to food distribution, to a new van, and so much more, The BRICK makes an impact on our community. And we want to keep making an impact, and do it better every day.

So, we all must be growing every day. The BRICK is not static, perpetuating itself just to give ourselves a pat on the back. The BRICK must always be changing.

That growth cannot be based only on passion. While deep commitment is essential, it cannot be how we base our decisions. If I go with my heart, I'll be wrong at least 50% of the time! Instead, we have to look at facts, information, data. If we objectively look inside and consider the facts, then we can honestly critique every part of what we do. This leads to great growth and depth!

That depth in our programs will ultimately affect everyone we serve. The more conscientious we are about all the details, the better each person will be served. I believe that will lead us all to "changed circumstances and lives through Christ."

I pray that it does!

Liz Seefeldt  
Director of Ministries

# Satellite Spotlight



By Teri Hanson

This has been an eventful and very good year for the Cable Area Food Shelf. During January and February we were busy making use of the great generosity of the Cable area's many very bighearted donors over the holiday season. Clubs, community organizations, church-affiliated organizations, as well as numerous businesses made donations of both food and dollars, which made it easy for us to be generous with those needing our help.

In March we held our fourth annual Empty Bowl Event (a nationally recognized meal of soup and bread which calls attention to hunger and fundraises for hunger relief). Area restaurants and businesses as well as individuals donated all the food for our meal, items for our silent auction, and entertainment for the festive evening at the Cable Community Center. It's a wonderful thing to see the entire community come together to support an event with no expense and plenty of profit for a worthwhile cause!

This summer we are fortunate to again have the support of the Cable Community Farm. The "Growing Together Garden" at the Farm is especially planted and maintained with the help of volunteers to provide food for our food shelf and the Free Food Mondays that The Community Garden sponsors for anyone needing fresh locally grown produce. Each month a member of the Farm brings freshly harvested produce as well as recipes and samples of foods made from one of the vegetables of the month. It's a great way to share both healthful food and ideas for new ways of using the vegetables with our participants.

We have had changes at the food shelf, including several new volunteers and a new system of food distribution developed by our new full-time Food Shelf Manager at The BRICK. Jim has been so helpful as we have been adjusting to the new inventory system and has also provided us with additional shelving. We are now able to distribute more food per person than we have in the past and our participants are so grateful. Another change has been the addition of new coordinators for two of our participating churches due to the "retirement" of the past coordinators for St Anne's Catholic Church and Living Hope Community Church. We thank those stepping down for their service and welcome our new coordinators as we work together to be a strong member of The BRICK's food shelf program.

We invite you all to attend our fifth annual Empty Bowl Event, planned for April 2, 2016. Please come and join in the fun for the support of The BRICK and our local food shelf!

Teri Hanson, Cable Area Food Shelf Coordinator



# Upcoming Events

9/25/15 – 9:00 a.m. Volunteer In-Service

10/8/15 – 5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting, Saron Lutheran Church

10/23/15 – 9:00 a.m. Volunteer In-Service

11/12/15 – 5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

11/20/15 – 9:00 a.m. Volunteer In-Service

12/10/15 – 5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting, Reader Residence

12/11/15 - 11:30 a.m. Volunteer In-Service - Christmas Party 

1/14/16 – 5:15 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



I wish we could help everyone who seeks assistance from our benevolence program. Unfortunately we don't have the financial resources to do that, so we use guidelines to determine what we can and cannot do. At this time our budget allows us to give assistance to a household only once a year. So, if we helped you with your utility bill this month, we won't be able to help you with rent next month. We do not help with non-essential bills like cable bills, phone bills or court fines. We will help with gas cards but only for doctor appointments in Duluth, Marshfield or Minneapolis. We do give out 200 BART bus passes each month. Motel vouchers are only given out if the client is temporarily homeless. For example, if they have an apartment lined up but can't move in for 3 or 4 days, or if it will take a couple days for NWCSA to place them in their program. Otherwise, we offer a bus ticket to a shelter in Duluth or Superior or a week's stay at a campsite in the summer if they prefer. It would be impossible for us to accommodate every motel and gas card request we get.

There are times when people don't meet our criteria and it breaks my heart to have to say no. In those cases I do my best to find them assistance from other agency if at all possible. Sometimes people will go elsewhere for help and say, "I've been to The BRICK and they won't help me." When the reality is that we did offer assistance but they were disappointed in what we were offering and they are hoping to get a better deal from someone else. When I hear of this, I worry that people will get the wrong impression of us. Our reputation is very important to me and I want to do my best to uphold it. I encourage anyone who may have questions about The BRICK's benevolence program to please call me and I will gladly explain (without giving out any confidential information) what we do and why we do it.

Linda Olson  
Benevolence Manager



Hello from The BRICK Food Shelf,  
It's been great to have some summer this year! And for you skeptics, summer is still here till the 23th of September. I'm holding on to that and really think we should vote to have summer till December 24th. :) Not gonna happen?!? I guess I'll be thankful for that which we've had. . . Part of that thanksgiving is for the great growing/gardening season we've had. Here at The BRICK we would like to thank all of the gardeners who have blessed us with the abundance from their gardens. So many have shared and really make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Once again I am amazed at the generosity of our shared communities here in the northland.

I personally want to thank Jamie McCutcheon, Manager at Northern Garden of Life, and all her volunteers for partnering with us, and supplying a great deal of fresh produce. Jamie has done a fantastic job of developing and coordinating the planting, harvesting, and delivery of the produce. As a result we have been able to provide our participants with a bit more food these last couple of months. All together with others who donated fresh produce, we distributed well over 4,000 pounds of extra food!

Again, on behalf of The BRICK and all the participants – THANX!! to all who have shared from the plentiful harvest of their gardens.  
Have a great God day!

Jim McPhetridge  
Food Shelf Manager

## Covenant Churches

### **Ashland Seventh Day Adventist Church**

622 10<sup>th</sup> St W - Ashland WI 54806  
715/682-5877

### **Cable Congregational United Church of Christ**

13445 County Trunk M – Cable WI 54821  
715/798-3066

### **Chequamegon Community Church of Assembly of God**

1451 County Hwy. C – Washburn, WI 54891  
715/373-2939

### **Congregational United Church of Christ**

117 West Street – Mellon, WI 54546-0019  
715/ 274-2203

### **First Assembly of God**

315 10<sup>th</sup> St W - Ashland WI 54806  
715/682-4973

### **First Covenant Church**

600 MacArthur Ave – Ashland WI 54806  
715/292-5193

### **First Lutheran Church**

83105 Washington Ave – Port Wing WI 54865  
715/774-3576

### **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

311 13<sup>th</sup> St W – Ashland WI 54806  
715/682-4510 Grace Bible Fellowship  
73605 ST Hwy 13 – Washburn WI 54891  
715/373-1175

### **Grand View United Methodist Church**

22180 US Hwy 63 – Grand View WI 54839  
715/763-3340

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

22555 Elm St – Cornucopia WI 54827  
715/742-3440

### **Messiah Lutheran Church**

231 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street – Washburn WI 54891  
715/373-5378

### **Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church**

106 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E – Ashland WI 54806  
715/682-7620

### **St. Mary's Catholic Church**

Odanah WI 54861  
715/ 682-8350

### **Salem Baptist Church**

1616 Beaser Avenue – Ashland, WI 54806  
715/ 682-3934

### **Sanborn United Methodist Church**

42745 County Hwy E – Ashland WI 54806  
715/278-3955

### **Saron Lutheran Church**

517 9<sup>th</sup> W – Ashland WI 54806  
715/682-2376

### **United Presbyterian and First Congregational Church**

214 Vaughn Ave – Ashland WI 54806  
715/682-3093

### **Washburn United Methodist Church**

326 Washington Ave – Washburn WI 54891  
715/373-2696

### **Zion Lutheran Church**

1111 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave – Ashland WI 54806  
715/682-6075



# Brenda Nabozny

By Eileen Van Pernis



Volunteers are often thoughtful, kind and compassionate. Brenda Nabozny has these qualities and so many more. She describes herself as fun, outgoing, caring, happy and very family oriented. All of these qualities make Brenda an excellent volunteer.

Brenda came to The BRICK through the Northwest Wisconsin Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (CEP Inc.) She can't remember when she started, but she has been willing to do anything asked of her. She has stocked shelves, unloaded trucks, manned the front desk, put together kits for clients. She is a true servant in the service of others. Brenda feels it is important to see people's needs and help them.

The BRICK has taught Brenda a lot about people. It has reinforced the idea that each person is an individual and as a volunteer you must deal with them and the differences they bring to The BRICK. Because Ashland and Bayfield Counties have high rates of poverty, The BRICK helps fill in the gaps for people living paycheck to paycheck. She likes that The BRICK helps people with a variety of needs. Brenda is proud to be a part of The BRICK and its ministry.

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

*Ashland Community*  
**First Saturday**

**\$25**



**Food Distribution**

Bretting Community Center  
400 - 4th Ave W  
starting at 10 a.m.

Question/Volunteer? Call Bruce Hoekstra  
715-209-1246



My name is Verna Orme and I have served on The BRICK board since November of 2014 as a representative of Salem Baptist Church in Ashland. I moved to Ashland in 2006 after I retired from my position as receptionist and part of the finance team at the Minnesota Baptist Conference office in Roseville, Minnesota. I moved here to be near one of my daughters and my son and their families. Newly retired, I desired to do some volunteer work and consequently was part of The BRICK almost from its inception. I primarily worked the front desk, but also helped out in the food shelf in my early years here. I now volunteer to work at the desk only as needed, but continue to enjoy the opportunity to do so. It's a privilege to serve those in need and to encourage them by sharing what The BRICK has to offer, doing so because of God's love for us.

As a member of the Board, I am blessed by getting to know the very special people who make up the staff, volunteers and board members of The BRICK. It's also a blessing to witness the generosity of the many individuals, churches and businesses that contribute to the ongoing ministry of The BRICK.

I was a pastor's wife for nearly 30 years, as my first husband and I served small churches in the Midwest. Then I was a widow for 17 years, following my husband's death, due to cancer, in 1996. During my time in the Conference office, I had the privilege of making three trips to Ukraine as part of a missions team, ministering particularly to women, with a special opportunity to share with widows.

In December of 2013, I married Jim Orme, my son's father-in-law, who also lost his wife due to cancer. We now share nine grandchildren in our blended family. All totaled, our children have blessed us with 19 grandchildren! I am richly blessed by this new phase in my life and desire to continue to volunteer in ways which will be of service to God.



## DONATION FOR THE BRICK MINISTRIES, INC.

The BRICK welcomes your support in fulfilling its vision "To provide services and build relationships to change people's circumstances and lives through Christ." The BRICK Ministries, Inc. is a non-profit agency with 501(c) tax exempt status as determined by the IRS. 100% of your donation is tax deductible.

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$25    \$50    \$100    \$500    \$1,000    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Designate my gift to:

- Make A Difference Fund    Food Shelf    General

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



Make checks payable to:  
The BRICK Ministries  
420 Ellis Ave  
Ashland, WI 54806

*Thank you*

# Community Meals

## at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Free meals are now being served for anyone in the Ashland area who desires to eat with some friends and enjoy some good home cooking!

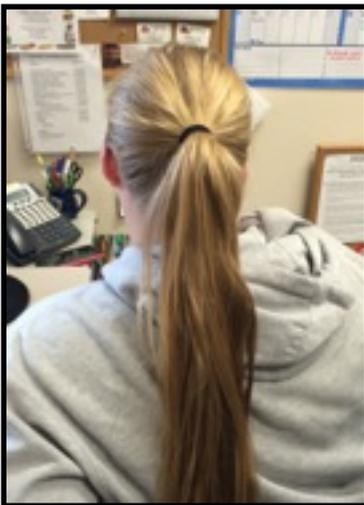
Friday Dinner 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Sunday Soup 5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Area churches, organizations and individuals are providing the meals and all are welcome! Come out and enjoy good food & friendship with other folks in the area and hang out with your friends and neighbors.

LOCATION: 620 3rd Street West at the corner of Chapple Avenue. Enter the church hall around the back of the church campus. Call Marisa, the kitchen manager at 920-284-5216 if you have questions.



### Interns



Shy Rebekah

Internships are a great opportunity for college students to gain practical, real-world experience. It's also a chance for The BRICK to benefit from the energy and perspective of tomorrow's leaders. Please join me in saying a fond farewell to outgoing intern Rebekah Allen, Duluth Business University, and a warm welcome to incoming Tess Kohoutek-Miller, Northland College.



Tess



### Locations & Hours

- ~ **Ashland**, 420 Ellis Ave., Mondays-Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Closed Fridays
- ~ **Cable Area Food Shelf**, 13380 Spruce St., 4th Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ~ **South Shore Food Shelf**, Cornucopia, Bell Community Ctr., 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ~ **Helping Hands Food Shelf**, Mellen City Hall, 3rd Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# Photos



# New Van Thanks to the Walmart Foundation



The Walmart Foundation's Wisconsin State Giving Program has awarded \$55,000 to The BRICK Ministries, Inc. to support our Food Shelf Program. If that's not enough good news, part of these funds is designated for a new van!

The BRICK's staff and volunteers use the vehicle primarily for picking up donated food from local grocers, making trips on most days for the rescued food. Sorely needing replacement, The BRICK's 21-year-old van was originally donated in 2009. Its replacement will have fewer maintenance costs, and has lots of safety features that weren't standard two decades ago. We're grateful for the many years of good use from our old van and looking forward to much more food hauling with this new vehicle.

"At Walmart, we're proud to partner with local organizations like The BRICK Ministries that make an impact in various counties across Wisconsin including Ashland and Bayfield," said Todd Peterson, regional general manager for Walmart. "With the assistance of a Walmart State Giving grant, The BRICK Ministries will have the vehicle and support it needs to continue their dedicated work in the state for many years to come."

In addition to a replacement van, this substantial grant from the Walmart Foundation will help supply our program participants with healthy, nutritious food.

Not only is Walmart generously donating food to our food shelf but now we can pick up the food with a safe, reliable vehicle," said Jim McPhetridge, Food Shelf Manager. "What a nice blessing."

The BRICK's food shelf program provides enough food for three meals a day for three to five days, and serves an average of 1,550 individuals per month. Our four pantries serve low-income residents of Ashland and Bayfield counties at the home location in Ashland, the Cable Area Food Shelf, the Helping Hands Food Shelf in Mellen, and the South Shore Food Shelf in Cornucopia.

Hunger relief and healthy eating are two of the Walmart Foundation's core areas of giving. In 2014, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation awarded \$29.7 million in cash and in-kind contributions to charitable organizations throughout Wisconsin. To learn more about Walmart's giving, visit [foundation.walmart.com](http://foundation.walmart.com).



**THE BRICK MINISTRIES, INC.**  
**420 ELLIS AVENUE**  
**ASHLAND, WI 54806**  
Phone 715-682-7425  
Fax 715-682-7427  
[www.thebrickministries.com](http://www.thebrickministries.com)  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Mission Statement:** The BRICK lives Christ's message to compassionately love and respect those in need.

**Vision Statement:** To provide services and build relationships to change people's circumstances and lives through Christ.

#### **Board of Directors**

**Sue Reader**, President, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ashland

**Gregory Radke**, Vice President, United Presbyterian-Congregational Church, Ashland

**Teri Hanson**, Treasurer, Cable Congregational United Church of Christ, Cable

**Sue Anderson**, First Lutheran Church, Port Wing

**William Holzhaeuser**, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Ashland

**Rev. Teena Racheli**, Sanborn United Methodist Church, Sanborn

**Verna Orme**, Salem Baptist Church, Ashland

#### **Staff**

**Linda Olson**, Benevolence Coordinator & Office Manager

[Linda.thebrick@centurytel.net](mailto:Linda.thebrick@centurytel.net)

**Jim McPhetridge**, Food Shelf Manager

[Foodshelfmanager.thebrick@centurytel.net](mailto:Foodshelfmanager.thebrick@centurytel.net)

**Liz Seefeldt**, Director of Ministries

[Director.thebrick@centurytel.net](mailto:Director.thebrick@centurytel.net)