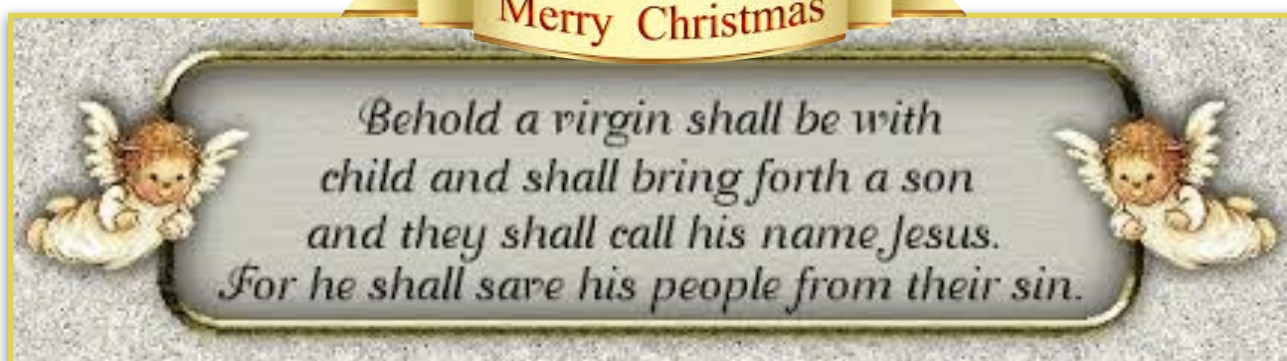




Volume
8
2015

The BRICK Ministries quarterly newsletter



Have you ever noticed that the most thankful people are the happiest people? Happiness and thankfulness go hand in hand. It's easy to feel happy when we recognize our blessings - hard if we're frequently noticing what we lack.

We at The BRICK have so many blessings. Whether we're giving or receiving, patrons or workers, there are many reasons to be grateful!

You can read about two significant grant awards in the pages that follow. These grants, along with the many other gifts from our generous stakeholders, make it possible for The BRICK to provide a reliable source of emergency food and financial assistance throughout our community.

We can all be thankful - and happy - for the many gifts that make our work possible! May we all enjoy the joy and peace of the Christmas season.

Liz Seefeldt
Executive Director

Satellite Spotlight



Season Greetings! The BRICK South Shore Food Shelf is flourishing. There has been a 45 percent increase in households using the food shelf. Volunteer support now includes summer South Shore residents, which has also resulted in increased food and monetary donations. The South Shore churches, First Lutheran Church, Herbster Community Church, St. Ann Catholic Church, and Immanuel Lutheran Church, and the South Shore Lions Club continue to provide consistent support to our South Shore families. They are a blessing! Currently the food shelf is working with the Mission Outreach Committee in developing a South Shore Services Directory. We have been able to connect some of our food shelf participants to this free directory describing their services. Summer people have requested this information and we are glad to support their effort.

We will end this year with gratitude for the incredible support we receive from The BRICK's board of directors and staff, many "Merry Christmases," hugs and thanks from our food shelf participants and volunteers. The BRICK South Shore Food Shelf enriches all of us.

Otto Bremer Trust Grant Award

The Otto Bremer Trust recently awarded The BRICK Ministries a two-year \$80,000 grant for general operating expenses. Support from the OBT guarantees The BRICK's continued ability to provide emergency food and financial assistance to the low income population in Ashland and Bayfield Counties. Everyone associated with The BRICK Ministries is grateful for OBT's generosity.

The Otto Bremer Trust has supported The BRICK in several previous grant cycles. This two-year grant is significant, not only for the funds that will support The BRICK's ongoing programming, but also for the stability inherent in a longer grant period, giving our board and staff the confidence to move forward knowing that the Otto Bremer Trust stands behind us and our work.

The Otto Bremer Trust "strive(s) to help build healthy, vibrant communities—communities where basic needs are met, mutual regard is prized and opportunities for economic, civic and social participation are within everyone's reach." It supports regional and local resources that benefit the communities that are home to Bremer banks.

The Otto Bremer Trust, formerly the Otto Bremer Foundation, has awarded 142 grants totaling \$8,447,908 million as part of its most recent grantmaking cycle. Six of those grants have been given to organizations in in the two-county area. "The variety of organizations and the diversity of grant requests we are funding is impressive," said Charlotte S. Johnson, co-CEO and Trustee, OBT. "We are inspired by these organizations who are doing vital work every day in Bremer communities across three states."

Upcoming Events

- 1/10/16 Grand Chili Cook-Off, Our Lady of the Lake Social Hall,
4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., \$10/person
- 1/16/16 Board of Directors Meeting, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5:15 p.m.
- 1/22/16 Volunteer Event
- 2/11/16 Board of Directors Meeting, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5:15 p.m.
- 2/13/16 Book Across The Bay – Fundraising Opportunity, West End Park,
Washburn, 5:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
- 2/19/16 Volunteer Event
- 3/10/16 Board of Directors Meeting, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5:15 p.m.
- 3/25/16 Volunteer Event
- 4/14/16 Board of Directors Meeting, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5:15 p.m.
- 4/22/16 Volunteer Event



God works in mysterious ways and that is so evident here at The BRICK Ministries. We will get a call from someone telling us that they have a couch to give away, if we know of anyone who wants one. An hour later someone will ask if I know of anywhere they could get a couch. One time it was a baby car seat. Another time it was firewood. I never know what to expect when I come to work, but one thing I know for sure is that God resides here. He guides us and loves us; and as long as we remember to spread that love and not get all caught up in mounds of paperwork or personal drama, things will run according to his will. That being said, we can always use more prayers. Please pray for The BRICK. Pray for the staff, the volunteers and the people who we serve. Pray for The BRICK Ministries to be a beacon of hope and a place where God's love can spread out into the community and bring peace to those who need it. Merry Christmas everyone!

Linda Olson
Benevolence Manager



This time of year is always wonderful – with Thanksgiving and Christmas (deer hunting, too☺) being the focus of our lives – gathering together with family and friends to share and give with grateful and loving hearts. It's a time here at The BRICK that we see an increase in donations and volunteers who want to help. We are so thankful for that and are blessed and privileged to see the results as we pass on the generosity to those in need.

I would like to take this time to say THANX! to all who have partnered with us to help and assist those in need. I truly believe that all the communities within Ashland and Bayfield Counties are some of the most generous I've known. I'd like to share a brief story on how your generosity impacts those we serve.

A mom and daughter came in a couple weeks prior to Thanksgiving. They were both noticeably downtrodden, tired, and stressed. As one of our volunteers assisted them with their food choices, I was nearby overseeing and listening and realized they had a large number in their household - nine total. With that I assisted the volunteer in making sure they were aware of the many food options available to them. Because of the generosity of so many givers, we were able to bless them with some extra bonus items. You could just see their spirits lift more and more as we continued through the food pantry. Towards the end they were almost in tears as they explained how, when they first came in, they really didn't know where their next meal was coming from, and how they had given up hope for any kind of traditional Thanksgiving dinner. (Now I'm in tears.) They were so thankful and grateful, not to mention "restored," as they left with smiles and humble, gracious hearts.

All of this is possible because of you, the giver, the donor, the volunteer, the servant of those in desperation. God's Peace, Love and Grace unto you all.

Jim McPhetridge
Food Shelf Manager

Covenant Churches

Ashland Seventh Day Adventist Church

622 10th 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 – Mellen, WI 54546-0019

715/274-2203

First Assembly of God

315 10th Street West- Ashland WI 54806

715/274-2203

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 13th St. West – Ashland WI 54806

715/682-4510

Grace Bible Fellowship

73605 State 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 5th Street—Washburn WI 54891

715/373-5378

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

106 North 2nd Ave. E—Ashland WI 54806

715/682-7620

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Odanah WI 54861

715/682-7620

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 9th 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 11th Ave W—Ashland WI 54806

715/682-6075



Tess Kohoutek-Miller

By Tess Kohoutek-Miller



I started interning at The BRICK back in August this year. Before working here I was not that familiar with The BRICK and all that they do for the community. I had no idea how much work went into running the food shelf and benevolence programs. Liz, Linda, and Jim have taught me so much the past few months and I feel so blessed that I had the opportunity to fulfill my internship requirements at such a wonderful place. I'm currently a senior at Northland College studying Sociology and Social Justice. A huge part of the curriculum of Sociology is learning how society works to shape the people, but also how at the same time the people can shape the society. It is remarkable seeing this idea come into reality in my time spent here. Before working at The BRICK I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after graduation in December, but now I am sure I want to work for a non-profit organization because it is so rewarding to be able to help people every day.

Being a sociologist, it has been a wonderful experience being able to interact with the members of the community who utilize the food bank and being able to see the impact on the community that The BRICK has. I feel as if I always have so many questions for people about life circumstances and scenarios that happen, so being able to work alongside people at such a personal level in the food bank has been a lot of fun.

There is a lot more work that goes into running the food shelf than just giving out food though. This semester I have had the privilege of working with both Jim and Liz to learn some of the behind the scenes tasks that have to be done. With Jim, I have learned how to do a lot of the paperwork and monthly reports that have to be done for the State every month, and with Liz I have worked with writing grants and learning the financial aspect behind what The BRICK is able to achieve. It is amazing how many people it takes to truly keep a program like this going. It has been so inspiring.

The volunteers are a huge blessing, too. Without the volunteers that come and help out every day, what The BRICK does would not be possible. The volunteers are such beautiful people and have helped me when I had questions this semester and have overall been so much fun to work with this semester. I have been so blessed.

Overall, I am so glad I got recommended for this internship position because it has been so enjoyable and inspiring on many different levels. It really has helped me learn what it is I love doing and I will always keep The BRICK in my heart wherever I end up living after graduation!



Open to everyone!

Ashland Community
First Saturday

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

\$30



Food Distribution

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

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



As "Believers Reaching Individuals for Christ's Kingdom," The BRICK volunteers share the Grace of justice, mercy, and faith with each other and those in need. My name is Sue Anderson and I am a BRICK volunteer. The community of Port Wing in Bayfield County is my home. First Lutheran Church of Port Wing is the place I am learning to "step out in faith."

Volunteering at South Shore Food Shelf in Cornucopia continues to be a great joy. It is a "one stop" location where folks can receive food for their bodies and hope for their spirits. It is great to be part of a team.

In March of 2015, I became a member of The BRICK board. Board members and staff strive timelessly to be good stewards of the food and emergency financial assistance funds donated to The BRICK Ministries, Inc.

It is a blessing to answer God's call to serve those in need. I am looking forward to meeting more of The BRICK family.

Grace to You –
Sue Anderson



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.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Do you love to work with people in the great outdoors? The BRICK has been invited to share in the work – and the proceeds – of Book Across The Bay, the annual ski race across Chequamegon Bay. We'll need a team of six to sort and return skiers' bags of personal items at the end of the race. We'll work at West End Park in Washburn from 5:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Contact The BRICK at 715-682-7425 or thebrick@centurytel.net to sign up for this rewarding opportunity!



Locations & Hours

- ~ **Ashland**, 420 Ellis Ave., Mondays-Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ~ **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



Green Bay Packers Foundation Awards Grant for Benevolence Program

For the second year in a row the Green Bay Packers Foundation has awarded a grant to The BRICK Ministries for its Benevolence Program. This gift will help The BRICK continue to provide emergency financial assistance to low income people in Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

Through November of this year, we've helped with over \$83,000 in emergency financial assistance. Those funds helped 365 households stay in their homes and keep their water and lights on. We also help out with motel vouchers, gas cards and bus passes, and other similar emergent needs. And the year isn't done yet!

Grant awards were given to 236 organizations statewide. The Green Bay Packer Foundation supported nonprofits in sectors as diverse as human services to the arts with over \$600,000 in 2015, including two other area organizations: New Day Shelter and The Oredocker Foundation! A grant award from the Foundation is significant not only for the funds given for services, but also for the added credibility that it inspires for The BRICK Ministries' ability to provide those services.

The Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and – most importantly – our program participants wish to express their appreciation to the Green Bay Packers Foundation for its confidence in The BRICK Ministries' Benevolence Program and the services it provides to the community.

The Green Bay Packers Foundation has distributed more than \$5.9 million for charitable purposes since it was established in 1986 by Judge Robert J. Parins, then president of the Packers Corporation, "as a vehicle to assure continued contributions to charity." More information about the Green Bay Packer Foundation and a complete listing of grant recipients, past and present, can be found at www.packers.com/communtty/packers-foundation.



THE BRICK MINISTRIES, INC.
420 ELLIS AVENUE
ASHLAND, WI 54806
Phone 715-682-7425
Fax 715-682-7427
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

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 Manager & Office Manager

Linda.thebrick@centurytel.net

Jim McPhetridge, Food Shelf Manager

Foodshelfmanager.thebrick@centurytel.net

Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director

Director.thebrick@centurytel.net

