



The BRICK Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 12, 2016

From the Director—

“Winter is coming.” That’s the common refrain – filled with dread – in a popular television drama. Winter brings thoughts of frozen desolation and death in that gripping series. For most of us not living in a fantasy novel or screenplay, winter usually has less brutal connotations. It brings feelings of a subdued and withdrawn nature. Even if we enjoy outdoor activities in the winter, we’re still bundled up, insulated from the elements and from each other. In the natural world flora and fauna prepare for winter by storing up and shutting down. Mammals bulk up for hibernation. Foliage dies back and relies on its seeds and roots for its next appearance in the spring.

At The BRICK, we’re hunkering down, too. In the next few months our Facilities Task Force will be studying our organization’s position in the community and picturing where we want to be in the foreseeable future – both figuratively and literally. As you may already know, The BRICK Ministries has been blessed many times over through our sponsors Marie Carlson, and her late husband Boyd, who granted us a ten year lease without any rent! We’re entering the last year of this lease, and the Facilities Task Force is charged with giving prayerful consideration to all the factors, and making a future site recommendation to our Board of Directors.

No matter if they recommend that we stay at the present location or find another home base, the work of the Facilities Task Force will affect how The BRICK delivers services long into the future. That’s why this time of planning is so essential. This team won’t be making any snap decisions. Instead they’ll be quietly working to discern the best path for The BRICK so we can continue serving our community in the best way possible.

Of course, the next few months bring not only the icy silence of winter, but also the peace and joy that comes with Christ’s birth. As we prepare throughout Advent and then celebrate at Christmas, we’re given the profound gift of God’s steady and unwavering love for us, a gift that shuts out all the noise and distractions of our material world and opens up all the possibilities of the Spring to come.

So as we turn inward over Christmas and the approaching winter, and do the quiet planning and preparation for whatever is in our future, let’s keep that gift close to our hearts. Let’s remember to “Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46. In that stillness we will find Christ’s gift of love and peace, and will be empowered to share that love - along whatever path we are called.

Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director





Office Manager

Emily Heald

This time of the year always brings out the warmth in people. The Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons help us take time to think about what we are thankful for. What am I thankful for? The great year we've had at The BRICK! 2016 has been awesome, and I am especially thankful to be The BRICK's Office Manager.

The staff and volunteers all welcomed me with open arms when I first started in February and have since grown to be my family. I've enjoyed helping our volunteer program grow-- from creating a new Volunteer Handbook (let me know if you want a copy!), to our new BRICK Pickers volunteer group, to visiting our outlet sites and meeting all of the wonderful volunteers who help us serve our community. Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world," and I'm with her on that! I have seen the positive effects of our volunteers' dedicated work. I'm sure I speak for the entire staff when I say THANK YOU to our volunteers for extending love and helping hands to all of our program participants in Ashland and Bayfield Counties.



Pampered Chef Holiday Fundraiser

Looking for holiday gift ideas?

The Pampered Chef offers a variety of products, including sweet and savory food, cookware, cutlery, and décor.

Order Pampered Chef products through the Fundraiser Catalog Show and up to 15 percent of total sales will go towards our cause. Plus, an extra \$3 is contributed from every Show booked from the event.



Shop Online:

<https://pamperedchef.com/go/TheBRICKMinistries>



Ruth and Jim Brennan

Jim and Ruth Brennan are originally from Milwaukee. Jim worked as a lawyer with the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee and was the Executive Director of Catholic Charities. Ruth was a public health nurse, and later the Coordinator of Health Services for Head Start. They moved to their lakeside cabin near Mellen after retirement about four years ago. They heard there was a food shelf and wanted to help out, so they contacted our Helping Hands Food Shelf outlet manager, Bill Polencheck, and started volunteering. Jim and Ruth both serve wherever needed, but Jim usually stocks and guides food shelf participants through the pantry, while Ruth checks participants in at the front desk and helps with paperwork. They also both helped plant Mellen's BRICK garden. Over the last three years they have noted an increase in the number of people using the food shelf, and that our Food Shelf Manager has done a great job of meeting the need and providing a wide variety of food. In their free time, Ruth and Jim do a lot of traveling to see their children on the East Coast, and enjoy many outdoor activities such as walking and biking. They are also looking forward to trying snowshoeing this year. Thanks for everything you do, Ruth and Jim!



Jim McPhetridge

Food Shelf Manager

Hello from inside the food pantry! What a great extended fall (almost summerish) we are having. The harvest season again proved to be a very good one. We are so grateful to all the gardeners, farmers and orchard owners who thought of those in need and gave graciously. Through their efforts and giving we were able to give generously - well over 10,000 pounds - of fresh veggies and fruit to the families we serve throughout Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

So a special "thanx" to them and also to ALL who shared of their time, money and other foods! May blessings and peace be bountiful to all.

BENEVOLENCE



Sam Ray
Benevolence Manager



She sat across from me, sharing her plans for the future. She was so excited to be getting a place of her own and starting a new job she knew she was going to love. She had already calculated the numbers. If she could just get a little help with the first month's rent, her new job would cover all her expenses. I showed her our budget worksheet. She was relieved to see how easy it was to use. She couldn't wait to share the worksheet with her sister. When I told her I thought we would be able to assist her, she hugged me and thanked me multiple times.

When my husband and I moved to Ashland in February from Northwest Tennessee, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I decided I would take some time to do the things I had never had the time to do when working as the Barnes & Noble College Bookstore Director for the University of Tennessee at Martin. I found two women's Bible studies and met some amazing Christian ladies. I heard about The BRICK and inquired about volunteering. I immediately fell in love with the staff and the people we were serving at the Food Shelf. I was asked if I would be willing to assist PJ with the Benevolence administrative duties, along with continuing to work in the Food Shelf. PJ and I immediately clicked and enjoyed serving together. I was very sad to see her leave; she had done such an amazing job with the Benevolence Program. I hope to continue the partnerships she has cultivated within our community and more importantly, continue to provide assistance with a sincere heart to our participants.

I have spent a great deal of my career connecting people with the resources they need to be successful. I am so excited to find a Christian organization where I can continue to serve. Like my friend at the beginning, this is for me also a new place, a new job, and a new start.



12/08/16: Board Meeting, President of the Board's Residence, 5:15 p.m.

12/09/16: Volunteer Holiday Party, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 12:00 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.

01/12/17: Board Meeting, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5:15 p.m.

01/27/17: Volunteer Event

02/09/17: Board Meeting, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 5:15 p.m.

02/24/17: Volunteer Event

03/09/17: Board Meeting, 5:15 p.m.

03/24/17: Volunteer Event



Outlet Buzz

Cable Area Food Shelf: Cable, WI

It's been an excellent year for the Cable Area Food Shelf! From January through September we have served 287 families, including 484 adults and 184 children for a total of 1548 pounds of food distributed. With the help of The BRICK staff and 329 hours of volunteer help from May, when we began tracking those hours, through September we have been able to provide this blessing to so many needy and appreciative families. With much fresh, locally grown produce from the Cable Community Farm and the Northern Garden of Life we've been able to provide nutritious vegetables and also great Bayfield apples in October! Without the diligent efforts of Jim, The BRICK Food Shelf Manager, and Emily, The BRICK Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, to organize harvest and delivery and also the volunteers at the Cable Community Farm this would not have been possible.

In March we held our annual Empty Bowl Event fundraiser in Cable. This was again successful and a very enjoyable evening for all who attended. We are so thankful for all the businesses that donated food as well as those who donated items for our silent auction, provided music, and all the other volunteer help involved. We invite you all to attend our 2017 event. Watch for details!

We held our first drawing at the Cable site for the Spring Cleaning Kits put together by Emily at The BRICK and two families were happy to take home a complete kit.

All four Cable churches participate in staffing the food shelf. These include Living Hope Community Church, St. Ann Catholic Church, Trinity Lutheran Chapel and Cable Congregational United Church of Christ. Each church has two coordinators to organize their volunteers, and the churches rotate months for staffing the food shelf. As the overall coordinator I appreciate the hard work and dedication of all these volunteers. They are a blessing to our participants and to the entire community.

Peace and blessings to all,

Teri Hanson

Food Shelf Locations and 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 Jan.-Oct., 3rd Thursday Nov.-Dec., 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, Mellen City Hall, 102 Bennett St, Mellen, 3rd Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

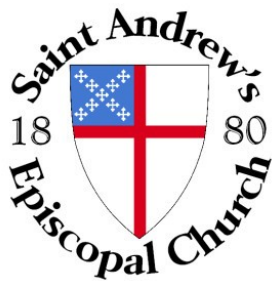
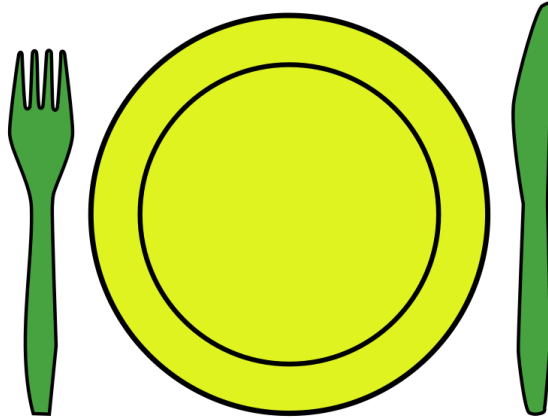
Community Meals

at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

620 3rd St. West, Ashland WI

at the corner of Chapple Ave.

(Enter church hall around the back)



Free meals for anyone in the Ashland area

All are welcome!

Join friends and neighbors for some good home cooking!

Friday Dinners 5:30 p.m.— 7 p.m.

Sunday Soup 5:00 p.m.—6 p.m.

Meals are provided by area churches, organizations, and individuals.

Questions? Call Marisa, kitchen manager, at (920)284-5216

From the Board Room

Julie Stipetich



Julie, the oldest of five children, grew up on a dairy farm north of Rice Lake, WI. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Superior graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/Chemistry and certification in Secondary Education. Her 15 year career in education began at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School in Ashland, WI, teaching middle school science and mathematics. She also taught mathematics at Ashland High School. Prior to joining Ringenberg Financial Group in 2012, Julie began her work as a Client Service Administrator with Edward Jones in 2007.

Julie and her husband, Steve, have been married 36 years, and are blessed with two daughters, one son-in-law, a son and his fiancé, and two grandchildren! Julie and Steve own a hobby farm in rural Ashland, where they enjoy country life. Julie has been an active volunteer in the area for decades. She dedicated herself to the success of area youth through the leadership development program of the Woodland Workers 4-H Club and the Bayfield County 4-H for over 25 years. Julie currently volunteers with the Benoit Community Center, which provides a space for local residents to gather for special events, support the area fire and ambulance services and similar initiatives, and build community. Julie is an active member of St. Peter's Catholic Church - Dauby. She enjoys gardening, reading, cooking, outdoor activities, and most importantly, time spent with family.





Volunteer Opportunity

Outlet Site Manager at South Shore Food Shelf



The BRICK Ministries is currently seeking a volunteer Outlet Site Manager for its South Shore Food Shelf in Cornucopia. As an Outlet Site Manager you can help The BRICK in its vision "to provide services and build relationships to change people's circumstances and lives through Christ," to help fight hunger in our community, and to work with fellow volunteers toward the same goals. This position is well supported by The BRICK's staff. The Outlet Site Manager serves an average of 20 volunteer hours each month and is responsible for scheduling and training volunteers, maintaining inventory and donation records, and representing The BRICK's mission and vision with a professional, positive, and friendly demeanor.

Please contact the Office Manager, Emily, for more information at 715-682-7425, or officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net.

Covenant Churches

Ashland Seventh-day Adventist Church

622 10th Ave. W — Ashland WI 54806
(715) 682-5877

Cable Congregational United Church of Christ

13445 County Hwy. M — Cable WI 54821
(715) 798-3066

Chequamegon Community Church of Assemblies of God

1451 County Hwy. C — Washburn, WI 54891
(715) 373-2939

Congregational United Church of Christ

117 West St. — Mellen, WI 54546-0019
(715) 274-2203

First Assembly of God

315 10th St. W — 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. W — 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 5th St. W — 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

c/o 106 North 2nd Ave. E — Ashland WI 54806
(Odanah, WI 54861)
(715) 682-7620

Salem Baptist Church

118 2nd Ave. E — 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 Ave. 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
PO Box 27

(715) 373-2696

Zion Lutheran Church

1111 11th Ave. W — Ashland WI 54806
(715) 682-6075



Photos



Northern State Bank donated 378 pounds of beef in October! (Left: Food Shelf Manager, Jim. Right: Dawn Chingo of Northern State Bank)



The BRICK provided over 300 Thanksgiving turkeys to families in Ashland and Bayfield Counties



Cable Congregational United Church of Christ 2nd Chapter Christmas Sale To benefit the Cable Area Food Shelf and The BRICK Ministries

Gently used items including trees, decorations, linens, dishes, books,
Christmas sweaters, etc.

Refreshments available

Where: Cable Congregational United Church of Christ
County Road M, Cable

When: Saturday, December 03, 2016

Time: 9am-2pm



Grants Continue to Support Our Work!

This fall The BRICK has been recognized by several grant making organizations with awards for its Food Shelf and Benevolence Programs, which provide crucial services to the low income people we serve. The Otto Bremer Trust (OBT), the Emergency Food and Shelter Program's (EFSP) Local Board for Bayfield County and the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation (DSACF) see the valuable work we do and are showing their confidence in our ability to deliver through their generous awards.

The BRICK's Benevolence Program will continue providing emergency financial assistance to low income residents of Ashland and Bayfield Counties, as it is now funded in part by the Samuel F. Atkins and Barbara Atkins Memorial Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. DSACF has been making grants to nonprofit organizations and to individuals for scholarships and providing leadership on important community initiatives in northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin for over 25 years. Since its inception in 1983, the organization has distributed more than \$49 million and holds 375 funds, each with its own charitable purpose. Find out more about the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation at www.dsacommunityfoundation.com.

The Local Board for Bayfield County - Emergency Food and Shelter Program awarded a grant for The BRICK's Food Shelf Program. EFSP was established in 1983. Its National Board is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and includes representatives of the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities USA, The Jewish Federations of North America, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, The Salvation Army and United Way Worldwide. Since 1983, the EFSP will have distributed \$4.198 billion to over 14,000 human service agencies in more than 2,500 communities across the country through this collaborative effort between the private and public sectors. Information regarding EFSP can be found at www.efsp.unitedway.org.

The BRICK is entering the second year of funding from a two-year grant award from the Otto Bremer Trust for general operating expenses. Our community gives well to programming, yet in order to continuing offering services our organization must pay for file folders and phone service, wages and water. The generous ongoing support of the Otto Bremer Trust ensures that The BRICK is able to keep its doors open to better serve our community. OBT was founded in 1944 with the mission to invest in people, places and opportunities in the Upper Midwest., and has provided more than \$485 million to Bremer communities since its founding. Find more about the Otto Bremer Trust at www.ottobremer.org.

Our thanks go out to the Otto Bremer Trust, the Emergency Food and Shelter Program's Local Board for Bayfield County and the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation for their commitment to helping those facing economic crisis in our community.



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 501(c)(3) tax exempt status as determined by the IRS. 100% of your donation is tax deductible.

Enclosed is my gift of (circle one):

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$_____

Designate my gift to (circle one):

Make a Difference Fund Food Shelf General

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____ Email_____



Make checks payable to:

The BRICK Ministries

420 Elis Ave.

Ashland, WI 54806

THE BRICK MINISTRIES, INC.

420 ELLIS AVENUE

ASHLAND, WI 54806

Phone 715-682-7425

Fax 715-682-7427

www.thebrickministries.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The BRICK

Ministries Inc.

Believers Reaching Individuals for Christ's Kingdom



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

Our Vision: 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

William J. Holzhaeuser, Vice President, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Ashland

Teri L. Hanson, Treasurer, Cable Congregational United Church of Christ, Cable

James R. Matzinger, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ashland

Esther Marie Pufall, Saron Lutheran Church, Ashland

Julie M. Stipetich, St. Peter Catholic Church, Dauby

Steven M. Wammer, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ashland

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Jim McPhetridge, *Food Shelf Manager*

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Emily Heald, *Office Manager*

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