



The BRICK Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 19, 2018

From the Director—

Happiness is a thankful heart. We've all heard that before in a variety of ways, from a range of sources. Pop psychologists and personal trainers, social workers and clergy all recommend expressing thanks. That simple act of showing gratitude lightens our load and somehow multiplies exponentially!

The BRICK is no different. It seems as though as soon as we acknowledge our supporters, more step up and want to join the many folks in our community who help us serve the low income residents in our area.

We like to let all our volunteers, donors, and community advocates know how much they impact the people we serve and recognize them with the BRICK Builder Award. You may have read about it in a local newspaper: "The BRICK Builder Award is a rotating award, which recognizes those who serve the community through significant contributions, whether gifts of talent, financial, or in-kind support, to The BRICK." Our Board of Directors recently recognized **Dale Chesley, Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**, with this award, and we're grateful for his long standing support of our work.

Our Food Shelf Program relies on in-kind donations to ensure that we have enough supplies to send all our pantry shoppers home with three to five days' worth of food for everyone in their household. **Patti and Stan Ford of Two Creeks Farm** recently shared their bounty and donated a hog! Their generosity, as well as all the gardeners, farmers, food drive coordinators, and food collectors, goes a long way to putting food on tables throughout the region!

We're also grateful for the **Bad River Housing Authority (BRHA)**, who made a business seed donation to the Make A Difference Fund. Executive Director Robert Houle says, "... we are proud to work with local organizations such as The BRICK who also have a similar goal and mission to meet the needs of our area's low-income residents." BRHA's gift, along with other business donations supports the Benevolence Program to help consumers catch up on essentials like rent and utility bills. The Make A Difference Fund, an ongoing matching fund, is a fantastic opportunity for the community and businesses to come together and double their donations to make sure that the least fortunate have access to emergency help from the Benevolence Program.

"A thankful heart
is not only the
greatest virtue,
but the parent of
all the other
virtues."
~ Cicero

Permanet.MarySue.com

These are just a few of the many gifts we gratefully share in our pages. Thankfulness helps us tell our story of service to our community, and helps build momentum too! If you've been wondering how to best make an impact, thanks is a great place to start.

Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director

Grant Award News!

It's a happy day when The BRICK receives an email with "Grant Approved" in the subject line! Donations from individuals and local businesses, churches, and other organizations are the main source of cash flow for The BRICK; yet a diverse funding stream is essential for any health organization. That's why we actively seek out partnerships with grant makers who share our values and mission to serve our community. This quarter The BRICK has been fortunate to receive two grant awards.

The Otto Bremer Trust (OBT), a longtime supporter of The BRICK, has awarded \$50,000 for general operating expenses! Most grants are available only for special projects or programs, so that makes the OBT award doubly important. These funds can be used for all the things needed to keep our essential programs running – like our electric bill and snow plow costs. Many thanks go to the team at Otto Bremer Trust for their confidence in our work to serve the low income residents in our area!



The Otto Bremer Trust, based in St. Paul, Minn., is a private charitable trust established in 1944 by founder Otto Bremer, a successful banker and community business leader. OBT owns 92 percent of Bremer Bank and also manages a diversified investment portfolio. The mission of OBT is to invest in people, places and opportunities in the Upper Midwest. Since its inception, OBT has invested more than \$600 million in organizations throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, and western Wisconsin. Visit ottobremer.org.

For the second year in a row Compeer Financial selected The BRICK's Food Shelf Program to receive grant funds through its Fund for Rural America. This year the award is four times larger than last year at \$10,000! These dollars will ensure that our pantry shoppers will have access to a variety of nutritious food and essential personal care items to complement unpredictable in-kind donations. They will also ensure continuity of services by supporting the Food Shelf Manager's compensation package, and guarantee food safety by keeping our freezers and coolers up and running. This grant from Compeer is a real gift for our Food Shelf Program.

Compeer Financial is a member-owned, Farm Credit cooperative serving and supporting agriculture and rural communities. It provides loans, leases, risk management and other financial services throughout 144 counties in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Compeer Financial exists to champion the hopes and dreams of rural America. Its mission goes far beyond farm loans or insurance offerings. It believes that giving back is the best investment for the future of agriculture and rural America. Find out more at <https://www.compeer.com/>.

The BRICK's leaders are grateful to partner with these two grant makers and recognize how essential their support is to ensure our ability to serve the low income folks in our community!



OTTO
BREMER
TRUST™



Community Food & Personal Care Drive

Northland Lawn, Sport & Equipment is proud to partner with Walmart, Jolma State Farm and O'Brien's C-Store to support The BRICK in caring for families in our community.

Help fill Northland's trailer the week of September 17th!

Donation Drop Off Locations

Northland Lawn, Sport & Equipment	Sept. 17	8am-5pm
O'Brien's C-Store in Iron River	Sept. 18/19	11am-7pm
Darryl Jolma State Farm in Ashland	Sept. 20	11am-7pm
Walmart in Ashland	Sept. 21	11am-7pm
Northland Lawn, Sport & Equipment	Sept. 22	8am-5pm

Requested Donations

Toiletries, Cleaning Supplies, Non-perishable Food with all donations given to The BRICK's Food Shelf Program

State Farm



Daryl Jolma
2022 Lake Shore Dr E
Ashland, WI 54806
715-682-5900
www.jolmainurance.com



**O'Brien's
C-Store**

BENEVOLENCE

Sam Ray

Benevolence Manager

Leonard came to me feeling defeated. No matter how much overtime he put in, he felt like he was always behind. His wife and three small children were all that

mattered to him, and he wanted to be able to provide for them. We decided together to set up a time to look at all his expenses. We created a spending plan, laying out all his bills. Based on when he would get paid, we decided what bills needed to be paid when and put the payment dates on the calendar. We called some of the vendors to request changing the dates to work better with his pay schedule. He also talked to the credit card company and negotiated a lower rate per month. The BRICK was able to put some funds toward his rent and utility bill.

Leonard was so happy to find that after all his hard work to get caught up, he finally felt like it was really happening. He could see the light at the end of the tunnel. This was the best shape financially he had been in since he was forced to change jobs two years ago due to his long-time employer deciding to close the business.

There are many families in our community that face real challenges, like Leonard and his family, keeping up with the basic bills required to live, working 40 plus hours a week. The BRICK works with families to create spending plans that are realistic and manageable. We work with vendors to negotiate payment plans that can be achieved. Most importantly, The BRICK staff and volunteers compassionately love and respect those in need and work to find real solutions to that overwhelmed feeling finances can bring.



09/13/18: Board Meeting, The BRICK, 5:30 p.m.

09/18/18: Volunteer In-Service: Civil Rights Training, Helping Hands Food Shelf, Mellen,

09/19/18: Volunteer In-Service: Civil Rights Training, South Shore Food Shelf, Cornucopia,

09/26/18: Volunteer In-Service: Civil Rights Training, Cable Area Food Shelf, Cable,

09/28/18: Volunteer In-Service: Civil Rights Training, The BRICK, Ashland,

10/11/18: Board Meeting, The BRICK, 5:30 p.m.

10/26/18: Volunteer Event

11/08/18: Board Meeting, The BRICK, 5:30 p.m.

11/30/18: Volunteer Event – TENTATIVE

Outlet Buzz

Helping Hands Food Shelf: Mellen, WI

It's been a calm summer here at the Mellen Helping Hands Food Shelf. As usual, we are busy the third week of the month getting ready for distribution. We hand out a wide variety of free, healthy, and nutritious food items to our pantry shoppers. There always is fluctuation in the numbers of people we serve. This summer the number is around 45 families.

We also had a state inspection this summer. Every other year Kitty Kocol, The Emergency Food Assistance Program Coordinator for Wisconsin's Department of Health Services, conducts site inspections. She reviews all kinds of things from cleanliness to customer service to make sure that our pantry is doing its best to serve our consumers with the respect and equity. The good news is - we passed! Thanks to all the folks who pitch in at the Helping Hands Food Shelf to guarantee that we offer a quality service!

Carol Becker, Helping Hands Food Shelf Volunteer

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 Thursdays,
Nov.-Dec., 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



South Shore Food Shelf, Cornucopia, Bell Community Ctr., 22615 Co. Hwy. C,
1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Helping Hands Food Shelf, Mellen, Mellen City Hall, 102 Bennett St.,
3rd Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Arlene Dewey

Arlene first got her start with The BRICK nearly three years ago, as she sought out fulfilling work within the community to connect with those in need. She felt a call to The BRICK based on an attraction to the vision and mission of the organization, and has been with us since.

Currently, Arlene works in the Ashland food shelf several times a week, and commits her entire Tuesdays and Thursdays to helping us, as well as being “on call” when we need additional help throughout the week. She recognizes her relationships with staff and fellow volunteers as a key motivator to her involvement; she enjoys having the space to connect with old friends, as well as develop new relationships. She also finds gratification in getting to know the variety of folks that walk through our organization’s door. The hugs and “thank yous” received from program participants particularly inspire her and contribute to a feeling of satisfaction at the end of the day that makes it all worthwhile for her.

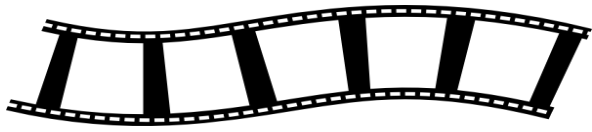
Before retiring, Arlene worked as a nurse’s aide and sewed for many years. These days, she can often be found helping out at churches within the community or walking her Shih Tzu, Buttons, along Chapple Avenue. She also finds joy in riding her bicycle, reading, and working on puzzles. As you see Arlene at the Ashland food shelf, be sure to remind her just how blessed we are to have her here with us.

Cheyenne Reeves, Office Manager

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!



Do you have office skills? Do you like organizing information and handling paperwork? The BRICK has a place for YOU! Join our team and work in our Benevolence Program to help low income folks catch up on their overdue bills. The ideal volunteers will have a strong understanding of confidentiality and working with sensitive information, as well as empathy for those in discouraging circumstances. Contact Cheyenne Reeves, Office Manager for more information: 715-682-7425 or officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net



Photos

Congratulations to Pastor Dale Chesley—Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, BRICK Builder Award recipient!



Thank you to the Bad River Housing Authority and its Executive Director for a business seed donation to the Make A Difference Fund!

Thanks to Stan and Patti Ford of Two Creeks Farm for their gift of pork for the Food Shelf Program!



Jim McPhetridge
Food Shelf Manager

Blessings from Jim! He's on vacation. We'll hear from him in our next issue. Thanx!

From the Board Room

Julie Stipetich
Secretary



Transition is in the air as we count down days to the finale of summer with cooler

evenings, dew filled mornings, hints of fall color in the trees, and students and parents preparing for the beginning of another school year. While our seasons are in the midst of change there are some things that remain constant, and that includes the work of The BRICK Ministries.



Each month the resources of The BRICK are challenged to

provide quality services for those of our community in need. Through the support and generosity of our community partners, covenant churches, volunteers, and Board members, we are able to assist over 675 households each month!

As a member of The BRICK Board I look forward to the future of The BRICK as we work together to live "Christ's message to compassionately love and respect those in need." Through faith I feel strongly that I have been called to this most important work of being Christ's hands among God's people.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of The BRICK Ministries.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" Matthew 25:35

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 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



Office Manager
Cheyenne
Reeves

Hello, everyone! My name is Cheyanne, and I'd like to take this opportunity to officially introduce myself as the new Office Manager here at The BRICK. I began my involvement with this organization in September 2016 as a volunteer working weekly in the Ashland food shelf. In the spring of 2017, I transitioned into my role as the bookkeeper and will now be expanding my duties in the office with administrative tasks and coordinating our volunteer programming. These first few weeks have been such a satisfying whirlwind of learning and reconnecting, and I am so excited to move forward with everyone here.

I have lived in Ashland for almost five years now. I originally moved here from Panama City, Florida to pursue my Bachelor's at Northland College; I doubled majored in Natural Resources and Humanity & Nature Studies with a minor in Biology. After graduating in May 2017, I decided I was not ready to leave my home by the Big Lake and have lived in Ashland since. When I'm not here at The BRICK, you'll often find me behind the counter at Sixth Street Market, organizing down at the Ashland Area Farmer's Market, or serving wine and food at The Wineries on Betzold Road in Bayfield. I look forward to continuing to form and develop new relationships with everyone here and greater 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):

\$30 \$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

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

James R. Matzinger, Treasurer, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ashland

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

Jeffery R. Muse, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Ashland

Esther Marie Pufall, Saron Lutheran Church, Ashland

Staff

Liz Seefeldt, *Executive Director*

director.thebrick@centurytel.net

Jim McPhetridge, *Food Shelf Manager*

foodshelfmanager.thebrick@centurytel.net

Sam Ray, *Benevolence Manager*

benevolence.thebrick@centurytel.net

Cheyenne Reeves, *Office Manager*

officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net