



The BRICK Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 20, 2018

From the Director—

As we wrap up another year at The BRICK, I want to focus on all the work in our community and in our organization to help meet the needs of the low income people we serve. There are marvelous folks doing incredible things every day! Local schools are holding food drives. Businesses are donating holiday turkeys. Volunteers are sharing their time during a busy season. People are sending their checks. I recently gave a tour at our home site in Ashland and shared that staff can't do this alone. Our work takes each one of us doing our part to ensure our pantry shoppers don't go hungry and our Benevolence participants stay in their homes with the heat, water, and lights on. Each gift is significant; every effort makes an impact. Thank you all! During this time of giving, please celebrate with me how The BRICK - and each one of us - is richly blessed with the love of our Christ.

Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director

From the Board Room

Rhonda Sundberg



MEET ONE OF OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS!

I was born and raised in Ashland. I am a 1990 Ashland High School graduate and have a B.S. in Education from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. I taught and coached sports for the Ashland School District and Marshfield Area Catholic Schools for a combined fifteen years. I have been employed by C.G. Bretting Manufacturing since 2006 and currently serve as the Human Resources/Benefits Coordinator. My hobbies include golf, biking and spending time with my friends and family and my three dogs.

Ashland has been a wonderful place to grow up and call home. There are so many of our neighbors that are in need of help and a caring hand. I look forward to being a part of this organization by helping and participating in the important work that The BRICK Ministries provide to people that live in the surrounding communities.



Saron Bell Choir Christmas Concert



December 21, 2018 7:00 p.m.
Saron Lutheran Church
517 9th Ave. West
Ashland, WI.



A free-will offering will be taken to benefit
The BRICK Ministries of Ashland, WI.

Join us for music and refreshments!

Dan Cameron, the man, the myth, the legend. Faster than a sleeping snail; able to leap tall buildings with a single helicopter; stronger than a pedaled locomotive; able to eradicate multiple terrorists with a single shot; rumored to be (at least in part) a domesticated Sasquatch and card carrying member of the secret squirrel club.

But seriously folks – only one of the above statements has even the slightest bit of truth to it. (I'll let you figure out which).

Chronically, I mean chronologically after I was born on a mountain and raised in a cave, I spent most of my teen age years in the Abbotsford area, even graduated high school to the surprise of some. Then to see more of the country and get a vacation from the farm, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. I became very well-traveled, learned several interesting trades and finally ended up in the Intelligence field - where I became the embodiment of the phrase “lest week ah cudent spel in-tel-ee-gents, now I are one”.

This is when I developed the superior leadership skills that to this day intimidate mere mortals. After finding out my body was, after all, human and required the use of a parachute when exiting a perfectly good aircraft, I left my beloved Corps for civilian life.

I spent the next 13 years working for Lockheed as a contractor on various intelligence community contracts in the Washington DC/Northern Virginia area. On 9/11 some of my previous superpowers returned as I successfully dodged an aircraft at the Pentagon. Thereafter a panic ensued at Lockheed where senior personnel suddenly realized their vacations in the mountains of West Virginia were long overdue. Ever the Marine, I took charge, got the job done and did what I could to restore operations to normal within a heightened security stance.

Once the Lockheed execs realized that an invasion was not imminent they returned from their vacations. Not long after that I mysteriously received a lay off. I guess it didn't help when several other veterans and I walked out of a corporate meeting that was titled “How can we capitalize on the events of 9/11” . Either way my services were no longer required.

I returned to Wisconsin to assist with the care for my mom and dad.

Locally, I've worked as Casino Assistant Manager, HR and Personnel Manager, policy writer, and general pain in the posterior to the extremist and the ignorant.

Earlier last spring I started volunteering at The BRICK and after healing up actually returned for more abuse. Jim McPhetridge must have recognized a sucker when he saw one and talked me into filling in for him so he could take some well-deserved vacation time. I was still here after he returned, so I guess he had me hooked (and no one else was crazy enough to do the job). So here I am your new and maybe not so improved Interim Food Shelf Manager.

Though I know there is no way I can completely fill the shoes left by my esteemed predecessor, I will do my best to keep the food shelf running as effectively as possible.



BENEVOLENCE.



Sam Ray
Benevolence Manager



I want to personally thank all those in our community who have contributed their time, prayers, and donations to The BRICK this past year. I want to assure you I work diligently to be a good steward of your monetary donations. I ask God daily to provide me with His discernment and to work in the lives of our participants as well as in my own as I journey through some of the most heart-wrenching territory I have ever known.

When addressing the needs of those who enter our doors requesting financial assistance, the Benevolence Program has a process in place to maintain fairness and provide help to as many people as possible. Participants receiving help with a reoccurring expense like rent or utilities must provide documentation of the income of the household. We use the same income guidelines the Food Shelf uses, required by The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), to ensure we are assisting the low-income residents of Ashland and Bayfield Counties. We work with our communities all over these two counties: from Washburn to the Red Cliff Reservation to Port Wing to Iron River and down to Cable, from Glidden and Butternut to the Bad River Reservation and Ashland.

Vendors are always paid directly by The BRICK. Once a household has received financial assistance, they must wait 12 months to be eligible again. However, we are always willing to work with participants to locate other resources that can help with their needs. We often partner with other organizations to provide the best plan of action to do the most good for someone struggling.

I see God working in the lives of our community members every day here at The BRICK Ministries. I know God is working on me with the challenge of trusting Him no matter how big the mountain our neighbors must climb. Thank you for supporting us as we continue "to provide services and build relationships to change people's circumstances and lives through Christ."



12/13/18: Board Meeting, President of the Board's Residence, 5:30 p.m.

12/14/18: Volunteer Holiday Party, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 11:30 p.m.- 1:00 p.m.

12/21/18: Bell Choir Concert, Saron Lutheran Church, 7:00 p.m.

01/10/19: Board Meeting, location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

01/25/19: Volunteer Event

01/26/19: Third Annual Taste of the Bay, Northland College, 7:00 p.m.

02/14/18: Board Meeting, location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

02/22/18: Volunteer Event

03/14/18: Board Meeting, location TBD, 5:30 p.m.



As another year winds down, I find myself becoming caught up in the spirit and fast-paced energy of an approaching holiday season. It feels especially critical during this period to create the time and space needed to find those precious quiet moments to reflect. For me, these moments center on my gratitude for loved ones, my love for this community, and acknowledging the importance

of challenging learning lessons. I cannot express just how truly grateful I am for having the opportunity to work alongside so many wonderful individuals each day here at The BRICK. So far this year, volunteers have contributed an average of 747.53 hours per month to work with our organization! We simply wouldn't be able to do it without these committed individuals and their generosity.

Recently, I asked a small group of long-term volunteers to reflect on their experiences from years of working with this organization. The insights I received were overwhelmingly positive; all of the folks I interviewed commented on how satisfying it is to be able to help individuals who are going through a tough spot and give them the friendly encouragement they need to get by for another day. It is this common mission to compassionately serve those in need of that little boost that motivates me to do all that I can to support our volunteer base and help in uplifting our participants. I wish you all a safe and warm holiday season.

Office
Manager
Cheyanne Reeves



If you're interested in volunteering, please contact the Office Manager Cheyanne Reeves for more information at 715-682-7425, or officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net.

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.



SATURDAY
JAN 26
7:00 PM — 9:00 PM

NORTHLAND COLLEGE

Ponzio Campus Center

\$30/PERSON IN ADVANCE

\$40/PERSON AT THE DOOR

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

Join The BRICK Ministries

for the Third Annual Taste of the Bay, as its signature fundraiser and hosted by Northland College. Enjoy an evening of fun sampling specialties from local restaurants and caterers. Support The BRICK's emergency food shelf and financial assistance programs at the same time!

**NORTHLAND
COLLEGE**



South Shore Food Shelf: Cornucopia, WI

As the year comes to an end on the South Shore, the local citizens, churches, civic clubs, and businesses have been very giving. Gifts of time, food, and dollars have generously been donated on almost a weekly basis. Much of this is anonymous but many have become regular contributors. Our local benefactors hail from Port Wing, Cornucopia, and Washburn.

The gift of time comes from our wonderful volunteers. We always lose a few volunteers who are snow birds when the cold weather arrives. But many people have stepped up to help out. Since we are open twice a month, the first and third Thursdays, the extra help makes scheduling much easier.

A recent review of our client list showed that 32% reside in Cornucopia, Port Wing, and Herbster, 50% are from Bayfield and Washburn, and the remaining 18% live in communities ranging from Iron River to Red Cliff. We recognize that if the South Shore Food Shelf wasn't here, those participants would have to drive a long way - and spend extra money - to use another pantry. We're thrilled that we can share the bounty with folks from such a wide service area. If you know anyone who can use a boost, please let them know we're here to help!



Mary D'Andrea



When I spoke with Mary D'Andrea from our pantry in Cable, I was left with the impression that she is simply one of those sweet, multifaceted souls everyone enjoys working with. Mary has stepped in to help coordinate volunteers and donations from St. Ann Catholic Church for the Cable Area Food Shelf. She has been recognized as a great leader, particularly when the Annual Empty Bowl fundraiser rolls around. She is one of two kitchen coordinators for this event and does a great job, while also contributing to discussions on how to improve in future years. She goes over and beyond on a day-to-day basis; helping pick up donations at Rondeau's--the local shopping center--then delivering and processing them in at the food shelf. Mary is a wonderful asset to our Cable operations.

In addition to volunteering with our partners at the Cable Area Food Shelf, Mary helps out extensively with the Cable Area Natural History Museum and is the "Web Queen" for the Namekagon website! She is an avid fan of a good mystery novel and enjoys gardening during the warm months. If you have the opportunity to work with Mary, please let her know how grateful we are to have her on board!

Cheyenne Reeves

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



ESSENTIA HEALTH SUPPORTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE FUND!

Earlier this fall Essentia Health awarded a \$4,500 grant to The BRICK's Benevolence Program to be designated for the Make A Difference (MAD) Fund as matching dollars. The Benevolence

Program helps consumers with essentials such as overdue rent, utility bills, provides motel vouchers for the homeless, as well as referrals to partner agencies to ensure that consumers get connected to all the resources available. So far this year, The BRICK has provided over \$64,000 of help to 1,013 people from 468 households, and there's still one more month to go!

The Make A Difference Fund is an ongoing matching fund that is supported by seed money donated by local businesses. The BRICK accepts MAD Fund donations from the community throughout the year, and its board and staff welcome pledges from local businesses to match those funds. It's 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.

Essentia Health's Community Contributions program funds nonprofit organizations focused on assisting the underserved, building healthy communities, and improving the quality of life for people in its service area. With Benedictine roots, Essentia Health's mission is "... to make a healthy difference in people's lives. ..." Among other things, it "believe(s) in the synergy of sponsorship among faith-based and secular organizations." That makes our partnership with Essentia Health a great fit! To learn more about Essentia Health For more information about Essentia Health and its good work across the region go to <https://www.essentiahealth.org/>.

We also acknowledge all the other business donors to the MAD Fund: **ABC Thrift Shop, Ashland Audiology, Bad River Housing Authority, H Window, Memorial Medical Center, Northwoods Paving, Ringenberg Financial, and Ron's Repair.** We're also grateful for all the individuals, organizations, and other businesses that give to this program. We're only able to keep folks in their homes with heat and water with *your* support!



Essentia Health

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_____



The BRICK
Ministries Inc.
Believers Reaching Individuals for Christ's Kingdom

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

Drew G. Emmert, Salem Baptist Church, Ashland

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

Esther Marie Pufall, Saron Lutheran Church, Ashland

Jeanne M. Spruell, United Presbyterian & First Congregational Church, Ashland

Rhonda H. Sundberg, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Ashland

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officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net