



The BRICK Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 22, 2019



From the Director—

Graduation! Most everyone with a graduate understands what an accomplishment this is – the sense of achievement and feelings of anxiety, the highs and lows of the final push. For many, graduation from high school or college is a given, what's expected. For others graduation marks an end – the end of childhood, of a carefree time of life.

What happens after graduation is another question altogether. Some continue with higher education at a tech school, college, university, or grad school. Others go into the workforce full time. Still others take a gap year and search out experiences to broaden their horizons. Whichever path is taken, the chances for success are dependent on many factors – financial stability, support system, emotional, mental, and physical health. Yet one of the most important keys to success is outlook. Do we picture success or failure? Do we see growth or stagnation?

It's the same for an organization. How we picture The BRICK has great influence on how The BRICK actually performs. I see the many ways we're serving our consumers and the community and can't help but recognize that The BRICK is doing great things! We have passionate volunteers and staff, dedicated board members, and a giving community.

But I'm not wearing rose colored glasses. I also see folks with too much work and not enough time. I see a budget that only just meets our needs.

Yet, I do not see these as failures! As one board member says, The BRICK is experiencing growing pains. As we improve our services, we then have to catch up with our structure. If we weren't growing, that would be a failure.

How do we balance the growth opportunities with our successes? We focus on our strengths – our mission "to compassionately, love and respect those in need," and the many people who already receive food and financial assistance from The BRICK – while plugging away on what we know needs improvement.

Change is the only constant here at The BRICK. Volunteers, seasons, and cash flow are always in flux; and we have to be flexible enough to manage that change. Today I'm inviting you to help



us achieve our goals. Whether by volunteering, financial gifts, or in-kind donations, please share what you can so we can meet that inevitable change with resilience.



Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director



Sandy Bodner

Sandy Bodner is a volunteer rock star that has been involved with The BRICK's South Shore Food Shelf since day one! Reflecting on the early days of the organization, Sandy commented on how amazing it is to watch an organization bloom from its initial form as an idea to a physical reality providing community support. Sandy played a strong role in pushing for her home church--Immanuel Lutheran—to become a Covenant Congregation supporting The BRICK. She also helped create a partnership between the South Shore Food Shelf and The BRICK with fellow volunteers Judy and Kermit DelMain.

Sandy attributes her motivation to the positive feeling of making a difference in someone's life, and the relationships that have developed over the years. "It's work, but it's a pleasure," she comments. Helping out with the pantry is far from the only work Sandy's involved with. She is also a member of her church's quilting group, which works with Lutheran World Relief and donates finished quilts to the New Day Advocacy Center. An additional 250 newborn quilts (and counting) have been prepared this year to donate to Bayfield County for nurses to provide as a welcoming gift.

Sandy also participates in a book club where she enjoys having her eyes opened to the unique perspectives and literary interpretations of others. In her free time, Sandy takes pleasure in walking her dog, Lucy, and enjoying outdoor activities such as wildlife/bird watching and gardening—"the usual northern stuff," as she says. All around, Sandy strikes me as a positive energy who strives to create an authentic connection with those around her. If you have the chance, let Sandy know how much she is appreciated!

Cheyenne Reeves, Office Manager



BENEVOLENCE

Sam Ray

Benevolence Manager

June is National Elder Abuse Awareness Month. Not only can older adults be victims physically and mentally but also financially. Sometimes caregivers, both family members and friends, can take advantage of access to the elder's finances. They all can find justification in that they are helping the older person and are due compensation. This is why it is very important to have a conversation early on about a fair compensation if the older adult wants to pay for the help they are receiving from a loved one. This communication allows a clear understanding of what the payment for assistance will be. This also can eliminate the temptation to start taking money from the older adult without his or her knowledge. If you are concerned about the well-being of an older adult in your life, contact your county human services department.



Ashland County Human Services 715-682-7004

Bayfield County Human Services 715-373-6144



06/6/19: Board Meeting, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5:00 p.m.

06/6/19: Covenant Church Annual Meeting, Good Shepherd Luther Church, 6:00 p.m.

06/28/19: Volunteer In-Service

07/11/19: Board Meeting, Ringenburg Financial, 5:30 p.m.

07/26/19: Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, Prentice Park, time TBD

08/08/19: Board Meeting, Saron Lutheran Church, 5:30 p.m.

08/23/19: Volunteer In-Service

09/12/19: Board Meeting, location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

TBD: Volunteer Civil Rights Training, locations and times TBD

From the Board Room

Jim Matzinger



As my three-year board member term comes to an end, I'd like to say how much I have enjoyed being part of the board and helping to advance the mission to serve so many families in need in Ashland and Bayfield counties. The BRICK staff is exceptional and it's an honor to help them. As the Treasurer, I will admit losing some sleep at times worrying about the cash needed. I am not one to just go on faith being a finance person, but I'll admit we are often blessed by God's works and the generous support from our Covenant Churches, grant foundations, fraternal organizations, and individuals and business donors. The BRICK Ministries with our donor support makes a huge difference for the over 700 households (1,600 individuals) in Ashland and Bayfield counties that rely on our emergency food assistance and benevolence support with utility bills, rent, motels, and clothing each month. The number of people helped and services provided have really grown over the past 10 years, as have the financial needs.

My true BRICK Ministries passion is being a volunteer working at the Ashland facility across from Super One on Thursday mornings with my wife Betsy. There is no better time spent than serving others and there is great satisfaction helping our patrons with emergency food assistance. There is always need for more volunteers for food sorting, food shelf stocking, and even food donation pick-up from Wal-Mart or Kwik Trip; and I highly recommend volunteering with The BRICK. Even 2 or 3 hours a week can make a big difference and help provide a life changing experience to those in need.

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.

10th Annual Jack O'Brien Memorial

Charity Golf Tournament

Join in the fun and competition

on Saturday, July 27, 2019

at the Chequamegon Bay Golf Club in Ashland, WI

DATE: Saturday, July 27, 2019

TIME: 11:00 am shotgun start (Sandwiches & Refreshments available on the course)

PLACE: Chequamegon Bay Golf Club, Ashland

EVENT: 2-Person Team, 18-Hole Scramble
With Divisions According to Skill Level

PROCEEDS: All Proceeds Will Go to The BRICK
Ministries & Faith In Action-Ashland County

DINNER & SOCIAL HOUR: The Niblick Bar & Grill
Social Hour at 4:30 pm, Dinner at 5:30 pm

ENTRY FEES: \$55 per person (includes dinner)

ENTRIES: Received By July 15, 2019 Guarantees a golf cart

TO ENTER: Simply mail the attached entry form with
payment or drop it off at the Chequamegon Bay Golf Club
Pro Shop.

QUESTIONS: Call (715) 682-8004 or email
chequamegonbaygolf@gmail.com



10th



**Annual
Jack O'Brien
Memorial
Charity Golf
Tournament**

Saturday, July 27, 2019

Chequamegon Bay Golf Club



Ashland, Wisconsin



Dan Cameron

Food Shelf Manager

We continue to operate at capacity and provide the service to our communities. We lost the milk were receiving from TEFAP due to some contract issues, however, the Chequamegon Dairy Association via Tetzner's Dairy really stepped up to help us out with three times the milk donations they provided last year. The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive was once again was extremely helpful. Many thanks to our local letter carriers for their tireless efforts and Super One in Ashland for generously donating 5000 bags for food collection. Totals collected were:

Ashland Post Office	4130 lbs	
Highbridge Post Office	461 lbs	
Mason, Grand View Post Offices	751 lbs	
Washburn Post Office	65 lbs	
	5407 lbs	Total to The BRICK and Mellen Pantry.
Port Wing, Cornucopia, Herbster Post Offices	459 lbs	South Shore Pantry
Cable	21 lbs	Cable Pantry
TOTAL RECEIVED	5887 lbs	

Outlet Buzz

Mellen Helping Hands Food Shelf : Mellen, WI

Mellen's Helping Hands Food Shelf serves consumers from the small town (population 731) and neighboring areas of Ashland County, including Glidden, Butternut, and nearby rural areas. The pantry distributes food to all ages, many of whom are senior citizens.

What is special about a food pantry in a small community? The need to supplement food to get through the month is common to many,

whether a person comes from a rural area or a large metropolitan city. What makes the small town food pantry unique is that people are known personally on many different levels.

Participants are known by their first name and engaged in conversation. The personal relationship that exists not just at the food pantry, but also in the community, lends itself to a special understanding of the needs and circumstances of each consumer.

Referrals for other supportive services are given based on these identified needs. Special dietary preferences are documented and remembered, whether vegetarian, organic food only, or medical restrictions.

Although the Mellen food pantry serves more elderly than children, when a child accompanies an adult, they are welcomed to the food pantry. A side effort in the small town is promoting literacy. The children are encouraged to choose a couple of books to take home from a collection of books at every visit to the pantry. One of the volunteers frequents the used books sale at the Book Nook in Ashland which sells books for all ages at bargain prices. The child at their first visit to the food pantry also receives a small book bag from the library with directions on how to apply for a library card.

The local community supports Mellen's Helping Hands in many ways. A recent example is a food drive at the elementary school that was supported by many families. Nearly 250 food items were donated. The food shelf volunteer provided a special treat for the classroom with the largest number of donations. Mellen's Helping Hands Food Shelf works hard to promote nutritious food within the community and meeting client needs.



Ruth Brennan, Mellen Helping Hands Food Shelf



Volunteer Opportunities



Do you love to share stories and pictures on Facebook? Maybe you're great with paperwork. What about talking on the phone? If you have a special talent or passion, most likely there's a place for you at The BRICK! Our volunteers do most of the work in both our Food Shelf and Benevolence Programs. Volunteers answer phones, unload

semi-loads of food, pick up grocery store donations, assist shoppers in our four pantries, and much more. If you're looking for a way to fight hunger and poverty in our community, join our professional, positive, and friendly volunteers and work "to provide services and build relationships to change people's circumstances and lives through Christ."

Please contact the Office Manager, Cheyanne, 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 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

TWO Successful Empty Bowl Events!

On April 6th, The BRICK'S Cable Area Food Shelf hosted its 8th Annual Empty Bowl fundraiser at the Cable Community Center. Thank you to all the restaurants that contributed, the artists that designed each bowl, and everyone who was able to attend. Thanks to you, the event raised over \$1,000 for the program! This event is always a pleasure. We look forward to seeing you there next year!



On May 28th, the Ashland School District art department hosted the Ashland Empty Bowl at the United Presbyterian Congregational Church in support of The BRICK's Food Shelf Program & the Bad River Emergency Food Shelf! Thanks to students and teachers from the School District of Ashland and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School! They created beautiful pieces of art. Thank you to all the local restaurants that contributed soup. Special thank you to community members who were able to attend.



Photos



Congratulations to Barb Larson from the Cable Area Food Shelf, BRICK Builder Award recipient!

A huge thank-you to the members and staff of Northwoods Community Credit Union for hosting the 7th Annual Grill-Out for our Benevolence Program!



Office Manager

Cheyenne Reeves

Spring is off to a blooming start around the office! It has been a real joy to welcome many new faces to the team to help with events such as the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive and spring letter appeal this last month. As of April, volunteers have contributed a monthly

average of 663 hours across all of our pantries! The dedication each volunteer contributes in their own unique way is a true inspiration! That being said, there is always an abundance of work to be done. Folks who are interested in participating with our volunteer program are encouraged to come on in to explore different opportunities! I am looking forward to incorporating more seasonal volunteer opportunities, and celebrating all the hard work the crew puts in at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic this July.



Be sure to tune in for special events; folks who are interested in joining our volunteer program are able to reach me at:

officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net | (715) 682-7425.

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

Drew G. Emmert, Vice President, Salem Baptist 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

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

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

Staff

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Dan Cameron, *Interim Food Shelf Manager*
foodshelfmanager.thebrick@centurytel.net

Cheyenne Reeves, *Office Manager*
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