



The BRICK Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 23, 2019

From the Director—

Fall is quickly approaching, and with it comes transition. We transition from long days full of sunlight to shorter days with an earlier sunset. We turn up the furnace at night. Folks are splitting firewood for the winter to come. Kids go back to school. Young adults head off for college. We start harvesting the garden.

The end of summer is a good time to look back at all the bounty of the summer. We started off June with our annual meeting – an opportunity to share our Christ centered mission and vision with our member congregations. An abundance of food was donated to our pantry program. Staff got to attend a Bridges Out of Poverty workshop. This summer we were fortunate to have Northland College Student Andrew Hofer serving as our Intern. Our South Shore Food Shelf has moved into a different room in the Bell Community Center and now has a permanent home!

We also have fantastic partners who support our work with their own special events. Northwoods Community Credit Union hosted their annual Grill-Out for our Benevolence Program. The great folks at Pagac's Bar held a Bike Run for our Food Shelf Program. Once again Pat and Terri Miller and crew did a super job of coordinating the 10th Annual Jack O'Brien Memorial Charity Golf Tournament. The Chequamegon Food Co-op hosted an Ice Cream Social for The BRICK at their Summer Bash.

Autumn also means looking ahead. The most immediate transition is finding a new Food Shelf Manager. For nearly a year, Dan Cameron has served in that position, and has shared his technical expertise to help make our Food Shelf Program even better. We're grateful for all he's given and hope to find a candidate who is as dedicated and skilled as Dan. Please take the time to let Dan know how much you appreciate his contributions.

Every fall our finances team works to develop a budget for the next year. We look at the patterns of income and spending over the last several years, factor in any variations that we expect, and build our budget from there. We recognize that without a plan, there's no accountability. This applies to both expenses and fund development.



Our leadership team will also be taking a closer look at SuperShelf. This is a model for pantry programs that focuses on encouraging shoppers to make healthy choices, and empowering consumers to make selections that work best for their own households. We'll be exploring how we can implement SuperShelf ideals to make our Food Shelf Program a grocery store experience for our shoppers.

These highlights show how much there is to do at The BRICK, all while focusing on our work to "live Christ's message to compassionately love and respect those in need."

Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director

Outlet Buzz

South Shore Food Shelf: Cornucopia, WI

The South Shore Food Shelf completed the first phase of our move during July. The second phase will be complete when we get the badly needed new freezer and additional shelving, allowing us to serve our families better. This is thanks to cooperation from the Town of Bell, the community of Cornucopia, and some of our great volunteers. Our local general store Ehlers generously provided commercial shelving. John Hall and Gordon Anderson gave many construction hours installing shelving and walls. Jane Hennesy and Joyce Adamson were there for the moving and organizing of all the food stock. The new space allows us to leave our inventory in place, without having to pack and store after each opening. It also gives our shoppers a more grocery-store-like experience.



Our food shelf was started 10 years ago by Judy and Kermit Del Main under the umbrella of The BRICK and has been an integral part of the South Shore communities (Cornucopia, Herbster, Port Wing, Red Cliff, and Washburn). Immanuel Lutheran Church (a covenant church) has been consistent in their support both financially and with volunteers. Our volunteer base has been steadily growing with support from the community at large. All these efforts together make the South Shore Food Shelf a place where our shoppers can find a wide variety of healthy food choices, as well as welcoming smiles and open hearts.



John Hall, Outlet Site Manager

Grant Award News!



Over the years The BRICK has been blessed with multiple grants from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). The board of this nationwide program is made up of representatives of six charities and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Funds are distributed at the local level by both the local EFSP boards from Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

We had a welcome surprise this summer from EFSP when we were informed there was a little extra money at the end of their grant cycle. The BRICK didn't have to submit another application or do anything extra. The additional funds from EFSP were automatically deposited into our bank account.

Thank you to all the folks at every level of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program for your ongoing partnership to help us reach the food insecure people in our community!



Many of you know our outgoing Food Shelf Manager as a no nonsense guy who gets the job done. You may have discovered his quirky and playful sense of humor

– a real gem. Usually, he's that steady presence ensuring that our Food Shelf Program runs smoothly.

You may not know of all the things that Dan's handled during his time with The BRICK. Last fall we started receiving dramatically more federal commodities food through the Trade Mitigation Purchase. Between January and July 2019 we'd already received over 100,000 pounds of food in federal commodities; in 2018 we received just under 96,000 for the entire year! On top of that, our other donated food has increased too. As of July we'd accepted over 153,000 pounds compared to last July's donations of about 140,000. Altogether that's a lot of extra food to handle. What a great problem to have! Dan has really tackled this problem well. He's worked with our pantries in Cable, Cornucopia, Mellen, and our home site in Ashland to get all that extra food onto the tables of our pantry shoppers. For many months our consumers have received bonus portions of milk, chicken, and pork. Dan's also worked with our suppliers to ensure that deliveries are timed to coincide with when our coolers and freezers aren't quite so full.

Dan has used his technical expertise to streamline our inventory tracking. He's converted a gigantic spreadsheet into something still large, but a little more manageable. He also shared his handyman skills to install our temporary air conditioners, which keeps the food in the warehouse at acceptable levels.

In his role he's worked with numerous volunteers. He's seen what works, and what could be better. He's helped develop clearer guidelines, processes and procedures for working with our volunteers. With Dan's input we've been able to do a better job coaching our volunteers to perform at their best.

These are just a few contributions that Dan has made in one short year. We're thankful for his service with The BRICK and wish him well. Please take the time to thank him personally for all he's done.

BENEVOLENCE

Sam Ray

Benevolence Manager

Julie always took pride in paying her bills on time. She thought of herself as a responsible person. When she received the call from Milwaukee, with the news her dad had been in a serious accident,

she dropped everything and headed down as quickly as possible. He was in the ICU for over a month, and she was all the family he had. Julie knew it was her responsibility to be there to talk to the doctors and be there to help her dad any way she could. She also knew she had a job, bills, and other responsibilities to attend to back home. The travel back and forth was expensive with gas, food, and lodging. She had a great boss that tried to be understanding to her situation. As her dad healed, Julie continued to try to meet all her obligations, but the bills started to pile up.

Julie visited The BRICK to find some financial assistance. When she sat down with me, she shared her story and couldn't keep her tears in any longer. She had never been in the position to need financial help before; she had always been the one to help others. Julie was exhausted and overwhelmed. We looked at the delinquent bills and developed a plan. We talked to the vendors together and made realistic pay arrangements where we could. The BRICK helped with small payments to some of the vendors that needed a payment up front to start the pay arrangement. We reached out to other organizations for additional assistance. When Julie started to leave, she told me she was so glad The BRICK was here not only for herself, but also for other people like her. "It's good to know there is somewhere people can go for help when the unexpected happens."



09/02/19: Labor Day – Closed

09/12/19: Board Meeting, Meet the Board, Tour the new space for the South Shore Food Shelf, Bell Community Center - Cornucopia, 6:00 p.m.

09/17/19: Volunteer In-Service: Civil Rights Training, Helping Hands Food Shelf, Mellen,

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

09/25/19: Volunteer In-Service: Civil Rights Training, Cable Area Food Shelf, Cable,

09/27/19: Volunteer In-Service: Civil Rights Training, The BRICK, Ashland,

10/10/19: Board Meeting, Saron Lutheran Church (tentative), 5:30 p.m.

10/15/19: Dine Out to Help Out – Any Participating Restaurant

10/25/19: Volunteer In-Service

11/14/19: Board Meeting, C. G. Bretting Manufacturing Co. (tentative), 5:30 p.m.

11/22/19: Volunteer In-Service (tentative)

11/28/19: Thanksgiving Day – Closed

The BRICK Ministries

WHEN: Tuesday, October 15

WHERE: Any Participating
Restaurant



Dine Out To Help Out

Do you like going out for dinner? Maybe breakfast is your favorite meal out.

Now you can dine out and help The BRICK, too!

Participating restaurants across Ashland and Bayfield Counties are donating 10% of their dine in or take out sales (liquor not included) on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 to The BRICK Ministries.

Choose from this ever growing list of generous restaurants and plan your special meal out to help out!

- The Niblick Bar and Grill - Ashland
- Northwoods Bar and Grill - Sanborn
- Maggie's - Bayfield
- Loon Saloon - Cable
- A & W - Iron River
- The 300 Grill - Iron River
- White River Saloon - Mason
- Hugo's Pizza - Ashland

WATCH OUR EVENT ON FACEBOOK AND POSTERS FOR NEW ADDITIONS!!!

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.



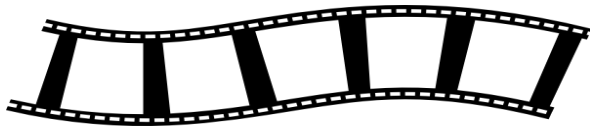
Cheryl Tveit

Cheryl Tveit is a powerhouse of inspiration for her fellow volunteers here at The BRICK's Ashland location! After a long hiatus from volunteering with the Good Shepherd crew during The BRICK's early days, Cheryl returned to volunteer at The BRICK about three years ago after retiring from the local Department of Corrections office. Currently, Cheryl volunteers several days a week at The BRICK providing support in the food shelf, helping with truck deliveries and pick-ups, occasionally filling in at the front desk, and helping with data entry. Most recently, Cheryl has taken on shadowing our Food Shelf Manager to move forward on our goal to develop succession planning for each staff position.

When Cheryl is not helping us out at The BRICK, she helps with BINGO at Court Manor and makes quilts with her church group for the Lutheran World Relief. Last year, the group made 250 quilts between September through May! On the third Wednesday of each month, Cheryl helps Good Shepherd's FLOCK serve a meal for children and their parents before classes begin. Cheryl can also be seen powerwalking her way through town each morning as she walks her five-mile loop. She also enjoys baking and reading murder mysteries (must be funny, never true crime).

Before retirement, Cheryl worked for the State of Wisconsin for 37 years. First, at the Department of Transportation in Madison for 14 years, then at the Department of Corrections in Ashland for 23 years. Her husband Keith worked as the Fire Chief in both Madison and Ashland for many years, then also worked at Wisconsin Emergency Management. Both retired in 2015. They have two sons, Kevin and Corey. Kevin also volunteers each day at The BRICK. Corey lives in Illinois with his wife, dog, and cat. Cheryl's work is truly critical to our organization and she is viewed as a model volunteer on our crew. In honor of her contributions, Cheryl has been recognized as the latest recipient of The BRICK Builder Award! This award acknowledges those who make significant contributions to The BRICK and its mission "to live Christ's message to compassionately love and respect those in need." If you get the chance, please let Cheryl know how much she is appreciated!

Cheyenne Reeves, Office Manager



Photos

Thank you to all the members of the St. Peter's Altar Society of Dauby for their generous support of our mission and ministry!



Thanks to the Chequamegon Food Co-op for hosting their Ice Cream Social for The BRICK!



Thank you to Pagac's Bar for hosting their 1st Annual Bike Run for our Food Shelf Program!



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 Cheyanne Reeves, Office Manager for more information: 715-682-7425 or officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net



Andrew Hofer

**Northland College Student Intern
with Memorial Medical Center
Representative**



As The BRICK's summer intern I got to learn about the different functions that our organization has in our community. I was able to connect with consumers and walk them through the food shelf, while also gaining a broad understanding of what goes on behind the scenes to keep The BRICK running. I learned which local vendors donate food to The BRICK and got to meet with the volunteers who help ensure it makes it to the shelves. I would say the most important part of my experience was learning about the Benevolence Program, which helps individuals pay their bills and get connected with people who can help them. Most importantly I got to meet the amazing people who ensure that The BRICK runs smoothly every day!

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

Fall is most definitely in the air! As I look forward to days of hot cocoa and wood stove fires, I would also like to take the time to reflect on all that the summer has offered. This summer we celebrated the hard work and contributions of our volunteer staff at our annual picnic. Since January of this year, volunteers have contributed a total of *4848 hours*! That's incredible! I have also celebrated the first anniversary of stepping into my role as Office Manager. Time flies when you're having fun, right? From tabling events to continuing education opportunities to enjoying the bounty of harvest season with fresh produce offerings from local gardeners, the summer has felt very full. Let's move this energy on into the fall and continue to lift our community members up when it's needed.

We have many volunteer positions available and are seeking out new faces to join our crew. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please stop by the office or get in touch with me at: officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net or 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

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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. Holzhauser, President, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Ashland

Drew G. Emmert, Vice President, Salem Baptist 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

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