The BRICK Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 24, 2019

From the Director—

During these last few weeks of the year, it's easy to get lost in all the activities, all the tasks to do before December 31. While Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas, Advent can be much more. We can use this time to prepare our hearts and minds for new endeavors, new goals, and for what comes after Christmas – because Christmas isn't the end. Christ's birth is just the beginning! We wouldn't celebrate His birth unless it was followed by His death and resurrection.

Keeping that in mind, plans for next year at The BRICK are in full swing! Staff is eagerly looking to put into action a plan to put more produce on the tables of our pantry shoppers. We're also seeking ways to engage more volunteers. We'll keep you posted on our progress and our needs in the months to come.

In the meantime, we want to express our gratitude for all our partners – volunteers, donors, grant makers, and cooperative organizations. Each is valuable for what you contribute and how much you care. Together we do great work!

Peace and Joy to all this Advent, Christmas and in the year to come –

Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director

Full of joy, Lake Superior Primary School's 5-year-old kindergarten students presented the school's food drive donations along with (L to R) Ashland School District Kindergarten Teacher and food drive coordinator Jenny Gierczic , and The BRICK's Food Shelf Manager Emma Calaway.

FROM THE OFFICE

Cheyanne Reeves

Cheyanne picking apples at Erickson Orchard & Country Store!

What a blur 2019 has been! It's been a real pleasure deepening my connection to this organization and the many kind hearts that come together to make this work happen. This passion is reflected in part by the amount of hard work and time each of our volunteers contribute with us. As of October, the year to date total of volunteer hours contributed across all of our outlets sits at 6,925 hours! This breaks down into an average of about 628 hours each month. We've also had the pleasure of working with three wonderful interns that have contributed 35 to 135 hours each! This is truly incredible, and I hope we continue to carry this positive momentum into 2020!

Wishing you all a sweet and love-filled holiday season. -

Cheyanne

I arrived at The BRICK Ministries as an intern this fall, hoping to gain experience working in a nonprofit organization, as well as experience serving alongside those who come from low income households. I began my time at The BRICK becoming familiar with the food shelf - helping shoppers, stocking and organizing food and personal items - and I later worked with data entry. I also had the opportunity to attend a board meeting.

As I reflect on my time serving at the BRICK, I've come to realize that I've gained experiences I never thought I would. One of my favorite parts of my internship has been the people. The volunteers who I work alongside are such generous and lovely human beings. The consumers who walk through our doors are kind and gracious. Each individual I have met has taught me something, and I have been truly blessed by the people I have met during these past couple months.

I want to thank everyone who has made this experience so impactful for me. I'm very thankful for this opportunity.

Coriander Dehlin

Northland College Interns (L to R) Coriander Dehlin and Bekah Kropp served during the Fall Term.

This semester I had the opportunity to intern at The BRICK Ministries through Northland College's Applied Learning Program. It is my last semester at Northland and I will be receiving a BA in sustainable community development. Throughout my college career I have developed a passion for addressing food security and access issues in small, rural communities. The BRICK Ministries is actively dedicated to addressing food insecurity and poverty in our community. This semester I was able to be a part of its mission "to live in Christ's message to compassionately love and respect those in need."

Through my internship at The BRICK I was able to assist customers through the pantry, which involved helping them choose their items based on household size. This sparked conversations about the enjoyment of food, a connection we all share. I developed a spreadsheet of Ashland and Bayfield Counties local farmers to increase partnerships with our beloved regional growers and further increase the amount of fresh, local produce in the program. In addition, I collaborated with the committed volunteers in stocking and sorting pantry items. I visited Erickson Orchard & Country Store to glean apples, which were then offered to community members through the program. I was also able to visit a few of our other pantry outlets to transport extra turkeys and turkey breasts. Lastly, I was able to attend a board meeting and learn about the various different board member roles and future projects. This experience has taught me a lot about the important function that food pantries have in any community, but especially ours.

Thank you for such a wonderful and fulfilling experience,

Bekah Kropp

Outlet Buzz

State of WI and Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency Support The BRICK

Beginning in the fall of 2018 The BRICK started receiving dramatically more federal commodities food through the Trade Mitigation Program (TMP), a "bonus" federal commodities initiative. Between January and July 2019 its Food Shelf Program had already received over 100,000 pounds of food in federal commodities – more than the entire previous year! On top of that, other donated food has increased too. As of July The BRICK 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.

But there was an issue. The BRICK was struggling for enough freezer and cooler space. But this was solved thanks to the Wisconsin – Department of Health Services (DHS) and Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency (NWCSA)! Now The BRICK has new merchandiser coolers at the Cable Area Food Shelf, Helping Hands Food Shelf – Mellen, and South Shore Food Shelf – Cornucopia. The pantries in Cornucopia and Ashland also have new merchandizer freezers; and the home site in Ashland also has a new walk-in freezer – just in time for Thanksgiving turkeys! As if that weren't enough, The BRICK's van now has four new tires to be used when it's time to switch out the snow tires in the spring.

NEW EQUIPMENT at (top to bottom) Cable Area Food Shelf, South Shore Food Shelf, Helping Hands Food Shelf

12/12/19: Board Meeting, President of the Board's Residence, 5:30 p.m.

12/08/19: Volunteer Holiday Party, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 11:30 p.m.- 1:00 p.m.

01/9/20 Board Meeting, location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

01/24/20: Volunteer Event

01/25/20: Fourth Annual Taste of the Bay, Northland College,

02/13/20: Board Meeting, location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

02/28/18: Volunteer Event

BENEVOLENCE

Sam Ray

Benevolence Manager

Anna and Zach had always handled their finances well, but when their son, Nicholas, developed a rare medical condition, the bills started to mount. Because of Nicholas's special needs, Anna decided to leave her job to care for him at home. Zach had to miss work to be with his family when Nicholas had multiple surgeries. The specialists for Nicholas are in cities far away from their home so travel expenses can be high. All of these challenges have contributed to their current financial situation.

When Anna and Zach visited The BRICK, we looked at all their bills. We talked to the vendors together to set up realistic payment arrangements. We prioritized the expenses and looked for ways to cut and save. I referred them to different programs in our community that could help them with travel costs and other expenses. We also looked at organizations that could support them emotionally through these challenges.

The BRICK's Benevolence Program provides families with a safe place to share their challenges and then partners with them to create a plan that works for each individual family. Thanks to our many partners' support, we are able to help folks like Anna and Zach every day!

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.

From the Board Room

Bill Holzhaeuser

As President of The BRICK's Board, I would like to take this opportunity to express a heartfelt Thanks for all of the volunteers who help make our Food Shelf and Benevolence Programs a success. The BRICK has over 180 volunteers who assist with operations in Ashland, Cable, Cornucopia and Mellen. All of them are kind, compassionate and caring people who faithfully serve God's children. We can always use more. If you are not a volunteer but feel called, contact us and complete a volunteer application. We would love to have you join our mission to compassionately love and respect those in need.

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

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

THE BRICK PRESENTS

Taste of the Bay

2020

NORTHLAND COLLEGE

SATURDAY

JAN 25

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 Fourth 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!

food thought FOR

Emma Calaway

Food Shelf Manager

Hello Friends!

Everyone has the same amount of time, but its what you do with your time that is important. This has been a motto that I developed in college when I was working toward a degree in Food and Nutrition. While enrolled my time was limited to work and school, so my spare time was spent doing things that were special to me or that made an impact on world. So directly after college, I went to Poland to teach English, which was wonderful for me to fully find who I am in Christ.

When I got back from Poland I wanted a change in my life so I moved to Ashland to be the Food Shelf Manager. I'm so ready for my next chapter of life to use my time to do what I love and to build many new memories. I'm thankful to God for bringing me up here and for all the warmth of many people who have welcomed me into my new home.

God bless you all,

Emma

Emma's first birthday in Ashland!

Grants Support Our Mission to Serve!

The BRICK Ministries is fortunate to have partners from several grant making organizations throughout the year. We're thrilled to welcome a new partner to our work and to say thank you to a long-time backer.

This fall our Benevolence Program received a generous matching grant of $10,000 from Associated Bank! This seed money for our Make A Difference Fund (MAD Fund), which helps with overdue rent and utility bills and motel vouchers on behalf of our low income consumers. We also offer referrals to partner agencies to ensure that consumers get connected to all the resources available. Through November, The BRICK has provided over $63,000 of help to over 900 people from 430+ households, and there's still one more month to go! 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 wonderful chance for the community and businesses to come together and double their donations to make sure that folks on hard times have the help they need.

Associated Bank "endeavor(s) to foster stronger, more stable communities." Its philanthropy focuses "on nonprofits . . . whose programs provide long-term solutions to the unique issues of the communities we serve. . . ." Learn more about Associated Bank's good work across the region at https://www.associatedbank.com/about-us/community-commitment.

We're also delighted to announce that the Otto Bremer Trust (OBT) has once again awarded The BRICK a $50,000. OBT has supported our work from early on, and we're so grateful that their leadership has stood by our efforts to combat poverty in the Northland. The Otto Bremer Trust grant is a unique opportunity, because it supports general operations. OBT recognizes that we need to pay our electric bill before we can help our consumers.

OTTO BREMER TRUST™

The Otto Bremer Trust is a bank holding company and a private charitable trust based in Saint Paul, Minn., that works at the intersection of finance and philanthropy. OBT is the 92 percent owner of Bremer Bank, a regional financial services company, and also manages a diversified investment portfolio. Since its founding, OBT has invested more than $700 million in people, places and opportunities in the Upper Midwest. Visit ottobremer.org.

For all the grants, gifts, and donations throughout the year, The BRICK's Board of Directors, staff, volunteers say THANK YOU!

THE BRICK MINISTRIES, INC.
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ASHLAND, WI 54806
Phone 715-682-7425
Fax 715-682-7427
www.thebrickministries.com
@TheBRICKMinistries
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
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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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