



The BRICK Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 25, 2020

From the Director—

I'm writing this note on the last day possible before publication – Leap Day! I might have been procrastinating, but by putting off writing I unwittingly had the chance to be inspired. This morning I attended the funeral of a former volunteer, Russell Lein, who served at our South Shore Food Shelf. Anyone who knew Russ or his sister Sue Anderson, our former board member, would understand why they framed his service as a time of joy, rather than sorrow. Although Russ had more than his fair share of hardships, he wanted to focus on the good things in life. He was an intellect, a handyman, and a person of deep faith - an example even in his passing.

One of the scripture readings at Russ's service was Matthew 11:28. Jesus is speaking to the people and says "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. . . ." As the pastor spoke, my thoughts wandered to this message, and I made the connection between these words of comfort and The BRICK's mission and vision to serve through Christ's love. We know that plenty of our consumers are carrying a heavy burden, yet we offer them a place to rest.



Russ passed away just before the beginning of Lent and I can't help make the comparison between Russ's final days and beyond to the period of Lent and on into Easter. Both transitions include a time of dormancy that results in great beauty. A common comparison from the natural world is that of the caterpillar-to-butterfly, and the butterfly symbolizes the renewal and regeneration we experience through Christ's deep love for us.

My hope is that The BRICK can also be a place where each one of us can rest while we are remade by Grace.

Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director

FROM THE OFFICE Cheyanne Reeves

What a full and eventful winter this has been! From events such as Taste of the Bay to Book Across the Bay—we've been extra busy around the office. We're moving this momentum on into the spring as we continue reaching out to our community. Some highlights for the upcoming months include the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive in

early May—we'll be looking for a solid crew of volunteers that can help us process the thousands of pounds of food we expect to receive. We will also be gearing up for the upcoming harvest season and looking for a crew of BRICK Pickers to travel out to local farms with us. We couldn't do it without all the hard work of our dedicated volunteers!

We started 2020 strong with a total of 612 volunteer hours recorded for the month of January. These hours were contributed from a total of 76 volunteers across all of our locations, including help from several new/onboarding helpers! I look forward to continuing to work with such a wonderful crew, and working to build our teams up.

For more information about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, please contact me at: (715) 682-7425 or officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net.

Cheyenne

WE OUR DONORS!

Our Food Shelf Program receives donations of food and hygiene items most day; yet there are always a few standout donors who faithfully support our work year after year. The **Chequamegon Dairy Association** makes an annual gift of locally sourced dairy items for our pantry shoppers. This year CDA gifted 117# of cheese from Benoit Cheese Haus. That's a LOT of cheese! Thank you for your partnership!!!



**The BRICK
needs YOUR
help!**

Volunteers Needed

Early May, we will be sorting a tremendous amount of donations from the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive!

We'll need **as many helping hands on deck as possible** to sort through roughly **10,000 pounds of food!**

Scheduling is extremely flexible. All are welcome!

Call today or visit our website for more information on volunteering!
(715) 682-7425 | <http://thebrickministries.com/>



Our Mission: The BRICK Ministries' mission is 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.



Food Shelf Manager

It's amazing to see how much support is given through donations as the previous year has wrapped up. In 2019, a total of 550,406 pounds of food and personal care items were distributed throughout Ashland and Bayfield Counties through our four locations - Ashland, Cable, Cornucopia, and Mellen. Through various organizations, individuals, Walmart, Super One, Kwik Trip, Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank, and other businesses, we received a total of 260,474 pounds of food that was donated. It's amazing to see communities come together to fight hunger. All of the distribution of food and items could not be done without our amazing crew of volunteers and the generous support and prayers from individuals and organizations.

Many blessing to all this coming year,

Outlet Buzz

Cable Area Food Shelf

What's new at the Cable Area Food Shelf this year? The BRICK's new Food Shelf Manager, Emma, for one thing! We're very happy to have her working with us, developing partnerships to find great nutritious food for our participants.

We also love our new commercial refrigerator which allows us space to store so much more fresh dairy and produce.



Our local store, Rondeau's Shopping Center, is now putting bags together for shoppers to purchase food shelf donations, always including the items we need most. Bags are emptied into our food shelf collection bins after purchase and then recycled for use again. This has increased food donations and helped with variety for our shoppers. We also have lots of financial donors who realize how much further their money goes when The BRICK purchases for us through Second Harvest.

Thankfully some things haven't changed, like our faithful coordinators at each of the four Cable churches. They not only take their turn providing and coordinating volunteers from their churches to staff our monthly food shelf, help with food collection and stocking, but also provide great ideas to help us do things better and serve our participants with a welcoming presence.

Right now our coordinators are meeting regularly to plan our **9th Annual Empty Bowl** fundraiser. See the event poster for details and join us March 21st for fun and support of a great cause—helping those in need!



3/12/20: Board Meeting, Saron Lutheran Church—Ashland, 5:30 p.m.

3/21/20: 9th Annual Empty Bowl, Cable Community Center, 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

3/27/20: Volunteer Event

4/9/20: Board Meeting, United Presbyterian Congregational Church—Ashland, 5:30 p.m.

4/24/20: Volunteer Event

5/14/20: Board Meeting, Congregational United Church of Christ—Mellen, 7 p.m.

5/22/20: Volunteer Event

5/29/20: 8th Annual Grilling for The BRICK, Northwoods Community Credit Union—Ashland, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., PRE-ORDERS AVAILABLE!!!

BENEVOLENCE

Sam Ray

Benevolence Manager



Julia had always struggled with mental health disorders. She came to The BRICK looking for assistance to get back home to Milwaukee where she felt she could start over with the support she needed. We called her mom together and asked if she could stay with her when Julia returned to Milwaukee. We were happy to hear her mom say "Yes." Her mother would also go with Julia to get some help when she got home. While Julia was waiting for me to get the paperwork and logistics completed, she had a difficult time staying focused and found herself talking with other participants and volunteers. Everyone she came in contact with met her with compassion and understanding.

Before Julia left she thanked me with tears in her eyes, telling me she had never been treated with such respect and kindness. Everyone had always just told her what she needed to do and never asked her what she wanted. This is the kind of difference The BRICK can make for our consumers. We recognize that we may be the only place where someone feels heard and validated — that they're okay just as they are.

Thank you to all our partners who help us work with folks in all kinds of circumstances 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

Lorri Mattes

Hello, my name is Lorri Mattes. I am a member of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Ashland and currently live in the countryside near Mason. I am married to Bill Mattes and have two grown children and a daughter-in-law – Matthew and William (married to Ivette). I have always enjoyed accounting. I attended Northland College where I pursued and received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Accounting. I have worked as a bookkeeper in various capacities for my professional career, currently working for CESA 12. I have also volunteered as treasurer for nonprofit groups. As we are called to use our talents to assist in our community, I felt called to use my talent with finances to assist The BRICK in some capacity. For this reason, I am excited and grateful to have the opportunity to serve on the Board as Treasurer for The BRICK.



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

Awards Grant for Food Shelf Program

For the third year, the Medica Foundation and The BRICK are partnering to fight for food security and good health for those who are under-resourced in our region! Medica has awarded a \$5,000 grant for our Food Shelf Program, which serves the food insecure members of our community with a robust selection of healthy, nutritious food choices in our pantries - a key component of good health. Our leadership is thankful for Medica Foundation's dedication to promoting the health of our pantry shoppers and our community. Medica Foundation's support is made possible through its Rural Health initiative, which champions "community-led solutions to health concerns with the nonprofits" in the rural parts of its service area. Everyone at The BRICK, from consumers to leadership, is delighted to have Medica Foundation's ongoing support.

For more information about Medica Foundation and its great work in the Upper Midwest go to <http://www.medicafoundation.org/>.

Covenant Churches

Ashland Seventh-day Adventist Church

622 10th Ave. W — Ashland WI 54806
(715) 682-5877

Cable 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

CABLE'S 9TH ANNUAL



Empty Bowl

Choose a unique bowl of ceramic, pottery, glass, metal, or wood to take home with you.

Musical entertainment provided by Ron Gran and Simple Gifts, and harpist Jan Paulik.

MARCH
21st
2020

4:30 PM
to
7:00 PM

TICKETS \$10

Children under 10 are free.
Includes delicious soup, bread, and
beverages donated by the area's
best restaurants.

Cable Community Centre, 13660 Co Highway M

50/50 RAFFLE



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

Additional donations for the Cable Area Food Shelf will be gratefully accepted.

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Al Reedy

Washington State. He married Lorayne in 1965, and has two daughters currently living in Washington and Utah.

Upon Al's retirement, Al and Lorayne decided to move back to her home state in Wisconsin. Lorayne's family owned some property in Cornucopia, where they began building their home in 2006. Along with fellow residents such as Kermit and Judith DeMain, Al helped start up the South Shore Food Shelf, and has been a dedicated volunteer ever since! Al volunteers at the pantry every first and third Thursday of the month. He helps keep the pantry stocked and assists participants as needed. Al also picks up items from Coco's Bakery for the pantry each week, and helps track the pantry's inventory.

In addition to his involvement with The BRICK's South Shore Food Shelf, Al is the President of Immanuel Lutheran's Church Council, and participates with three different choirs, including Park & Songs ("Parkinson's") that performs for local area nursing homes, and a Christmas and Easter Cantata that performs at various congregations in Iron River. Al has also served as a Town Supervisor for the Town of Bell. He enjoys maple syruping, and looks forward to the upcoming tapping season. He also loves golfing and plays a minimum of three times a week during the summer months. If you have the opportunity to connect with Al, let him know how grateful we are to have him with our crew!



THANK YOU to all the restaurants, sponsors, donors, and attendees for making our 4th Annual Taste of the Bay a huge success!!! With your support we're able to keep serving our community with free food and emergency financial help!



THE BRICK MINISTRIES, INC.

420 ELLIS AVENUE

ASHLAND, WI 54806

Phone 715-682-7425

Fax 715-682-7427

www.thebrickministries.com

[f](#) @TheBRICKMinistries

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The BRICK

Ministries Inc.

Believers Reaching Individuals for Christ's Kingdom



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Board of Directors

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

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

Lorri A. Mattes, Treasurer, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Ashland

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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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