



The BRICK Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 26, 2020

From the Director—

In our last issue I wrote about the passing of one of our long time volunteers. With this edition I realize I'm thinking about death once again!

Some of you may know that my Mom passed away last month. I mention this not for your pity or condolences, although I do appreciate all the kind thoughts I've received. Instead I share it to help you understand my own perspective.

While Mom wasn't outgoing, and she didn't make a big splash, she did leave an indelible mark on those around her. She lived a life of duty and service, and beyond that – a life of deep faith. The way she and Dad raised the three of us kids, it was assumed that our faith would be at the center of our values too. Although there were challenges – Mom was orphaned by age 17 – and perhaps doubts – and who wouldn't; our God is a mystery – Mom's faith in our God's deep and abiding love never failed. That Love was etched in her heart, and she made sure it was etched in her children's hearts.

In a roundabout way that's how I landed at The BRICK. I didn't follow exactly the same path as Mom, but we all are called to share our own unique gifts in our own ways. If we follow that calling, our lives *will* change.

For me the call is to be an administrator, to oversee an organization, and to imagine in big terms just how much The BRICK can do. Most of my work is behind the scenes, but I also represent The BRICK to the public. There is some degree of authority connected to this work, but that's not the point. The point is the responsibility that I – and all of us – have to do my very best to make sure The BRICK runs well for all the people who come to us asking for help.

I cannot close this message without touching on the memory of George Floyd, an African American man who died in police custody in Minneapolis recently. We grieve with his family and friends and the nation while we acknowledge that the scourge of racism is still pervasive in our country, and we must do all we can to oppose such hateful acts. That hate is something Mom would never have condoned. Even though she could be described as provincial and sheltered, Mom knew the difference between Hate and Love. Mom stood for Love. So does The BRICK.



Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director



Marya Tyler

Since onboarding in March, Marya has been such a wonderful addition to our volunteer crew! Always ready to share a kind smile and always eager to help, Marya is a real light of support. Originally from upstate New York, Marya has travelled all across the country and led a very full and vibrant life.

While attending school in Marshfield, her four children were the only African-American students in their classes. Since finishing school, her oldest has become the first Marshfield graduate to attend Harvard University; the second oldest is an assistant attorney general for the State of Minnesota; the third is a registered nurse sharing the love of Jesus at the Mayo Clinic; her son is the Program Management Director for Microsoft. Three are married, and she now has three wonderful grandchildren. Their father is deceased.

She met her husband, Kip, on a volunteer trail maintenance trip in Montana where he worked for the US Forest Service. They married four months later after sharing only nine days in each other's presence, but lots of letters. He is the love of her life and she can't believe her good fortune to be married to him.

After she retired from teaching in Marshfield, Kip and Marya moved to Ketchikan, Alaska. Kip continued to work with the USFS; Marya offered drug prevention education and was a nature guide on a tour boat. Looking for the perfect place to settle, the couple went on to move to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Shelton, Washington; Seward, Alaska; and Traverse City, Michigan before finally settling here in Ashland! They are quite content and love sharing their land with wildlife of all sorts.

The most important event in Marya's life took place when she was twenty years old and called out desperately to "the Great Whomever." Having been raised atheist, she had no knowledge of the Bible or Christ and felt that her life was slipping away. She shares the following testimony: *Christ came and led me directly to the library--not knowing where I was going or why. My hand went up to a green book that said Good News on the cover. As I cracked it open, I heard the words: "I am the way" thunder in my right ear. I looked, and there were the same words on the page: "I am the way." It was a New Testament passage. There is a lot more to the story and Marya invites anyone who would like to learn more to contact her at amazinggracethefarm@gmail.com.*

Marya feels that The BRICK is a natural place to turn to do the work that Jesus calls us to do and is delighted to work with so many kind and generous people, and to assist the many beautiful people in need who are helped by our services. Marya currently provides support to our Ashland pantry, volunteering on Wednesday afternoons to help greet participants and provide food. If you have the opportunity to meet Marya, be sure to let her know just how much we appreciate her!

Cheyenne Reeves, Office Manager

BENEVOLENCE

Sam Ray

Benevolence Manager



Jacob called asking for help with his water bill. He couldn't believe he was calling The BRICK for help. He had always been the one to help others. Jacob worked hard to manage his finances so he wouldn't have to worry about not having the money for a bill and be in danger of disconnection. Even working full-time, it was very difficult to cover all the bills and have anything left over for savings, but he did manage to carve out a small amount most months to have that rainy day fund. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to cover what lay ahead.

Jacob went on to explain that his car had broken down, and he had made the difficult choice to pay to have the car fixed. Even with his savings, it just wasn't enough to cover the costs of the repairs. Something had to give; the water bill would have to wait. Jacob's reasoning was "I have to have the car to get to work, twenty miles away, in order to continue to pay my bills."

Many of The BRICK's participants can barely pay the bills they have, much less any unplanned expense. Car repairs are a major culprit in derailing our community members' finances. The Benevolence Program can help with catching up on rent and utilities through a small payment to the vendor and helping participants create realistic payment arrangements.

We're grateful to everyone who supports our work to help Jacob and so many others year round!



06/11/20: Virtual Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

06/19/20: Virtual Volunteer In-Service

06/30/20: Virtual Covenant Church Annual Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

06/30/20: Virtual Board Annual Meeting, Immediately following Covenant Church Annual Meeting

07/09/20: Board Meeting, location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

07/24/20: Volunteer In-Service

07/25/20: 11th Annual Jack O'Brien Memorial Charity Golf Tournament, Chequamegon Bay Golf Club, 11:00 a.m.

08/13/20: Board Meeting, location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

08/21/20: Volunteer In-Service

09/10/20: Board Meeting, location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

TBD: Volunteer Civil Rights Training, locations and times TBD

Outlet Buzz

Mellen Helping Hands Food Shelf : Mellen, WI

A lot of changes for us – COVID-19 wiped out a lot of our older volunteers, like most of us.

Thank God for EMMA! She is a life saver with everything she brings us - gloves, hand sanitizer, so much more food, with a little wit. The pre-boxed food from Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank helps a lot.



People have been so appreciative with all the changes. Some even say it's faster this way! Even though it's more hours on all our volunteers, it's well worth it to see smiles on people's faces.

It's that time of year and we're in the middle of planting our pantry garden. In a few months we have extra fresh veggies for our pantry shoppers. In the meantime, we could use several extra volunteers now and throughout the season. If you love to get your hands dirty, get in touch with Cheyanne (715-682-7425 or officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net) to find out more details and get on the schedule!

Thanks to Joyce, Mike, Dave, Jeannie, Rich, and Carol, and from Ashland – Emma, Bill, Mary Jo, and John. Thanks everybody for your donations! Let's keep our hearts open and smiles on our faces. We are so fortunate to be living up here.

Bill Polencheck, Mellen Helping Hands

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.

11th Annual
Jack O'Brien Memorial
Charity Golf Tournament

Join in the fun and competition on
Saturday, July 25, 2020 at the
Chequamegon Bay Golf Club in Ashland, WI

DATE: Saturday, July 25, 2020

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 Stagecoach Bar & Grill Social
Hour at 6:00 pm, Raffle prizes, Golf prizes

ENTRY FEES: \$55 per person (includes after party at The
Stagecoach)

ENTRIES: Received By July 13, 2020 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

11th Annual
Jack O'Brien
Memorial
Charity Golf
Tournament

Saturday, July 25, 2020
Chequamegon Bay Golf Club
Ashland, Wisconsin



Proceeds will go to benefit
The BRICK Ministries and
Faith In Action-Ashland County



Emma Calaway
Food Shelf Manager

I pray that these words fill you with peace, love and joy during uncertain times right now with COVID-19. Due to the virus we have transitioned our Food Shelf Program from a choice pantry model to a curb-side pickup system with pre-packaged boxes. While making this transition Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank sent us hundreds of pre-packaged boxes to be utilized at all four of our pantries. This was a blessing as we adapted to all the recommended guidelines, especially wearing masks and gloves. Also, during this time local restaurants donated food that was repackaged at Northland College's Hulings Rice Food Center by staff and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who donated time, money, and food to The BRICK – and our consumers. I especially want to thank everyone who has kept us in your prayers as we continue to share love and joy with everyone.



From the Board Room

Bill Holzhaeser



It is all about the people. It is about learning the stories. It is about concern for others, about caring and loving. That is what I learned during my time on The BRICK Board of Directors.

I have been president of The BRICK Board for the past three years. My term expires this June. The past six years or so have been a period for learning and growth. And it is all because of the people.

It is about the people in Cable sharing life's stories along with a bowl of soup at the Empty Bowl annual fund raising event. (I am sorry we couldn't do it this year.) It is about the celebration in Cornucopia and the joy of the volunteers about the upgrade at their food pantry when we held our first (and not last) Board meeting at an outlying facility. It is about knowing the needs of your neighbor and actively working to make life better. In Mellen I witnessed volunteers carrying boxes of food across Highway 13 to a person dealing with cancer. It is about all the patrons who come to us for guidance, help, and support during a time of need. It is about my fellow Board members, all of whom have a desire for growth not only for themselves but for The BRICK community as we make decisions about the future of the organization. It is about the staff, who trusts in this community, who works at The BRICK day after day with the confidence and desire to make a better world.

It is all about the people who remind me the teaching of Christ

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you . . . For the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Lk 6:36-38).

It is all about the people. It is about the consumers we serve through the Benevolence Program when they need help with an unexpected expense or an overdue utility bill. It is about the families who receive food when they otherwise would go hungry. It is all about the people - the children of God.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on The BRICK Board of Directors and as president over the past three years or so. I am grateful for all the people who have helped me grow. And a special appreciation of gratitude to Liz Seefeldt, the Executive Director, for her leadership and faith in The BRICK mission "to provide services and build relationships to change people's circumstances and lives through Christ." It is all about the people.



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, provide food to community members, 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

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Several times in the last few months I've been on the verge of tears, tears of joy for the generosity of our partners in the business community. Two local businesses have especially stepped up to support The BRICK and our work to help folks facing tough financial situations.



Early on in the COVID-19 outbreak I got a call from Eric Brie at Northwoods Paving. He explained that they wanted to do something to help out and were planning on making a gift to The BRICK. Of course I was grateful for this unsolicited gift. While we hadn't discussed an amount, I imagined it would be similar to previous donations. I was floored when I opened the mail about a week later from their parent company, Mathy Construction. There was a check for \$10,000! What a blessing.

Just as overwhelming was a call I received late in May from John Beirl, President of Northern State Bank. NSB has done some amazing work to help small businesses stay afloat by financing Paycheck Protection Program loans offered through the federal Small Business Administration. But this call wasn't about that. Instead, John told me that the Bank had received a grant from a banking association. Rather than keep that money to themselves, NSB was sharing it with the community and was planning to donate \$5,000 to The BRICK!

To all the individuals, businesses, churches, and fraternal organizations who have made recent donations – **THANK YOU!** Your outpouring of gifts of all sizes shows just how much people in our community care about each other and are ready to help out. We at The BRICK are proud to be able to be generous in turn through our Food Shelf and Benevolence Programs – all made possible because of your support!



NORTHERN
STATE BANK

Liz Seefelt, Executive Director



Photos



Big big thank you to all the volunteers that provided us with masks as we strive to keep our crew safe!

The tomato transplant give-away coordinated by Heather Gibbs was a huge success! We gave away roughly 200 tomato plants in less than twenty minutes!



From the Office
Cheyenne Reeves



As I reflect on these last few months, I am struck with deep gratitude for the abundance of support we continue to receive from our community. A total of 2,498 volunteer hours have been contributed to our organization this year. These hours were contributed from a total of 132 volunteers across all of our locations, including 33 new/onboarding volunteers since March!

Looking to the future, I feel optimistic and look forward to continuing to work with such a wonderful crew. As harvest season approaches, we will be looking for a crew of BRICK Pickers to travel out to local farms and glean crops with us.

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_____



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

 @TheBRICKMinistries

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

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

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

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

Esther Marie Pufall, Saron Lutheran Church, Ashland

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

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