



The BRICK Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 28, 2020

From the Director —

To prepare this message, I looked at my article from last December for inspiration. It was all about the season of Advent and preparation. I shared this with a staffer and quipped that it feels more like Lent this year; but of course, that dismal approach is not helpful. We must prepare for challenges, yet we cannot let them influence our emotions.

I have a Facebook friend who frequently posts memes of positivity, uplifting Bible verses, and photos of sunshine and flowers. I can't bring myself to post these messages of hope, but I get why she does, and in some ways I'm envious. My friend knows what's important; she recognizes the truth of the well-known prayer:

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.*

But we can't stop at there. Our loving God pushes us to reach higher, to reach for Joy! How can anyone be joyful in these times? We cannot do it alone; and we cannot do it merely by social media postings. (But those do help!)

If we chose to, we can find small nuggets of joy all around – a loved one's smile, a colleague's joke, the heartfelt thanks of a pantry shopper. Positivity psychologists report that happy people work at being happy. Happy people also look beyond themselves. They are servants, just as Christ taught.

Here at The BRICK we are given the gift to be servants. As we prepare for a season of giving, I hope to remember that in giving there is joy!



Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director

BENEVOLENCE

Sam Ray

Benevolence Manager



As we reflect over a tumultuous year, may we still find many things to be thankful for. From clean air to breathe and clean water to drink to the beauty of our surroundings both Lake Superior and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. What a beautiful creation to behold! Praise our Lord and Savior for His provisions!

The BRICK has been blessed with many gifts this year from our community and beyond, and I am so very thankful for all the generosity our community continues to provide for those being most challenged with financial and food insecurity. Please continue to support us financially, voluntarily, and most importantly prayerfully.

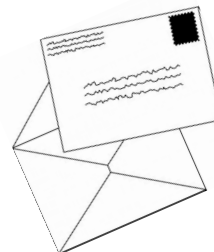
The federal moratorium on residential evictions issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will expire at the end of December. We know our Wisconsin winters are no time to be out on the street.

Please contact our representative and senators and ask them to help our community continue to weather this storm. Our landlords and residents need financial support and more time to keep our people from losing their homes.

Representative Tom Tiffany
WI 7th Congressional District
2330 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4907
Phone: (202) 225-3365
Email: <https://tiffany.house.gov/contact>



Senator Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5323
Email: Senator_johnson@johnson.senate.gov



Senator Tammy Baldwin
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5653, (800) 247-5645 (from Wisconsin only)
Email: www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact



Bill Mattes



Photo Credit: The Ashland Daily Press

You may recognize Lorri Mattes as The BRICK's Board Treasurer. What you may not know is that Lorri and her husband, Bill, are part of The BRICK's volunteer dream team on Thursday evenings! Bill took some time from his holiday weekend to chat with me a bit more about his work within the community.

Originally from rural Michigan, Bill moved to Ashland to attend Northland College, where he met Lorri. After finishing his BA in Natural Science from Michigan State, the couple moved to Alaska where Bill worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service. Bill then decided to pursue graduate studies at the University of Arizona-Tucson, where he focused on Fisheries and Wildlife Studies. Ultimately, the couple moved back to the Chequamegon Bay area when Bill accepted a position with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) where he has worked for the past 27 years. Bill and Lorri have two sons and are excitedly expecting their first grandchild this winter!

The couple attends Our Lady of the Lake, where Bill volunteers as a basketball coach and helps run the spring soccer program. They also help deliver communion to the homebound. Since The BRICK's call for additional volunteer support in light of the pandemic, Bill and Lorri have dutifully helped out in our Ashland Food Shelf on Thursday evenings. Bill also helps with any odd tasks we throw his way, such as replacing the handicap post in our parking lot, fixing odds and ends around the office, and crawling on top of our freezer to inspect strange noises.

In addition to volunteering, Bill is an avid gardener. Bill is particularly fond of seeing just how large he can grow his Blue Hubbard Squash—he currently has one that weighs in at around 45 pounds! Bill is also a big Lord of the Rings fan and a self-described geek. If you see these two around, show them a little love because we cannot express our gratitude enough!

Cheyenne Reeves, Office Manager



12/10/2020: 5:30 p.m., Virtual Board of Directors Meeting

12/11/2020: 10 a.m.—12 p.m., Virtual Volunteer Holiday Party

1/14/2021: 5:30 p.m., Virtual Board of Directors Meeting

1/22/2021: 9 a.m., Virtual Volunteer In-Service,

2/11/2021: 5:30 p.m., Virtual Board of Directors Meeting

2/26/2021: 9 a.m., Virtual Volunteer In-Service

Thank YOU to our Partners!

For the second year, Associated Bank and The BRICK are partnering to stand up for those who are under-resourced in our region! Associated Bank has awarded a \$5,000 grant for operating expenses.

It takes money to keep The BRICK going beyond the costs of the programs, and the team at Associated understand that. They also recognize how essential The BRICK is to our community.

This gift ensures that the Food Shelf and Benevolence Programs can successfully help under-resourced community members meet their own basic needs. The BRICK Ministries' leaders are proud to have the support of Associated Bank.

"Of course, we're grateful for the financial support" says Liz Seefeldt, The BRICK's Executive Director, "but it's just as valuable to have Associated Bank's good name backing our work. Having support from an institution like Associated Bank really validates all that we're doing to raise up our community."

When you go through their drive-through, remember to say "thank you" for their support! For more information about Associated Bank and its good work across the region go to: <https://www.associatedbank.com/about-us/community-commitment>.



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.



Outlet Buzz

Cable Area Food Shelf: Cable, WI

Greetings from Cable! As I'm sure we all realize, the pandemic has brought new challenges to all of us. We who are trying our best to provide nourishing food to the food insecure in a safe way are by no means the exception.

I'm happy to report while there are challenges there are also many blessings. In spite of the fact that our consumers can't choose their own food and instead receive boxes that are prepacked and delivered by masked, gloved volunteers, they are still so grateful and willing to share what they can't use with someone else in need. Another blessing is the increase in the number of volunteers willing to serve with us. Many people are looking for ways to help others during this difficult time, either by donating food, sending monetary gifts, or by volunteering to help at the food shelf. We are so thankful for all the help we continue to receive.

While there are new challenges to come with the winter weather, we have volunteers who are willing to brave the conditions to help fill the increasing need. Together we will get through this tough time and see a return to our normal "shopping days" at the Food Shelf.

Terri Hanson, Cable Area Food Shelf



Emma Calaway

Food Shelf Manager

As fall comes to an end, I'm reminded of how fast things can change as winter seems to be closely approaching. I have a change in my life as I will be moving out of the area onto another chapter, so my job at The BRICK will be done this year.



I've been blessed with meeting so many wonderful people this past year who have helped me grow into a stronger individual. Thank you for all the support and encouragement I've received as I cherish these relationships. God bless and may everyone find something to be thankful for this coming holiday season. I'm thankful for all the donors, volunteers, and prayers that go into keeping the BRICK in full operation as every pound of food and hour spent helping does go a long way for the community.

From the Board Room

Es Puall



Autumn in the northern hemisphere is a time of dynamic transitions. As we go from the warm, early days of October to the cold, short days of December significant changes occur. The brilliant reds and oranges of the fall leaves give way to barren branches. The green grass turns brown and soon is covered in a blanket of snow. The color of Lake Superior changes from the light summer blue to the deep blue of fall, then to gray and eventually to the ice-covered stillness of the water. The temperature drops and the days get shorter. The time change happens and it is dark before many leave work or have supper.

This year, in 2020, the darkness of a worldwide pandemic is upon us; there is political unrest in our country; racial injustice abounds; there is continuous news of hurricanes, floods and massive forest fires. It is a time in history when we all need the miracle of the gift of light—physical light, emotional light, spiritual light.

I often light a candle when I first get up in the morning and the light of that single candle reaches every corner of the room. I recently watched the most amazing sunrise send soft pink/orange light over the barren trees and coat my world with hope for the day. The darkness of the night was eclipsed by the beauty of the sun. The power of physical light sneaks through the cracks of room-darkening shades and the darkness cannot overcome it.

And so it is with light of the human spirit. It is in the depths of despair, poverty, hunger, homelessness, that light can shine through in the strength and resiliency of fragile human beings. The BRICK Ministries strives to be a point of light for all in need of support. The Biblical mandate for hospitality is more than providing food or rent/fuel assistance. It is more than just lending a physical hand. It means opening our hearts to others and that is the mission of The BRICK. We give thanks for the staff and volunteers of The BRICK who perform these vital services, for the individuals, churches, and organizations that support The BRICK. It is through the amazing action of all in our communities that The BRICK is able to be a point of light in the darkness.

There exists the light of human hope and compassion in all of us. And as hope seekers, we trust that a new light will always dawn. No matter how dark, how cold, how barren, the light of God in all of humanity cannot be extinguished.

To paraphrase a recent country song—

*In a place that needs change, make a difference.
Don't hide in the dark, you were born to shine.
In a world full of need, BE THE LIGHT...*



Grant News—Essentia Health

Essentia Health is lending its support to our Food Shelf Program with a grant of \$5,000! Much of what keeps this program going are the in-kind donations of food and hygiene items from individuals, corporate grocery stores, our regional food bank, and federal commodities. But this essential service can't operate without cash. Cash is crucial to ensure we have food to offer in every category. Cash is needed to pay for the gas to pick up donations and to deliver to our outlying pantries. Cash is necessary to cover staff compensation. Essentia Health's gift makes all that happen!



Our leadership team is thrilled with the support; yet the same sentiment comes from Essentia Health. "I am so glad we are able to support The BRICK Ministries! You come to the rescue for so many in our community," says Linda Carlson, Essentia Health – Ashland Clinic Operations Director. This gift will help us reach so many food insecure people across Ashland and Bayfield Counties. Be sure to say "thank you" to the great team at Essentia Health when you get a chance.

To find out more about Essentia Health's work to support so many people and organizations through the Community Grants program go to <https://www.essentiahealth.org/about/community-involvement/community-grants/>.

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

Solar Update

Have you seen our building recently?

Just last week the solar panel racking was attached to the south wall. That's the first stage of our photovoltaic installation.

We're thrilled to thank RENEW Wisconsin for a grant of \$6,399 to install our 11.375 kilowatt through the Solar for Good program! This donation, together with so many others, makes it possible for The BRICK to go green with this clean, renewable solar electric system.

The 35-panel awning-style array will save an estimated \$58,500 over 25 years and reduce energy consumption by over 30%. But for The BRICK, it's not only about renewable energy; it's also about good stewardship. The money saved on The BRICK's power bill will be better spent on helping consumers catch up on *their* bills. The next time you're passing by, take a look at the handiwork of Jolma Electric and the solar panels donated by OneEnergy Resources!



Meet Our Intern!

Asha Ritchie—Northland College



The BRICK Ministries stood out to me because I had heard of the organization before, but I never really looked into what they did. After reading further about the mission and vision of The BRICK, I thought that this internship would be a great way to give back to the Ashland community.

I've had so many amazing opportunities since I started working at The BRICK! When I first started my internship I was given an overview about the different responsibilities of each position at The BRICK. It helped me understand, more in-depth, what this nonprofit provides. Since that overview I've been able to use my knowledge to help with tasks like data entry, survey phone calls, and helping fine-tune spreadsheets and a database. Doing all of these things has allowed me to get a better idea of how I can utilize my degree in my future career.

I'm very grateful to have been given the opportunity to work with The BRICK Ministries. After working here the past few months, I can see that they have been a significant help to not only the Ashland community, but also to other communities in the surrounding cities.



Photos



The crew had a blast gleaning apples at Erickson's Orchards and Country Store this fall— ~750 lbs!

Big thank you to MMC's employees for coordinating their annual food drive for The BRICK!



We are deeply grateful to all the growers that contributed a portion of their harvest to us this year!



From the Office
Cheyenne Reeves

This is often the most reflective time of the year for me and all I can say is... what a year!

I feel a deep sense of gratitude for all of the donors, volunteers, and community partners that have helped us navigate this year of extreme adjustments and uncertainty. The impact of your compassion never ceases to amaze me.

This is reflected in the work of our volunteer teams. As of October, *173 volunteers* have contributed a total of *5,651 volunteer hours* across each of our locations in 2020. This translates to a monthly average of *563 volunteer hours*! We truly couldn't do this work without you! As we move into the winter season, we continue to have a high selection of volunteer opportunities available.

If you are interested in learning more about our volunteer program, please contact me at:
(715) 682-7425 | officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net.



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 _____



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

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

Esther Marie Pufall, Secretary, Saron Lutheran Church, Ashland

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

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

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

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benevolence.thebrick@centurytel.net

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