



The BRICK Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 32, 2021



From the Director—

You can't really know where you are going until you know where you have been.

~ Maya Angelou

As we come to the end of the year, I take to reflecting on what's happened since January. How many people used our pantries? How many homeless folks reached out for help? How much money did we raise - and spend? This gives me a framework to measure our success and to make plans for the future. We plan for future consumers, future volunteers, future cash flow.

There are exciting things in store at The BRICK, and we're working on some of those projects already! We're updating staff email addresses to make reaching us easier. New equipment for our Food Shelf Program will streamline our work. Our newest Board member, John Manno, is passionate about the services we offer. AmeriCorps VISTA member, Tenlee Lund, is diving into research on Bridges Out of Poverty. You can read about all these things in the pages to come.

The end of the year is also the season of Advent in the church calendar. This is a time to prepare spiritually, just as we prepare tangibly. My family always marked this season with the Advent wreath. One new candle is lit each week, and each represents the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Although Advent activities usually focus on looking forward to the Christ's birth, it's important to recognize where we'd be without that enveloping Love. To be without Love is to be in a void, desolate, and forgotten. How can we leave such things behind? The answer is to open our hearts to the Great Love – and then share it with everyone we encounter. That is the core of The BRICK's mission – to share that Love.

Wishing you and yours a season and year filled with hope, peace, joy, and Love -

Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director



Outlet Buzz

Cable Area Food Shelf

Greetings from the volunteers at the Cable Area Food Shelf. During this holiday season we have been so fortunate! We recently received two amazing donations. The Drummond Area School District held a food drive coordinated by Sarah Sisco, a teacher at the school. Sarah, another teacher, a parent, and several Drummond School children delivered 507 pounds of nutritious food to the Food Shelf in November. What a wonderful contribution for those who need our help, especially at this time of year. Their food drive was in honor of World Kindness Day; what a great way to teach the children about kindness and helping others!

Another donation of 149 pounds of food and over \$200 came from a community group called "Ski and Tea." These women have donated for the past several years and their help is much appreciated. These are only two of the many big-hearted donors who have given and continue to give so generously.

There is an event coming up on Saturday, December 4 to benefit The BRICK, the Christmas in Cable Second Chapter Christmas Sale held at the Cable United Church of Christ, a Covenant Church of The BRICK. This is a sale of gently used Christmas decorations and linens. The residents of Cable and the surrounding area look forward to supporting the Cable Area Food Shelf and The BRICK by donating items and shopping. We are thankful for the generosity of everyone!



Drummond Area School District students and teachers delivering donations to the Cable Area Food Shelf.

We are beginning to see more need as winter approaches and are happy to say we have lots of food for those in need. We continue to register and serve participants in their vehicles for the safety of all, as all BRICK pantries are at this time. If you find that you or someone you know is needing help with enough food, please come to see us at our next open day, December 16!

Merry Christmas!

Teri Hanson
Outlet Site Manager



Join our Prayer Chain Team

The BRICK is piloting a new prayer request program that provides an opportunity to community members to share voluntary, confidential prayer requests with our organization.

Requests are collected virtually through our website, and will be shared with a team of volunteers that have a passion for prayer work. This is a remote volunteer activity that does not require in-person contact.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Cheyanne at: officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net!



From the Board Room

MEET JOHN MANNO



Hi, I'm John, the new Board member at The BRICK.

I live in Ashland. I'm not from here, though. I moved here in 2014 from Port Angeles WA. I'm originally from Chicago (South Side). I've lived in Duluth, Houghton/Hancock, and Milwaukee.

I'm a classical musician. I play on Fridays and Saturdays at Second Street Bistro in Ashland. I volunteer at The BRICK (usually Thursday mornings), and I also volunteer at the Bargain Hut.

I started volunteering at The BRICK because Cheyanne told me they were desperate for help. This was a couple of years ago. I found I liked it. I'm not exactly sure why I volunteered for the Board. I also volunteered for the board of the Senior Center (which I'm on), and the farmer's market (apparently I'll be on that one too).



Volunteering keeps me in contact with other humans, which is a good thing. I like the fact that The BRICK materially helps people. I think that's a good thing to do. I'd like to see more of that happen.

I think that as time goes on institutions like The BRICK will become ever more necessary. For whatever reasons, more people are needing more help. I'm glad this area has The BRICK. Many places don't have anything similar. That makes things harder for those who need such services.



Perhaps I'll see you there some Thursday morning. Be sure to say hi.

Holiday Meat and Donations Galore!

'Tis the season for generosity to The BRICK's Food Shelf Program. This year we were fortunate to have over 200, 20-pound turkeys donated by the Hunger Task Force – a non-profit, public policy organization out of Milwaukee – to be passed on to our consumers during the months of November and December. We are super thankful to Butch and his team at the Red Cliff

Food Distribution Center for transporting, unloading, and temporarily storing an extra pallet of turkeys.



Turkeys and hams fill the walk-in freezer

Lately as well, The BRICK has been fortunate to have organizations and businesses hold in-kind donation drives for us. Many were quite successful, amassing quantities of non-perishables from 200 to 600 pounds! It's so great to see our community coming together and giving back. While it's true that we can spread your monetary donations further, we are always happy for your in-kind support, too. If you are looking to give any time of year, we could often use: baking supplies, snack items, personal care products, or condiments.

As other supplemental food programs slow down, The BRICK is anticipating an uptick in Food Shelf participation in the coming months. This also means an increased need for

volunteers. As we've already been lower in volunteer participation during the pandemic, please consider volunteering with us! We have many types of activities and flexible scheduling. Volunteering helps keep you engaged in your community, looks great on a resume, and is a rewarding way to spend your time.



- 12/09/21:** Virtual Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 12/16/21:** Second Harvest Northern Lakes agency tour: 12:00 p.m.
- 01/13/22:** Virtual Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 01/28/22:** Virtual Volunteer In-Service: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- 02/10/22:** Virtual Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 02/25/21:** Virtual Volunteer In-Service: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Tenlee Lund

I like to be involved in the communities where I live. Although I planned to continue working as a free-lance writer and editor when I moved to Ashland three years ago, my life took a different direction and, instead, I found myself “unintentionally retired.”

Recently a notice in our church bulletin caught my eye. The BRICK was seeking someone to explore the possibilities of launching a program to address the causes of poverty in the Ashland and Bayfield county areas that they serve. This special curriculum, titled “Bridges Out of Poverty,” is designed to involve all sectors of a community in identifying and addressing the causes of local poverty. The program encourages local innovation and collaboration to address the unique causes of poverty in diverse communities.

This particular opportunity was offered through AmeriCorps VISTA, a network of volunteers dedicated to the eradication of poverty nationwide. VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America, was founded in 1965 as part of the War on Poverty.

The project will bring community organizations and individuals together to analyze specific causes of local poverty, identify barriers that prevent people from moving out of poverty situations, and establish ways to help people surmount those barriers. As the Bridges Out of Poverty guide states, “Our work is to improve the lives of people in poverty and, by extension, to help make sustainable communities in which everyone can do well.”

Coordinating this program fits well with The BRICK’s vision, “To provide services and build relationships to change people’s circumstances and lives through Christ,” and I am privileged to be part of it.



New Food Shelf Equipment!!

Earlier this fall The BRICK was fortunate to purchase a new van! We'll also be installing a dock lift in 2022. Grant funds available through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) made it possible. For the third year in a row, additional funds for equipment have been available to The BRICK through this program. Past acquisitions include a walk-in freezer, walk-in cooler, and numerous merchandizer coolers and freezers for each of The BRICK's four pantries. In our state, TEFAP is managed by the Wisconsin – Department of Health Services (DHS) and oversight is provided regionally by Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency (NWCSA). The BRICK is grateful to both agencies for facilitating these equipment upgrades. The great team at Superior Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram helped find the perfect fit for the Food Shelf Program's needs.

The new cargo van replaces the full-size passenger van in use since 2015. While the passenger van originally met the Food Shelf Program's needs, The BRICK's capacity has grown in the last six years. In 2015, The food inventory totaled over 274,000 pounds compared to 2020's inventory of more than 591,000 pounds. The van is an essential piece of food shelf equipment, and is used to deliver food to The BRICK's outlying pantries and pick up food donations daily from grocers including Kwik Trip, Super One, and Walmart, as well as from local vendors such as Tetzner's Dairy, Coco's Bakery, and Ashland Baking Co. The cargo van is ergonomically better, too; it's roomy enough for staff and volunteers to stand at full height, rather than crouching while moving hundreds of pounds of food deliveries. Together the dock lift and the new van will greatly reduce the physical labor needed to move so much food and will be a big help to staff and volunteers.



Superior Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram's Sales Rep Russ Olson hands over the keys to Food Shelf Manager Amaris Shrider



FROM THE OFFICE

Cheyenne Reeves



As another year winds down, I find myself becoming caught up in the reflective spirit of the holiday season. I cannot express just how truly grateful I am for having the opportunity to work alongside so many wonderful individuals each

day here at The BRICK. As of October, 138 volunteers have contributed an average of about 432 hours per month to work with our organization! We simply wouldn't be able to achieve our mission without these committed individuals and their generosity. If you would like to learn more information about current volunteer opportunities, please contact me at (715) 682-7425 | officemanager@thebrickministries.org

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

~ *Cheyenne*

HOWAREWE?

measuring what matters

The Bayfield County project is funded by a grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

Earlier this fall I took a walk on my favorite beach and met a new friend. Mary Woolsey Schlaefel, Director of Outreach for HowAreWe, a non-profit initiative, asked me about Bayfield County. I shared my perspective both as a service provider and as a resident. Attentive and

inquisitive, Mary asked questions that got to the heart of crucial issues. This was all in preparation for rolling out a new in-depth well-being survey in conjunction with Bayfield County.

"The purpose of the survey is to go beyond simply looking at economic numbers and statistics. . .", said Mary. "We want to hear directly from people how they feel and what they think about matters that affect their well-being, including health, safety, and satisfaction with education and access to information, government, occupation and overall life situation.

"Every adult resident of Bayfield County is encouraged to participate. . .", said Bayfield County Administrator, Mark Abeles-Allison. "The survey will give county and local governments as well as local organizations valuable new information and insights into how Bayfield County residents are doing. This will help better inform community discussions and decisions about how to advance the well-being of our residents."

If you're a Bayfield County resident, you can complete the survey online at:

<https://www.howarewe.org/npc>. Everyone 18 or older can and should participate. Participation is completely anonymous; no personal data will be tracked.

I'm looking forward to using the results - available in early 2022 - for my work at The BRICK. ~ *Liz*



BENEVOLENCE



Eric Lindell
Benevolence Manager



The holidays are here and have allowed me to look back on the past few months. It feels like just yesterday I walked into The BRICK and started helping our consumers. I have been blessed to be able to financially assist so many either to stay in their homes, to keep the power or water on, or to connect them to other resources that can assist them. Somedays, it is just enough to be someone they can talk to and to be light during a dark time in their lives. Before I started at The BRICK, I knew Ashland had a homeless population; but I did not know how big it was until I started working directly with consumers to help them navigate a unique set of challenges. Over the past few months, I have learned what organizations we have in our community to complement the work I do and how to connect people to them. It has been challenging but fulfilling work.

I was recently approached by a consumer who was passing through and needed a place to sleep, so I connected him with food and a local hotel. Later that day he came back unexpectedly and thanked me for the work I do and for assisting him. It is days like this that I hold close and remember to help me on other days that are challenging. Through it all, I am blessed to be able to do this work and try to assist consumers who come to The BRICK in their time of need.

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.

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

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

James L. Miller, Vice President

Rhonda H. Sundberg, Secretary

Lorri Mattes, Treasurer

John Manno

Jeffery R. Muse

Staff—note new email addresses!



Liz Seefeldt, *Executive Director*
director@thebrickministries.org

Eric Lindell, *Benevolence Manager*
benevolencemanager@thebrickministries.org

Amaris Shrider, *Food Shelf Manager*
foodshelfmanager@thebrickministries.org

Cheyenne Reeves, *Office Manager*
officemanager@thebrickministries.org