



# The BRICK Ministries

## *Quarterly Newsletter*

*Volume 15 2017*

### *From the Director—*

The BRICK is about to celebrate its **10 year anniversary** and it sure is something to shout about!!

Watching our operations on a daily basis, it's hard to picture just how far we've come; but there are lots of ways to see that The BRICK has grown in effectiveness and maturity over the past decade.

- ◆ From half a dozen churches, our member congregations are now 19 strong!
- ◆ Initially serving 115 households in 2008 (earliest records), the Benevolence Program is now serving about 1,000 people from 400 households annually!
- ◆ Our Food Shelf Program served 1,117 households in 2012 (earliest data), and grew to serving 3,202 households in 2016!
- ◆ From one Food Shelf Outlet to four pantry locations!

Of course, all that growth is reflected in The BRICK's income and spending. The 2009 budget totaled \$213,700. Compare that to the 2017 budget at \$675,190 – WOW, we sure have grown!

And yet, numbers can only measure *quantity*. They don't reflect *quality*.

The quality we value is made clear in our mission “to live Christ's message to **compassionately love and respect** those in need.” Our staff and volunteers have always been dedicated to these core principles and we've always been committed to how we deliver services. As The BRICK has matured, our leaders have become more informed about what that means.

- ◆ Best practices include meeting all partner agency requirements, such as annual Civil Rights Training.
- ◆ We have meaningful job descriptions that make clear our performance expectations for every level of involvement, from our board and staff roles, to our volunteer opportunities.
- ◆ We have Employee, Volunteer and Outlet Site Manager Handbooks, that provide guidance and ensure continuity of processes and procedures throughout our agency.
- ◆ We encourage personal and professional growth by allowing for board and staff members to attend workshops and conferences, and by providing in-services for all our volunteers.
- ◆ We have criteria for program participation, to ensure that all who qualify receive services.

Most importantly, we regularly evaluate our own activities. We share the joys of our successes. And when we occasionally stumble, we use what we've learned to do better the next time. This takes guts – and a measure of God's grace. We know that we “can do all this through him...” (Philippians 4:13, NIV) In fact, we cannot do any of this without God. The Spirit reassures us of God's presence and guides us to follow God's call.

As we look to the future, there are certainly opportunities for expansion just around the corner! Join us as we grow in Christ's love.

*Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director*



# Outlet Buzz

## Cable Area Food Shelf

Greetings from the Cable Area Food Shelf volunteers! We are on our seventh year of operation as a food outlet of The BRICK and things are going very well in Cable. We sponsored our sixth annual Empty Bowl Event in April. Prior to that, in December of 2016 our covenant church, Cable Congregational United Church of Christ, sponsored our second annual Second Chapter Christmas Sale as a fundraiser for The BRICK. Both were very successful events, building community awareness of the needs in Ashland and Bayfield Counties and, through the community's generosity, raising funds to help us continue our operations serving those with the greatest need.

Our volunteers primarily come through the four Cable churches: Cable UCC, Trinity Lutheran Chapel, Living Hope Community Church and St. Ann Catholic Church. Each church has two coordinators to organize volunteers for the months they serve in the Food Shelf. Many thanks to all our dedicated volunteers!

We have given out more food per person in this past year than ever largely due to the efforts of our Food Manager, Jim McPhetridge. We are thankful for his support and assistance in obtaining food from Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank and The Emergency Food Assistance Program as well as multiple organizations that generously donate food for our distribution.

We look forward to another year of serving our community and the surrounding area.

*Teri Hanson, Cable Area Food Shelf Outlet Site Manager*



Many thanks to all the volunteers and golfers who participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Jack O'Brien Memorial Charity Golf Tournament!!!

This exciting community event supports Faith In Action-Ashland County and The BRICK. Pictured (L to R) are Faith In Action Program Coordinator Megan Perrine, Tournament Coordinator Pat Miller, and The BRICK's Executive Director Liz Seefeldt.

**Did you notice someone asking questions about food at our pantries during August? The BRICK is honored to have hosted student interns who were taking a food access survey for Northland College's Center for Rural Communities. The survey was designed to determine the different food sources that area residents use, and focused on locally raised foods. The information will be used to help make innovative connections between local eaters and local growers. Thanks to Dr. Robin Kemkes and interns Marlee and Megan for valuing our program participants' thoughts.**



Cheryl Tveit is a welcome ray of sunshine here at The BRICK's Ashland Food Shelf! She has been a part of our ministry every now and then since the beginning - almost 10 years! While talking to one of our other trusty volunteers recently, she found out that we were shorthanded and decided to come back and be part of the family again. We are so glad she did!

Retired two years now from a job with the State of Wisconsin for 37 years, Cheryl has a heart for helping the needy. You can also find her volunteering at Court Manor Nursing Home playing bingo with the residents. She is a long time quilter with the quilters at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. They donate their quilts to Lutheran World Relief which distributes them in the United States and around the world. This group of ladies gets together stitching their love into each and every blanket they share, approximately 250 a year! They have also given quilts locally to the Ashland Police and Fire Departments for people who have lost their homes or are in crisis. What a great way to share life and their talents!

## Cheryl Tveit



Cheryl's smile lights up the place, and we are thrilled that she has graced us yet again with her radiant presence! Welcome back Cherie!

Kris Westlund, Office Manager



## Jim McPhetridge

Food Shelf Manager

Hello from inside the Food Pantry –

The harvest season is once again upon us. This brings with it many opportunities and challenges. Here at The BRICK, we continue to develop and grow relations with local gardeners, farmers, and orchards, as well as grocers, to capture fresh, healthy foods to distribute to those we serve. We have had a great start with wonderful blueberries from Highland Valley Farm in Bayfield. They have been very generous in allowing us to pick blueberries from their plentiful crop. One opportunity to get involved is through the "BRICK Pickers" volunteer program. Gathering together "pickers," we schedule days to go into the fields and harvest. It's a great time to get outdoors, share in fellowship, meet new people, and support The BRICK in its efforts to help those in need. For those we serve, there is opportunity to receive a little extra from the surplus of fresh produce we receive throughout the next couple of months. Our participants are very grateful for the "Surplus Call Back Program" and many take this opportunity to can, bake, and preserve these fresh and healthy foods to help sustain their needs. Come join us in the joy of giving and helping, and see the difference it makes in someone's life.

Many thanx to all the local GROWERS for sharing their plentiful harvest!

Meredith and Kevin never had financial problems. They were very happy, especially when Juliann was born. Kevin worked full-time, and Meredith worked part-time. Everything was going well -- until it wasn't. It started when Kevin hurt his shoulder helping his father-in-law move some farm equipment after work. The doctor told him he would need surgery and didn't know how long Kevin would have to be off work.

Not long after Kevin's shoulder surgery, Juliann got really sick. Meredith had to take off work to be with her little one in the hospital for a week. All these unexpected events caused the family to get behind on the bills.

After sitting down with the couple at The BRICK, we worked together to talk with vendors and develop realistic payment plans to get back control of their finances. The Benevolence Program was able to put some money down with one of the vendors that required a payment in order to set up a payment plan. We partnered with other organizations in the area to help with other vendors monetarily.

With Kevin released to go back to work full-time, it will take a little time, but the family has a good start to getting back where they want to be financially.

This is just one example of how The BRICK's Benevolence Program helps out every day. It takes a lot of listening, because we care about the individual. Our solutions aren't one-size-fits-all, because we respect our consumers' needs. It's much more than just cutting a check; we know that money alone won't solve all problems. It's about taking our vision to heart -- to provide services and build relationships to change people's circumstances and lives through Christ.



- 09/04/17: Closed for Labor Day!
- 09/14/17: Board Meeting, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 5:15 p.m.
- 09/19/17: Civil Rights Training, Helping Hands Food Shelf, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- 09/20/17: Civil Rights Training, South Shore Food Shelf, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- 09/22/17: Civil Rights Training, The BRICK, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- 09/27/17: Civil Rights Training, Cable Congregational United Church of Christ, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- 10/12/17: Board Meeting, TBD, 5:15 p.m.
- 10/27/17: Volunteer Event
- 11/09/17: Board Meeting, TBD, 5:15 p.m.
- 11/17/17: Volunteer Event
- 11/23/17: Closed for Thanksgiving!

**Office Manager  
Kris Westlund**

As I sit in my warm home, watching my cats play, dunking freshly baked cookies that my beautiful daughter just made in milk, I reflect at how truly fortunate I am.

Nearly four years ago, I found myself homeless, jobless, penniless and hopeless. With three kids to care for, I didn't know what I would do. I had nowhere to turn. Confused, overwhelmed, and scared, I prayed a lot and God miraculously provided. He does that somehow - in ways we could never imagine. He puts people in our lives at just the right time to be a star in our dark night.

Sadly, many of our community members who call in begging for help are in the same boat, with no land in sight. But we at The BRICK Ministries are the shining light in the dense fog. They muster up the courage to make the call or walk through our doors hanging on to the slightest bit of dignity they have left after wracking their brains, trying to figure out how they are going to get out of the endless pit of debt and despair. I know they are really struggling and could use a smile, a loving touch, or a compassionate ear because my desk is in the front office. I see the tears; I sense the anger and frustration. My heart aches for them. Our volunteers feel the same way. They make a difference in program participants' lives at the very moment they meet, whether in person or on the phone. They are making an impact by treating participants with respect and deep concern. Their sacrifice of time and energy speaks volumes to the hurting people who feel so alone. I believe that is what ministry is. . . loving people despite the circumstances through Christ and His love for us - one heart to another, one life connecting to another, BRICK by BRICK.

As we make more of an impact here in Ashland and Bayfield Counties, our need for volunteers grows also. Please consider becoming a volunteer. You will be blessed beyond measure.

**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, President



I often reflect on The BRICK's mission statement, "The BRICK lives Christ's message to compassionately love and respect those in need." and ponder how am I doing? Then I ask the same question when I study our vision statement, "To provide services and build relationships to change people's circumstances and lives through Christ." Serving as the president of The BRICK and volunteering at the food shelf helps me understand what those statements mean.

In Isaiah (58:4) we read, "For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress." Christ's message is the same: We are called to love and serve one another as Christ's representatives, to be that refuge for the poor.

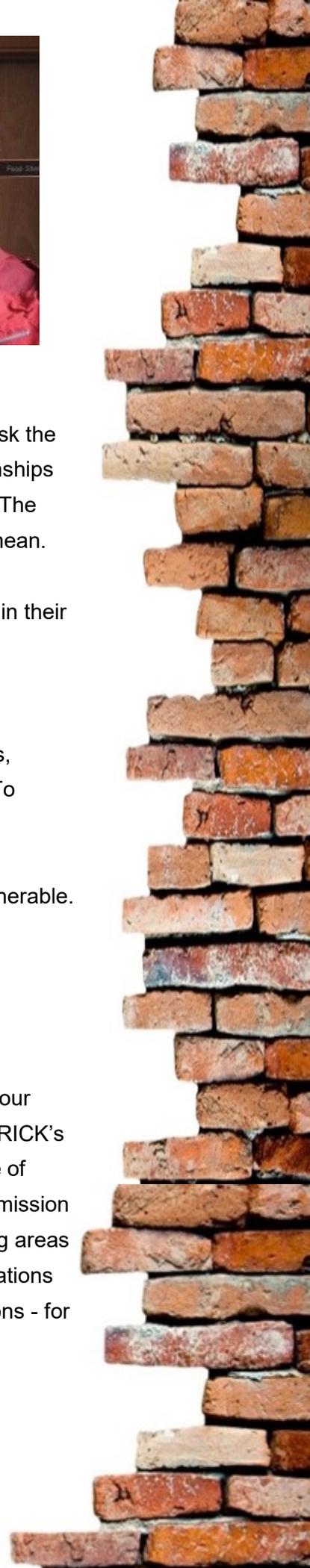
I believe that our society has a responsibility to those who are less fortunate. Many times, people are found to be in circumstances that require assistance. That is our purpose - "To compassionately love and respect those in need."

One of the seven Catholic social teachings is the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. It is described on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website as:

"A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment ([Mt 25:31-46](#)) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first."

I have a responsibility to see that the mission and vision is being realized. I am proud of our staff and all the volunteers that make this happen. I am proud of our growth since The BRICK's inception ten years ago. We have grown through some difficult times and, with the grace of God, we will continue to grow. We can do this because of the people that believe in our mission and vision. Our communities in Ashland, Mellen, Cable, and Cornucopia and surrounding areas have all graciously supported The BRICK Ministries. Area churches, community organizations and individuals continue to provide financial support, volunteer hours and in kind donations - for all of which we are extremely thankful.

I ask for continued support and your prayers.



# ATV/CASH RAFFLE

All proceeds will support The BRICK Ministries' efforts to build a healthier and stronger community.



## 2017 - Polaris Sportsman 450 ATV

\*\*\* OR \*\*\*

## \$5,000.00 CASH

**TICKET PRICE – \$100.00 each**

**ONLY 500 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!!!**

**Thanks to our ATV Sponsor**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE at The BRICK,  
Ashland Chamber of Commerce &**



**Mellen Cenex**

**Split the cost with family or friends and split the winnings!**

**Drawing held on Friday, October 6, 2017, 12 p.m. (noon)**

**at The BRICK Ministries, 420 Ellis Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806.**

**Questions? Call Jim @ 715-682-7425 or 715-292-8015**

## September is Hunger Action Month!!!

We're asking you to join in Feeding America's™ nationwide push to fight hunger. What can you do to fight hunger right here?

- Volunteer with our Food Shelf Program.
- Donate garden produce, nonperishable foods, and personal hygiene and cleaning products.
- Give a gift of money – just a few dollars goes a long way to feed a family.
- Help spread the word by sharing on our Facebook page!



**Thanks to our partners at Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua!** The Big Top picked the Indigo Girls' performance as the night for The BRICK's food drive! What a great match of artists who stand for social justice and a local organization serving low income consumers. Thank you, BIG TOP!!! Thank you, Indigo Girls!!!



### Kwik Trip is The BRICK's Newest Partner

The BRICK is grateful for the generosity of Kwik Trip's leaders. As soon as our friends at Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank learned that Kwik Trip was coming to Ashland, they worked to bring KT in as one of our rescued food sources, and Kwik Trip has stepped up to the plate and is already contributing their unsold items to our pantry. Also, at the first of three store openings in August, Kwik Trip presented a check for \$1,000 to the Benevolence Program, and became the latest Make A Difference Fund business seed donor. The MAD Fund is a matching fund used to help with overdue rent, utility bills, and other emergency needs. Can you help us make the match? Write your check to The BRICK with "MAD Fund" on the memo line, and send it to our office or deposit it directly at Northern State Bank. You can help us Make A Difference!



On a hot evening in July, The BRICK hosted Sea to Sea riders for a Wisconsin style picnic! Sea to Sea coordinates an annual cross-continent bicycle tour to raise funds for poverty relief efforts. One of our supporters, Jim Fridsma, was also a rider. The money he raised will be split by Sea to Sea and The BRICK!!! Thanks to Jim, all the riders, and the team at Sea to Sea!!!



## 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 Pickers



## Volunteer Opportunity

Share your passion for gardening and the outdoors We are looking for a team of volunteers to join us for 3-4 hours a week through October. Activities include:

-  Harvesting crops, berries, and apples from farm fields and orchards
-  Boxing harvested food for transport to The BRICK
-  Unloading and stocking of food once returned to The BRICK in Ashland

**For more information please contact Kris:  
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    \$1,000    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

**THE BRICK MINISTRIES, INC.**  
**420 ELLIS AVENUE**  
**ASHLAND, WI 54806**  
Phone 715-682-7425  
Fax 715-682-7427  
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**

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**Steven M. Wammer**, Vice President, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ashland  
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**Jeffery R. Muse**, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Ashland  
**Esther Marie Pufall**, Saron Lutheran Church, Ashland

## **Staff**

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**Sam Ray**, *Benevolence Manager*  
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**Kris Westlund**, *Office Manager*  
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