



The BRICK Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 17, 2018

From the Director—

Spring is just around the corner! Warmer temps and sunny skies inject new energy and people seem just a little cheerier!

At The BRICK, staff and volunteers work hard to keep it positive all the time. We know that for some folks the smile they get from us may make all the difference. We also see how hard it is to keep looking forward when life's challenges drag you down. Medical bills, low wages, caring for elderly parents and grandchildren – when it all piles on, it can be that much harder to recognize the good things in life. It can be extra difficult to think, let alone think outside the box and resolve those struggles.

That's why the friendly greeting, the cup of coffee, and the warmth we offer are so essential. Of course, the food we provide helps out. The financial assistance we offer gives a boost. Yet we hope the quality of our services sets The BRICK apart.

Our mission is to “live Christ’s message to compassionately love and respect those in need.” We offer a haven from judgement and blame. We don’t shame people for their circumstances.

Instead, we’re here to lighten the load just a little bit, and to offer the grace that – just like spring – is just around the corner!



Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director





Sue Hopkins

My name is Sue Hopkins and I just started working at The BRICK a few months ago. I originally came to Ashland to attend Northland College and, after graduation, decided to stay in the area. Here I got married, raised two daughters and joined the United Presbyterian & First Congregational Church. I worked for a year at Northwest WI CEP, then a short time at the Women's Resource Center before starting a career at WITC. There I loved working with adults who came to school to try to improve their lives and helping them through the process of earning a GED or HSED or a college degree. Thirty-four years later I retired to spend more time with grandchildren and pursue other interests, among them continuing to serve people who need a little extra help. I enjoy working with the dedicated staff at The BRICK to help them keep up with the many needs of our community. I am currently processing payments on behalf of our participants, making follow-up phone calls to participants, filing, and doing data entry in the Benevolence Program.



Jim McPhetridge

Food Shelf Manager

Greetings from inside the Food Pantry!

The hustle and bustle of the holidays has diminished and we are left with some time for reflection. With all the inventory counts, calculations and reports finished up for 2017, I am once again amazed at the generosity of people throughout Ashland and Bayfield Counties. Whether it be a bag of groceries picked up while shopping or a pallet of apples picked fresh from Bayfield orchards, it all adds up and is greatly appreciated and needed. Due to the generosity of many individuals, businesses, organizations, schools, congregations, food drives and fundraisers, we received over 20,000 pounds more food donations than in 2016! This allowed The BRICK Ministries to help more of our fellow neighbors with more food and personal care items in 2017. What a great testament to the compassion, love and caring of our communities towards those in need.

With much gratitude and thankfulness may you be blessed and filled with the Peace of Jesus Christ .



BENEVOLENCE

Sam Ray

Benevolence Manager

home. They had never been in this situation before and were feeling overwhelmed. The cold outside wasn't helping the pressure to find shelter as soon as possible. I told them about our landlord list and explained that we could give them a night at the motel to give them time to find a place to live.

It was exciting to see their demeanor change from discouragement to empowerment, as they made calls and asked around the community to find a place of their own. Over the next couple of days, they kept me informed of their search. Unfortunately, they were not finding any prospects, and we were concerned what the next steps might need to be.

I was in my office when I heard Ava and Noah come in. They were so excited, and naturally, the emotion was contagious. They told me how they had been out walking around town, looking for possible places to rent, when they ran into someone that was moving out of a rental. They talked with the person, who immediately introduced them to the landlord. The landlord was willing to work with them on getting into the place and even offered to help with some furniture! God is so good!

I have the joy of seeing God work in the lives of our neighbors every day. Although we can't provide long-term shelter, by working with our motel partners, we are able to offer people time to regroup and create a plan to find a place they can call home.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6



03/15/18: Board Meeting, Saron Lutheran Church, 5:30 p.m.

03/23/18: Volunteer Event

04/12/18: Board Meeting, location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

04/14/18: 7th Annual Empty Bowl, Cable Community Center, 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

04/27/18: Volunteer Event

05/10/18: Board Meeting, location TBD, 5:30 p.m.

05/18/18: Volunteer Event

06/14/18: Board Meeting, location TBD, 5:30 p.m. (tentative)

06/22/18: Volunteer Event



Outlet Buzz

South Shore Food Shelf: Cornucopia, WI

With the onslaught of winter after the holidays, it seems we are back to the routine of normalcy helping out our neighbors. The last two months of 2017 were busier than usual, and the loss of volunteers who headed south for warmer climates puts us at a strain; however, once the word was out that we needed help, many new volunteers came forward to fill the need. It was heartwarming to see the support from the community. Scheduling is easier now, too, with a larger volunteer pool to work with.

Before the Christmas season one of our long time volunteers, Sandy, donated an array of greeting cards, calendars and small gifts for our clients. It was a pleasant surprise to many coming to the South Shore Food Shelf expecting the "usual." Our volunteers continue to inspire with their giving nature. We are so thankful.

Diane and John Hall

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.

CABLE'S 7TH ANNUAL



Empty Bowl

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

Entertainment provided by the area's finest local musicians.

APRIL
14th
2018

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.

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.



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, assist shoppers in our four pantries, 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, Kris, 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

Grant Award News!

MEDICA[®] FOUNDATION

The BRICK is excited to have a new partner in the Medica Foundation, which recently made a grant award of \$5,000 to the Food Shelf Program! Since The BRICK's Food Shelf Program is unique in its field, depends on robust and diverse partnerships, works to "change people's circumstances and lives," and directly impacts the health of those who are food insecure, Medica Foundation's philanthropy is a natural fit. This grant will ensure the Food Shelf Program's continued ability to meet the needs of the low income residents throughout Ashland and Bayfield Counties. "The Medica Foundation recognizes the important role a well-balanced and healthy diet plays in overall health," said JoAnn Birkholz, director of the Medica Foundation. "Nutritious food is a basic necessity and, unfortunately, the need is on the rise so we are pleased to partner with The BRICK to help them meet the shortage."

These funds have been allocated through the Foundation's Nonprofit Core Mission Support program, which supports small nonprofit organizations located outside the metropolitan parts of the Medica Foundation's service area and which strengthens rural communities through health-related programming. The BRICK's Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and especially our program participants are grateful for Medica Foundation's support.

For more information about Medica Foundation and its good work across the region go to <http://www.medicafoundation.org/>.



Photos



Thanks to Jim Coffey of Coffey Oil and John Warren of Heartland Communications for donations and matching gift raised through their annual Magic Stocking initiative!



Ashland Lion's Club members present a donation to the Make A Difference Fund to be matched by local businesses, including Northern State Bank!

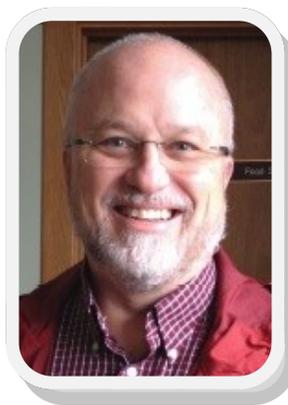


Students and parents from Good Shepherd Lutheran's FLOCK program make an annual donation from their Souper Bowl lunch! Way to go, TEAM!

From the Board Room

Bill Holzhaeuser

President



The BRICK is blessed to have the support of this community. I am often humbled by the generosity of our covenant churches, volunteers, BRICK board members, and patrons. But the need continues.

We are in the middle of Lent. Pope Francis in his message for Lent says, “Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.”

I have found Lent to be a challenging time because we are asked to sacrifice, which can be difficult. It calls for us to look at our lives in depth, and remove those obstacles that keep us from knowing our Lord. Lent is a time of sacrifice - to pray, to give and to fast.

During my morning prayer on Ash Wednesday, I read from Isaiah, “This is the fast that pleases me, says the Lord: share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor. . . . Then you will cry and the Lord will hear; you will call, and he will say, ‘I am here.’” (Is 58: 6-7,9, New American Bible).

That reading is a call to witness - to share our gifts with those in need. The BRICK offers us a concrete opportunity to meet our Lenten obligations. We ask for your prayers; we ask for your gifts; we ask you to share your bread with the hungry. The call of the hungry is clear and present. Will we say, “I am here.”?

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

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

William J. Holzhaeuser, President, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Ashland
James R. Matzinger, Treasurer, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ashland
Julie M. Stipetich, Secretary, St. Peter Catholic Church, Dauby
James F. Deters, United Presbyterian & First Congregational Church, Ashland
Jeffery R. Muse, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Ashland
Esther Marie Pufall, Saron Lutheran Church, Ashland

Staff

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