



The BRICK Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 30, 2021

From the Director —

There are so many great things happening at The BRICK right now that I don't know where to begin!

First - many thanks to the Otto Bremer Trust (ottobremer.org) for their ongoing support of our organization and the people we serve. The BRICK recently received a grant award from OBT of \$50,000! These funds are unique in that they are targeted toward our operating expenses rather than program expenses. OBT has a deep understanding of what it takes to make a nonprofit successful. One key to success is to bring in revenues that can pay *our* electric bill so we can keep helping consumers pay *their* electric bill. Thank you Otto Bremer Trust!



I'm also thrilled to announce that The BRICK will be hosting an AmeriCorps VISTA member who will start their year of volunteer service in late August! The VISTA member will be working on a special project to develop a community education plan that will address the causes of poverty in our community. We'll be recruiting for this position in the near future. It's an honor to be selected as a host and we're looking forward to working with the VISTA member and with Serve Wisconsin, the AmeriCorps VISTA presence in our state.

On a sad note, we say goodbye to our Benevolence Manager Sam Ray. Sam has worked with our program participants for nearly five years to help them achieve or maintain stable housing. She's met with hundreds of people during that time, compassionately listened to their worries, and helped them navigate financial difficulties. Sam has been a fantastic advocate for our consumers on numerous governmental and provider committees. Please be sure to wish her all God's richest blessings on all her endeavors.

The thread that ties these announcements together is The BRICK's mission and vision of Christ-centered service to everyone in our community. Peace and joy to us all!

Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director



Outlet Buzz

Celebrating 10 Years of Service

The Cable Area Food Shelf is celebrating its tenth anniversary this month! Ten years ago, the pastor of the Cable United Church of Christ, Deb Pyne, decided Cable needed a food pantry. She worked with the pastors of the four churches in Cable to come together and start one. After visiting several area food shelves, including The BRICK, we were offered a chance to become the second outlying site for The BRICK's Food Shelf Program, Mellen being the first. Later the South Shore site was added to complete coverage for all of Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

All four congregations - Cable United Church of Christ, Living Hope Community Church, St. Ann Catholic Church, and Trinity Lutheran Chapel – pulling together make our pantry a success. They each bring in parishioners to staff the food shelf on their assigned month and are ambassadors for our pantry. Together they add to the strength of our network and the quality of our services. Though we have had occasional changes in the volunteers who help by coordinating other volunteers from their churches and taking their turns coordinating the food shelf, all four churches remain involved and very supportive of the mission and vision of The BRICK to provide help to those in need. We look forward to many more years of service as part of The BRICK.



Teri Hanson, Outlet Site Manager

BENEVOLENCE

Sam Ray



Gladys called The BRICK looking for some help with her bills. She had weathered the storm of COVID-19, but her finances were tight. Gladys works two jobs and has had to be off work periodically due to people testing positive. The Benevolence Manager was able to help with the water bill and connected her with the link for Energy Assistance for her electricity (<https://energybenefit.wi.gov/>). Gladys picked up the application available at The BRICK for the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance program being administered by Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency. Gladys left The BRICK feeling reassured that she would be able to get back where she wanted to be with her finances.

The Benevolence Program not only provides financial assistance but works to ensure that participants are given information on additional resources to put them in the best financial position.

From the Board Room

ESTHER MARIE PUFALL



Reflections from an Out-going Board Member

Growing up in northern Wisconsin, natural water has always been a part of my life—Lake Superior, Chequamegon Bay, Brule River, Morgan Falls, Lake Owen... (I could go on and on). Each body of water is a living entity, filled with beauty and power, dangerous currents and calm serenity. The roar of rushing rapids gives way to smooth still waters. Each human journey can be compared to traveling the many waters of life. Sometimes the waters are peaceful, feeding our souls with peace and other times we are plummeted by treacherous waves, rocks and rip currents, often appearing without warning.

It is during these turbulent times of life that The BRICK is present—to fulfill its mission—to keep individuals and families afloat until they reach the calm. Our lives are ever-changing and there are times that we need help to keep our vessel afloat, to keep us from capsizing, to save us from drowning until we can navigate on our own.

This is what The BRICK does. This is what I have learned during my six years of serving on the Board. The BRICK is an amazing faith-based organization dedicated to keeping people afloat. The BRICK manages an annual budget of \$980,800, more than half of which is the value of donated food. These funds come solely from grants and donations. The more money that is contributed to The BRICK, the more people can be helped. By the middle of each month, the money for financial aid other than food is used up. The BRICK staff tell me that the hardest part of their jobs is to tell a patron that we can't help them this month. Referrals are made to other agencies but resources are scarce all over.

In 2020, the BRICK assisted 6,068 families and 14,051 individuals with food and 430 families and 950 individuals with financial aid to stay healthy such as housing, heating, and transportation.

The most incredible resource at The BRICK is its staff followed closely by the volunteers. Liz, Amaris, Cheyenne and Sam comprise three full time and one parttime positions. They keep the organization going with passion, dedication, and very hard work. They keep our community afloat. I have worked in various positions and organization and they truly are the hardest working people that I have encountered.

It is with heartfelt thanks to the staff, volunteers, and the very dedicated, creative Board members that I leave my Board position. I can honestly say that The BRICK is a most valuable and viable organization to contribute to monetarily or with time and talent.

I have faith that The BRICK, with the help and generosity of the surrounding communities, will continue to support those caught in the rough waters until they reach their destination on the calm side of the shore.





12th Annual Jack O'Brien Memorial Charity Golf Tournament



Saturday, July 31, 2021
Chequamegon Bay Golf Club
Ashland, Wisconsin



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

Join in the fun and competition!

It will be an action packed day that will include:

- Prizes for top teams
- Raffle drawings & other events
- Special hole prizes & contests

THE FACTS

- **DATE:** Saturday, July 31, 2021
- **TIME:** 11:00 am shotgun start (Sandwiches & Refreshments available on the course)
- **PLACE:** Chequamegon Bay Golf Club Ashland, Wisconsin
- **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
- **ENTRY FEES:** \$55 per person (includes tickets for 1 grill item & 1 beverage)
- **ENTRIES:** **Received by July 19, 2021 guarantees a golf cart**
- **TO ENTER:** **Simply mail the attached entry form with payment or drop it off at The BRICK.**
- **QUESTIONS:**
 - ⇒ For tournament info call (715)682-8004 or email chequamegonbaygolf@gmail.com
 - ⇒ For payment info call (715)682-7425 ext. or email director.thebrick@centurtytel.net



- 06/10/21:** Virtual Annual Meeting of Covenant Churches, 6:00 p.m.
- 06/10/21:** Virtual Annual Meeting of Board of Directors, 7:00 p.m.
- 06/25/21:** Virtual Volunteer In-Service: 2020 Annual Report - How did we do? 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- 07/08/21:** Virtual Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 07/23/21:** Virtual Volunteer In-Service: Conversations with Consumers, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- 07/31/21:** 12th Annual Jack O'Brien Memorial Charity Golf Tournament, 11:00 a.m.
- 08/12/21:** Virtual Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 08/27/21:** Volunteer Picnic (pandemic dependent), tentatively 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



From the Office
Cheyenne Reeves



Gardening season is here! If you love to get your hands down in the dirt, I have the perfect volunteer opportunity for you! We'll be looking for a small crew to help out in the community garden plot managed by Bill Polencheck, the Outlet Site Manager for Mellen's Helping Hands Food Shelf. Carpooling opportunities are possible and fun times are guaranteed. Contact me for more details.

Since January, our volunteer crew has put in a total of about 2,298 hours across all of our locations. This breaks down to an average of about 459 hours per month. How amazing is that? As we move into the summer, we'll be looking for additional volunteers to help out around the agency. If you'd like to become involved, please contact me at: (715) 682-7425 | officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net.

Here's to a great summer!

Cheyenne



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.



Amaris Shrider

Food Shelf Manager



Greetings!

Things have been moving along smoothly with the staff transition. I am grateful to fit in nicely with a dedicated, hard-working group of volunteers and staff.

We are looking forward to opening our doors again to be able to offer a choice-model food pantry for consumers.

So far, TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) Guidelines allow for reopening at the beginning of October and we will continue curbside service through that time.

As our thoughts turn to summer, we are looking to partner with area farmers and gardeners to coordinate more fresh produce for our Food Shelf consumers. Although we are grateful to be able to distribute fresh produce year-round thanks to our partnerships with Feeding America and Second Harvest, some surveys suggest that fresh produce is the second-most requested items by consumers and 60% receive half or more of their monthly produce from food shelves. Please keep us in your plans when planting this season, or consider donating your harvest over-abundance. We are also able to organize volunteers to glean the leftovers.

Also, as our consumer participation numbers are down, we HAVE FOOD! Our income guidelines went up considerably with the pandemic, so if you or someone you know may benefit from supplemental food, we encourage you to check the income guidelines listed on our website, find us on Facebook, or just give us a call!

Gardeners Wanted!

Help Out in Our Mellen Community Garden this Summer!



The BRICK is looking for a crew of volunteers that love to get their hands down in the dirt to help out with the Mellen community garden plot this summer! Gardening sessions will be scheduled as needed through the season. Tasks include general garden maintenance, such as planting, weeding, and harvesting. Produce

harvested from the garden will be distributed through our food pantries! Carpooling opportunities may be an option. To learn more or to sign up for this fun seasonal project, please contact Cheyanne at (715) 682-7425 | 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

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

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Staff

Liz Seefeldt, *Executive Director*
director.thebrick@centurytel.net

Sam Ray, *Benevolence Manager*
benevolence.thebrick@centurytel.net

Amaris Shrider, *Food Shelf Manager*
foodshelfmanager.thebrick@centurytel.net

Cheyenne Reeves, *Office Manager*
officemanager.thebrick@centurytel.net