



# The BRICK Ministries

## *Quarterly Newsletter*

*Volume 35, September 2022*

### *From the Director—*

We have big news for this issue! After two and a half years of providing curbside services, The BRICK is opening its doors to the public! The BRICK will be providing in-person services starting September 1 at all four locations. While the pandemic isn't over, a high percentage of the population has been vaccinated and/or had a COVID-19 infection. These factors, together with a few changes to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), have made it clear that it is time to welcome the community back inside The BRICK's facilities.

The changes to TEFAP will impact how staff and volunteers interact with the public and were key to making the shift. These include a decrease in income guidelines and a return to individual application forms for each household. While this will involve some adjustments, I'm confident in our volunteers and staff. We're all focused on serving with compassion, love, and respect; that's what matters and we know how to do that!

TEFAP income eligibility guidelines are dropping to 200% of the federal poverty level, but not as low as before the pandemic. **Many folks will still be eligible!** Also, TEFAP will now be asking for more household information and additional documentation; however, participants will have three months to show identification and proof of residence, and no one will be denied services just because they are missing paperwork.

As we welcome the public back into our facilities, we ask for your patience. Half of our staffers as well as many of our volunteers joined us during the pandemic and don't have the experience of working with program participants in person. They've only known curbside services. So, please be kind, if we make a mistake. We're all doing our best, and are eager to greet folks with open hearts and an open door!



*Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director*



# Outlet Buzz

## Cable Area Food Shelf

Greetings from Cable! We at the Cable Area Food Shelf have been enjoying lots of fresh produce from area gardens. We received 60 pounds of beautiful produce from Cable's Community Farm Growing Together Garden as well as produce from at least three community members! It was fun to give and to see so much appreciation from the recipients of such nutritious, fresh food!

We're so happy to be able to welcome participants back into the Pantry to select their own food in September! Being able to select the foods their family likes best will be a big help in meeting their needs.



Cathy & Kerri assemble personal care bags

As the Site Manager, I've been fortunate to have a new partner join me. Cathy Szymanski is learning by working with me, and luckily she came at the right time to learn our new computer system with me

too! Though it can be tricky at times, we're happy to realize it will help so much in generating reports and will make our jobs easier in the long run. She is a great person to work with and we are fortunate to have her as a volunteer.

Happy Harvest Season!

**Teri Hanson**  
**Outlet Site Manager**



Mary D'Andre stocks shelves

# From the Board Room

**JOHN MANNO**  
**President**



I hate the heat. I loathe and despise it. So, I've been loving this relatively cool summer. Call me insane, but I'd rather shiver than sweat.

My friends all tell me that I need to chill. Here in Ashland, looking at the big picture, you shiver a lot more than you sweat. Which is true. It's always good to keep that big picture in mind.

Speaking of the big picture, that's exactly what we on the board of The BRICK are trying to do during our ongoing process to create a strategic plan. And we appreciate your help. We're poring over all those questionnaires you filled out. Thank you for not sweating them. And thank you for letting us know what you really think!

I really think it's great we're reopening our facilities and programs to the public. It's no sweat for our staff, because they're great at what they do.



Focusing on the big picture means that you don't sweat the small stuff, because when you keep your perspective on the big picture, you can see more clearly, which is always a good thing. That's just what we're trying to do here. There's nothing I hate more than sweating.

*John Manno*

There's a lot going on at The BRICK lately – between produce donations, food supply changes, and opening up to the public – we've been busy. We are grateful to our generous community for sharing the harvest – we're seeing lots of beautiful summer squash and zucchini, cherry tomatoes, blueberries (Thanks Brenda at Rocky Acres!), cucumbers, and more to



Greg Bebeau presents donation of Bayfield County Pine Creek 4-H Club member Brielle Mesik's market sale ground beef from Enbridge

come. That includes donations from the area county fairs' beef market sales.

Our food supply is in flux and we're doing our best to stay on top of available resources while minding our budget. Happily, there is plenty of food in the system, and we've been able to source a continued variety.

Also keeping us on our toes is the development of opening our doors again to the public. We greatly value the opportunity for consumers to choose the food they receive. A challenge of curb-side service has been hoping we know what our food shelf participants want to eat – and we're not always right. Our dedicated volunteers could also use a break in the heavy lifting, so we're looking forward to a win-win.

- 09/08/22:** Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., The BRICK
- 09/14/22:** Volunteer In-Service: 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Annual Civil Rights Training, Cornucopia
- 09/15/22:** Volunteer In-Service: 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Annual Civil Rights Training, Mellen
- 09/21/22:** Volunteer In-Service: 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Annual Civil Rights Training, Cable
- 09/23/22:** Volunteer In-Service: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., Annual Civil Rights Training, Ashland
- 09/28/22:** Virtual Volunteer In-Service: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Annual Civil Rights Training
- 10/13/22:** Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., The BRICK
- 10/28/22:** Volunteer In-Service: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- 11/10/22:** Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., The BRICK
- 11/19/22:** Volunteer In-Service: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



# Thank you to Grantmakers!

The BRICK is fortunate to have several grant supporters that have repeatedly awarded funding to our organization. These awards range in size and type of grantmaker; yet the key to these awards is the community need and the quality of the programming The BRICK provides to address those needs.

First off, let's acknowledge the Otto Bremer Trust (OBT). OBT's award of \$50,000 is unique because it provides for general operating expenses, whereas most grant makers only support programs and projects. This grant helps The BRICK with its regular obligations, so its Food Shelf and Benevolence Programs can successfully help under-resourced community members meet their own basic needs. Created in 1944 by Otto Bremer, the Otto Bremer Trust is today one of the nation's largest philanthropic organizations and is committed to supporting a better quality of life for residents of Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Since its founding, OBT has invested more than \$841 million in people, places, and opportunities in the Upper Midwest. Visit [ottobremer.org](http://ottobremer.org).



The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) is another consistent grant supporter. EFSP distributes funding through Local Boards. This year, the Local Board for Bayfield County has awarded The BRICK \$1,000 for utility assistance and \$2,500 for our Food Shelf Program. The Local Board for Ashland County has issued grants of \$2,500 for our Food Shelf Program, and \$5,001 for rent/mortgage assistance. EFSP was created by Congress in 1983 to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people throughout the United States and its territories by allocating federal funds for the provision of food and shelter. It's National Board is composed of representatives of the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Salvation Army; and United Way Worldwide; and

chaired by a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). During its 39 years of operation, the program disbursed over \$5.953 billion to over 14,000 local providers in more than 2,500 counties and cities. Learn more at [efsp.unitedway.org](http://efsp.unitedway.org).



Finally, we're grateful to our friends at the Chequamegon Food Co-op. The BRICK was selected to be the recipient of the Round for Partners program in July. Co-op shoppers are given the opportunity to round up their transaction at check-out and the extra change is donated to the charity of the month. Thanks to all those customers, the Co-op raised over \$1,300 for our Food Shelf Program! Since the Round For Partners grant program started in 2020, the Chequamegon Food Co-op has given over \$26,000 to local nonprofit organizations. You can check out previous grantees, make a plan to chip up for the rest of the year, and learn more about Round For Partners at [chequamegonfoodcoop.com/rfp/](http://chequamegonfoodcoop.com/rfp/).



There are so many more who've generously shared what they can so we can offer essential programs to our community. Thank you for making our work possible!

# BENEVOLENCE

**Eric Lindell**

**Benevolence Manager**

It has been a lifetime to an honor of work at The BRICK Ministries. I know that, despite my short tenure, many lives have been touched. Some days it has felt that I have swung at windmills to no avail, but other days things go smoothly and other days miracles have happened. I have done my best to partner with other agencies and connect our consumers with them.

The time I have spent here learning from the staff, other agencies, and from our consumers - the obstacles and gaps in programming that they struggle with - has been eye opening. I hope that one day private agencies will not be needed. Until then, I know that many throughout the region are grateful for the programming The BRICK offers. When a consumer told me that they could trust me and that I was the one person they felt treated them as a human being with self-worth, I was deeply touched and humbled. That tells me I have made a small but importance difference in our community.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for all that you have taught me and your friendship. I am grateful for your assistance and patience as I worked through many a busy day or needed help with a small project. To Cheyanne, Amaris, and Liz, thank for teaching me so much. I have learned from each of you and I am grateful for your friendship this past year.

When I leave The BRICK at the end of September, I will carry with me a lifetime of memories and gratitude. Thanks for this amazing opportunity. I pray for the future of The BRICK and that it will always be beacon of hope and light for our community.



## 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.



# WHAT WE'RE HUNGRY FOR

## HOW FOOD PANTRIES FED RURAL WISCONSIN DURING THE PANDEMIC



RURAL FOOD PANTRIES,  
THE EMERGENCY THEY MET IN 2020,  
AND THE HUNGER CRISIS THEY'VE  
BEEN FACING FOR DECADES



DIRECTED BY JIM WINSHIP  
A BEECHWOOD TRUE PRODUCTION

## WHAT WE'RE HUNGRY FOR

Join us for the screening of a new film. The BRICK is one of five pantry programs in Wisconsin featured in this innovative documentary, which delves into how pantries continued to serve the public in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Q & A with the filmmaker and The BRICK's staff to follow.

- **DATE:** Thursday, September 15, 2022
- **TIME:** 7:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m. (run time 45 min.)
- **PLACE:** Northland College - Alvord Theater
- **FREE WILL DONATION:** Thank you for helping defray the cost of bringing this film to our community!
- **REFRESHMENTS:** Provided by Chartwells at Northland College
- **QUESTIONS:** call (715)682-7425 ext. or email [director@thebrickministries.org](mailto:director@thebrickministries.org)

## FROM THE OFFICE

*Cheyenne Reeves*

After two and a half long years, it feels so nice to finally welcome community members back in our agency doors! It was also heartwarming to finally invite our hardworking volunteer crew to join us for a picnic after two long years of postponing gatherings. It's these personal, connection-focused components of our work that touch me the most.

I'm looking forward to taking this energy into the rest of the harvest season as we collaborate with local gardens and farms to glean fresh produce. These experiences are a fun and interactive way to build community while providing the food shelf with the highest quality food we can. If you'd like to become involved, please contact me at: [officemanager@thebrickministries.org](mailto:officemanager@thebrickministries.org) | (715) 682-7425.

~ *Cheyenne*





**Meet Anakwe LaGrew!** We're excited to have her join our team.

Anakwe comes to The BRICK through Northwest Wisconsin Concentrated Employment Program. She learned about the NWCEP's Work Experience Program through their Career Planner Tom Kovach, and was interested in a placement at The BRICK because our work is in line with her long-term goals. Kovach has been instrumental in getting this partnership off the ground and tailored the position to build on her interests and skill set.

Anakwe is attending Northwood Tech College in their Human Service program and is already a year into her associate's degree. After that, she's looking toward a bachelor's degree in social work. Down the road there's possibly a master's degree in social work, counseling, or a related field in her future.



Anakwe is a lifelong area resident. She's a Bad River Tribal member and attended Ashland High School. She really likes animals. Her cat - Mouser - used to be a good one, but now she's older and kind of lazy (Mouser, not Anakwe!). Sparky Ember is the only lizard in the household currently, but Anakwe hopes that down the road more will join the family.

Anakwe will be with us for the fall. The next time you're at The BRICK, be sure to say hi!



**Are you looking for a project that will make a positive impact on our community?** Do you

love to develop plans from start to finish and

connect with community partners to make those plans a reality? Join The BRICK as an

AmeriCorps VISTA member to work on a one-year special project. This position is open to adults of *all ages*! The project goal is to develop a plan to launch a Bridges initiative in the region to address the causes of poverty. The Bridges Out of Poverty model, developed by aha! Process, is a community curriculum designed to transform communities of poverty into communities "that provide a better life for all residents." If you're interested, please contact

Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director: 715-682-7425 ext. 2 or

[director@thebrickministries.org](mailto:director@thebrickministries.org). Get in touch today!

AmeriCorps VISTA provides a \$575.40 bi-weekly living allowance. Submit your application at <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?fromSearch=true&id=105170>



**AmeriCorps**

# 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  
f @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**

**John Manno**, President  
**James L. Miller**, Vice President  
**Rhonda H. Sundberg**, Secretary  
**Lorri Mattes**, Treasurer  
**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