



# The BRICK Ministries

## Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 37, March 2023



### *From the Director—*

One of my favorite devotionals – Living Compass – has an especially relevant theme for Lent. This year's series is entitled Practicing Compassion with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind. The Ash Wednesday meditation "Wrestling with Compassion" set the stage for the rest of the season. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows writes that "... many of us may be teetering on the edge of compassion fatigue. ... But Lent is a chance to wrestle with compassion once more." Her thoughts bring me back to The BRICK. We're all about compassion – it's in our mission statement! The BRICK exists "to live Christ's message to *compassionately* love and respect those in need." This isn't easy work. Pope Francis suggests that we "fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others." Compassion is more than seeing others through a lens of kindness and empathy. It also means taking our ego out of the picture. That doesn't mean ignoring our own very real needs. Too often we deny our own brokenness and tell ourselves to tough it out. Compassion for others and ourselves doesn't come naturally. Baskerville-Burrows recognizes that "it takes practice to be gentle and kind to oneself and others we meet each day." We can only get so far on our own. She wraps up with a reflection that I pass on to you: "May you be blessed by this Lenten journey with our compassionate and loving God."

*Liz Seefeldt, Executive Director*



### **Moores On Main and Heartland Communications Sponsor Magic Stocking**

This holiday season, Moores on Main accepted the torch from Lakeshore Holiday West and the Coffey family and is the new sponsor of the Magic Stocking campaign, together with Heartland Communications Group. During the season oversized holiday stockings are strategically placed at local businesses. Shoppers are invited to drop their change, checks, or cash in the Magic Stockings. Between community donations and a \$1,000 match from Moores On Main, they collected \$2,185 for the Food Shelf Program this season. This is a fantastic start to the New Year! This partnership helps ensure that food-insecure community members can rely on The BRICK year-round to meet their grocery needs. Thank you to everyone who donated!



# Outlet Buzz

One goal of The BRICK's new strategic plan is to reach more isolated consumers. There are many community members who qualify for our services, but don't tap into what The BRICK has to offer. That may be due to a lack of knowledge, too much pride, or mobility and transportation issues. In the coming months, our team will be identifying where the greatest need is. We'll also explore how we can deepen our partnerships with area churches and agencies that already have connections to the folks we're trying to reach. We're excited about the possibilities that might spring from this initiative.



We've actually been working on this for many years. The BRICK's early leaders recognized that many who live in the outlying parts of Ashland and Bayfield Counties are not able to travel the distance to our home office in Ashland. It's a hardship, and the trip isn't worth the gas. As a result, in our first four years, The BRICK opened three more pantries, so folks didn't have to make the long drive.



The **Helping Hands Food Shelf in Mellen** celebrated 12 years of service in February. Their volunteer team and pantry shoppers celebrated the milestone with treats and fanfare. A few key people have been involved since they opened their doors in 2011. Most notable is Outlet Site Manager Bill Polencheck. He not only manages operations, but also promotes the pantry throughout the community. He goes the extra mile to make connections with the local churches and the Mellen School District. Happy Anniversary!

The BRICK's other two outlying pantries will mark their anniversaries later in the year. The **Cable Area Food Shelf** will celebrate 12 years in May and the **South Shore Food Shelf in Cornucopia** will ring in 13 years of operation in July.

**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY**

Congratulations to all!!

~ *Eli*

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## Amaris Shrider Food Shelf Manager

**Important FoodShare Update:** During the pandemic, nationwide all households using SNAP benefits (known as FoodShare in Wisconsin) had been receiving the maximum benefit plus an additional Covid relief amount. The State of Wisconsin announced a return to pre-pandemic FoodShare benefits (a/k/a food stamps, EBT, etc.) beginning March 1st, 2023. Learn more about changes to Foodshare Here: <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/news.htm> If you or someone you know receives FoodShare, please pass on this important update.

With this change, The BRICK expects a substantial uptick in Food Shelf participation across all four of our pantries. A big THANK YOU to our community during the pandemic for continued support. This is the time The BRICK could really use your help. We plan to distribute more food to more families and can use a hand. You can help our pantry participants with financial gifts, food donations, and volunteer time. Please contact us for any information on how to sign up for Food Shelf participation (and for FoodShare info too), or ways you can help.



Also, due to fortunate resourcefulness, The BRICK is flush with hams, turkeys, and turkey breasts in March for Easter holiday distribution. This isn't a regular practice outside of Thanksgiving and Christmas, and we're excited to be able to distributing these at all four outlets throughout March to all consumers. Happy Spring!



- 03/09/23:** Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., The BRICK
- 03/24/23:** Volunteer Game Day: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., United Presbyterian & First Congregational Church—Fellowship Hall
- 03/25/23:** Empty Bowl, 4:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m., Cable Community Centre
- 04/13/23:** Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., The BRICK
- 04/21/23:** Volunteer In-Service: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., Leaning Exchange at New Day Advocacy Center
- 05/11/23:** Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., The BRICK
- 05/26/23:** Volunteer In-Service: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., The BRICK

# BENEVOLENCE

**Alice Evenson**

**Benevolence Manager**

## It's Okay to Ask for Help



It has happened several times since I started this position last October. Consumers come to my office seeking financial assistance, and feel guilty or embarrassed about asking for help.

This wasn't supposed to happen to them. They were making ends meet and doing just fine. Then out of nowhere, an unexpected expense or circumstance left them unable to pay their bills, and now they've gotten behind. This often brings about embarrassment and sometimes guilt for the individual: "I was taught never to ask for a hand-out."

It's time to break free from the embarrassment or guilt of asking for help. Life is hard; and, as we know, life is not fair. There are times in our lives when we need to ask for another's help. Being able to ask for help when you need it is a strength.

Our services at The BRICK are confidential. We try to make all our consumers feel welcome. The staff and volunteers are here because we want to help. The BRICK is a safe place, no one is ever judged here. It is okay to ask for help!

## 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 9TH ANNUAL



# Empty Bowl

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

Musical entertainment provided by  
Ron Gran and Fridays in the Gazebo.

**MARCH**  
**25<sup>th</sup>**  
**2023**

**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.

# 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](http://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.*

## **Board of Directors**

**John Manno**, President

**James L. Miller**, Vice President

**Dale Chesley**, Secretary

**Lorri Mattes**, Treasurer

**Jeffery R. Muse**

## **Staff—note new email addresses!**

**Liz Seefeldt**, *Executive Director*  
[director@thebrickministries.org](mailto:director@thebrickministries.org)

**Alice Evenson**, *Benevolence Manager*  
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**Amaris Shrider**, *Food Shelf Manager*  
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