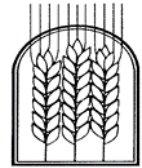


~ Bread of Life Ministries feeds the hungry, shelters the homeless, and provides services that help people change their lives and take personal responsibility. God calls us to minister to one another and assist those in need. ~



BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

Fall 2015

Happenings at Bread of Life

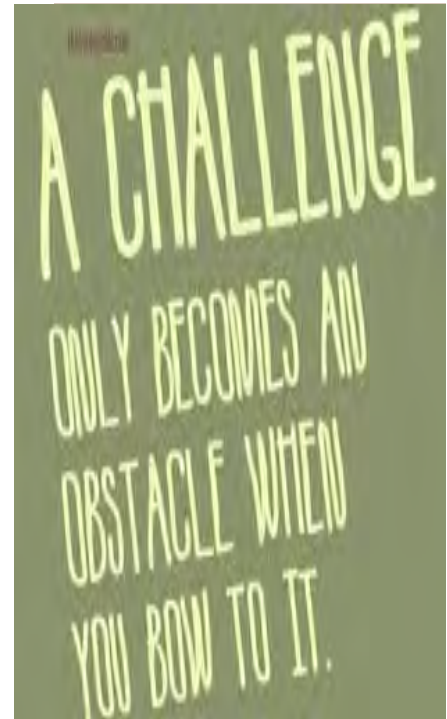
We are busy preparing for Winter in Maine. Oh, wait a minute the weather has changed again. Seriously, nothing says Maine like the crisp wind and fall foliage. Before we know it we will be shoveling snow but never stopping our dedication to feeding, sheltering and housing those who are out in it.

Client Spotlight ~ John ~

I'd like to take a minute to share my family's recent stay with some very special people. My children at the time were 15, almost 16 and 14. Their lives were at best described as a faulty rollercoaster that had gone off the track too many times. I had all I could handle, physically tired, emotionally exhausted, and had all but given up. Within a week I was having difficulties. A man came and met with my kids and me. He asked us to explain a little about our situation. In a more private tone, he spoke to my kids and waited patiently for their answer. This man's understanding reassured two teenagers that they count in the circumstances they were surrounded by and were not forgotten. That's priceless!!!

Though I found myself apparently pushed to the limits, I was able to find avenues to deal with my issues through talking with staff and other families. Our stay at the shelter was shorter than most but that's what it's about. A temporary place that provides not only shelter, food, warm clothing but friendships that will last forever. John, Bread of Life's Executive Director and his staff go out of their way to help those who need a little along the way but what people leave the shelter with is much more than housing. It is a promise for a better tomorrow and hope for achieving the goals you all set forth. The support you receive continues when you've moved on so continue the circle and give back to those who have given to you."

~ Written by John currently a BOLM client in housing ~



In This Issue

- Updates
- HOPE RIDES—GoFundMe Campaign
- Client Spotlights
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Needs List

You Never Know Unless You Take The Time To Ask



~ Another Family Housed ~

When I began working as Bread of Life's Housing Coordinator at the end of September, I heard a lot of talk about a family of five that was living in a tent. The weather was getting cold and the three children still had been unable to attend school. This was a family that had spent quite some time trying to find housing and were unable to find anything they could afford. As the weather got colder, it became more and more important to the family to find housing. This family demonstrated a tremendous amount of patience when the process for rental assistance hit a few bumps in the road. Their patience was rewarded when they received a call from Bread of Life that a three-bedroom apartment was being saved for them. They immediately came into Bread of Life's office to sign their lease. The young children were finally able to start their school year and would no longer be out in the cold.

It was very rewarding to see the family open the doors to their new apartment and see the excitement and relief on their faces. The husband and wife were so happy and appreciative, they could not contain their excitement and each gave me a hug on my way out the door. This is why we at Bread of Life do the work that we do. What may seem like a normal days work for us was a life changing experience for this family. Today, they are living happily in their new apartment and the children are doing very well in school.

-RJ Pinkham, Housing Coordinator

The paintings above come from one of our clients in our Veterans Emergency Shelter. This individual sought solace in art. We would never have known that this was a coping mechanism for him unless we asked and he felt comfortable enough to tell us. Well we asked, and he told us. The results of this man's talent took us back and when he wanted to keep them at the shelter for the other Veteran's who come after him, we were humbled.

You never know what experiences lead to homelessness. We have a picture of what an individual's story might be but you don't REALLY know unless you ask.

Take the time to ask, we did.



Working Together

It is not uncommon that our staff and clients work together to learn or refine a skill or simply take the time to be a community. We learn a lot from listening and spending time with our clients.

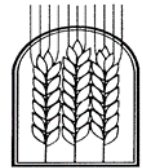
DID YOU KNOW??



If you shop Amazon.com, you can support Bread of Life Ministries through the AmazonSmile Program? Its as simple as selecting Bread of Life Ministries as the charitable organization you'd like to support. Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to BOLM when you shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com). Please think of BOLM when you are doing your holiday shopping this year!

Needs List

- Twin sheet sets
- Pillows and pillow cases
- Bus tickets for the Kennebec Explorer
- Volunteers-Share a Passion
- Grounds Maintenance Equipment: Shovels, Rakes, etc.
- Inside/Outside Toys for the kids
- Pots and Pans-cast iron works best
- Monetary donations for Taxi's.
- Gas Cards
- Food Gift Cards
- Blankets and comforters
- Non-Perishable foods, dry goods
- Bath Towels



Go Fund Me Campaign

HOPE RIDES

Bread of Life Ministries (BOLM) was started over 30 years ago by a handful of concerned and loving community members, people just like you and me. They saw issues plaguing our community, they were struck by them and couldn't turn away from the outstretched hands of the hungry, homeless, broken and hurting. So, with BOLM founder Carolyn Neighoff in the lead seven families gathered together to purchase 157 Water St. in Augusta, the location where our soup kitchen still stands today. Out of the hearts of these community members from varying walks of life BOLM was birthed. BOLM was born out of an important need to care for and love our neighbors.

In 2014 we served over 500 people at our family shelter last year, which includes singles, couples and families with their children. We were also able to serve over 175 veterans at our veteran homeless shelter. BOLM provides comprehensive case management services to the homeless in our area and in our housing.

Often times a barrier for our clients to progress with their goals is transportation. We are looking to break down this barrier by working with Charlie Shuman of Charlie's Motor Mall to purchase a Passenger van to help our clients get to where they need to go to reach their goals.
<https://www.gofundme.com/zfhjrw>

Celebrate Success and NEVER Give Up

Bread of Life Ministries would like to congratulate a former client of ours on her SUCCESS with publishing her new book. She came to let us know it was coming out and we are so excited for her and where her journey has taken her. A full-time student, a volunteer and advocate for those similar and similar to herself who has a home and supports necessary to be successful. Way to go Joan, we wish you nothing but the stars and the moon! You can purchase her book on Amazon.com and note the book description below.

~ Madison Domange was your average teenager. She had a loving family and a good group of friends at school. Other than skipping a few classes she never got in trouble and maintained decent grades. But that was all about to change. When tragedy strikes, Madison and her father deal with it in the only way they know how.....by shutting down. As their relationship begins to change, so do all of Madison's other relationships. She slowly begins to shut down from everyone around her in an effort to protect herself from further pain. She quickly realizes she can't deal with grief on her own but when she tries to open up she is brutally disappointed. Will she be able to break through and find help? Or will all the emotions she has been bottling up inside lead her to places she can never turn back from? ~

Who Would Listen

By Joan Kelly

Volunteer Spotlight



Linda Baker came to the Bread of Life soup kitchen as a volunteer in the summer of 2000. Thankfully Linda arrived in 2000 and never left and from that we have all been touched by her hard work, dedication and love for our clients. With so many places to volunteer how did Linda find us? Well, there was a time when Linda was a client and ate at the kitchen on a regular basis. Linda has worked at Camp Keyes and at a drycleaners in Farmingdale and is now an employee at Burger King, but she never forgot her time receiving a hot meal at the soup kitchen and she has given back ever since. No matter how busy she is or how many hours she is

working, it is not uncommon to see Linda five days a week helping in the kitchen and then going off to work at her job. In asking Linda why she volunteers, she shared the importance of giving back to her community and that she really enjoys the people we serve. But the first thing she said, was reflecting when she moves on from this world she wants to know in her heart that she did her part to make a difference. Linda shared that many people would not know where to turn if it wasn't for the BOLM soup kitchen and the ability to get folks connected with help and services. Patsy Tessier, who manages our soup kitchen, shared how Linda really knows our community and clientele well and she knows the heart of what is going on for the clients we serve. Linda's service goes beyond time in the kitchen. It is a thing of the heart and that's what makes her special and a gem at BOLM.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and what you can do to help.

159 Water Street
Augusta, ME 04330

(207) 626-3434

Visit us on the web at
www.mainebreadoflife.org



Soup Kitchen



As of October of this year, our soup kitchen has served a midday meal to 28,176 people in the Augusta area.

We are so grateful for our volunteers who help us everyday to serve wonderful meals to those in need.

The Soup Kitchen is open:

Monday-Saturday 11:00-12:30 PM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED —

We have a current need for volunteers to work in the Soup Kitchen, volunteer drivers to pick up food donations (mileage is reimbursed for this position), volunteer drivers for clients in need, and volunteers to assist with answering phones in the shelter or participate in projects and activities in the Center For Life Skills.