

BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

Bread of Life Ministries Newsletter

Spring 2016

Client Spotlight

“What Bread of Life homeless shelter has done for me when I got there and from the time I’ve been here...They have given me clothing, shoes, a warm dry, and a nice safe place to stay. They helped me get my birth papers. They helped me get a doctor. They helped me get meds when I needed them and food anytime. They have been so nice. They have helped me get back on my own feet. I am very grateful for everything that they have done for me since I have been here. I even got to make some really good friends here. My Case Worker, Scott has done a lot for me. He helps me help myself a lot. Thank you very much for everything you all have done for me.”

~ Michael S.



INSPIRING YOUTH

The painting to the left was given to us by the daughter of a client in our housing. She is a beautiful young lady with an artistic talent that is so uniquely hers.

The Bread of Life assisted with getting art supplies that she could practice her skill on. Abby arrived at the office not long after, painting in hand. She wanted to share this painting with all of us at Bread of Life. Thank you for sharing this beautiful painting with us Abby. We are so blessed by your gifts & talent!

Painting By: Abby

Book Launch



"Joan Kelly, former BOLM client, had her first book release held in the soup kitchen January 26, 2016. She spoke eloquently about her story and why she wanted it to be published. She also spoke about her journey in getting it published! It was a proud moment to see her be and feel so successful and excited about this new venture. We were very grateful to have been part of the book launch and wish Joan continued success!"

In This Issue

- Client Spotlight
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Happenings at BOLM
- Coming Up/ Needs List

BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

BOLM Volunteer Spotlight

The Waldoboro Library Women's Club

BY: Martha Brown

On January 8, 2015, after hearing that there were 50,000 homeless vets in the United States, the Waldoboro Library Women's Club began talks about what it could do to help. The members didn't want to just send money as one never knows where it will end up - we wanted a hands-on contribution and we wanted to start it right away. We made our first trip on January 26th. We received an immediate response from Senator Susan Collins' office to an inquiry written just the previous week. We were directed to the Bread of Life Shelter in Augusta.



After meeting with the Case Manager, Eliza Quill, and reporting back to the group, we formed a Community Outreach Project, made posters, placed news releases in the local paper, and sat back to wait for results. We didn't wait long. We took our first carload on January 26th, two weeks later! Over the past year, people from Waldoboro, Damariscotta, Boothbay, Friendship, Bremen, Nobleboro, and even as far away as Massachusetts have brought us clothes, kitchen utensils, small appliances, linens, winter jackets and boots, books and games. Every two weeks, two of us travel to Augusta, sit down with the vets and Eliza and distribute (or rather, they take what they need) all that we have brought. They even decorated a Christmas tree with vintage ornaments that had been donated!

I have spoken about our project at the local VFW, the Women's Club, the Bremen Union Church, and will speak at Spectrum Generations in Damariscotta in May, during Veterans' Week and Volunteer Week. We have been invited to come to the Miles Memorial hospital's monthly lawn sale and take anything we need, free. It's Thrift Shop has extended the same invitation.

The men are so incredibly grateful and gracious, Eliza is so efficient and caring, and we are so blessed. Each time we leave the Shelter, I say, "it doesn't get any better than that." And it doesn't.

Kindness Of A Local Business

Recently a client and his Case Manager went to a local mattress store Mattress Firm, money order in hand, to purchase a mattress and box spring set. He has been a client in the Veteran's Shelter for 5 months, and was finally moving into his own apartment.

The money order was enough to cover a twin set, but after the mattress store found out that the customer was a Veteran, and homeless, they offered to upgrade him to a full sized mattress set, and included a bed frame for free. They also agreed to deliver the set two days later, again for free, using an employees personal vehicle. Normally a delivery would cost anywhere from \$40-60, and could take upwards of 3-10 days. Instead they took their time and efforts to help support this veteran with his need for a comfortable place to sleep! It is these acts of kindness like this that helps spread hope throughout our community.

When There's A Need

Often times there are needs that we do not have enough resources. E.J. Perry has helped Bread of Life with needs as specific as bus tickets for clients and Christmas presents for children and their families; to supplying gift cards or other donations that we can give to our clients to meet their needs. Mr. Perry and his business has been a blessing to Bread of Life and our clients.



Thank you for your love and support of the people we serve!

BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

BOLM Happenings



Bread of Life Clothes Closet

Clothes are often something most people take for granted. But many of the people we serve at Bread of Life struggle to have clothes that they feel comfortable and confident in, especially to go meet with a potential employer.

Bread of Life is proud that we can now offer our clients in our shelters a place where they can find nice suits, dress pants, dress shirts, blouses, dress shoes, etc. that they will feel confident about going to their interviews in. It is our goal and mission to provide our clients with nice, new or gently used dress clothes that they can feel great in, and go to interviews confident about how they look.

Clothes Closet

Who Is Bread of Life?

Bread of Life Ministries is a community non-profit organization. We work with people in the community struggling with hunger and homelessness. "Truly I tell you whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:31-46). *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.*

In support of our mission, Bread of Life has the soup kitchen that serves thousands of meals each year. As well as our Family Shelter and Veteran Shelter, where people are housed and supported with case management services. Finally, we have apartments and housing throughout the community, helping to transition people from homelessness to stable living. It is our goal that Bread of Life brings hope to those that need it most.

Hope Rides Has Begun!

Hope Rides, is the name of a project Bread of Life began working on several months ago to obtain a van that would assist our clients with transportation, which is one of the largest barriers they face in the community.

Through the generosity of NRF Distributors, individuals in the community and Charlie's Motor Mall, we were able to purchase this beautiful van! Hope Rides now provides hope for change to our clients by providing rides to trainings, interviews, job fairs, appointments, etc. We are so grateful for all who helped support this project, so that we can better serve our clients!



Needs For The Clothes Closet

- Men's & Women's Suits
- Men's & Women's Blazers/ Sport Jackets
- Men's Button Up shirts
- Women's Blouses
- Men & Women's Dress Shoes
- Ties

BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

BOLM Coming Up & Needs List

BOLM WISH LIST

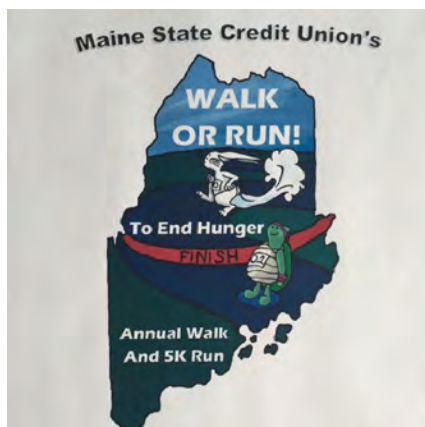
- Twin sheet sets
- New Pillows and Pillow cases
- Bus tickets for the Kennebec Explorer
- Volunteers-Share a Passion
- Maintenance Equipment: Shovels, Rakes, etc.
- Pots & Pans
- Gifts/donations for client Taxi's.
- Gas Cards
- Hannaford Gift Cards
- Blankets & comforters
- Bath Towels
- Curtain Sets
- Dish Sets



COMING UP!

Come Join Us On the Run/ Walk against Hunger!

May 21st Maine State Credit Union is hosting their annual Run/Walk event to raise money and awareness about hunger in Maine. You can participate and support Bread of Life or you can donate to Bread of Life as we Run/Walk against hunger in our Community! For More information contact Bread of Life Ministries!



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). This is an easy way to support Bread of Life, our mission and programs! So Keep us in mind when your getting your Spring shopping underway!

What Can You Do To Help?

Bread of Life is always looking for MORE volunteers to assist in the Soup Kitchen, as well as at the shelters doing maintenance work, working the Clothes Closet, and other various projects!

We are also open to working with college students who need internships, in order to complete their degree!

It Truly takes a Village! So join ours!

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

Or

Visit and like us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/Bread-of-Life-Ministries-308683226005370/>