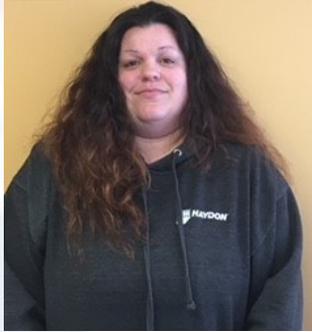


~ Bread of Life Ministries feeds the hungry, shelters the homeless, and provides services that help people change their lives and take personal responsibility. God calls us to minister to one another and assist those in need. ~



Spring 2018 Newsletter



Bread of Life Ministries

159 Water St., Augusta, ME
04330

Telephone

207-626-3434

www.mainebreadoflife.org

Interested in becoming a Board Member

Feeding the hungry and housing the homeless. That's who we are and what we are about at Bread of Life Ministries. Are you stirred in your heart by our mission? Come make a difference in our community. Maybe you are our new board member. For more information call 626-3434 and speak with our Executive Director John Richardson or email John at

executivedirector@mainebreadoflife.org

Welcome to our newest Board Members.

Victoria Abbott and Erin Sanborn.

Both of these women are Maine General Health professionals who work closely with the community.

Spring is a time for all things to blossom.

Meet Dawn!

Hi, my name is Dawn and in the summer of 2017, my children and I faced my worst fear. We became homeless. We had to leave our apartment after 8 years. It was a frightening experience and we had nowhere to go. After moving all of our stuff to my sister's house in Gardiner, My children and I stayed in Lewiston where we could until the end of the school year so my son could finish the seventh grade. I made a decision to leave our hometown, partly because my son was falling in with the wrong group of kids, and I needed to leave an abusive relationship. I felt it was time for the 3 of us to have a fresh start somewhere else. We stayed with family in Gardiner however, we couldn't stay long because of their own housing restrictions. We eventually had to live in our car down on the waterfront. That's when I began to call the Bread of Life Emergency Shelter and after two weeks of calling in daily to see if there was room for us, there was an opening. My family stayed at the Bread of Life Shelter for almost 4 months where we worked the program with my case manager who also connected with me two wonderful women from Life Works. They helped me to get my car back on the road, helped me find a daycare for my daughter, and gave me a great job at Life Works, where I am now part of their staff at the day program. I absolutely love my job! I have less of a struggle and am now able to provide for my children. I don't know what would have happened to us without everyone's help. My family is so blessed by our experience at Bread of Life Ministries Homeless Shelter. I am grateful for all my case manager's guidance. I am grateful for my fantastic job. I am grateful the roof over our heads at our Bread of Life apartment. But most of all, I am grateful for the guidance and support we received at the Bread of Life Family Shelter that made it possible to feel there is hope for my family. That I **could** do this! That I **could** pick myself back up off the ground, I **could** make huge changes, and I **could** better the lives of my family. Thank you!



“Never Say No Again”

~ *Capital Expansion Project at BOLM!* ~

Bread of Life Ministries (BOLM) has been the organization in our community and region for over 33 years feeding the hungry and serving the needs of the homeless. In the most recent years we have had to say no to hundreds of needy families and veterans seeking shelter, because of the fact that our shelters are full.

Our recent capital project, entitled *Never Say No Again*, will eliminate that barrier to services for the homeless, by adding 14 new beds to our family shelter and doubling the bedrooms we currently have at our veterans shelter.

Annually BOLM turns away hundreds of phone calls and multiple families/singles each week, who are seeking shelter with us and we are unable to help them because we have no available beds at our shelters. This project seeks to solve this issue and establish a goal of never having to say no again to any person in need of shelter services.

Our shelter expansion plans seek to renovate both our family and veteran shelters, by adding reasonably sized two floor additions onto both shelter buildings. The family shelter expansion will add 6 new beds for single men and women and 8 new beds to be utilized by families. The family shelter renovation will also add additional bathrooms, laundry rooms and a new case manager office. The veteran shelter expansion will establish a new handicap bedroom and bathroom on the first floor for veterans struggling with mobility issues, an expanded kitchen/dining area and a second floor renovation which will add two additional bedrooms.

Project Cost:

Family Shelter General Construction Costs:	\$218,000.00
Veteran Shelter General Construction Costs:	\$183,000.00
Construction Contingency (15%)	\$59,700.00
Furnishings (Refrigerators, Stoves, Beds, Washer/Dryers, etc..)	\$29,000.00
Engineering/Architectural work	\$20,000.00
Total Project Estimated Cost:	\$509,700.00



Live Auction · 50/50 · Hors D’Ouveres · May 9, 2018 Calumet Club · 6:00PM

YOU can be a hometown hero by joining us on May 9th to raise funds for Bread Of Life Ministries which supports 83 units of housing in our city to support those transitioning out of homelessness and into a stable home environment. We also provide 600 weekly meals out of the soup kitchen and house 38 families and veterans in our shelters.

You can truly become a hero to our most vulnerable friends and neighbors.

Welcome to our newest staff member!



Alan Pelletier is a native born Mainer who has returned to lead the Bread of Life Ministries as the shelter Manager.

He has served our Nation through his service with the US Army, travelled all over the world, and completed an MBA. He even attended Central Maine Community College for Culinary Arts. Through these and many more experiences he brings a level of expertise and expectations that will continue BoLM's movement forward in taking on new and ever changing challenges. His experiences allows him to empathize and care for clients and help them through their journey through the BoLM mission and programs with due diligence."

We look forward to working with Alan to support the BoLM Mission.

LOAVES & FISHES AWARD

2017 Loaves and Fishes Award was presented to Leon (Buster) Tyler who displays the unselfish act of giving all he has for the Lord to multiply in service to the mission of Bread of Life Ministries. Thank you and congratulations Buster.



Buster is retired Navy and from upstate New York who came to Maine to visit family and decided to stay. He was hired on to the maintenance crew part time. Buster is a very reliable, trustworthy addition to our staff and well liked by all staff and tenants. He has been nicknamed the "Sheriff of Westman" and "Uncle Buck". Buster cares about all the tenant and they care deeply for him. He is included in BBQ's, if he is working, and tenants will search him out to bring him coffee in the winter and a cold drink when it's hot out. Frankly the Facilities Maintenance department could not operate as smoothly with his loyalty and devotion to Bread of Life Ministries.

Best Wishes to Ray in his new role!



Ray Woodburn, our new Kitchen Manager, is a Veteran who was honorably discharged after serving 8 years in the US Navy as a computer engineer and security specialist. He has 2 adult sons, 1 son who is a senior in high school, and 1 grandson. After serving a required amount of community service, he stayed with us as a regular volunteer and was soon hired as an assistant to the Kitchen Manager. Ray, being a Jack of all trades, also worked with the Facilities crew on some projects. Ray has a real affinity and kinship for our people we serve at Bread of Life Ministries because of his own experiences and challenges that he has walked through. Ray says, I was one of them

Our Dedicated Team

We all wear different hats at Bread of Life however we all have the same dream. To make sure not one person goes one day without a hot meal. To provide a safe welcoming place for folks to sleep. To restore hope to the hopeless and guide them towards a fulfilling life out of homelessness.



BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

SHELTER PROGRAM

These are just a few of our Shelter Programs



Rent Smart Program

Rent Smart is a 6 week program conducted by Janelle Bechard, Bread of Life Ministries housing coordinator and is offered to residents at the family shelter to assist in building knowledge and skills essential for success in obtaining and maintaining housing.

The 6 modules promote constructive thought processes and develops skills in how to rent, find housing, and maintain housing through various skill building and resources. Residents work in groups to build positive communication skills, problem solve, and learn to live within a budget. This program is beneficial in preparing clients with tools and skills to be successful in having long-term housing and to prevent them from returning to homelessness.



Our New Phase Program

The Phase Program is a progressive program building client hope and self-sustainability developed and implemented by our "Supergirl" Molly Sirois, Associate Executive Director. The Phase Program is comprised of 3 phases. Each of the phases address certain areas in the client's life that contributed to their struggle with homelessness. Bread of Life Ministries goal through the phase program is to promote growth, self-responsibility, and confidence within the client by specifically addressing the issues that lead this person to become homeless. As client's progress and graduate through the phases they receive an item of their choice as recognition of their successful completion of the phase. Through this process BOLM staff are supporting clients in accessing resources, services and supports in the community to ensure their success now and in the future.

We SO appreciate our volunteers for their dedication to serving others and could not be more blessed by the private citizens and businesses who support us with donations.

Volunteers like Ryan and Jacob are extremely important to Bread of Life Ministries and the work we do here to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. These citizen's willingness to work for the betterment of our community is valuable and gives them a sense of purpose, an opportunity to learn new skills, and really make an impact on others lives. Call or come for a visit to see how you can make a difference by volunteering.



Tucker Cole, president of Maine State Credit Union and Stacie Dow from Maine State Credit Union at the ending hunger banquet this morning. Check is the total monies raised that are distributed to our community and those serving the hungry, which includes Bread of Life Ministries.

Thank you for supporting our mission.



A New Start

Supply List for the Families who are transitioning from homelessness to their

- Laundry Basket, Laundry Soap
- Towels & Face Cloths
- Dish Towels and Cloths
- Toilet brushes & Plungers
- Shower Curtains, & Bath Mats
- Small Area Rugs & Lamps
- Curtain Sets and Rods
- Blow up Mattresses with pumps
- Small appliances, El: Toasters, Can -Openers.
- Coffee Pot and mugs
- Kitchen Utensils
- Trash Cans and Trash Bags
- Starter Pots and Pans
- Bakeware & Measuring tools
- Starter Dishes and Silverware
- Glasses and Cups
- Mops, Brooms, Buckets, & cleaning Products
- Personal hygiene products.

Happy Spring !



DID YOU KNOW??

amazon smile
Your daily Amazon smile

If you shop Amazon.com, you can support Bread of Life Ministries through the AmazonSmile Program! It's 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 Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com)

Twin Size Bed in a Bag

As the Veterans and Families come to the shelters, we want them to know they are important. To know they have value, and that they deserve

fresh bedding that is theirs to keep. There are 12 Veteran's



beds at the shelter. The Family Shelter has 26 beds for individuals and families with children and teens. If you feel it in your heart to help with this project you may bring your donation to 159 Water St. in Augusta. or you may designate your cash donation to the Bed in a Bag Campaign.