

Homeworkers Organized for More Employment

This Time

VOL. XXXVII, NO. 2

Orland, Maine 04472

FALL 2011

“h.o.m.e. - A one-stop shop of doing good”

“This is h.o.m.e... quilts, pottery, stained glass” the hand cut wooden signboard announces, from the side of Route 1, just on the edge of the little town of Orland, Maine. Turning off the highway, in towards the collection of old and new buildings that comprise the center of H.O.M.E., is the main campus, it consists of a shelter for men, several craft shops a sawmill, automotive garage a shingle mill and much more. Basic needs are cared for here.

Our cooperative provides a home-base, helping hand, market outlet, and a livelihood for people needing work. The work, be it in the mills sawing lumber, crafting leather into usable products or decorating balsam Christmas Wreaths, helps us survive. The income earned from the work helps to support us.

There’s the craft store, full of handcrafted objects made mostly by elderly, sick, or otherwise needy Maine people. Bright pot holders, subtly dyed woven scarfs, jars of honey and jam, children’s toys and handsome wooden jewelry boxes and book racks all are neatly tended by several bustling Maine folk. Very close are the weaving, pottery, leather stained glass and woodworking workshops (one a converted one-room schoolhouse).

A little further back is the two story Learning Center, which houses a child-care facility on its lower floor and an adult learning center on the upper. Here are given courses in computers, auto repair, home maintenance, painting and creative writing for those who want to add to their skills, and academic classes which help people to get their high school diploma each year.

Across the way is a vegetable stand where our gardeners sell their produce direct to the passing public at Farmers Markets and The Marketstand.



Farmers' Market at The Market Stand

What you see is only the tip of much larger goings-on. A stitchery department above the craft store takes in sewing contracts, such as for quilt making and sewing repairs. Then there’s the Outreach program which responds to family emergencies and problems, and also finally, through Family Farms, the Co-op buys land and places it in a community land trust. This removes it from speculation and guarantees socially and environmentally sound use of it as well as management by the users themselves. Small energy-efficient houses are then built on the land with volunteer labor. They are sold at very low cost, with affordable mortgages.

That’s still not all. In the mix of buildings are a sawmill and shingle mill for helping to supply wood and cedar shingles for building. On a good day, with sufficient stock, the shingle mill can put out 3 to 4 squares a day (12-16 bundles). We sell all the “ waste” from the mill: shingle hair for mulch and bedding; edgings for kindling; slab bundles for camp wood. Cedar shingles are used to sheathe all the houses we build and we have a healthy number of outside sales. We don’t cut #1 custom shingles, but high quality #2 cedar; every bundle complies with the state codes regarding size, gaps, tapering, etc. Some cedar logs we send over to the Saw Mill to fill orders for boat builders and cabinet makers. With prices at \$18.75 a bundle - \$75 a square - plus the sales of waste products, the Shingle Mill can gross over \$30,000 a year.-The work creates jobs and earns income for H.O.M.E. to survive.

Long ago we realized that if people needed affordable homes, we could purchase wood lots, harvest logs, mill the boards and dimension lumber, mill the cedar shingles, and build the homes...and all the while earning our income to support the work of helping others in need.



“This is H.O.M.E.” sign donated by St. Luke’s Catholic Church of Barrington Rhode Island.

H.O.M.E. CRAFT STORE

PO Box 10, Orland
ME 04472
Phone: (207) 469-7961 fax: (207) 469-1023



Bill Leach strips leather to sell by the bag in our Craftstore.



Clint and Eric work in the Mills.

H.O.M.E./Emmaus is a nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping and enhancing the quality of life for low-income and homeless families. Through services, stewardship of resources, and shared responsibility, we aim to bring forth new possibilities for food, jobs, shelter, low-income housing, education and self sufficiency.



Letters

Please send letters to:
This Time
PO Box 10
Orland, ME 04472
newsletter@homecoop.net

The following are excerpts from letters we've received since our last issue of *This Time*:

Dear Sister Lucy,

Please find enclosed a check and 240 tickets for the raffle. I put my e-mail address on each of the tickets too - I hope this was o.k.

I'm sorry to have been out of touch lately. I always appreciate the paper and keeping up with h.o.m.e. news. It's hard to believe it was over 20 years ago that I first volunteered at h.o.m.e. through Xavier and Mercy HS in Middletown CT in 1989 and then with Tufts University in Medford, MA 1991-1993. I hope you still get some volunteers from my old schools - I have many fond memories of working with you, Phil and Sr. Marie - and I sincerely feel that kind of volunteering and community service was a wonderful part of my upbringing.

Thank you and God bless,

Michael Scholand

P.S. I actually live in London, UK now - married with three children, 7,5 and 5.

+++++

Dear Sister Lucy,

Yes I'm still among the living at 97. Sorry I missed the Spring donation but I fell and was in rehab.

I once sent a package of costume jewelry for your Gift Shop. Do you need such stuff? At 97 I'm trying to "weed out"

God bless you.
Vera Weiss

"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"

This Time

is published by H. O. M. E. Inc.
Part of the World Emmaus Movement
Please visit our web-site for an electronic version of this Newsletter.
www.homecoop.net

Dear Lucy Poulin,

In honor of the work you do at H.O.M.E. and in loving memory of my son, Chris, (Derek Christopher Robbins, May 20, 1964-July 30,2003), please accept my gift in his memory. It has been eight long years and it is still very hard to accept that I will never see him again or hear his voice or laugh at his funny observations. I do welcome ' angel hugs' and give him full credit!

Thank you for sending "This Time" news publication - it is heart warming to read of all the caring work H.O.M.E. is doing.

Remembering you in prayer,

Sincerely,
Jane

+++++

I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As the result of the war, corporations have been enthroned... an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until wealth is aggregated in a few hands... and the republic is destroyed.
- Abraham Lincoln

Dear Sister Lucy and All at H.O.M.E.,

Enclosed is a gift to support your labors of love which touch so many lives of people in need. I hope that it continues throughout the year and that the harvest is good. Please use the envelope to send me a receipt which enables me to give more.

With love and prayers,
Nancy

+++++

Dear Millie,

You have the "greenest thumb" on earth. We enjoyed the fantastic fresh Snap Peas that you picked for us last Friday. Thank you for sharing your garden - and keep "sowing seeds with abandon".

The work that you all do at H.O.M.E. gets multiplied over and over again and those seeds keep growing beyond Maine. I look forward to coming back often.

Love and prayers,
Gigi

+++++

Grace

My nephew Larry and I had the job of doing the dump runs at my Mother's farm. We loaded an old truck with all the unwanted "stuff" and took it to the large open dump in Fairfield. We were happy with this work.

Unloading it together we were approached by another family doing the same thing. A young man said with a beautiful voice " we have better rags over here come and take some". I have never forgotten the offer, the giving, when they had nothing. We were ragpickers, we were loved. What a lifelong joy from that voice.
- Lucy Poulin

+++++

H. O. M. E. /Emmaus Fall Appeal 2011



"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"

"Their hearts were gladdened as they walked and talked - Then they broke bread together"
- The disciples on the road to Emmaus. Luke -24

Dear Friends,

As the summer has ended our friends and volunteers go home to school, work and family. We indeed feel our hearts 'gladdened' when so many people come to help. The heaviness of our work load is lightened by the kindness, generosity and hard work of so many. We pray and break bread together many evenings.

St. Luke's from Barrington Rhode Island comes with their priest and we have Mass in our little chapel. Catholics are a minority here in our H.O.M.E. community, so it is a joy for me. United Church of Christ, Methodist, Episcopal and Baptist groups come and we pray and eat together.

We begin fall and think of winterizing, firewood and closing in buildings. Our little community draws closer to see what we are able to do. Some days we want to be the beloved community of kindness and help abounds, other days we are very much out of step and meanness comes out of us. We are such a mix of people who have had no chance in life, no education, being in jail, substance abuse, broken and missing teeth and no health care. This is our group that wants to help others, that wants to " serve first those who suffer most".

We continue the work but there is less to work with, donations are down and fund-raising is done with great difficulty. We sell lumber, shingles, crafts, wreaths and other used items. We collect iron and metals to sell. We try to recover their value and help others with the money gained.

We ask you this fall to help us if you are able.

God bless you,
Your Sister

Lucy Poulin

Lucy Poulin



Lucy and Father Bob at St. Luke's Church in Barrington Rhode Island.

H. O. M. E. Update

-By Sr. Marie Ahern

Didn't I just yesterday write this update? Have we jumped from spring to fall in the blink of an eye? We did have summer and a very productive one at that. Several projects were started and finished. With the help of wonderful volunteers, we did the following: An addition of a downstairs handicap bedroom at the East Orland shelter... A new bathroom in Apt 4 at the Hospitality House shelter in Bucksport... A garage was built for one of the houses in Dedham...

Three new bathrooms were built in the Market Stand...A fire escape was built at the Hance House shelter in Ellsworth...The Weaving Shop exterior was completely painted.

The volunteer groups that come throughout the summer never cease to amaze me...Their work, their commitment, their spirit of exuberance. Every Thursday through the summer, each group put on a huge community supper for everyone. (See attached list of all groups.)

The gardens flourished all season, through the hard labor of several people. Millie had super helpers, especially Karen Botta and James Taylor. The Farmers' Markets are still going on, every Monday in Ellsworth and Thursday in Bucksport.

At our farm (St Francis Community) we are eating from the garden everyday. Roxanne has canned the excess - dozens of quarts of green beans, carrots, tomatoes, that will last us all winter. I moved the burros up with the horses, and in May, planted (literally threw) blue hubbard squash seeds in the old pasture. What a beautiful sight now. I'll fill my truck four times with this delicious winter squash - it will last us all year and be shared by many.

Once again Liselotte is here from Denmark, bringing joy and comfort to everyone. She is offering relaxation massage to several, giving haircuts, and lifting peoples' spirits. Welcome back home, Liselotte!

This is that time of year (Fall) when the amazing crew from St Bridget's in Manchester, Connecticut returns to finish jobs they started in August. Right now, Howie Rovegno, Al Gosselin, Jeff Oulette, and Jim Sarles are working on the 3rd floor at the Mandala shelter. They are always up-beat and spirited and we love having them here. Today is their third day here. We are always inspired by their generosity and acceptance of us!

The rhythm of the seasons brings its own kind of inner harmony, as well as a great topic of conversation. The harvest is underway and very rewarding. Now we begin to hunker down for the winter. Attention turns to getting firewood in, tucking in drafty places, thinking of creative ways to raise money for shelter heat.

Peter Maurin said " The world would be better off if people tried to become better and people would become better if they stopped trying to be better off..." Just a thought...

May each of you continue to bring compassion and justice to a world that needs it so much.



Chris Poulin at his wedding.

Thank you volunteers!

- South Acton Congregational Church, St. Anselms,
- Peace Jam from Boston University, St. John's Prep,
- The First Congregational Church of Ridgefield CT,
- United Methodist Church of Canton Ohio, St. Andrews Church of Madison CT,
- Silverlake Conference of United Church of Christ,
- Putneyville and Trinity Reformed Church, First Parish Church United,
- Congregational Church of Brookfield, St. Bridget's Catholic Church of Manchester CT,
- Trinity Church of MA,
- St. Joan of Arc of Jamaica Plains MA;
- St. Luke's Church of Barrington RI,
- St. A's of Manchester NH,
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester MA,
- Maine Conference of Churches.
- The First Congregational Church of Georgetown MA,
- The First Congregational Church of Old Greenwich CT,
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester MA,
- St Vincent De Paul of Bucksport ME,
- The First Congregational Church of Blue Hill ME,
- St Josephs Church of Ellsworth, ME.



Dan Reidy, Lucy and Barbara Reidy .
Volunteers from Ridgefield, CT



Sara, Genio, Enna and Ross

"Green Thumb" -By Millie Grimes

The early produce for- peas (including edible pods) from our garden this year was great - peas ,beet greens, swiss chard and our first crop of string beans. Later in the season we didn't fare as well, partly due to lots of rain, not much really warm weather, and the weeds getting the best of us. Our tomatoes seemed to take forever to ripen and now, as frost threatens, we still have many green ones!

Also, the dreaded late blight of two years ago hit some of our tomatoes late in the season. We're still harvesting carrots and potatoes, and have a great pumpkin crop, as does Lucy at "the farm" from the variety "Autumn Gold", which never is green, but ripens from yellow turning to orange earlier than most. Also, a good crop of the beautiful "painted mountain" ornamental corn grew in kernels of many colors.

I had very good dependable help this season from Karen Botta, who took time off from the Learning Center duties to work with me. We have a lot of fun together! Roxanne Poulin made many wonderful and

tasty "value added" canned goods for us in her perfectly set up kitchen. Items like Bread and Butter pickles, Mustard Pickles (from her Grandmother's recipe, see recipe below) Peach Jam, Blackberry Jam etc... Karen Saum also helped part time, especially with the Thursday Farmers' Market.

A special thank you to Libby Gray, she is a young woman who lives across the street from H.O.M.E. and is Phil Gray's granddaughter. She helped us in the early summer planting.

We really cleaned up on our exhibits at the Common Ground Fair in September, winning blue ribbons on everything we entered! This included: 2 Pumpkins, one from Lucy's garden at "the farm" , and one from the compost pile here, Brandywine tomatoes (must exhibit three) one from Shelia Holtz's experimental permaculture garden here on grounds, one from my home garden, and one from H.O.M.E.'s garden- a real cooperative effort. We also won blue ribbons on Roxanne's Mustard Pickles and our combined Blueberry Jam and Peach - Blueberry Jam. Yummy!

For a really good song about preserving the season's harvest, listen to Greg Browns "Canned Goods", available on the web. The chorus is: "Taste a little of the summer; my grandma put it all in jars."

Happy Fall

Grammy Rachel's Mustard Pickles

This recipe won first prize at The Common Ground Fair. It is Roxanne Poulin's grandmother's recipe and her mother is 84 so it's an old one.

- 1qt. small cucumbers sliced.
- 1qt. cucumbers cut up small.
- 1qt. butter onions or sliced onions
- 1qt. cauliflower
- 1qt. green tomatoes.
- 3 red peppers sliced.
- 3 green peppers sliced.

Soak everything in a brine made of 1 cup canning salt to 1 gallon water. Soak over night.

Drain in morning and soak again in clear water for 3 hours.

Drain again and soak 1 hour in equal parts vinegar and water.

Then scald. Drain again.

Mix dressing. 3 cups sugar,8 tbs. flour, 8 tbs. dry mustard, 1 tbs. turmeric, and 3 pints vinegar. Add to scalded articles and let simmer 5 minutes.

Place in hot jars and boil 10 minutes in canner.

Enjoy !
Roxanne



Grammy Rachel's prize winning pickles.

The h.o.m.e. Craft Store Catalogue

H.O.M.E. CRAFT STORE
 PO Box 10, Orland ME 04472
 Phone: (207) 469-7961 fax: (207) 469-1023
Visa, Discover and Master card accepted
 www.homecoop.net

SHIPPING
 Include the shipping charge with your order (include shipping for each address):
Total of Order: Shipping
 \$0.00 - \$10.00..... \$5.95
 \$10.00-20.00..... \$6.95
 \$20.00 and up \$7.95



FRAGRANT BALSAM FIR PILLOWS
 Large 6 1/2" sq. (1 lb.).....\$16.00
 Small 3 1/2" sq. (4 oz.) \$ 8.00
Silk-screened design in color
 Available in small & large size:
 Loon Blueberry
 Puffin Chickadee
 Lady's Slipper Wood Duck
 Canada Goose Cardinal
 Moose Bear
 Raccoon Maine Coon Cat
 Deer Owl
 Heron Hummingbird
 Purple Finch Evening Grosbeak
 Kingfisher Lighthouse
 Cabin in the Pines
 The following available in small sizes only:
 Lobster Balsam Tree
 Thistle Seal
 Seagull Tiger Lily

BALSAM FILLED DRAFT STOPPERS
 in a variety of nature prints
 40" long by 2" diameter..... \$16.00

BALSAM TRIVETS \$10.00
LIGHT HOUSE BALSAM FIR PILLOWS
 4" \$8.00
 Maine Light Houses Available:



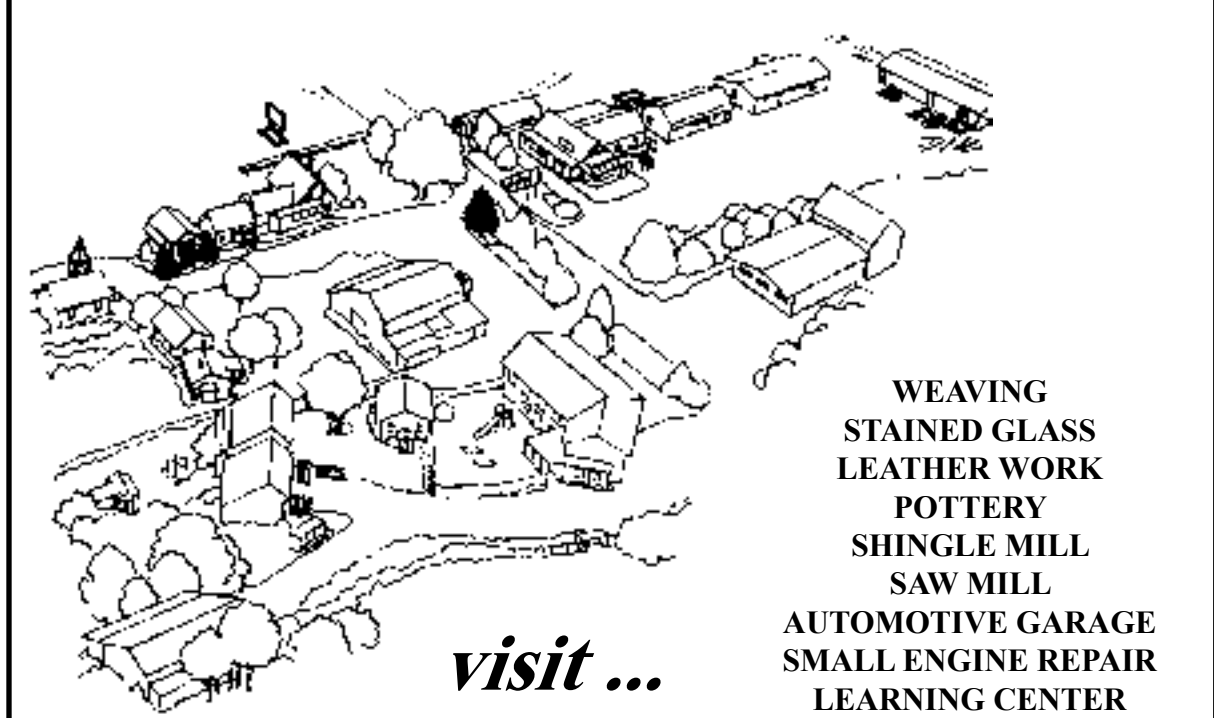
Breakwater
 Nubble Light
 West Quoddy Head
 Pemaquid Point
 Prospect Light
 Chatham Light
 Two Lights
 Bass Harbor Head
 Spring Point Ledge
 Portland Head Light



NOTE CARDS
 5"x7" with full color photographs of Maine scenes..... \$1.50 each card or you can order all 6 for \$6.00.
TOP
 1) Seawall, Petit Manan
 2) Sea Cliffs, Schoodic Point
 3) Sand Beach, Acadia Park
BOTTOM
 4) The Bubbles, Acadia Park
 5) Sunrise, Moosehead Lake
 6) Storm Waves, Schoodic Point



h.o.m.e. Craft Village



**WEAVING
 STAINED GLASS
 LEATHER WORK
 POTTERY
 SHINGLE MILL
 SAW MILL
 AUTOMOTIVE GARAGE
 SMALL ENGINE REPAIR
 LEARNING CENTER**

visit ...

Maine Made Food Products

FRUIT SYRUP IN JUGS	HONEY
16 oz.....\$4.75 each	Eight-ounce jar.....\$3.75
Strawberry, Raspberry, Blueberry, or Yummy Apple Spice	choose blueberry, raspberry, or wild flower
	Wood Crate of honey\$15.95
	contains 8 oz. jar of each honey listed above
MAINE MAPLE SYRUP	MAINE JAMS 10 oz.....\$3.50 each
3.4 Oz. (Stocking Stuffer).....\$4.50	Blueberry wild blackberry
1/2 PINT.....\$8.00	Cherry peach
PINT.....\$13.00	Pear plum
QUART.....\$22.00	Raspberry boysenberry
1/2 GALLON.....\$36.00	Raspberry/peach blueberry/rhubarb
GALLON.....\$69.00	Strawberry/rhubarb apricot/pineapple
MAPLE CANDY	Raspberry/rhubarb blueberry/cranberry
Pocket pack (5 pc).....\$4.00	blueberry/yummy blueberry/raspberry
Single piece.....\$4.00	Cranberry marmalade wild highbush cranberry
MAPLE PRODUCTS	Citrus jubilee marmalade zucchini/pineapple/ginger
Granulated Maple Sugar\$6.50	marmalade and yummy toast spread (apple raisin cinnamon)
Maple Cream (8 oz.).....\$11.50	
Maple mustard Sauce.....\$6.00	
GIFT JAM PACK	
Choice of 4 jams in gift box.....\$19.50	
NEW GIFT OF MAINE\$23.00	
contains:	
half pint Maine Maple Syrup	
8 oz. Maine Blueberry Honey	
2 Maine Jams of your choice	



FOR SALE IN THE CRAFT STORE.
FIGURINES MADE OUT OF RECYCLED METAL!
 Made in H.O.M.E.'s Automotive Garage.



HOME MADE COTTON PRINT APRONS

Barbecue Apron	\$18.00
Cobbler Apron.....	\$18.00
Granny Apron.....	\$20.00
Half Apron	\$12.00



Pottery Studio.
Open to all.
 H.O.M.E. welcomes a new potter, Rosalani Moore. Stop in to view her unique style and place a custom order.

Classes.
Any skill level welcome.
 Learn the basic elements of pottery or come in and use our space to create your own piece. Also, mugs and plates are available for glazing - design your own!



H.O.M.E. CRAFT STORE
 PO Box 10, Orland, ME 04472
 phone: (207) 469-7961
 fax: (207) 469-1023
Visa, Discover and Mastercard accepted

GUATEMALAN CRAFTS
 Brightly colored, hand woven cotton
 Purse.....
 Large\$3.50
 Medium, 5"x6"\$2.25
 Elastic hair scrunchie\$1.00



h.o.m.e.'s Wish List

- Food
- Any Tools
- Fire Wood
- Office Supplies
- Mechanic's Tools
- Building Materials
- Saw Logs for our Mill
- Useful Trucks and/or Cars
- Cotton Fabric Pieces for Quilts
- & Large Pieces for Quilt backing
- Windows 7 Computers & Printers
- Big Pots & Pans for our Soup Kitchen

Stocks
Money

We accept running
 ✓ cars
 ✓ trucks

Donate your vehicle
call: 207-469-7961
 www.homecoop.net

Help us continue our 41-year-long work with the rural poor.

Join our Mailing List!
 Please mail information to H.O.M.E. Inc,
 P.O. Box 10, Orland, Maine 04472
 Name: _____
 Address: _____

 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____



Homes for sale!
Homes for low-income

New England Style Capes.
Call Gerald Botta for an application.
207-469-7961.

LUMBER PRICES

All Lumber per board foot \$.60
 Pickup load Slab Wood \$35.00
 Pickup load Edged Lumber.. \$50.00
 Pickup load Saw Dust.....\$5.00
 Pickup load Shingle Hair.....\$5.00
 Shingles \$75 per sq

Christmas Wreaths and Centerpieces

We offer several choices of wreaths and centerpieces. Our wreaths are first quality 22" double-faced wreaths made of fresh balsam fir. They are available either undecorated or fully decorated with red velvet ribbons, pine cones, and berries. Our centerpieces are hand crafted at H.O.M.E., using fresh greens: Balsam, Cedar, and Pine. The centerpieces are available either as a single (one candle) or as a triple (three candles) with cones, berries and ribbons to complement the arrangement. The single and triple centerpieces are available with either the traditional red berries, candles and ribbon, or our winter feature which includes; white ribbon, frosted cones and white candles. Enclosed is our new order form for this year's wreaths and centerpieces. We hope that you may be interested in ordering one for yourself and/or giving one or more as gifts to friends or family members. If so, we would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible as we prepare for this year's wreath project. **Orders are processed and shipped in the order in which they are received.** Shipping begins on Monday, November 28. (Orders are often sent to us during September and October.)

We must collect the 5% sales tax from Maine residents. Please add this to your order total. Thank you.



To Purchase Wreaths:

- Fill out the order form. Orders must be received by Dec. 2nd. (Or get this form on-line at www.homecoop.net)
- Be sure to include a street address for Fed ex delivery.
- If you are interested in wholesale orders (\$10.00 per undecorated wreath for 100 wreaths or more, plus shipping charges) please contact us.
- Mail this form (or call/fax) along with your payment in U.S. funds to the address above.

2011 Retail Order Form

Send to:
h.o.m.e. Wreaths
 P.O. Box 10
 Orland, ME 04472
 Phone: (207) 469-7961
 Fax: (207) 469-1023
 (call to confirm receipt of fax)

Please include all information below for ALL ORDERS

Your Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone #: _____
 E-mail address: _____
 (In case we have questions)

My Order

Ship me:
 _____ Decorated Wreath(s)
 _____ Undec. Wreath(s)

Centerpiece(s) - (Circle color)
 _____ Single - Red / White
 _____ Triple - Red / White

Refer to price lists and include in the totals at right.

Gift Order:

Ship: _____ Decorated Wreath(s)
 _____ Undec. Wreath(s)

Centerpiece(s) — (circle color)
 _____ Single - Red / White
 _____ Triple - Red / White

to Name: _____
 Street Address: (not P.O. Box) _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone #: _____

Greeting:
 _____ Happy Holidays
 _____ Merry Christmas

Gift Order:

Ship: _____ Decorated Wreath(s)
 _____ Undec. Wreath(s)

Centerpiece(s) — (circle color)
 _____ Single - Red / White
 _____ Triple - Red / White

to Name: _____
 Street Address: (not P.O. Box) _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone #: _____

_____ Happy Holidays
 _____ Merry Christmas

Please include phone numbers! We cannot send refunds for any undeliverable orders

Please enter the total charges
 Order Summary and Total

Number of items	Total of Prices
Dec. Wreaths: _____ @ 29.95	\$ _____
Undec. Wreaths: _____ @ 21.95	\$ _____
Single Centerpieces: _____ @ 25.95	\$ _____
Triple Centerpieces: _____ @ 34.95	\$ _____
Subtotal:	\$ _____

Maine residents please add
 5% Sales Tax : \$ _____

Total of Order: \$ _____

Check, Money Order,
 Visa, Discover or Mastercard
 Make checks payable to "h.o.m.e."

card# _____
 Exp. Date: ____/____
 Security code: ____-____
 Signature: _____

Send to: h.o.m.e. Wreaths
 PO Box 10
 Orland ME 04472
 Phone: 207-469-7961
 Fax: 207-469-1023
www.homecoop.net/wreaths

Pedalin' H.O.M.E. Empowers Many Community

Members -By Cary Huggins

Since its inception in the Spring of this year, Pedalin' Home Bicycle Center has helped several of H.O.M.E.'s community members acquire "pedal power". With financial support from a generous community member and the Rotary Club in Ellsworth and from several donations of bicycles and parts, Joe Huggins was able to help KP, Eric, Lexi, Femke and Diego acquire new wheels and to bring kids on rides.

KP is a teenage boy who came by the shop and spent a couple of hours repairing a bike with good potential to be road ready that day. He and Joe went through a thorough inspection of all the systems and he was off, donning his new helmet and transportation to a middle school dance. Now that's the way to empower a teen!

Lexi, a French speaking resident of the Dorr House, expressed his desire to have wheels to get the 3 miles to town that he frequently walks to. He didn't need words to express his delight after a few days at the handle bars.

Eric works in the saw mill. He donated a bike for parts to Pedalin' H.O.M.E. and talked to Joe about how he wished he could shorten his half hour walk to work each day. Joe found a bike that fit his needs in the back room and after a few turns of the wrench, Eric was off and riding in to work every morning.

Femke came to Joe when her son, Diego, 6, showed a growing interest in bicycling after their trip to the Netherlands. Joe had a spiffy Specialized mountain bike that his son had outgrown that was perfect for him. He also showed Femke a woman's cruiser bicycle that had been donated that might suit her needs to keep up with him. Delighted, she joined forces with Cary Huggins and they brought ten local kids on an organized ride coordinated by a Bates College student.

Pedalin' H.O.M.E. continued to support H.O.M.E.'s summer camp kids in other rides in Acadia National Park, on Sears Island and in Orland this summer.

Pedalin' H.O.M.E. also formed a cycling team of six to raise money for the American Lung Association. The "H.O.M.E. Team" Kiernan Huggins, Dakota Snowman, Connor Huggins, Cary Huggins, Jill Morton rode 180 miles from Bethel to Belfast to support the lung health of Mainers. Supplies were provided by Joe Huggins and the Bike Shop.

Plans are in the works for more outings this fall and an after school program to help kids learn about bicycle repair and ride safety. Pedalin' H.O.M.E. still needs donations of time, money and bicycles. Call the Main Office at 207-469-7961 if you can help.



Dakota Snowman of Team H.O.M.E.

Namaste! An Exciting Workshop Comes to H.O.M.E. Staff -By Cary Huggins

Bill Cumming with the Boothby Institute in Litchfield Maine has been inspiring folks here in the US and abroad to create the worlds they desire and to live the lives they dream about.

His 12 week workshop, "What One Person Can Do", started on August 26, after he visited in April to speak with department heads at H.O.M.E. who loved the idea of working with him. Follow up conversations with Cary Huggins, on staff in the Learning Center, lead to a generous offer by Bill to meet the financial constraints preventing H.O.M.E. from offering this type of workshop to its staff.

Eighteen staff members have come and since committed to the entire 12 weeks. Bill was really impressed by this enthusiasm and commitment to H.O.M.E. reflected in this effort.

"Bill is a genius," commented participant, Joe Huggins, who added, "he really knows how to engage people and help them connect better with others."

Another participant shared her enthusiasm with Cary Huggins, in expressing that she really liked looking at some of her patterns and how they might not be working well for her in relationship with others. Bill believes that if we understand the spiritual nature of our existence, find a healthy sense of connection with others and our world and accept what we can and cannot change around us, we can live more tranquil, joyous and full lives.

Layers of Poverty -By Rosalani Moore

For those of us that are often struggling for a place to fall asleep and a meal to keep us going the pursuit of our artistic dreams is hardly ever a thought. Even those of us who seldom struggle with such dilemmas often wander throughout life without the ability to express our emotions, ideas, or inspirations in artistic ways. This is usually because we feel we lack the materials, time, money or talent to bring forth our ideas into a tangible reality. For many years HOME has been able to help people from providing them with shelter to providing them with a space to create. Through our learning center we strive to provide people with access to the arts as well as many other areas of education and development.



Sketch by Arlene Alden

Our oil painting class, taught by Roxanne Poulin, is one of our most popular classes and it is with those artists in mind that our art show began. Many people at HOME seem to find painting and art in general a means of escape from their lives or work which serves to strengthen their resolution to continue forward. The ability to spend a little time in the pursuit of art can be a tremendous therapy for the soul. Art is a release. A place to vent our frustration, our sadness, our anger, our strength, our happiness and so on. It can focus the mind and bring us back to ourselves when we are lost and searching for tranquility.

The art show began as a way to celebrate the arts at HOME and promote the understanding of poverty in people who have never experienced it. Many of the

pieces on exhibit were done by individuals that live in our shelter or who faced poverty over HOME's forty-one years. Each piece gave a different perspective or brought to light different aspects of poverty. Some of the art came from artists who have passed away, some of them homeless till their death. The show creates a way for those spirits to continue to impact our lives. Through it, we are able to give a voice to individuals who may feel they are seldom heard. The exhibit also gives the people here at HOME and in our local community the ability to be known to larger audiences. We hope to continue to provide a way for those voices to be heard with future shows.

Just as people have many layers so, too, do paintings. As artists, we often find ourselves reusing materials, finding a way to patch together our visions through the use of scraps from previous works. To create a painting we apply layer after layer of paint sometimes over many years and sometimes by many painters until the canvas finally shows the image that we have been grasping to reproduce. Yet, still the canvas can change. It can be modified. In similar ways the impact and struggle of poverty is layered and changing. When we grow up in or fall into poverty we must learn how to make use of the world around us to scrap together a life. We are resourceful and resilient. It often takes many years and many people until we can be at peace with our struggles but usually we can get there. Still we are changing. Layer by layer, we are canvasses covered in years of life.

HOME would like to thank our generous donors for their submissions and The First Congregational Church of Blue Hill for providing a location and helping to make our first opening night a success. We very much appreciate your support.



Sketch by Sister Barbara Hance



Roxanne Poulin and Jerilyn Cook at the Art Show



Painting by Ed Kruczynski

Final State Budget:

Maine Care, TANF, General Assistance and Benefits for Legal Immigrants

Thankstostrongvoicesofcommunityorganizations, religious leaders and hundreds of caring Maine people, many of the most extreme initiatives in the proposed budget were defeated. These initiatives would have put the health and well-being of thousands at risk.

In the end, budget negotiators were able to protect health care for nearly 30,000 people, and ensure that 44,000 seniors and people with disabilities have continued access to prescription drugs. In addition, the final budget protects thousands of Maine families who are struggling to meet their basic needs in a difficult economy.

This is not to say that the budget passed will cause no harm. It will. The safety net has been weakened for many families.

Here is a summary of how the original budget proposals turned out in the end.

Maine Care

The Legislature REJECTED all of the following cuts to Maine Care. This means they will not go into effect.

Rejected: Cut Maine Care for parents with income between 134-200% of the federal poverty level.

Rejected: Cut Maine Care for adults without children living under the federal poverty level.

Rejected: Double the time period that DHHS has to determine Maine Care eligibility for people with disabilities from 45 to 90 days.

Rejected: Eliminate or reduce assistance with; Medicare Part B premiums and other costs. Part D premiums; some co-payments and deductibles; and coverage through the "donut hole" for seniors and people with disabilities with income between 134-185% of the federal poverty level.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Time Limits

Original Proposal: Impose strict lifetime 5-year time limit in the TANF program with no exceptions.

Proposal Adopted by the Legislature:

Beginning January 1, 2012, there will be a 5 year time limit in the TANF program. There are some exceptions.

Households in which an adult family member has an impairment or illness that limits ability to work;

Domestic violence survivors; people enrolled in an education or training program; certain caretaker relatives who are not the parent of the child and are needed at home to care for the child; and those facing other hardships that will be determined by DHHS.

General Assistance

The Legislature REJECTED all of the proposed cuts to the General Assistance program. This means the following cuts will not go into effect:

Rejected: Individuals who are eligible for other federal cash programs would become ineligible for General Assistance.

Rejected: General Assistance would only be available once a year.

Rejected: Increases the number of days that an individual is ineligible for GA benefits from 120 days to 180 days in cases of false representation or for not complying with work requirements.

Rejected: Disqualifies GA applicants who voluntarily abandon a resource (like a housing voucher) without cause for 120 days.

Rejected: Disqualifies GA applicants who lose benefits from another public assistance program because of fraud for the length of disqualification in that other program or 180 days, whichever is longer.

Rejected: Reduces the reimbursement level to municipalities providing the most GA in the State from 90% to 75% of the amount in excess of .0003 of the municipality's most recent state evaluation.

Cuts to programs that Assist Legal Immigrants

Original Proposal: Eliminate state-funded public assistance for Maine Care, TANF, Food Supplement benefits and SSI for legal immigrants who do not qualify for federal assistance through these programs. This would include immigrants who are here lawfully but do not qualify for federal assistance either because they have been lawful permanent residents for less than 5 years or because they are awaiting a determination of citizenship status. In addition, certain refugees would have been left without SSI benefits after seven years from the time they obtained refugee status. This is the time n which the federal government stops covering SSI benefits for refugees. Please note that most refugees, asylees and other groups that qualify for federally-funded benefits will not be impacted by the budget cuts for legal immigrants.

The Legislature accepted some, but not the entire proposal. This is the final law:

Current recipients: Legal immigrants who are currently receiving TANF,SSI and Food Supplement benefits through a state-funded program will continue to get assistance as long as they are eligible. In other words these will be "grand fathered" and will continue to receive benefits.

New applicants: New applicants will only be eligible for these programs if they are 1) elderly and/or disabled; 2) domestic violence survivors; or 3) fit into some other hardship category such as waiting for a work permit. Elderly and disabled legal immigrants will continue to qualify for SSI. All children will also continue to qualify for Food Supplement benefits.

Maine Care for Legal Immigrants

Legal immigrants will no longer be able to get Maine Care through a state-funded program. This will impact immigrants who are here lawfully but do not qualify for federal assistance either because they have been lawful residents for less than 5 years or because they are awaiting a determination of citizenship status. This cut does not apply to children under 21 and pregnant women up to 60 days following delivery.

Changes in the Fuel Assistance (LIHEAP) program for 2011-2012

The income limits for eligibility for the LIHEAP program are being lowered. This is due to cutbacks in federal funding. Last year, families that made up to 228% of the federal poverty limit or about \$2795 per month for a family of 2 people were eligible. This year, the limit will be 150% of the federal poverty limit or about \$1839 per month for a family of 2 people.

These changes go into effect on August 1, 2011. You can apply for LIHEAP help for this coming year after August 1, 2011. Contact your local Community Action Program to apply. You need to bring proof of income, social security numbers, and your address. You can use a utility bill to prove your address. For more information about LIHEAP, you can visit the MaineHousing website or contact them at 1-800-452-4668.

Summer Adventures at CAMP H.O.M.E.

-By Cary Huggins

H.O.M.E.'s summer camp got under way on June 27th with the direction of Cary and Connor Huggins.

Kids were encouraged to attend, with no financial barriers to their participation. The camp served nearly twenty kids who were largely children or grandchildren of staff. The six to thirteen year olds explored sewing, pottery, healthy eating and cooking, hiking, bicycle riding, repair and safety, conflict resolution, meditation (they LOVED this and even fell asleep as a group on one occasion!) and yoga. They tied and dyed clothing (see picture), swam (creative splashing!) at many area lakes and ocean beaches, and explored the history of transportation at the Owl's Head Museum and science at the Maine Discovery Museum in Bangor. The kids learned about how a radio station works, planted and tended their own tomato garden, volunteered at the Humane Society in Ellsworth, made beautiful things in pottery, sewing and weaving and journaled many days about their experiences. The kids cared for the camp dog, Mocha, and learned about how a healthy diet and exercise for pets and for people affects how they feel, think and grow. Cary and Connor are very proud of the kids who repeatedly challenged their comfort zones and learned new things about themselves and their worlds. Thanks for sharing your summers with us!



Tie - Dye creations



Ralph Grimes giving the campers a tour of WERU radio station.



Sandra Potter teaching the children sewing.



Campers ride in vintage car at the Owl's Head Transportation Museum.

Guatemala Mission 2011

-By Cary Huggins

Having visited Central America once before and after doing research on Guatemala prior to my trip, I expected to see strong support of family in this culture. When 21 people showed up to meet us at the airport (two of us six were natives of the village we were visiting), I was impressed beyond my wildest imagination. How cool was that! Grandparents, cousins, the pastor from their church, friends and neighbors felt it was important to take the four plus hour journey to Guatemala City and back in the torrential rain. Community support was amazing, I would find, as my week in San Juan Comalapa unfolded.

We lived with a gracious family who had lived at H.O.M.E. before and into the early years of their oldest two children of six. Miguel Tuctuc Telon began an Emmaus Community several years ago in Guatemala supported by H.O.M.E. We met with the community leaders who reported that a sustainable agriculture project was underway which involved the planting of 1200 avocado trees and 10 acres of guava beans. Over fifty families were involved in this effort that would serve hundreds of other families in the area. Emmaus San Juan Comalapa also shared that since representatives from H.O.M.E. had visited the year before, more than twenty homes had been supplied with running water which was very exciting for the community. Emmaus was extremely touched by the \$4000 donation from St. Francis Community, which houses H.O.M.E.'s farm. The group very thankfully accepted a generous donation of medical related supplies from Bob Miller of Miller Drug in Bangor. I was enthusiastic to share some of my experience as a nurse and worked with Jose Cupertino Peren Bal in visiting ill villagers. I watched and listened closely as he used many tried and true remedies from natural resources native to Guatemala. I appreciated his approach to medicine with more of a trust of our natural ability to heal ourselves of many ailments. I was glad to complement this with elements of western medicine that would help him with more emergent medical issues.

My sons Connor, 16, and Kiernan, 11, accompanied us on the trip. They were very impressed with the friendliness of the people they met and how grateful people were for our visits and help. The boys proved that even with very limited Spanish, the universal language of play provided them with close relationships with the kids they met and lots of laughter in a world where extreme poverty often brings tears. The boys enjoyed the Guatemalan meals, often very labor intensive but rich in color, local farmer support and nutritionally dense fruits and vegetables. The absence of fast food was very refreshing!

H.O.M.E. was able to purchase \$1000 worth of local weaving to support San Juan Comalapa's weavers who struggle to sell their intricately beautiful wares in a country rich in tradition but poor in finances. Many of these can be found in H.O.M.E.'s craft store along with information about the crafters and community in Guatemala we support. I enjoyed meeting all the weavers and was in awe of the talent, dedication and pride involved in producing such incredible works of art. Many of the women lived in very meager habitats, often with dirt floors and animals sharing the same space. It was heart warming to know that our donations and support might help improve living conditions by supplying some basic needs. Bob Plant, a Bucksport resident who has visited this village more than once, sent support for one family in dire need that he has become close to. We visited with them (eight children) and they were so grateful for the help.

We encourage anyone interested in future trips to this village to contact us. It was certainly a wonderful experience and helped me appreciate the strengths and needs of both cultures as we continue this dance together.

We will be sending a 20' x 8' x 8' shipping container to a small impoverished community in San Juan Comalapa, Guatemala filled with much needed supplies. The container program, which is in part funded by Emmaus International, strives to strengthen solidarity between relatively wealthy and impoverished communities throughout the world. As a member of Emmaus International, HOME is dedicated to the enhancement of life for people and communities struggling with poverty both at home and abroad. HOME has helped to support San Juan Comalapa in many ways over the years and now the container program provides us with a way to do more. Located in the central highlands, San Juan Comalapa is a small, rural, farming community with promising prospects for the future. We only wish to make that future as bright as possible.

Donation items needed for San Juan Comalapa, Guatemala:

- Bicycles (In good, working order or easily fixable)
- Kitchen Appliances (Microwaves, Toaster Ovens, Hot Plates, etc.)
- Carpentry Tools (Hammers, Saws, Sanders, etc.)
- Mechanical Tools (Wrenches, Screwdrivers, Pliers, etc.)
- Farming Tools (Shovels, Picks, Axes, etc.)
- Shoes (Men's and Children's shoes, Women's sneakers)
- Packing materials/containers preferably reusable (suitcases, boxes, buckets)
- Sewing Machines
- School Supplies
- Clothes (Men's and Children's)



Lucy and Josue hand out gifts to the children in San Juan.



Cary Huggins and the children in San Juan.

*For custom purposes donations are asked to be organized with a detailed listing of the contents of any containers

Guatemala Mission Trips



Village women of San Juan Comalapa

If you are interested in helping the mission of Emmaus San Juan, or if you would like to attend the Cultural Exchange and Language Immersion Program, please check the appropriate box and return to h.o.m.e., inc.



Children from the village of San Juan Comalapa

Please send me an application for the Cultural Exchange and Language Immersion Program

Please send me more brochures to pass along to my community

Enclosed is my donation to the Guatemala Relief Fund (Amount: \$____)

Enclosed is my donation to the Guatemala Travel Fund (Amount: \$____)

I would like to volunteer to educate others about Emmaus San Juan

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I would prefer being contacted via:

Mail: _____

Phone: _____

"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"





Reflections

The Faces of Poverty By Twila Greene

Stage One...
The wolves howled and scratched at the door.
As a child it didn't bother me too much.
My Dad would attempt to contend with them.
Occasionally he even chased them away for a spell.
I didn't realize that keeping the wolves away is a full time job.
We had potatoes, we had onions.
We usually had bread.
I had shoes during the school year and big sisters outgrown coat during winter.
The Salvation Army gave us mittens, hats and scarves.
We even received a ham or a chicken from the mining company where Dad worked.

Stage Two...
Later I had four little boys and it became my turn to do battle.
Sometimes the howls at the door would keep me awake nights.
It was a continual struggle to keep the wolves at bay.
After a while we began to use only the back door, for fear of attack.
Never enough money for sneakers, not enough for coats, mittens, electricity, fuel, food, we had no car.
Fortunately we had loving neighbors in the community, most in the same boat.
We would try to help each other out.
Always share with your neighbors.
The wolves growled and dug splinters into the door posts
The children grew and made lives of their own.

Stage Three...
Now I'm old and tired.
The wolves are young and restless and hungry.
I don't have the energy to fight anymore.
It just doesn't matter!
I give up.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Oh, God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work, help me
to remember the jobless;
When I have a warm home,
help me to remember the homeless;
When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer,;
And remembering, help me
to destroy my complacency
and bestir my compassion.
Make me concerned enough
to help, by word and deed,
those who cry out
for what we take for granted.
"For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink.
I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."
- Mathew 25:35

The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled
as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.



+++++

The following variation on the prayer was delivered by Mother Theresa when she addressed the United Nations in 1985

Make us worthy Lord to serve our fellow men
throughout the world,
who live and die in poverty and hunger.
Give them through our hands, this day, their daily bread
and by our understanding love give peace and joy.

Lord, make me a channel of thy peace.
That where there is hatred I may bring love,
That where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness,
That where there is discord, I may bring harmony,
That where there is error I may bring truth,
That where there is doubt I may bring faith,
That where there is despair I may bring hope,
That where there are shadows I may bring light,
That where there is sadness I may bring joy.
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than
to be comforted,
To understand than to be understood,
To love than to be loved.
For it is by forgetting self that one finds.
It is by forgiving that one is forgiven,
it is by dying that one awakens to eternal life.
Amen.

I am the warmth of the hearth on cold winter nights. I am the shade screening you from the summer sun. My fruits and restoring drinks quench your thirst as you journey onward. I am the beam that holds your house; the door of your homestead; the bed on which you lie, and the timber that builds your boat. I am the handle of your hoe, the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin.

Sign on a tree in a public park
—Madrid, Spain



+++++

Why I drank

— Anonymous

I drank to be witty and I became a boor
I drank to relax and I couldn't stop my hands from shaking.
I drank to feel good and I suffered through sickening hangovers.
I drank to be happy and it made me depressed
I drank to be a good dancer and it made me stagger
I drank to be a good conversationalist and I couldn't pronounce my words.
I drank to be sociable and I became angry and resentful
I drank to help my appetite and cheated my body of nutrition by not eating right
I drank to become popular and lost my friends
I drank to enjoy life and contemplated suicide
I drank for camaraderie and drove everyone away from me
I drank to escape and built a prison for myself
I drank to find peace and I found hell.

+++++

Dear Readers
H.O.M.E. has been wonderful to a lot of people. Help with housing, somewhere to stay the night. My great great grandmother Sarah Meade gave people rest, somewhere to stay the night. She was one of the first to give shelter to many who were homeless. God Bless Claudia Gilbert.

+++++

Those who vow to do good should not expect people to clear the stones from their path on this account. They must expect the contrary: that others will roll great boulders down upon them. Such obstacles can be overcome only by the kind of strength gained in the very struggle. Those who merely resent obstacles will only waste whatever force they have.
-Albert Schweitzer

"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"
Homeworkers Organized for
More Employment

www.homecoop.net



A new playground for H.O.M.E. Daycare.

Part of the World Emmaus Movement

h.o.m.e.

PO Box 10
Orland, ME 04472

This Time



Pumpkins from our Millie's garden win first prize at the Common Ground Fair.



**Part of the World
Emmaus Movement**