

Annual Reports for 2010

Housing

The housing office has been renewed this year after a time of uncertainty. HOME in partnership with Covenant Community Land Trust and St. Francis Community has built many homes for families over the last 30 plus years but the need never lessens. In these hard economic times, many families struggle between eating, paying for their heat and paying their housing costs. The result has been that HOME has taken on some homes that families lost due to foreclosures; but we were able to save the homes for other families in need! This past year we recovered one home in Patten Pond and are in the process of saving two more homes in Sedgwick.

Gerald Botta has taken over as the new housing director and is working hard to get families into HOME homes with a goal that all homes are occupied and eventually owned by a low-income family. I would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped build and rehab our homes and the construction/maintenance crew at HOME. Joshua Amenkowicz, Glen Tarbox, the rest of the construction workers, and volunteers have worked hard to complete house #6 in Dedham and have worked hard on the duplex behind the chapel.

Gerald Botta
Housing Director



Gerald Botta

Garage

I have returned to H.O.M.E. after an eighteen year hiatus, from Daycare patron to Garage Department Head. It's good to be back. I hope to improve both the quality and quantity of work taking place in the garage this year. With any luck by the end of the summer we will not have any down vehicles taking up space on the grounds and will have built at least a small number of content repeat customers that are not employees. We are also working on reorganizing the garage to make it more efficient and spacious and with a little help from volunteers that will happen.

Joseph Staples and Matt Carter



Joseph Staples

Daycare

The 2009 and 2010 has brought us many joys as well as struggles. We have received some fantastic donations such as Montessori based learning activities and a complete children's garden. At the same time, we have struggled with low enrollment due to the economy. All of our staff is now on board with Maine Roads to Quality and our center has been registered with the Quality Rating System.

Last year's garden was a success and we are looking forward to working with Millie and Tyler again this year. With our new children's garden materials we are off to a good start.

We have been collecting Campbell Soup labels and several volunteer groups are sponsoring us in this endeavor. We hope to have 10,000 labels by the end of summer. This will allow us to buy the children much needed equipment.

H.O.M.E. Inc. Daycare is grateful for all of our parent participation and community support. It has been abundant. Thank you.

Janine Lomina, Daycare Director



Janine Lomina

Saw Mill and Shingle Mill, Sawmill:

Clint Claggett is our Sawyer and has been for many years. Clint welcomed the help of Brent Smith during the winter season as they prepared almost 100 cord of firewood. Total revenues for the Saw mill in 2009 were \$19,205.92 which was slightly up from 2008 where the Mill brought in \$15,524.01.

Shingle Mill:

The Shingle Mill is run by Eric Snowe with the help of David Smith. Shingle Mill Sales for 2009 were \$3072.22. Slightly up from 2008 sales were \$1837.00. Eric is optimistic that sales will continue to increase as customers start to hear that we sell quality cedar shingles at lower prices. Eric Snowe also works on small engine repair when we have a cedar stock shortage.

Clint Claggett and Eric Snowe



Brent Smith

Bookkeeping

It's hard to believe that it's now 2010. With 2009 behind us, we have had many victories in completing our records for all previous years. Ruth and I have not only completed past years but we have also worked diligently on keeping our records for 2009 current. With all the changes in our economy it has made it very hard for some people to get by. They are depending more upon our services every day. With our efforts we have provided many meals and shelter for our less fortunate.

Our department has had a few changes since last year. We now have Cora Bigelow as our receptionist part time. She does data entry for the mailing list and also keeps the finances for Deer Ridge Mobile Home Park in Augusta. She is also the house manager for the St. Francis Inn Women's Shelter in East Orland.

This year our goal is to get a complete audit of our financials. This has a great impact on our grant writing success. It is this information that lenders and foundations look at for our financial stability. Housing has been working closely with our staff on preparation of many housing loans. This support is a critical part of getting our homes sold to the families in need. We hope that with having Gerald Botta now in housing this opens up the doors to many other opportunities.

It is no surprise that bookkeeping has outgrown the present office setting. One of our Capital Improvements for this year will be to expand our office into the outer area. This will give us the ability to work more efficiently.

Now that we are up to date on past tasks we can focus on some changes that allow us to continue our accurate financial reporting. We have recently updated our accounting software and are researching the purchase of a new computer. I would also like to see the staff get some classes on accounting and Microsoft Office programs which are utilized in our daily operations. This will allow them to strengthen their knowledge and to have the ability to work more efficiently.

I want to give a big thanks to Ruth, Cora, Gerald, and to Lou for all their support through a very rough year. With all of our hard work it has proven to be successful.

We look forward to the years ahead and all the new experiences we will share.

Thank you,
The Bookkeeping Staff
Mary, Ruth, Gerald, Cora, and Lou



From Left: Ruth Bennett, Mary Mahan, Lou Chamberland

"The church cannot remain silent in the face of injustice without becoming an accessory to it." - Monseñor Romero, July 24th 1977

Fund-raising Report

Dear Friends of H.O.M.E.

This year is H.O.M.E.'s 40th Anniversary. Since our founding in 1970, we have grown from a Crafters' Cooperative to a bustling multi-service agency with over 35 employees. Our Landmark sign on Route One, leads the way to a Learning Center, Daycare, Soup Kitchen, Market Stand, Saw Mill, Shingle Mill, Automotive Garage, Craft Shops, Homeless Shelters and Organic Gardens. Located close to Route One are several developments which embrace a beautiful model of affordable housing for over fifty low-income and formerly Homeless families.

Over the past 40 years our founding values have not changed. Today, much as in 1970, we try to work against the continuing background of rural poverty. H.O.M.E. has made significant accomplishments over the past year in all of our areas of service delivery. Our work here continues with the help of earned income from lumber, craft and wreath sales and also assistance from our friends and neighbors who share our mission.. We were blessed to be able to refurbish the Chapel, continue house construction, continue to feed people who are hungry and house those who are homeless. You have heard about our homeless services, our soup kitchen, transportation and outreach service. You have heard the stories of the children who have attended summer camp. What we don't often hear is the need behind the scenes to keep these program running, specifically the general operating costs including fuel for our plow trucks and furnaces and the cost of food for our Food Bank.

We began 2009 with one very large concern and that was heat for the cold winter months in Maine. Heating seven shelters and transitional houses is always a challenge for us. In 2009 we had to replace three furnaces. One furnace was located at the Hospitality House in Bucksport which is home to families in transition from homelessness. With the help of a private operating foundation we were granted \$6100 which allowed us to install the oil burning furnace in August of 2009. In November of 2009 we replaced the Outdoor Wood Boiler that heats the Dorr House men's shelter, the Pottery Shop and Phil's house. Many thanks to the same Foundation for offering a challenge grant toward this project, the cost of this wood boiler was \$12,395. The Third stove was installed early in 2010 and it heats the Market Stand and the Automotive Garage.

In August of 2009 H.O.M.E.'s Day Camp program hosted 12 children for eight weeks during the Summer months. This was made possible by a generous grant award. Many thanks to all who support this much needed program.

Our Summer Fair and Auction raised \$6387.50. It was a fun weekend complete with H.O.M.E.'s famous BBQ; many thanks to Lou and Claude for their efforts. Proceeds from the Fair and Auction helped with winter heating bills.

The Craft Store provided a Homemade Quilt to be raffled and we were very happy to have raised \$304.00 from the raffle. In addition to the raffle our Spring Appeal brought in \$46,078 which was much less than in 2008. The Fall Appeal raised \$147,107 which helped us ready our plow trucks for the winter and assisted with general operating expenses for the Food Bank and Homeless Shelters.

We anticipate an exciting and prosperous 2010, with much to accomplish. We are still building houses and are currently working on two houses. One is located in Dedham and will be home to one family. The other is located in Orland and will serve as home for two families. We will be building porches and garages and will be replacing the roof at the St. Francis Inn Homeless Shelter for women. One of our biggest goals for 2010 is to increase our earned income by 10% in each department. The Garden and Greenhouse crew have already exceeded this goal early in 2010 with increased plant and baked goods sales for our greenhouse. I invite all to visit us here in Orland and consider us when purchasing Christmas wreaths for the holidays or lumber for your next big project. We sell cedar shingles for houses and are proud to have an automotive garage that can offer the lowest labor rate in the state of Maine.

Many thanks to our generous friends who respond to our Appeals, without such help our programs simply would not be possible. Thank you for your support. Tracey Hair.

Tracey Hair



Gardens & Greenhouses

It would be hard to imagine a worse gardening season than the 2009 one. A farmer of many years experience called it the worst he'd seen in forty seasons! A cold, wet spring morphed into an even wetter summer. We lost approximately 80% of our tomato crop due to airborne spores of late blight disease; many people lost their potatoes for the same reason. Early cool-loving crops such as peas, beets, and Swiss chard, fared much better, but overall yield was very low. This summer has to be better!

Our inside greenhouse has been transformed this winter into a lush greenery mainly due to the efforts of Tyler McAllian who will also be working with me in the garden this summer. We both hope to increase sales of produce and plants as well as value-added products like salsa, jam and pickles, and dried flower arrangements and ornamental corn in the fall. We'd like to add several raised beds in front of our outside greenhouse, probably planted with a mixture of herbs, flowers, and compact veggies.

Tyler and I have high hopes of a glorious and abundant spring and summer! Happy Spring!

Millie Grimes
Garden Department

Millie Grimes



Craft Shops:

Weaving, Stitchery, Stained Glass, Pottery and Leather Studios

Hello my name is Lisa Scott. I have recently become Head of the Craft Department which includes Pottery, Stained Glass, Leather Work, Stitchery and Weaving.

Our Pottery Studio is producing new things everyday. Steve recently made 100 bowls for a fund-raising project coming up in the future. In the Stitchery Department Sandra has been busy working on repairs and special orders plus making quilts. Our leather shop has a new person, Judy, working on belts, purses, keychains and vests. Our stained glass shop is making new things all of the time. Roxanne also makes beautiful jewelry. Carrie and myself work in the Weaving studio. Along with the tablecloths and placemats and rugs we weave, we have added a couple new things: corn husk weaving and basket weaving. All five studios take special orders. Stitchery and leather shop also take repairs. All studios have classes in our Learning Center.

Thank you all for visiting the Craft Shops in 2009.

Thanks to all,

Lisa Scott
(Department Head)
Steve Weslow
Roxanne Poulin
Judy Norwood



Carrie Belcher
Pictured

Market Stand and Food Bank

The Goodness Sake Food Bank and Soup Kitchen began almost 40 years ago. It didn't start as a soup kitchen; it started out with cups of coffee and sandwiches for hungry people. Today, the food bank and soup kitchen provide very large service to the community. John Negron is our new cook at the Market Stand, he comes to us with an enthusiastic drive and has helped the Market Stand acquire new equipment for heating and preparing food. Barry Locke is here and is joined by Melissa Buonopane who is now managing the Market Stand.

In 2009 the Market Stand provided over 7600 hot lunches and saw an increase in the need for food boxes by 500 boxes during the year. The need for food is great and we try to meet that need when we can.

Many thanks to Shirley Brown of New Hampshire, Trade Winds and Hannaford Supermarkets generously donate produce for others who are in need. The Market Stand had many improvements during 2009; Bill Creighton painted the inside and we had some construction repair done. We are still planning further renovations. Stop by for lunch!

Melissa Buonopane

Melissa Buonopane



Shelter

On any given night, 1200-1500 homeless people find refuge in Maine's shelters. H.O.M.E. houses about sixty of that number. There are a growing number of working families who simply cannot afford today's high cost of housing; for them a home is only a dream. Besides insufficient income, the people who come to us suffer from mental illness, substance abuse, and disabilities. The stark reality of finding oneself homeless is very frightening, and with no place to go, people lose hope. We have finally increased our shelter staff, thereby greatly improving our services to the homeless. Cora Bigelow is now the Resident Director of the East Orland shelter for women and children. Jackie Burpee is now overseeing the Dedham Transitional Housing (4 units), as well as the Hance House in Ellsworth.

This past summer we succeeded in renovating the kitchen/dining area in the Men's Shelter, as well as adding one small bedroom. We still have other rehab jobs: back roof, one bathroom, exterior painting: all at the Hospitality House.

We continue our efforts to restore hope by supporting individuals and families every step of the way, from emergency shelter to permanent affordable housing. Throughout our struggle to continue operating our several shelters, we are constantly inspired by the courage of all whom we serve.

Bonnie Williams & Sister Marie Ahern
Shelter Co-directors



Sister Marie and Phil Gray

H.O.M.E. Auto Donation Program

- Your donation is tax deductible
- We accept only running vehicles

Volunteers and staff at H.O.M.E. are committed to bringing hope and assistance to poor and homeless families. Through our vehicle donation program we are able to bring decent affordable vehicles to those with little income. In addition we use vehicles to transport shelter residents and for plowing in the winter. We need plows, trucks, cars and vans.

Your car may be old to you but it's new to a family in need.

For more information on donating your vehicle to charity please call Jackie Burpee @ 207-469-7961, or email info@homecoop.net.

Thank you!

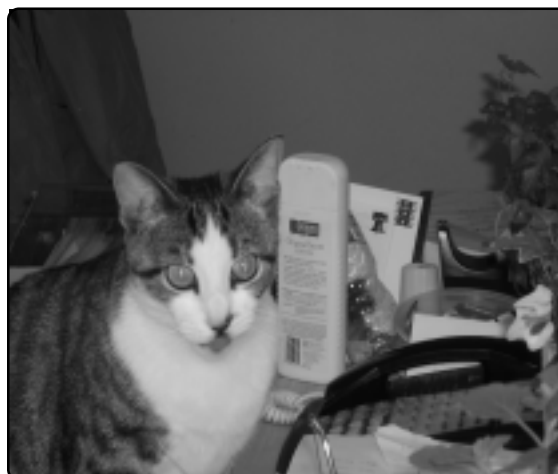


Main Office

We sit here in the office
As we try to do our thing
But there are always interruptions
And the phone won't cease its ring
If we're putting on our makeup
Or we're curling up our hair
If we look towards our window,
We find someone waiting there.
There are questions asked for Tracey,
Jackie, Lucy or Marie
There are people seeking Karen,
Ruthie, Mary or Bonnie.
The phone might ring for the Market Stand
Garage or Jim at Crafts
We sometimes shed a tear or two
But we sure have lots of laughs
Calls come in for Clint, Janine,
Joe, Cora, Norm or Josh
Always bells are ringing
Here's another. Oh my gosh!
We just smile and offer guidance
Give directions and advice
We know almost all the answers
You don't have to ask us twice
We can copy, tell you stories
We make coffee and we file
We can also serve up cookies
If you like once in a while
We are here to give assistance
Offer help and do our best
So drop by sometime and see us
Come on in and be our guest.
Lisa and Twila with the assistance of Maggie and Cora
under the guidance and Supervision of Pounce the Office Cat.



*Lisa Garzarelli
working in the Maine office.*



Pounce the office cat.

*Whether prince or pauper, minister
or homeless, we get up and we work
together in the morning.
Working together with you, our
supporters over forty years some
miracles have happened for human
beings who have been left out of
our society, our state, and our
families.
- Lucy Poulin*

Learning Center

This past year the learning center has seen many new students come through our doors, as well as new teachers and classes. We have a very creative student body and staff here at H.O.M.E. and the combination has led to several art classes now being offered that include colored pencil techniques, watercolor painting, and a basket weaving class.

One of our most popular classes has been the oil painting class taught by Roxanne Poulin. We also have some folks learning computer basics, ESL, and basic GED prep. Joe Staples, our mechanic, is teaching an automotive class.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to the Bucksport High School for donating textbooks, thus making it possible for us to offer a Spanish class. All of our students are enthusiastic and eager to learn everything they can; some are taking several classes!

We are always looking for donations of used textbooks, school supplies or volunteers! Check in anytime for a complete schedule of classes being offered.

Thank you for all of your support,

Karen Botta
Learning Center Director



*Painting Class at the Learning Center
Pictured from left : Jackie Lee, Tyler
McCallion and Karen Botta.*



Judy Norwood in painting class

Volunteers.

Many thanks to volunteers!

Brandeis University, ASB Michigan, St Anselm University, Boston University, St Andrews Church Ellsworth, Barrington UCC, First Church UCC CT, St John's Prep, Gilead Congregation, St Andrews from Madison CT, Falmouth Congregational Church, Lincoln School RI, Congregational Church of R...idgefield CT, Immanuel UCC, UCC at Valley Forge, First Parish Church United in Westford Ma, Monroe Congregational Church of CT, UCC Milford CT, Evangelical Reformed UCC, Mason Congregational Church of NH, Silverlake Group of CT, St Bridgets of Manchester CT, St Joan of Arc of Ma, St Lukes of Barrington RI, the First Congregational of Coventry CT and the Ford Family.

Without your help our programs would not be possible.

Please join us again next year :)