



EMMAUS HOMELESS SHELTER



Serve First Those Who Suffer Most

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Dear Friends of Emmaus:

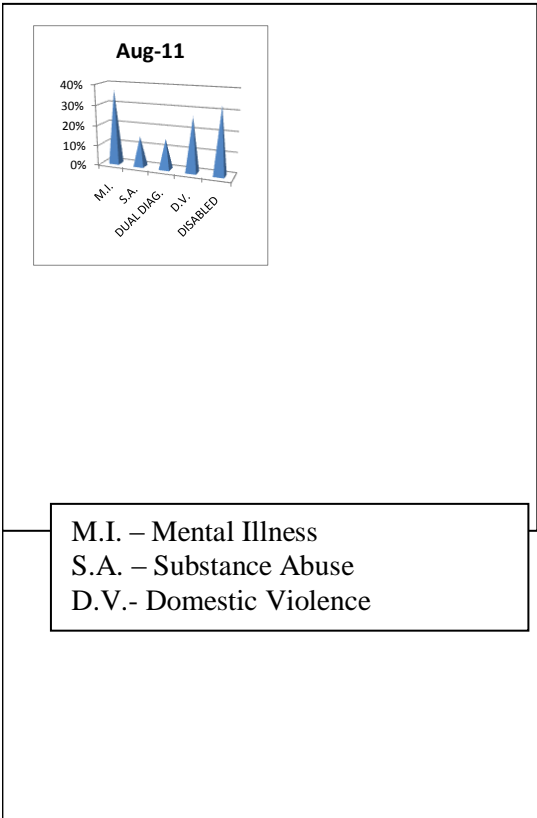
After 19 years of service to the Ellsworth area, the Emmaus Homeless Shelter's beds remain full. Last I checked, we have a waiting list of 7 single men and women and 18 families needing to come in. They are surviving by couch surfing with friends and family, splitting up the families camping and if lucky, able to sleep in their car.

We are also experiencing many more people having to rely on their local city/town General Assistance for basic needs, food pantries and the emergency room at hospitals in order to survive. Struggling to have their basic needs taken care of—something most of us take for granted.

Our shelter continues to work very closely with other local providers in the area. We provide a relief and safe haven for many who are part of the drug court system and are mandated to attend Open Door, the local alcohol and drug recovery center. For many this is beginning of a long journey to recovery. Recently, a 22 year old woman living here had to enter the intensive detox program in Westbrook. Her motivating aspiration is to be reunited with her 4 year old daughter who is currently in foster care.

Due to the high unemployment in the area we are preparing for an even greater demand on our holiday request for food and gifts. It is due to the wonderful generosity of individuals like you, churches and organizations that we are able to meet these demands. I have listed possible ways on the back of this newsletter to assist in the holiday programs. We just received wonderful news from the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor that they will again be offering turkeys and hams for our holiday baskets again this year.

Your support means so much to people who have nothing but their faith in a better future. Please help us today as we struggle to support those in need of the basic necessities of life.



M.I. – Mental Illness
 S.A. – Substance Abuse
 D.V.- Domestic Violence

FROM THE RESIDENT'S CORNER

“My name is Renate and I am grateful to all the staff at the shelter and congratulate them for how they maintain a place to help us to have an opportunity to have a new start on life. The bottom line is that they help people who want to help themselves. I was at the shelter for 3 months and now have a nice apartment with My husband – all furnishing provided by the Shelter! I am also grateful for the opportunity to have had work done on my teeth, an eye exam and new glasses.”

“Dear Emmaus Center,
Thank you so much for the furniture. It has been a tremendous help in creating a comfortable home for my children and I. Your generosity has been a light in the darkness of some very challenging times, and I am touched. I will always remember how you helped me. I hope to be able to pass it on some day. Brian was very kind and helpful and he had a very positive attitude!! Thank you!”

CHALLENGES FACING HOMELESS FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

2100 Maine children are homeless.

One in 22 don't know where they will get their next meal

Only 25% of homeless children will graduate from high school
Minimum wage in Maine is \$7.50 per hour: for a family to afford a two bedroom apartment, their hourly pay needs to be twice that.



- The state proposed budget change package will eliminate MaineCare coverage for parents between 133% and 200% of the federal poverty level
- The loss of MaineCare coverage for nearly 30,000 Maine people will have a devastating impact on our state and it will remove approximately 16,000 childless adults
- Ultimately, the loss of MaineCare will put many into high risk for homelessness



As the Residential Life Manager at Emmaus, I work one on one with the residents in an effort to meet their various needs including housing, employment, education, and healthcare coverage. The eligibility limitations of receiving MaineCare is already a major barrier to most of the residents and with impending budget changes, it will only get worse.

Lack of MaineCare is not only a barrier to health care services such as doctor visits and obtaining medications but also to housing. For example, there are two housing programs residents may be eligible for that require a mental health diagnosis from a specified professional. Without MaineCare coverage, residents cannot obtain the necessary assessment and therefore cannot qualify for the housing programs. Their only option is to be on a waiting list for Section 8 rental assistance which carries with it a one to two year wait. A lack of MaineCare also prevents residents from obtaining case management and life skills services as well as substance abuse treatment, which would greatly improve their rate of success after leaving the Emmaus Shelter. In the few instances where these services are arranged through other funding sources such as grants and donations, the resident cannot get transportation to the appointment because again, they do not have MaineCare.

These issues are not limited to our residents at Emmaus; there are families throughout the State of Maine who are facing them also. Eventually it is a situation that will affect all of us, directly or indirectly, one way or another.

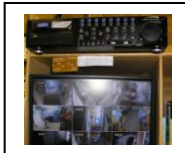
Nichole Gulowsen, Residential Life Manager

**THE PROCEEDS OF OUR 2011 SPRINGFEST HAS ALLOWED US TO
UP GRADE OUR SHELTER BEDS AND SECURITY SYSTEM**

20 twin and 2 full size accolade firm sets of mattresses, frames and mattress covers were purchased. For the past 19 years our guests have been sleeping on used mattresses that were donated to us when we opened the shelter.



Our mission is to provide a safe environment for our guest. Due to domestic violence issues for some it is important that we have availability to who is on the property. We were able to expand our update our security system from 5 sites to 9 cameras.



Telephone system
We are in the process of negotiating with Communication Technologies, Inc. to install an update telecommunication system in the office.



DONATIONS

Coupon Queens - August 24, 2011

Never underestimate the power of women.....Romona Young, her daughter Heather Jones and granddaughters, Lillian (8 weeks old) and Julianna took on the challenge of becoming "extreme couponers". Their focus was on baby items! They contacted Similac Instant Formula and were able to acquire free coupons for bottles of liquid and powered formula. They also did the same with small bottles of Gerber baby food and diapers.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

On behalf of all the Springfest volunteers a donation is always made to another non-profit. This year we chose:

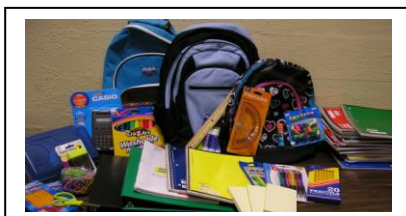
Chikyu Mura, Network "Earth Village" in Japan

Thank you for your gift of \$500.00 received May 9, 2011 Your gift will be spent 100% for our relief aid to the affected area of the Eastern Japan disaster by earthquake and tunami happened on March 11, 2012. We are sending relief to the victims as well as our staff and volunteers. Thank you again for helping people to live better and to return closer to their normal life. Sincerely, Yoshiyuki Takagi, President



2011 SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM

"I appreciate all that you gave me for school supplies. I love all of it because I will need it for the 5th grade and will be having lots of homework."



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UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS AT THE EMMAUS SHELTER

The holidays are quickly approaching and already we are receiving request for Thanksgiving Food Boxes and Christmas Gifts and Food Boxes.

In 2010:

- served 200 families Thanksgiving Food Boxes
- served 150 individuals and families a Thanksgiving Meal at the Riverside Restaurant
- served 1042 individuals (254) families in 36 towns Christmas Gifts

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As in the past, we are asking for your help to make the 2011 holidays a reality for all those who find themselves in need of assistance.

Ways to participate:

Adopt-A-Family for Christmas gifts:



- request a family and purchase the gifts requested for a total of \$30 per child
- send a check and we will purchase the gifts for you
- donate \$30 Gift Cards to Hannafords or Shaws for a holiday food box

SHELTER WISH LIST:

Plastic twin mattress and pillow covers
Pre-paid phone cards and postage stamps
Dish and **laundry detergent** and dishwasher tabs
Trash bags (33 & 13 gal), Toilet paper and paper towels
Freezer bags – gallon and quarts

Coffee – regular
Sugar, margarine, butter
Adult Advil, Tylenol, ibuprofen
Batteries, pens and markers