

MID-MAINE HOMELESS SHELTER & SERVICES

HOPE STARTS HERE

SPRING 2022

Never were there finer, more generous trees than lilacs planted by my father in the back yard of my childhood home. Every May their scent filled the kitchen with a natural sweetness that lifted even the most worn-down spirit. Their color was glorious, bursting forth in shades ranging from rosy quartz and lavender to mauve and periwinkle.

The arrival of the lilacs were a time of new hope and fresh starts. They heralded the arrival of spring when my best friend's backyard pool was finally open after months of incessant rain and gray skies. They ushered in sailing on San Francisco Bay and camping trips in the Sierras, back yard barbeques and endless summer nights talking with friends under the stars.

When the lilacs were in bloom, life was good.



When the lilacs were in bloom, we opened doors and windows, welcoming fresh air and the sound of birdsong to wipe away the dust and damp of winter. Of course, the lilacs were only the first of spring's many gifts and were soon joined by wisteria, apple blossoms, and honey suckle.

The lilacs were the appetizer to a veritable spring feast of blossoms and life returning to the garden.

In some years, spring has more meaning than in others. The last two years have been a long winter of discontent. We have all borne the weight and worry of keeping ourselves and our loved-ones safe and healthy.

(Continued on next page)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We have exciting events and programs coming up that you won't want to miss!

MMHSS ANNUAL MEETING

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
MONDAY, JUNE 27TH
6P-8P

THE CHACE FORUM
150 MAIN ST
WATERVILLE, ME 04901



SAVE THE DATE

25TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT MMHSS

September 15, 2022

NATANIS GOLF COURSE VASSALBORO. ME

The funds raised from the golf tournament directly impact the lives of your community's most vulnerable citizens. Your neighbors, your friends, your family members.....join us in our efforts as we work together to make homelessness a rare, brief and a one-time event in their story!



Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter & Services



For more information and to learn how you can sponsor this event please contact
Tanya Fossett, Development & Communications Director
19 Colby Street Waterville, ME 04901
(207) 660-1042
tanya@ShelterMe.org www.shelterme.org

1ST ANNUAL MMHSS 5K WALK

September 24, 2022
More details to come!



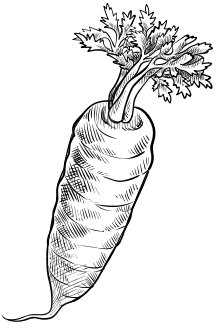
JULY 21, 2021
6P-8P
THE CHACE FORUM
WATERVILLE, ME

PHOTOGRAPHY PRESENTATION: TRUE NORTH

Join us for a fascinating presentation of photographs featuring Arctic wildlife. All proceeds to benefit MMHSS. For ticket information, please contact olivia@shelterme.org or 207.692.3394.

On August 3, find us at:





Spring is in full swing!



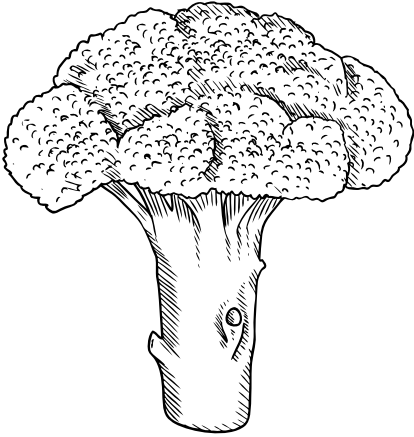
In the mood to garden? So are we!



A local family worked to get our raised beds ready for the season! We look forward to watching everything grow.



HUGE thanks to Coastal Maine soil company for donating soil for our raised beds via Aubuchon Hardware in Waterville.

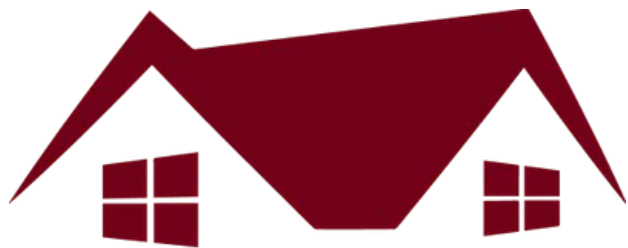


Thank you to Longfellow's Greenhouse in Manchester for providing seedlings and seeds for our raised beds.



Our trials have been great, and we had to learn and adapt in ways we never dreamed possible. We learned that low-barrier shelter works, and that we can provide safety to all who need it. We learned that families are experiencing homelessness in numbers unknown in years past and our programs must adapt to meet the needs of our younger guests - we need non-congregate shelter for families, and we need it now.

We learned that we are capable of far more than we ever dreamed possible. We served more people with higher needs across two sites. We found housing where there wasn't any and made sure no one was left outside in winter.



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& Services

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Together, we moved mountains.

This spring, something feels different. After two years of illness and loss and adaptation, where nothing ever stayed the same, it feels as if the sullen clouds that have kept us fearful and alone have, at last, begun to part and we are ready to come together, to feast, to dance, and to revel in the simple pleasure of being with those we love.

Perhaps it's time to remind ourselves to find lilacs and wisteria, honeysuckle and apple blossoms and breath in their hope. With renewed hope, we can commit to the great work before us: to ensure that homelessness becomes a rare, brief, and one-time event in a person's life.

I have every confidence that together, we can get this done, one household, one person, one child at a time.

Katie

Katie Spencer-White
CEO

