

MID-MAINE HOMELESS SHELTER & SERVICES

HOPE STARTS HERE

WINTER 2022

As we look back on 2021, the numbers are in, and the evidence is clear: the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter and Services is a phenomenal year-round 24-hour shelter. Despite moving into a second year of providing crisis services, MMHSS continues to serve two dozen people a night at our Colby Street shelter, with over 50 more people - including families with children - in local hotels through FEMA. That's 90 people a night who would otherwise have no place to go.

Our goal is to do this as safely as possible and we have implemented significant pandemic protocols to ensure our guests and staff are safe, including obtaining a federal waiver that allows us to operate an on-site testing service for guests and staff.

Our programs are second to none. Our shelter, case management and housing navigation services are low barrier which means people are welcome irrespective of the issues they face, including criminal convictions and addiction.

We are also a Housing First agency which means our goal is to make sure all of our guests get back into year-round, permanent housing, and we're pretty good at it - among the best in the state. Our guests stay with us as long as they need to until they find that permanent place to call home.



Community partners help to keep our guests warm! We gratefully accepted a donation of blankets from Charlie's Subaru recently from their "Subaru Loves to Donate" program.

Like our regular shelter, everyone is welcome at our Winter Warming Center, including service and assistance animals, so long as they are safe to be in a congregate community (this is true for animals, but also for their humans). Guests of the Warming Center receive a cot, access to a shower and food, and are offered case management, rapid resolution and other services. During inclement weather folks stay as long as they like.

In 2021 we served 425 individuals including 53 this season at the Winter Warming Center and we helped prevent another 62 folks from becoming homeless through "Diversion", a program we are expanding through the generous support of the City of Waterville and in collaboration with our colleagues at KVCAP and Kennebec Behavioral Health (KBH). We hope we can triple the number of people diverted from homelessness in 2022.

cont.



ITS A FACT
3.36%

The rate of student homelessness at local schools has gone up from 2% to 3.36% since the start of the 2021-2022 school year. That's 33 more kids without a permanent home since September.

If you have a unit you can rent to a family experiencing homelessness, call (207) 692-7244 and speak with Susan.



Above: Sally accepts a donation from Gary O. on behalf of the Waterville Elks #905 Cribbage Committee



Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter & Services

Hope Starts Here
www.shelterme.org

Our Current Needs

SCAN HERE TO VIEW OUR WISH LIST ON

amazon



- EARBUDS
- SWEATPANTS (ADULT)
- T-SHIRTS (ADULT)
- CAN OPENERS
- LIQUID HAND SOAP
- BATHROOM CLEANER
- SLEEP MASKS
- HAIRBRUSHES/HAIR TIES
- WINTER HATS
- ICE/SNOW CLEATS

ANY ITEMS PURCHASED FOR THE SHELTER USING OUR AMAZON WISHLIST CAN BE SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO OUR

ADDRESS:

19 COLBY STREET
WATERVILLE, ME 04901

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Find us on
Facebook

facebook.com/midmainehomelessshelter

To our volunteers:

In 2021, our community of volunteers logged over 1,800 hours. We cannot overstate how grateful we are for each and every person who donates their time to us. Your unwavering commitment has continued throughout the pandemic. Our volunteers truly make a difference, whether it's dropping off meals, peeling vegetables in the kitchen, picking up recycling, or helping us clean. We appreciate you!

*Thank
you!*

All the best,
Olivia, Development and
Volunteer Coordinator



Above: Jayde recently accepted a donation of items from Brooklynn. Brooklynn raised funds by babysitting which she then used to purchase these items for the shelter!

YES Youth Empowerment Supports

The YES program is a supported housing program for formerly homeless youth. We support tenants as they acquire daily living skills and learn to navigate the world as adults. Our foundation is in a strong sense of community cooperation and collaborative decision-making. We have 11 full apartments and tenants work on personal goals that align with their hopes and aspirations. Our YES program tenants have had a quiet winter. We have a teacher who is teaching American Sign Language once per week to those who are interested.



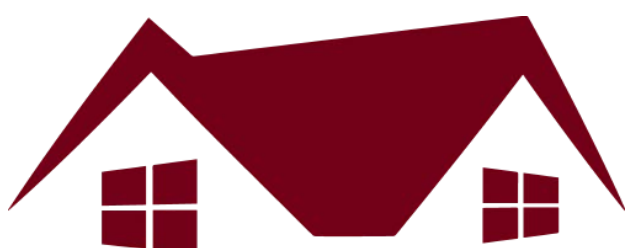
Our YES Program tenants have been thinking of warmer days ahead! Pictured is their indoor grow tower with escarole.

But as good as we're doing, we know there is still more to do. We have big goals for 2022 including expanding family services, increasing the supply of supportive housing locally, and strengthening local and statewide collaborations. We are doing everything we can to achieve our vision of a community where the experience of homelessness is a rare, brief, and one-time event in someone's life.

All in all, while it has been a very difficult two years, we challenged ourselves to meet the moment by expanding and improving our services and fostering a sense of shared purpose and partnership. We wanted to share this information with you all in thanks and gratitude for your support and encouragement the past two years and in the future. On behalf of our staff, board of directors, volunteers (we see you!), donors, and most importantly our Guests, thank you for believing in us.

Katie Spencer White
MMHSS CEO

Please note that a version of this article was posted on our Facebook page.



Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter & Services

Hope Starts Here
www.shelterme.org



WHY DO YOU VOLUNTEER AT MMHSS?

"I wanted to help out during a hard time in our world anyway I could."
- Matthew

"There are a multitude of reasons why we volunteer but I would have to say the one main reason is to give back. And we really enjoy the staff and residents." - Sharon and Kevin

"Do Small Things with Great Love"
- Carla

"Two reasons:

1. Matthew 25:40 - 'The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'
2. There is nothing so fulfilling as doing something for someone who can do absolutely nothing for you in return."
- Charlie