

**Capital Area Network
of Elder and Disability Services
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
8:30 am to 10:00 am
DHHS
41 Anthony Avenue Room A, Augusta**

Next Meeting on Tuesday, March 9th at 8:30

Meeting Notes

Present: Marie Bronn, Chateau Cushnoc; Diane Fregon, Blind and Visual Impaired; Rob Gordon, KV United Way; Dan LaChance, Bread of Life Ministries; Carol Smith, St Marks Home for Women; Karen Tucker, HCCA

8:30 Introductions: Getting to Know Who is in the Room

This is a facilitated networking time, where participants are invited to share news and information about their services and request information of the group.

8:50 Rob Gordon, United Way of Kennebec Valley

Rob briefed us on the local Home Heating Challenge Group and existing and planned warming places in the area.

The Home Heating Fund:

- The Home Heating Fund has benefited from several gifts throughout the last year- this year fundraising is not going on to the degree it was last year due to the difference in oil costs and a milder winter.
- A lot of support for the fund comes from individuals, local churches, etc
- Local churches have been supportive to their capacity, although this year they are not able to do as much as would like.
- The Home Heating Challenge Group meets twice a month, usually on the second and fourth Friday
- The Heating Fund is a onetime emergency fund of last resort; there are not rigid requirements.
- Inquiries are channeled through Good Will Industries 626-0170 directed to Dan Vigue who works with people to find holistic support for the persons/family situation with an eye to the future and how to get folks back on track. Dan does the following:
 - o Triage requests
 - o Talks about employability where appropriate
 - o Helps to get people back into the resource
 - o Links to job services at Goodwill Industries as appropriate
- Police departments are aware of the fund, and encouraged to refer people in need to contact Dan.
- We are beginning to use up and deplete traditional resources for assistance.
- Rob passed out the [Heating Assistance Guide \(click here for the link\)](#)

- [211 Maine](#) is the first place people should call who need heating assistance, as it is set up as a great resource
- Group meets every two weeks- 2nd and 4th Fridays at 10 am. The [Web page, hosted by HCCA](#) is found on their website www.healthycommunitiesme.org

Warming Center:

- As the result of Anna Blodgett receiving some concerns from citizens and from organizations such as hospitals regarding people not having a warm, safe place to go during the cold winter days, a Warming Center is being established.
- From Rob's perspective, the purpose is to prevent a tragedy by providing someplace to come in off the street to stay warm, use the bathroom, have children be able to play, watch a movie and have a warm beverage.
- Dean LaChance of Bread of Life was contacted by United Way, and was able to draw Elim Church into the discussion
- The Center will operate through the first week in April.
- The United Way will provide the funds for Bread of Life Staff until grants Dean is applying for come through. There will also be a volunteer staff person.
- The city owes a debt of gratitude to Elim for offering their old space on Central Street.
- Farmington has a warming place that has evolved into a place people come for social interaction as well, though this center may evolve in that direction as well, the vision is to open a simple place and see what people are interested in having there.
- Rob is very proud of all the support that has come forward for the warming center- very impressed with the spirit of caring in the community.

9:10 Dean Lachance, Executive Director, Bread of Life Ministries

Bread of Life Ministries provides six services to homeless individuals and families, and the low income population, including a soup kitchen, a homeless shelter, case management services, transitional and permanent housing, and a donation center.

Warming Center:

- Many folks coming forward to donate- currently the Center will have
 - o Couches
 - o Rugs
 - o Games
 - o Videos and TV/VCR,

Bread of Life organization/history

- many churches in 1984 came together to address food needs
- 1986 a homeless shelter was established, which has 30 beds now
 - o is primarily a family shelter
 - o does have four beds for single men and 4 for single women
- The goal is to ultimately pursue some kind of housing for the patrons- to help people to supply this for themselves and become self sufficient.
- Bread of Life now has transitional housing, with coaching, life skills – have 16 apartments have been established since 2001

- 2005 permanent support of housing began- there are now 65 units
- Of 65 units 62 have been started in the last two years.
 - o Bread of Life buys, renovates, and runs these buildings; this has brought great change within the organization
- 25 units are in the process of being renovated.
- To move from shelter to permanent housing needs case management; so Bread of Life now has three case managers
- The Bread of Life staff has grown to 13 full time and 5-6 part-time
- 2010 plans are ensure the following are working as well as possible:
 - o JTG house – is a new facility
 - o Coordinate the creation of the Warming Center
 - o Conduct a major capital campaign
- Warming center-
 - o Support will stop by to visit with those at the center
 - o Patrons will have access to resources
 - o Bread of Life staff will know who to connect with for resources
 - o Staff at Warming Center will be geared to invite people in, offer hospitality
- JTG house- will be buying the house with foundation money
 - o Are renovating the property with grants – and with gifts from banks
 - o Building use will be more beds for emergency shelter
 - o Day shelter for Bread of Life Clients
 - o Center for Life Skills
- Clients are usually in a major crisis and have a lot of needs.
 - o 5-10% do not have ability to cope perhaps need to be in a facility
 - o Rest are usually earnestly trying to change their situation
- Have a savings plan for patrons in the shelter
- Have Grants to connect people to FMI and to Mental health and physical health services.
- Donation center is located – household item, furniture, lots of stuff! Interested in Donating contact Bread of Life.
- UMA Project: collaborative - course 9 credits- art/architecture and Philosophy . will work on the JTG house. Have 10 signed up
- Working on getting a diversity of funding
- Promote accountability so with those that are not able to meet the expectations are evicted from the shelter; this creates safety for all at the shelter
- Nearly 50% of staff in housing are formally homeless

9:30 Meeting Adjourned

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