

Homeworkers Organized for More Employment

This Time

VOL. XXXVI, NO. 1

Orland, Maine 04472

SPRING 2011

Tent City

- By Tracey Hair

In this issue, we pay tribute to some very special people who tirelessly help the people who have no place to call home. They stay in tents. "Tent city" is what the locals call it. They stay on the floor in the classroom or in bunk beds in our volunteer center. They come to work with us, they come to help us. Their tent city is not like the tent cities of Oregon or New York where homeless people sleep. The tents, sometimes 50 of them, are temporary shelter for young volunteers who have come to work. The locals often wonder what this "tent city" is all about it's not a traditional tent city, the heartbreaking kind, rather it is a city of angels who have come to donate their time. The sea of tents is impressive and can be seen from route one half a mile away. These are not as impressive as the volunteers that sleep inside for a week.

Volunteers come for a day, or for a week with church groups, high schools and college groups. Others come to donate a year of their time. In 2010, H.O.M.E. hosted, 24 groups, with 554 volunteers of all ages. The contribution in time consisted of 22,120 hours in areas of construction, childcare, food distribution in our food bank and soup kitchen, gardening in our organic garden and stacking firewood for our winter heating season. Many of the groups have been coming to H.O.M.E. for years and some are visiting us for the first time. A few groups have volunteered at H.O.M.E. for over a decade and we have come to know them as family.

One group travelling to Maine for the 22nd time this year is from the First Congregational Church of Ridgefield Connecticut. They, like many others, have adopted our mission as their own and bring with them an enthusiasm and compassion that is contagious.

Driven by a thirst to serve and help the poor, the group made its first trek to H.O.M.E in 1989 with just fifteen volunteers. They join us now with over 100 youth volunteers, 15 college leaders and 30 adult leaders. They have been doing this for 22 years with one goal in mind. They hope to help improve the lives of those within our rural community. The leaders, a dedicated cast of electricians, carpenters and engineers have organized an impressive example of love in action.

One couple's thirst to serve and help the poor started this trip, which has changed lives for more than 2 decades. Dan Reidy, and his wife, Barbara, have brought 150 volunteers to H.O.M.E. since the beginning, each trip following a theme. The themes ranging from "set free to serve" to "working together building faith" change from year to year, and are always based around a passage of the Bible.

For H.O.M.E. the week begins with a train of white vans pulling into the parking lot. Each of the vans are numbered and out of each, a line of enthusiastic youth flood the campus covering our porch with their belongings. It is not long before our field is covered with tents.

They begin work the next day. The work could mean anything from re-building a shelter after a fire, re-tiling the floor in the Marketstand or building a wheelchair ramp for an elderly resident of Orland. With hundreds of hammers pounding daily it is evident in every nail that these youth and their dedicated corp of leaders are here to help. They never stop until the sun forces them to.

Perhaps the most striking part of their trip to Maine is the life lessons the youth take with them upon leaving Orland and the community at H.O.M.E. On their website it reads "*Walking away from the First Congregational Church on the last Sunday of the week is never easy, but the fact that we get to walk away is the most important lesson learned in Maine. Working there helps us to realize that our privileged life in Ridgefield is a gracious gift from God, and that with this gift we must serve first those who suffer most.*"

A miraculous change occurs among "Ridgefield" teenagers while they are here with us. They work with strangers and friends alike to accomplish tasks that can be emotionally and physically challenging. They get up in the morning and work together. The educated work with the uneducated and the clean shaven work with the unshaven doing jobs such as gathering firewood for the elderly or providing outreach for those in need.

In the evenings the group eats and reflects on the day's hard work, where they are reminded of the purpose of their mission. On talking with the leaders it is easy to see that they return because they know there is always work to do and people to help. The leaders of the group, Dan and Barbara Reidy, Bill Verril and Daniel McGinty to name a few, are called the "veterans" and have grown to love H.O.M.E. The feeling is shared by us.

When they here, I am reminded of a quote by Lucy Poulin; "*We must realize the truth of ourselves --- we are one human family. One a part of the other. My old work horse Teddy and the fancy registered horse visiting us had no trouble eating out of the same dish. We must discover the same.*" The volunteers from Ridgefield embody this spirit through their hard work and dedication.

We are grateful for the help of volunteers. Without them our programs would not be here today. The work is not glamorous and the digs are not fancy, but they come back every year to help. They work in the rain and some sleep on the floor. They cook lunch in our soup kitchen and deliver Christmas presents to children. They build ramps, replace roofs, fix walls and replace floors. It doesn't matter what the task is, they are here to help. We salute their dedication and acknowledge their efforts with gratitude.

There is little difference found between the volunteers and the people they are helping. They work alongside one another sharing tasks, standing shoulder to shoulder eating from the same dish...



Volunteers from Ridgefield Connecticut

If you are interested in volunteering at H. O. M. E. or would like more information about our Volunteer Program, please call Jackie Burpee at 207-469-7961.

H.O.M.E./Emmaus is a nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping and enhancing the quality of life for low-income and homeless families. Through services, stewardship of resources, and shared responsibility, we aim to bring forth new possibilities for food, jobs, shelter, low-income housing, education and self sufficiency.

"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"

2010 Snapshot

H.O.M.E. provided 14008 bed-nights of emergency and Transitional Housing

Our shelters were full and using overflow space from August until January of 2011, including the Volunteer Center and Learning Center. 32% of our residents left shelter for permanent housing and 10% left for temporary housing.

The average length of stay except in transitional housing was 65 days. The Learning Center enrolled 14 students in classes ranging from ESL to Creative Writing.

Six homeless people gained employment while staying in our shelter. Repairs were made to The Hospitality House, The St Francis Inn and The Learning Center

Our Shelters and Overflow space averaged 52 people per night.

Approximately 9000 meals were served

An average of 50 food boxes were given monthly

24 week long mission trip groups, with 554 volunteers of all ages contributed 22,120 hours of service.

Outreach appointments increased from 700 in 2009 to 1040 in 2010.

11,000 issues of our Newsletter "This Time" circulated nationally. Renovations were completed on two houses in Sedgwick and both houses are now occupied

Eight Houses have now been completed in Dedham to date and all are occupied. Three have sold and we are close to mortgaging more.

Construction on the Duplex in Orland is complete and occupied by two families.



Letters

Please send letters to:
This Time
PO Box 10
Orland, ME 04472
newsletter@homecoop.net

The following are excerpts from letters we've received since our last issue of This Time:

Dear Sister Lucy,
Just wanted to let you know that Jeff and I had an amazing trip to Guatemala and especially wonderful time with Miguel and Gloria and their family.

We brought some supplies over to the school one day and supplies to the clinic (photo enclosed) and we built a solar oven out of cardboard boxes one day with Miguel and Eduardo and the kids.

They are a wonderful family. I'm sending you a few pictures of Jennifer, Lucy and Brian. Jenersy was there too but I didn't get a picture of her. Anyway I thought her brothers might want to have these. They must miss their family.

We also gave Eduardo and Miguel 150.00 of which they thought they would make a kitchen for a woman who is supposed to move into the Emmaus Center soon.

We will be back in Maine in April and on the island by May.

Hope all is well with you

Sincerely,
Judy Burke



Jennifer, Lucy and Brian

"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"
This Time
is published by H. O. M. E. Inc.
Part of the World Emmaus Movement
Please visit our web-site for an electronic version of this Newsletter.
www.homecoop.net



Jennifer and Lucy

Dear H. O. M. E.,

I want to give back to H.O.M.E as a thank you for all of you who taught me endless lessons about love, generosity, suffering and the power of companionship and cooperative work. I learned what the true riches in life are and I met people who exhibited kindness and perseverance that I will keep with me forever. I cannot help but feel we received more than we gave in our weeks stay at H. O. M. E. Every task we faced and person we met gave us more insight into your lives, missions and beauty inside and out. I will pray for you every day. Thank you for everything you taught us by challenging us and giving us an authentic look inside H. O. M. E. in all its beauty, grace and inspiration. I am so grateful that a place like H. O. M. E. exists for all those in need in hopes they can find solace and peace through all the suffering in their lives and in the world.

We may not be able to reverse the pain or pasts, but we can do everything we can to create an environment of hope, dignity and inclusivity. Please send a special hello to Lucy, Marie, Jason and family, Melissa and Family, Tracey, Claudia, Rosa, Mark, Sergio, Bill, Eric, Morgan, Mocha and everyone at H. O. M. E..

Much love,
Christian

Dear Friends of Bessie and Leonard,
SUCCESS!!! The surgeon says he thinks he got the entire tumor and that it was perfect. She will be on three legs as of now but according to friends and the vet that shouldn't hamper her much. thanks to all of you for sending good thoughts and vibes and to those of you who prayed. It all looks good and she will be coming home tomorrow. Yippee---I'm so relieved, love, Leo

Addendum,

I apologize if I've been out of touch but things have been tough with my mom and Bessie. I also had a car stolen and trashed - had to be junked. Bought an old used one and it blew the engine a month later. I think I have decent transportation now. Also Bessie's vet bills from Dec to April were over \$2K so I've been borrowing money from my mother and haven't been able to send any checks. I just got a reverse mortgage on my house to pay the taxes and car and home insurance. I have a little left over so I'm writing to about two dozen of you to say I haven't forgotten you and to send a small check for the time past. It's not much but I don't have much. I hope it helps. My mother is better and just yesterday Bessie came running on three legs when I called her so that was a great feeling. Her tumor pain is gone and she's wagging her tail again. My best to all of you and I should be getting back on schedule where I can send a small donation once in a while. Thanks for waiting and all my best, Leonard.

+++++

Dear Lucy,
In addition to my raffle stubs and contribution, I'm enclosing a picture of a dazzling quilt exhibit that was held here in N.Y. It was so beautiful to look at! I thought "Virgie 89" would enjoy the picture, and the other ladies, too. What touched everybody who saw the exhibit was the feeling of all the love that went into the making of each quilt. Stitch by stitch, they were made by anonymous women, to keep their families warm, as a gift to someone, "love from mother" one said - it brought tears to your eyes!

Should I ever win the raffle by the way, I've already decided to donate the money right back to H.O.M.E.!
Best regards,
Kate

H. O. M. E. /Emmaus Spring Appeal 2011



"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11.28.30

Dear Friends,

It is our Forty First year and my memory fails me of all the beautiful people who have come into our lives, beautiful souls. On Wednesdays, a few older women come to have lunch in our soup kitchen. We are able to sit with them and reminisce. One, "Virgie 89" is a gifted quilt maker and gifted in the lessons of life. She livens up our table. Velma, a renowned cook, is recovering from a stroke but is well enough to come to lunch. It reminds me of the country song, "I drink from my saucer because my cup overflows, overflows with life."

Today we sold a house to a mother with two children; a home that volunteers helped build on Land Trust Land. Yesterday, the first day of spring, we had six inches of snow. I read a quote from Will Rogers "If you find yourself in a deep hole, stop digging" It fits this winter... Smiles and warm attitudes from the men who do our coldest work. They tend our outdoor E. P. A. Approved furnaces. We have been warm.

Phil Gray has died and gone to be with his wife Betty. At 89 he said "I want to be with her now." She had predeceased him. He had worked with the thousands of volunteers from churches, schools and colleges to build our Craft Store, Learning Center and all of the buildings at H. O. M. E. He worked on over 50 homes for low-income families. He said "He maybe didn't have the best carpenters but he certainly had the best looking ones"

We write to ask you to donate to us, to H. O. M. E., to "Serve first those Who Suffer Most"

God Bless You,

Lucy Poulin

Love Lucy Poulin



Lucy Poulin and Virgie Betts

H. O. M. E.

Update

-By Sr. Marie Ahern

We know spring cannot NOT come, but it certainly felt that way - this was the hardest winter we have had in a long time. But, as the song goes, we managed to make the most of a bad situation. College volunteers to help...plenty of firewood to warm us...occasional pure fun times, like bon fires and cook-outs way out on Toddy Pond...snowmobiling for the kids. The last of the ice left Toddy Pond on April 14th. Diego Harvey (5 years old) won the ice-out contest.

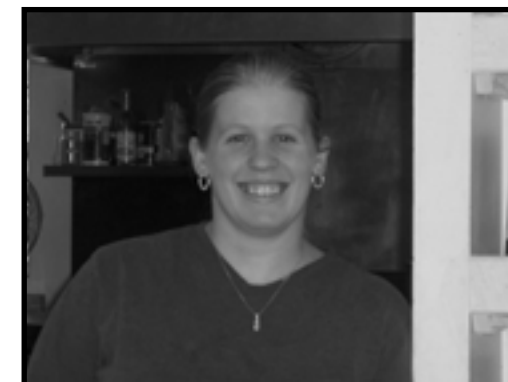
H. O. M. E. Staff has remained fairly stable, with just a few additions: Destiny Cromeenes and Deanna Anderson are directing our Day Care Center. Our woodshop has two excellent and productive workers: Mark Gross and Mark Erskine. Joe and Cary Huggins and their son Kiernan are living and working with us. Joe is opening a bicycle repair shop here, as well as doing trucking and towing. Cary is working on public relations, as well as helping enormously with all of our children. She and Karen Botta are getting everything ready for our August auction. Cary will also run our Day Camp program this summer (children too young to work - too old for Day Care.) Jackie Lee has opened the H. O. M. E. bakery and bakes bread every Saturday, as well as collaborating with Twila Greene, who is baking pies. It is already a big success. Twila (BCITNE)* cooked a corned beef dinner on St. Patrick's Day evening as a fund raiser. Her family provided live Irish music... one of my favorite annual events. Last Friday we had another fund-raiser dinner, haddock, prepared by Twila. The word is out and their meals are increasingly more successful. *(Best cook in the Northeast)

Recently we had an excellent workshop for the staff on Myers-Briggs personality identification. Susie and Brad Craig were the presenters, generously giving of their time and expertise. It was tremendously beneficial to the Staff's understanding of our ability to work together more effectively.

Since the vast majority of topics in this update are covered elsewhere in the paper, I'm considering writing a totally different kind of article...blurbs on the history of H. O. M. E. anecdotes...critical issues (e.g. litigious personalities)...Any comments or suggestions?



Diego Harvey



Destiny Cromeenes

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

In closing I would like to reflect on Phil Gray. It's the end of an era for H. O. M. E. with Phil Gray gone. What a man. What a presence; what wit and wisdom he had and totally original. I worked with Phil for 35 years first with Project Wood Stove: Phil and I would cut and split firewood and deliver it free to the elderly. Secondly, we co-directed house construction, completing about 15 of the first homes we built. After that, Phil and I did emergency repair jobs for people who needed help. Through all of this, over all those years, we managed to have lots of laughs, share all kinds of stories, meet hundreds of wonderful people. Phil cared about everyone at H. O. M. E. and right up to the end, he asked for various individuals, how they were faring, did they have housing. He was a vibrant part of our community and I miss him very much.



Phil Gray and Sister Marie enjoy a laugh at H.O.M.E.'s 40th Anniversary Dinner.

In Memory of Richard

-By Millie Grimes

Perhaps it was fate that on my last attempt at reaching Richard Verrill, a longtime participant in the Senior Farmshare program, that he actually answered the phone. After many fruitless attempts, I was holding open the last slot for him and time was running out for signing up for the 2010 season. He told me he'd had a physical set-back and had been in rehab, just returning to his Bucksport apartment that morning!

In the several years I knew Richard through his coming to H.O.M.E.'s Farmers' Market each Thursday in the summer, he became a good friend. He would call me in the early spring and ask if we could dig some dandelion greens for him and save some rhubarb for purchase. He zipped around town in a motorized wheelchair, making friends with many people.

Before his stroke which left his legs paralyzed, he would stop at our Flea Market and often come down to the garden, along with his best friend, a German Shepard, to see what was growing. In conversation with him at the market, he told me about a prolific blackberry patch, unknown to most people, where we later picked many berries to sell. Also an amusing story about picking lots of raspberries in what he thought was a remote field, unaware that the owner was standing nearby watching him! When the owner finally spoke to him, Richard told him it was a great place to pick and he should try picking too. (The owner let him keep the berries.)

Although Richard had a lot of physical problems, he was always very concerned about other people's health, and would advise me not to work too hard in the garden. He loved sun gold tomatoes and reliance peaches, both of which we had for him in abundance last year. Beet greens were another favorite. He remembered planting and harvesting many good gardens of his own in earlier years.

Richard told me near the end of the season that he was having a leg amputated, and would get in touch with us when he recovered. I didn't realize that would be the last time I would see him; some weeks later he passed away after complications from the surgery. I will greatly miss my talks with him, as well as his ready laugh and crooked smile that made him look just like a little boy. Thank you, Richard.

"Green Thumbs"

-By Millie Grimes

The 2010 gardening season was much more productive and enjoyable than the wet, rainy, no sunshine, late tomato blight summer of 2009. Our sales increased, both in the greenhouse, with terrariums and foliage plants (thanks to Tyler), and in our Farmer's Market revenues. Our winter squash crop was bountiful, with buttercup and butternut, as well as an enormous amount of blue hubbard squash grown by Lucy and Ellen at "The Farm". Also, this was the " year of the peach" - our hardy Reliance peach trees bore heavily. They do this every other year. The peaches are delicious!

One thing I'm trying this year that's different is raising everlasting or dried flowers such as statice and straw flowers for fall sales. Currently we are selling houseplants at the greenhouse and starting seeds for perennials, herbs, onions, leeks, annual flowers and tomatoes. We also have some seeds for sale at a very reasonable price. They were donated by Johnny Seeds and Fedco, two very good companies located here in Maine, and by Burpees, a well known company in Warminster, Pa. The bulk of our seeds purchased for our two organic gardens here are from Fedco.

Happy Spring!



Peaches from Millie's garden

The Green Revolution

-By Millie Grimes

Sheila Holtz and I recently attended an open house for the gardening program at the Troy Howard Middle School in Belfast. The students there, with adult supervision, have for several years planted a very impressive vegetable and flower garden which they maintain during the growing season and also market the produce. The open house featured the outside greenhouse, where large beds of swiss chard, many varieties of lettuce and other greens were thriving. In March, rabbits, chickens and earthworms also inhabit the greenhouse. Their manure is composted and used in the growing beds. Nutrient rich water from a small lily pad frog pond gives the veggies an extra boost.

The students did a lot of hands on work helping to construct a clay and brick outside oven where they bake delicious loaves of bread. We were shown a partially finished solar kitchen where soda cans painted black and built into the front wall helped to raise the temperature inside substantially. These young people are enthusiastic and proud of their efforts, and learning a lot about food sustainability through practical experiences. This gives hope for the future and we applaud them!



Millie at Farmers' Market

The h.o.m.e. Craft Store Catalogue

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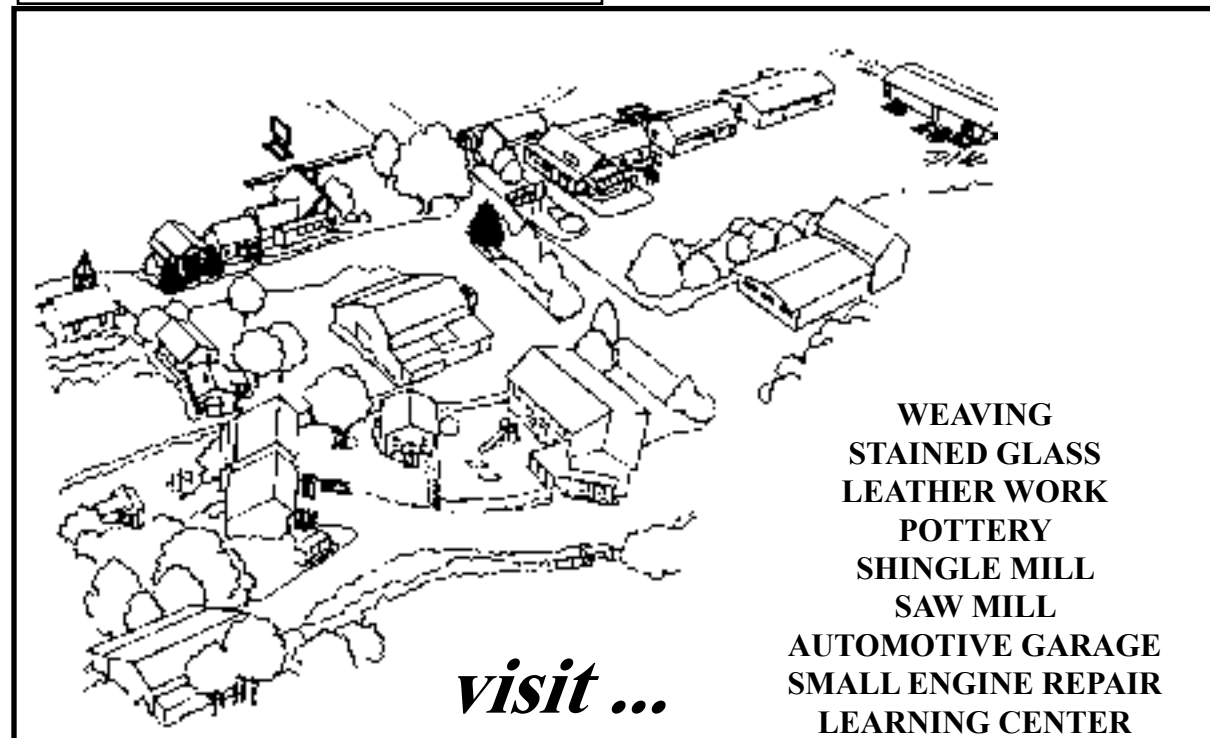
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h.o.m.e.'s Wish List

- Food
- Any Tools
- Fire Wood
- Office Supplies
- Mechanic's Tools
- Building Materials
- Saw Logs for our Mill
- Useful Trucks and/or Cars
- Cotton Fabric Pieces for Quilts
- & Large Pieces for Quilt backing
- Windows 7 Computers & Printers
- Big Pots & Pans for our Soup Kitchen
- Stocks**
- Money**



Pottery Studio. Open to all.

H.O.M.E. welcomes a new potter, Rosalani Moore. Stop in to view her unique style and place a custom order.

Classes.

Any skill level welcome.
 Learn the basic elements of pottery or come in and use our space to create your own piece. Also, mugs and plates are available for glazing - design your own!

PEDALIN' H.O.M.E. Bicycle Center is here!

Joe and Cary Huggins came to H.O.M.E. in February from Midcoast Maine to help out with public relations and maintenance. They are living at the Mandala Farm with their sons Kiernan and Connor. Joe has worked with kids and adults in bicycle repair and safety for several years. Cary is an avid cyclist who has lead kids on road bike and mountain bike adventures. The two will offer after school and summer programs in bicycle maintenance and safety for staff and residents of the H.O.M.E. community and the surrounding towns. **HELP!** They are in serious need of used bikes, tools, accessories and volunteers! Please stop by 986 Acadia Highway (Rt. 1) in East Orland and say hello or call 469-7961 or 350-0320 for more information. Come ride with us!! Cycling is fun, healthy and affordable at Pedalin' H.O.M.E.

h.o.m.e.- emmaus

Spring Class Schedule

All classes are offered on a sliding scale and these fees are due at the start of class.
 For more information call Karen at 207-469-7961.

Stitchery - Tuesdays 9am- 11am . Cost is \$30 per week for a four week session

Basket and Loom Weaving - Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-12pm. Cost is \$10 per session.

Writing 101 - Wednesdays 10am - 12pm

Stained Glass - Tuesdays 9am-11am. Cost is \$25 for a four week session.

ESL - English as a Second Language & GED Prep/ Tutoring. Call to make appointment.

Intro to Pottery - Mondays & Wednesdays 1p-2pm. Cost is \$35 per person for four sessions or \$10 per session.

Oil Painting -Thursdays 9am-11am. Cost is \$10 per person. All materials provided.

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Raised Beds are the way to go!

- By Lou Chamberland

We built our first raised bed about five years ago. Made out of pine boards, nailed together, and using soil from behind our house, we built three raised beds that first year. We quickly found out a few things. One is that raised beds drain very well! We were constantly having to water. Two is that nailed together beds tend to want to come apart over a Maine winter. Three is that pine rots fast loaded with wet soil.

Back to the drawing board. Our second year, having read Mel Bartholemew's book, "Square Foot Gardening", we built another three beds in April. This time we used hemlock from HOME's sawmill and bolted the beds together. Our beds are 16" tall, 4' wide, and 10' long.

We filled the first 8 inches with soil and used "Mel's mix" for the top 8 inches. Mel's mix is one part compost, one part peat moss, and one part vermiculite. After laying out our square foot grids, we enthusiastically planted our seeds. It rained almost every day for 3 weeks that year. Much to our chagrin we realized that there is quite a difference between gardening in Utah (where Mel is located and where it hardly ever rains), and gardening in a wet Maine spring. Our beds were water logged for days.

However, we did get an incredible harvest of greens and vegetables that year when it finally dried out. We were encouraged to keep trying.

Our third year, we took out Mel's mix and reformulated the mix for Maine's weather. And by our fourth year, we had it right.

We now have 13 raised beds. We still fill the bottom 8" with screened soil. We've adapted the mix so that we still retain the benefits of a friable soil but with a little more structure to it.

The mix that has worked quite well over the last 2-3 years for us contains three parts soil, one part vermiculite, one part peat moss, and two parts compost. We use a five gallon pail to measure out the components and dump them at end of a large tarp. By lifting the ends of the tarp and walking it to the other end, back and forth, we're able to mix up the ingredients to a uniform consistency.

Once our beds are filled, we lay out the square foot grid using twine and electrical conduit holders to hold the twine in place. Using the square foot system, we're able to plant very intensively - 16 carrot, radishes, or beets in one square foot, and 6 pepper plants in 6 square feet. We plant our tomatoes a little less intensively - 10-12 plants in a 4x10 bed. Our yield is astounding. Last year we produced 30# of carrots in a 3 x 4 foot section of one bed.



Lou Chamberland tending her crop.

As new modification we've added fences at the end of each bed. Cucumbers, squash, melons, can climb the fence - No more hills means hardly any weeding. The fences are also used for peas and other vine crops.

Raised bed gardening with the modified mix is the easiest gardening we've ever done. Our beds are almost completely weed free. Ten minutes once a week will take care of the weeding of a bed. The 16" height makes it easy to plant, weed and harvest. As one "square" is harvested, we plant new seeds to keep the garden going from April to the end of October.

In the spring, we cover the beds with black plastic which cooks our many weed seeds. After a few weeks, we add compost, lots of it, use a hoe to turn the soil, re-string the grids - and we're ready to go. No waiting for soil to dry out.

It's a lot of work and expense to build a bed, but once built you'll get years of great harvests for very little work compared to a regular garden system.



Square Foot garden bed.

Summer Fun at Camp H.O.M.E.

H.O.M.E. is gearing up for its annual summer camp full of fun games, creative learning activities and outdoor adventures! The camp will be run by Cary and Connor Huggins who have several years of camp experience and thoroughly enjoy working with kids and introducing them to new and exciting things. We are looking for campers between the ages of 8 and 14 and offer a sliding scale to make the fun summer experience affordable for all. The camp will run from 8 - 4 daily.

Call Cary Huggins at 469-7961 or stop by H.O.M.E.'s Learning Center to apply or to support the camp with needed financial and material donations.



Kiernan, Magdana, Jenni, Daline, Sanley and K.J

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. -

-Gina Gilloon

"Kids 4 A Cause" Club

Some of the H.O.M.E. kids have gotten together to form a volunteer club. They are hoping to "give back to the community" that they feel has helped their families get back on their feet during hard times and they are grateful. The group plans to volunteer at local animal shelters, retirement facilities and other area organizations needing community support. They hope to fundraise by making crafts at H.O.M.E. coop and selling them to fund their projects.



Kiernan, Magdana, Jenni, Daline, Sanley and K.J

Would you like to help h.o.m.e. continue our 41-year-long work with the rural poor?

Join our Mailing List!
Please mail information to H.O.M.E. Inc,

P.O. Box 10, Orland, Maine 04472

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____



The following is a few notes from my diary in October and November 2010. [sic]
- By Ulla, Svendborg, Denmark

My name is Ulla, I'm from Denmark and in the summer and autumn of 2010 I travelled the USA working and visiting the Americans. I came as a volunteer in October 2010 to live and work at H.O.M.E. for two weeks, and I will tell you a little about the time I spend there and the people I met and the thoughts I had.

My friend Liselotte (also a volunteer from Denmark and an old friend of H.O.M.E.) picked me up in Bangor, where I arrived by bus from Boston one brisk day last October. We drove east an hour to the city of Bucksport, where H.O.M.E.s COOP lies just outside the city.

H.O.M.E. was started by a group of Catholic nuns 35-40 years ago from the idea "serving first those who suffer most". They were inspired by the Emmaus Movement that was started by Abbe Pierre, a French Catholic priest in Paris just after the Second World War. The French people were left homeless and jobless and hungry after the war, as Abbe Pierre utilized a French law which said that if people could build a house between sunset and sunrise, the state could not tear it down. So he got people started and the idea spread. Now there are communities all over the world who, like H.O.M.E. are doing humanitarian work among the weak, the poor and the homeless in this World.

Lucy and Marie were among the Founding Mothers of H.O.M.E. and they bought the area where the COOP lies. They saw that people were hungry, so they built a public kitchen. They saw that people were homeless, so they built a sawmill, where they sawed up trees from their own forests, so they could build shelters for homeless, alcoholics, battered women, children and men. They saw that people were illiterate, so they built a Learning Center, so people could learn to read and write. They saw that people were unemployed, so they built a sewing workshop, a garage, a thrift store / flea market, a Shingle Mill, a greenhouse, a shop where people could sell homemade items and quilts and all kinds of knitwear. And they built a small chapel with room for 50-60 people, where they have church services every Sunday morning. Some fool drove a truck through the chapel a few years ago (by mistake!), but they rebuilt it and it's quite cozy! And over the years they have been building houses or workshops as needs arose, or someone got a nifty idea. Moreover, they have acquired several houses in the nearby towns for homeless, mentally ill and volunteers who come and stay for shorter or longer and help with odd jobs. And approx. ten minutes drive from the COOP is the Farm, where Lucy and Marie and Ellen live.

The Farm is located deep in a forest in a large clearing which Marie and Lucy deforested themselves many years ago. They built an 8-sided house on the south-facing slope north of Toddy Pond, and then they built a bigger house and sheds, barns and stables for the many goats, chickens, horses, peacocks and sheep, they have on the farm. Over the years, Lucy, Ellen, Marie, and a few more have been the anchor for countless children and adults who needed a hand, a meal, a bed to sleep in or a work and who would otherwise have lost themselves in drinking or drugs or violence or other crime or a darkened mind. And through the years, countless volunteers have been coming and still come in a shorter or longer period of time and help with different projects or working.

In the 8-sided house Marie, Maggie and Liselotte are living with the dog Moby. In the big house lives, besides Lucy, Jimmy (Lucy's adopted son) and Ellen a varied bunch of people - volunteers, homeless or adoptees. I was offered a small room to my self and while I was there, there were living 10 other people there. A Haitian mother with two children aged 6 and 11 years and her husband, 2 Colombian

boys at 15 and 16 years who goes to school here. Their parents live with their 4 siblings in Colombia, and Lucy, Mary and Ellen have on parents' initiative "taken over" the boys, while they're studying in the U.S. There also lives a young carpenter from Ecuador and a woman from Massachusetts and in a trailer outside Bill is living, a nice guy who is the unofficial prankster of H.O.M.E.

Work here is very varied - I was kind of a ranch hand, one who makes odd jobs. I've told Liselotte that H.O.M.E. can make me do almost everything - preferably outside - as long as it has nothing to do with accounting or computer work, but that was thankfully not the case.



Ulla

The working day begins with departure from the farm every morning at 7.30 to the COOP where today's work is distributed, or you stay on the farm and work with animals or different projects. One day I mug out at the donkeys, the next day I renovated a kitchen in a homeless shelter in Bucksport with one of the homeless people and some days I help Ellen with the feeding and grooming of the horses or put plastic on the windows in the barn for insulation. One day we loaded one of the trucks with horse manure and brought it to the kitchen garden at the COOP and loaded a truck full of sawdust to spread in the stables back at the Farm. I've cleaned up an old flea market in front of the sewing-workshop and hauled recycling things to a second-hand shop in Ellsworth with Liza, a woman from the COOP. And one day Liselotte and I gathered and sorted trash and deposit bottles on the farm and hauled it to a recycling site. Every where people met me with a smile and a "Hi!" and I felt really appreciated for the work I did. When it's lunch time, we meet at the Market Stand and eat and talk and we even played the guitar and sang one day! Liselotte does her treatments with cranium sacral therapy in a room at the COOP across the street from the Market Stand and has her schedule booked up well, luckily there is room for me one day and it is a joy to have my shoulder muscles treated and straightened.

Workday ends usually by 4pm and we drive back to the Farm with the children, who returns to the COOP from school with the school bus. At the Farm one of us have been preparing supper and shopped and cooked all day, so it usually smells delicious when we step in the door. At 6pm we meet in the kitchen and hold hands, while Lucy or Marie give thanks for the day and we pray together before we eat. It is never to know how many people we will be at dinner, usually we're about 12-15 people, but at the community supper on Monday there are more. One Monday Liselotte and I cooked dinner and we had made Danish meatballs (called frikadixies), roasted root vegetables and pancakes. It was rumored, both at Farm and at the COOP, so at 5.30pm, we were probably 25 people gathered for prayer in the kitchen. And it was a really nice evening with meatballs, garlic scented roots and the biggest pile of pancakes as I have ever baked! And of course a lot of wonderful conversation over the long table! And after dinner I pulled out Marie's guitar which had just got new strings and we played and sang, laughed and enjoyed each others company in the dark November evening. It is not every evening we stay up that late, - mostly, people are tired after a day's work and many meetings with authorities, charitable foundations, banks, etc. and they go their separate ways at 7.30 ish. They're

not too young any longer and also I think they understand the value of not being together all the time. Some evenings I go down to Marie's house and visit her, Maggie and Liselotte. They usually sit and do puzzles having tea or coffee and the TV is on in the background or Liselotte and I get a chat about the farm and the people or tomorrow's tasks.

Saturday is half day off and we meet in the kitchen at 8am and people say what plans they have for the day, splitting wood, repairs or new buildings on the farm and so on. And then there's always somebody who sign up to be "The Out Sisters", an earlier expression of the Sisters / Nuns reaching out to the outside world, unlike the sisters who were inside the monastery walls, and worked - but on H.O.M.E. they have always reached out to the outside world, so the term is somewhat outdated. The Out Sisters pick up the mail at Abbyss Attic, a small flea market shop halfway between the Farm and the COOP, they do shopping or get materials for tasks on the Farm, Liselotte and I are Out Sisters one Saturday and takes on supplies in Bucksport. Sunday we go to church and have the day off afterwards. I went too church as well, because I like to see how they do it here in the USA. We went to the COOP at 10am and entered the small chapel that was warmed up by a huge fireplace the last few hours! Ralph is the chosen priest and he is a really nice guy, looks a bit like Santa Claus with a white beard and pot belly, small smiling eyes and a nice big smile! We sing hymns and people take turns reading from the Bible or recite different prayers. Fortunately they have written down the whole worship service in a "screenplay" so I can keep track of when to respond Ralph or when to rise.

After two weeks I went back to Denmark. It was not easy to say goodbye to the nice and friendly people at H.O.M.E. and I look back on my experiences with very fond memories. To work with the people at H.O.M.E. was very meaningful and it gave me deep satisfaction to see, that what I did was appreciated and was to the benefit of others. When I return to the USA in a hopefully not too far future, I would very much like to come back and work at H.O.M.E. again!

I deeply admire Lucy, Ellen and Marie for their enthusiasm, kindness and resourcefulness! They are all over the age of 60 and are having different age related difficulties. They can no longer use a chain saw, chop firewood or build houses and things like physical exertions. But they can organize and arrange for logistics work, keep the Farm and the COOP running with volunteers or homeless people who can work, create and maintain contact with foundations, associations, companies and charities that might support H.O.M.E. financially or through donations of food, building materials, tools or vehicles. In a few years I very much hope, that they will find people with sweet hearts and clear and determined minds, who can support them in the continuing work at H.O.M.E. and eventually take over and carry on the torch!

Because Lucy, Marie and Ellen have plenty to do and where they get the strength to it all, I have no idea, but they are so sweet and heartfelt, they have smiles in their eyes and passion for what they do! It is their life - and I am deeply impressed by their history, their determination and their care for others!



Ulla working in the barn.



Claude tending his raised beds.



Raised Beds

The needs of the poor take priority over the desires of the rich,

The rights of workers over the maximization of profits, preservation of the environment over uncontrolled industrial expansion,

Production to meet social needs over production for military purposes.

Peter Maurin

Phil Gray

- By Phil Gray reprinted from "This Time" 2002 edition.

I've worked here, I have been here it will be thirty years on the sixth day of January, '03. I've worked on over fifty homes. I'm from a big family and I started helping people when I was only ten.

My granddad died when I was ten. My mother and my sister and I were living with my grandparents. He had a grocery store and fifty head of cattle. So I worked. When the war came they said I didn't have to go in because I was helping my mother and my sister, but I said I wanted to. I was in the Air Force..

I took out an allotment for my mother and then a little over a year later I married and I took out an allotment for my wife. We were married 66 years before she died on May 22" 2000. It's really been hard since she died.

I met my wife when I was in Texas. She was from Oklahoma. I went to a specialist aviation mechanic school in Texas, and then to a special one out in California. And then I went to Nevada training green crews. We had over a hundred thousand flying hours without an accident. I worked with a lot of young people then, pilots.

How I came to work at h.o.m.e. is they asked me to come here, said they were having some trouble with construction. So I thought I'd come and help them for a little while. But I stayed longer than a little while.

I enjoy working with people and keeping everybody smiling. That's the main thing.

The first house I worked on is the one out beyond Cathy Tracy's [known as the Burgess house; it was the first of the CCLT houses and a beam construction; it has since burned down].

The year I came to home all that was here was the red building that's now a museum and the old Dorr farm house and a little camp. That was what was here. I helped put up all the rest you see here now. Once we went to Fairfield and took a sawmill apart and brought it here. The sawmill belonged to Lucy's brother Tony. Like I told Lucy this morning, I'll go anywhere. I don't care.

We went down to Wiscasset and took apart the building that's now the sawmill and brought it here. The chapel was moved from my hometown seven miles. We moved the weaving shop up the hill. The weaving shop was next to the church down in Orland village here.



Phil Gray

I enjoy helping people. Helped all my kids get homes and worked on them. Only have six children, 24 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren. I can't get over how my youngest daughter's son is starting college. My middle boy has two in college. And then I got five or six grandchildren and two or three great grandchildren in the Bucksport High School. All together it's quite a thing.

I hurt my arm real bad. The horses ran away in the field here, just before the fair. There's a lump there, on my arm. I'm going to a specialist Thursday afternoon. I can use the arm but it bothers.

Of course it's the volunteers that make it all possible. The beautiful volunteers from all over the United States and the world: England, Germany, France and every state I guess. The first volunteer group, I got a picture of them, they came from Merrimac College in Massachusetts. We were working on the educational building there.

I enjoy working with young people. You don't

stand around. You show them and then you work with them. But now, every time you open the newspaper there's an expert for every thing.

I can't get over watching people trying to add and figure things out. Now they've got to have a computer. They can't do it by just figuring. Numbers and words were always very easy for me.

I went to eleven years of school. I skipped one of the grades in grade school. I went from second grade to the fourth. I transferred to a school in town. I went to a one-room school house with one teacher. The school I went to burned. The teacher sent me outside to look at it and I said everybody better get out. I then went to a third school in town. But they'd begun to tear them down. Used to be seven grade schools in Penobscot. Now we have one big school.

Did you ever read the song on the refrigerator a woman volunteer wrote about me? Her name was Mary Kate and I used to call her Katie May. She came here when Old Greenwich was here. She and her daughter stopped by. The next morning when I came to work she'd written that song.

For Phil with love, April 19, 2002
- Mary Kate

My name is Mary Kate
But he called me Katie May
And pleased was I to meet
The man known as Phil Gray.

Back in '86,
Or was it '87,
I met this striking soul
Just downeast of heaven.
He's part of a special community.
And when I stop by,
It feels like H.O.M.E. to me

Sometimes it's hard to put
Admiration into words;
You can't always convey what is-
The sentiments get blurred

So I'll just put this down:
Suffice it to say
I'm honored that I know
That Penobscot man Phil Gray.
He's given all he's got in the name of love. Surely
God smiles down on him from up above.

On his way to eighty.
This song is for Phil Gray.



Phil and his wife Betty

I Live In The House

I Was Born In

- By Phil Gray reprinted from "This Time" 2002 edition.

Manual Labor. I suppose manual labor is the best thing for frustration there is. I'm always surprised at the young people, how they take hold and build these houses.

I have a group now. It is fantastic what we've done. One of them is a minister, one of them is a mechanic, and two of them are school children. But they all blend together to complete a job that otherwise wouldn't be done.

We're building a house for the Emersons in Franklin. It has set dormant for about eight months, and we have it now 90 percent done inside and 98 percent on the outside, all except the kitchen cabinets and polishing the floor and stuff like that.

It was left dormant so long because we ran out of financing and financing is the name of the game. If you don't have money you don't spend it. A lot of people do anyhow, but that's not the right way to approach it.

We started working last week because we got some new funds. Someone, I don't know who, gave us money to finish it. I was told. Half we got and half we're going to get.

I suppose I have worked with some of the poorest and some of the richest people in the country. A poor child very often doesn't get enthused with working. That's what he does from birth.

I've worked with kids from every walk of life; every religion and I have covered the United States, Bolivia, Spain, Denmark, Australia, England, France, besides practically every state in the Union. I don't have to go anywhere to travel much.

One thing I've noticed is you often take a first impression and that first impression of a person is always wrong. We had a girl here about two years that left last week. At first I thought 'she can do nothing!' She was timid. She stood back. Probably she was getting used to the commotion.

I found out in two years there isn't much of anything she can't do. She was just fantastic. She could pound nails. She did the layout for this newspaper. She did the layout for the calendar. Anything you asked her to do.

The last day she was here she and I prefabricated practically all the boards for the inside of the Emerson house. Now you don't do that all at once. Some of that she had from a college education. But a lot she learned to do on her own. Working with her hands. So I take off my hat to anyone like that.

It's Janice Collucci I'm speaking of.
This is the prettiest time of year. If you don't have to think what's in the rear!



Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

-John Wesley

Insert Storm Window workshop comes to H.O.M.E.

- By Joshua Prochaska

H.O.M.E. is now offering workshops on the construction of insert storm windows. These workshops are open to the general public and all are encouraged to attend.

Insert storm windows have saved many people significant amounts of money through reduced fuel costs. They also increase comfort by eliminating drafts. Insert window users also report that condensation on windows is eliminated. People living on busy streets also enjoy the sound dampening the inserts provide.

Those who use the insert storm windows report that the minimal cost to construct inserts is well worth the payoff. One couple commented that they ordinarily had propane deliveries of 120 gallons per month but last year their monthly deliveries averaged 80 to 90 gallons. The use of the interior storms is, as they put it, a "no brainer".

The major barrier to individuals making these inserts is obtaining the proper materials at a reasonable cost. Since H.O.M.E. orders these materials in bulk, however, it brings down the cost for the individual. The cost for window inserts made at the workshops is \$1.25 per square foot with an average window is between ten and twelve square feet. One participant in the workshop was so pleased, she purchased more materials to work at home.

Bob Hardina, the workshop coordinator observes "It's the first workshop I have ever been involved in where there are no dissatisfied people. It's absolutely fantastic." Come out and learn how to do something to make your house more comfortable and green!



The Woodshop Crew learning to make Insert Storm Windows.

H.O.M.E. Plans to participate in Emmaus Container Program.

- By Joshua Prochaska

Recently, H.O.M.E. has applied for funding through Emmaus International to participate in their international container program, which sends shipping containers full of resources to Emmaus groups in need. H.O.M.E. would like to do this for our sister organization in Guatemala, so we put together a plan and submitted it to the regional council, where it was approved. The proposal still needs to be approved by a committee in Paris, but it is expected to pass there as well.

Our plan is to gather materials from the Bargain Barn, our thrift store, to fill at least one half of the twenty foot long shipping vessel. The other half we hope will come from donations by our benefactors. We are seeking any type of household good, such as clothing, bedding, toiletries, as well as basic transportation, like bicycles and scooters. There is also a possibility of loading a car into the container, which would be of great use to the low-income community in Guatemala.

Please, if you have any items which you think may be useful, contact Josh Prochaska at 207.469.7961.

H.O.M.E. Baked.

- By Jackie Lee

I had an idea for a bakery, which I proposed to Lucy and the Board of Directors in February. Everyone agreed this would be a great new venture for HOME. To begin, I am baking fresh breads for sale on Saturdays in the soup kitchen. We are using our own labels "HOME baked". So far it has been a great success, and we are already receiving orders and requests for Easter breads. The initial cost of ingredients was only \$100, and in 5 weeks, we have increased income which has given us a small profit.

Once the business plan is complete, we can apply for some grant money. The plan is to eventually open a 'for real' bakery in Abby's Attic Thrift Store. Starting from scratch with equipment to purchase and install-a real renovation. Very exciting for everyone!

Myself and Twila Green, who is also an amazing baker of pies and goodies, will be baking all kinds of breads and pies to add to Millie's Farmer's Market Stand, which will be excellent advertising. Imagine a table with organic produce and beautiful home baked items along with Millie's homemade jams!



Bread from H.O.M.E. Bakery



h.o.m.e. 2011 Photo Calendar

b&w photos of h.o.m.e.....\$4.00

Sometimes I think the purpose of the Catholic Worker, quite aside from all our social aims is to show the Providence of God, How God loves us. We are a family not an institution, in atmosphere, and so we address ourselves especially to families who have all the woes of insecurity sin, sickness and death, side by side with all the joys of family.

- Dorothy Day

Guatemala Mission Trips

Join us for a Mission Trip To Guatemala
"Helping others help themselves"

If you are interested in helping the mission of Emmaus San Juan, or if you would like to attend the Cultural Exchange and Language Immersion Program, please check the appropriate box and return to h.o.m.e., inc.

Please send me an application for the Cultural Exchange and Language Immersion Program

Please send me more brochures to pass along to my community

Enclosed is my donation to the Guatemala Relief Fund (Amount: \$____)

Enclosed is my donation to the Guatemala Travel Fund (Amount: \$____)

I would like to volunteer to educate others about Emmaus San Juan

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

e-mail Address: _____

I would prefer being contacted via:

mail: _____

phone: _____



Children from the village of San Juan Comalapa



Volunteers



Reflections

Dear Reader,
 I read in the enterprise paper that Orland Consolidated School was being closed this year because of budget cuts.
 I remember how that came to be built. Back in the 1950's there were one room schools. The Selectman of Orland were talking of building a new school in Orland Village. My mother Corinne Meade Gilbert who sold Avon, she knew Mrs Corney Soper who owned a field behind the town hall in Orland. My mother talked her into giving land to Orland for the children. God Bless my mother and Mrs Soper.
 -Claudia Gilbert.

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J. Ellen Fedder
 Thanksgiving Day American resembles this vignette:
 A family carving turkey at a table richly set,
 While every hunger pang awaits a banquet for a king,
 And every dinner guest relates the same old thank you thing.

But on a street in Any town, a grown man huddles low,
 Within his cloak he wraps himself and braces from the snow,
 While every hunger pang awaits another of the same,
 For holidays like this one are but holidays in name.

Another man remembers how the hunger hurts inside,
 Remembers how the winter bites with no place warm to hide,
 Remembers how a holiday is one more weight to bear,
 When no one seems to notice you and no one seems to care.

His winter coat all buttoned up, a wool hat on his ears,
 His lunch box full, he hurries to the job he's had for years,
 But on his way he comes upon the huddled man alone
 And greets him with the kindness of a friend he's always known.

Now grateful for the help he got one hungry day back when,
 He shows his " thanks-in-giving" up a lunch that could have been,
 And shows his " thanks-in-giving" up his coat to winter chills,
 Then smiles at knowledge of its pocket full of bills.

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No-one can make you feel inferior without your consent.
 - Eleanor Roosevelt

May you grow up to be righteous
 May you grow up to be true
 May you always know the truth
 And see the lights surrounding you
 May you always be courageous
 Stand upright and be strong
 May you stay forever young
 - Bob Dylan

+++++

The Volunteer
 - Margaret A. Francis

The Volunteer...with a heart so sincere.

No task too large, no task too small,
 Who will help with anything at all.

Who will be there in the morning light,
 Or help in the dark of night.

The Volunteer, our extra hand,
 On whose future our children stand.

Never anyone so dear as a H.O.M.E. volunteer!
 +++++

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. - Anne Frank.

+++++

What we do is very little, but it is like the little boy with a few loaves and fishes. Christ took that little and increased it. He will do the rest. What we do is so little we may seem to be constantly failing. But so did He fail. He met with apparent failure on the Cross. But unless the seed fall into the earth and die, there is no harvest. And why must we see results? Our work is to sow. Another generation will be reaping the harvest.
 - Dorothy Day

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A Midnight Cucumber
 - Rosalani Moore

When you feel that slight hunger
 That wake you from your midnight slumber
 As you blunder past your parent's door
 Sneaking ever evermore
 Cucumber, cucumber where art my cucumber
 dost thee reside behind that ghastrly refrigerator door
 Slowly slinking over coldly shadowed parlor floor
 and now you have filled that slight hunger
 That woke you from your midnight slumber
 Only this and nothing more.

+++++

seas of green so down deep
 wonder how I might sleep!
 falling through the flowing waters
 to where the ocean water totters.
 back and forth to and fro in a line
 to where ever dreams may go with the flow
 - Liza Moore

Our city's problems are many
 Solutions seem painfully few
 It's so easy to find yourself wailing
 "Where to start; there's too much to do."

Yet for one group the answer seems simple
 Their direction is always quite clear
 They reach out their hands when the need comes

The common vision they work for
 Encompasses folks one and all
 Peace, justice, freedom, and dignity
 No matter how helpless or small.

They serve in a myriad of venues
 That's the most essential piece of this pie
 No matter how young or how worldly
 No matter how educated or spry.

Some help build the houses in August
 Some work at our Daycare or Shops
 Some keep us apprised of legislation
 Some help in the kitchen and cook

They work to keep people warm
 And so children will have school supplies
 They organize concerts and suppers
 See the world through the most needy eyes.

Some organize bulbs for our garden
 While others drive meals on the go
 Some raise our racial conscience
 Lend a hand to help us grow

Whether working for H.O.M.E. or for others
 Fundraising street to street; door to door
 They willingly do with a smile
 What others might consider a bore

Some serve on the Board - on committees
 Schedule classes for young girls and boys
 No talent to small or too simple
 Each volunteer act increases all joys.

So today we acknowledge your efforts
 And in your honor proudly raise cheers
 May God Bless you one and all
 Our Wonderful Volunteers!

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Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced,
 where ignorance prevails, and where any class one
 class is made to feel that society is an organized
 conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them,
 neither persons nor property will be safe.
 - Frederick Douglass

+++++

I'm swinging with the wind as softly soaring
 overhead,
 Birds singing, children playing, trees
 swaying,
 See the shades of color collaged together,
 It's like you're flying up so high in the sky.
 - Liza Moore

"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"
Homeworkers Organized for
More Employment

www.homecoop.net



Peaches from Millie's Organic Garden

Part of the World Emmaus Movement

h.o.m.e.

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This Time



Oliver and Luigi



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