



The Bangor Area Homeless Shelter

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Annual Report

September 18, 2012

Fiscal Year 2012



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Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter to support and strengthen the community by providing emergency shelter and supportive services to people who are homeless, or at risk and to advocate for collaborative, locally driven solutions to end homelessness.

Vision Statement

It is the vision of the BAHS to be a leading partner in insuring that no person in the Grater Bangor area ever has to spend a night on the streets or in the woods because he or she cannot find or cannot afford safe housing. We believe in the principle that safe, affordable housing is a fundamental human right and our primary aim is to offer a stabilizing base and support for homeless men and women as they transition back into the community. We believe that services offered should actively involve those in need of assistance, be of high quality and be delivered with dignity and respect. Our concern is for both emergency care and the development of affordable housing for all.

President's Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2012

It's amazing how fast a year goes by. As I reflect on the past year, I want to start off by saying THANK YOU to each and every staff, volunteers and the Board of Directors. Your time and efforts have once again resulted in a list of accomplishments we can be very proud of.

The Shelter faced a steady rise in the level and range of demand. This was driven by a combination of the economy and cuts to services. Other issues that remain ongoing challenges facing us include but are not limited to a net loss in government funding, continued cuts to services to those we serve, the high incidence of drug activity on the streets, the lack of affordable housing and housing vouchers. I am confident that we are better prepared this year and have made the difficult decisions that help us face future challenges.

During the past year, BAHS reaffirmed/clarified our status as an "emergency" shelter. Safety for both guests and staff has been and will continue to be a primary focus. The Board and Executive Director renewed focus on affordable housing and engaged in discussions and collaborative efforts in the community around housing. Our efforts to be a partner in the community continue through involvement of the Executive Director and Program Manager in initiatives at the state and local level. This year, the Board continued to make great progress in strengthening the governance infrastructure that supports our emergency shelter.

I would like to thank each Board member for serving the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter and our community: Scott Blake, Walt Cupples, Laura Cushing, John Dougherty, D'arcy Main-Boyington, Kathie Moring, Ken Peters, Bruce Reddy and Chris Winstead. This group is always well prepared and contributes intellectually to each and every issue we face. The work representing the Shelter is time consuming, and I appreciate their willingness to continue to serve BAHS. Walt Cupples and Ken Peters have completed their last three-year term and will not return next year. On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to extend our gratitude to Walt and Ken. We will miss their input and support and appreciate their time served on the Board of Directors.

Lastly, the reason BAHS is successful is because of our excellent staff lead by Dennis Marble. The past few years have been very challenging, and our staff has met that challenge head on.

It's been a pleasure to serve as the President of the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, and I thank you for all the support and words of encouragement over the past few years. As I close out my term, I want to take this opportunity to wish Scott Blake, the incoming President, much future success. I am confident that the Shelter is in good and capable hands.

See you around.....

With Best Regards,
Sharon Brasslett, President

For more information go to our website at www.bangorareashelter.org. Like us on Facebook.

Executive Director's Annual Report

September 18, 2012

As I started planning for what I wanted to write this year, part of my work included reviewing the reports I had submitted for the Board of Directors' regular, monthly meetings. But after I had taken notes on a few, I realized I already had too much information with too many details for this end of year summary. I also realized that recounting that information might best serve people having trouble falling asleep at night.

So despite concerns I have about possible major omissions, I've decided to keep this report brief, limited to bullet points and short statements connected with topics that seem to matter based on general impressions and memory alone. Here goes:

- ≡ Last year we provided overnight shelter to 472 people who collectively stayed at the Shelter for 12,644 nights. We also provided services through the Day Program to more than 1,800 individuals and families.
- ≡ The Shelter is still standing. I'm pretty sure we finished the year in the black, we did have some leaks but our guests were kept dry, and we're ready to tackle another year.
- ≡ The local community is the absolute key to our continued existence. The financial support (the Annual Appeal alone was \$120,000!), the hundreds and hundreds of hours provided by volunteers (just think of one example—the evening meals alone provided at a rough total of *14,600 servings!*), and the general willingness of Greater Bangor to accept the Shelter and its clients without judgment or derision mean we can continue with our mission.
- ≡ We continue to receive financial support from state and federal sources. But that support has either decreased or remained flat (a net decrease) and comes with increasing and costly reporting and accountability requirements that consume resources we'd rather devote to our guests and others at risk of becoming homeless. Time and energy spent in meetings, entering data, and working to reply to generally bureaucratic requests in ways acceptable to those entities making the requests are drains on our capacity. We would rather spend more time and effort helping people acquire photo i.d.'s, get transportation to reunify with family or to get a job, or have the funds necessary to provide a potential landlord with a security deposit.
- ≡ The streets are becoming less safe, especially for individuals living with serious mental illness. Factors including chronic addiction and a lack of decent opportunities for people struggling in poverty have resulted in actions born of desperation. We have recently invested another \$3,000 in security equipment.
- ≡ Cuts to services including basic and preventative health care as well as substance abuse and mental health treatment have put more people at risk and hurt families including those with small children. In the long run these actions will end up costing much more when care is sought in emergency rooms and treatment is required for aggravated conditions and later stages of chronic illnesses.
- ≡ Success stories exist! When people receive supports and opportunities in fair proportion and type mirroring their situations and needs, people who have been ill and transient get stable, find employment and secure housing.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention how hard our staff and Board work. They are the reason people get help, and they are who keep the Shelter going. Some of this work is dedicated to finding better housing solutions for people who have become homeless, and I believe that we

can in fact come up with better answers through collaborative efforts. This work is reflected in a section of our mission statement.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who plays a role in supporting this Shelter! In my position I have unique opportunities to witness battered human beings getting to enjoy some success. I also witness countless acts of kindness that make those successes possible while those acts of support remain anonymous to the recipients. The Bangor Area Homeless Shelter is in essence a vehicle connecting compassion and charity from staff, donors and volunteers with other people in need, many of whom are directly and profoundly affected.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Marble, Executive Director