



Board of Directors  
2018 Annual Report



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# Letter from the President of the Board



Dear Members of the Community,

I want to thank all of you for your heartfelt support for the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter. When I first joined the Shelter's Board of Directors, I mistakenly thought that this organization simply provided shelter to those who did not have a home. I have come to appreciate, however, that it accomplishes so much more.

While it is true that the Shelter has thirty eight beds that offer refuge from the cold and snowy nights of Maine winters and that the Shelter serves over 10,000 meals to those in need over the course of a year, our mission is, in fact, to end homelessness in our community. That is not a temporary fix found in a one night stay and an occasional meal. It requires a far deeper level of care and commitment. It demands that our guests and staff work together in a process that can take over a month to transition a single guest into stable, long-term housing.

Stable housing is vital to our mission. It provides the opportunity to go from being someone who receives a handout to someone who has received a hand up. Only once a person has access to secure food, clothing, and shelter can she move toward realizing her full potential and giving back to the community. We are proud to say that, for many in the Bangor area, that journey begins with a warm bed, a meal, and a helping hand from one of our staff or volunteers.

Recently, the Board has undertaken to establish a clear vision for the Shelter, one that reflects our ambitious mission as well as the State of Maine's definition of an end to homelessness. Moving forward, therefore, our vision for the Shelter is that we will transition those who are in need of our services into stable housing in less than thirty days. With your continued support and interest in the Shelter, we are committed to realizing this vision.

It is a pleasure to serve as President of the Board. I am fortunate to be surrounded by others who willingly volunteer of their time and a skilled staff dedicated to serving the needs of our guests. Your support of the Shelter in the form of time, talent, and treasure generates a palpable spirit of good will that extends to those we serve as well as our staff, volunteers, and Board members. Together, then, we are making progress toward ending homelessness in our community.

Kind regards,

David J. Casavant  
President of the Board





# Vision and Mission Statements

## **Vision:**

To have achieved our goal where all guests at the Shelter are transitioned into suitable, stable, housing in 30 days or less.

## **Mission:**

The Bangor Area Homeless Shelter is a dry shelter whose mission is 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.

# By the Numbers

For 2018



**Number of Beds in the Shelter: 38**

**Number of Guests Served this Year: 399**

**Number of Bed Nights Provided this Year: 13,525**

## **Volunteers:**

66 Organizations / Groups

75 Individuals

18 Groups

## **Prior Living Situations of Our Guests:**

Emergency Shelter 14%

Hospital / Psychiatric Hospital 14%

Jail, Prison, Juvenile Detention 3%

Rental House / Apartment / Own House 9%

Living with Family and Friends 43%

Place not meant for habitation 17%







# Financial

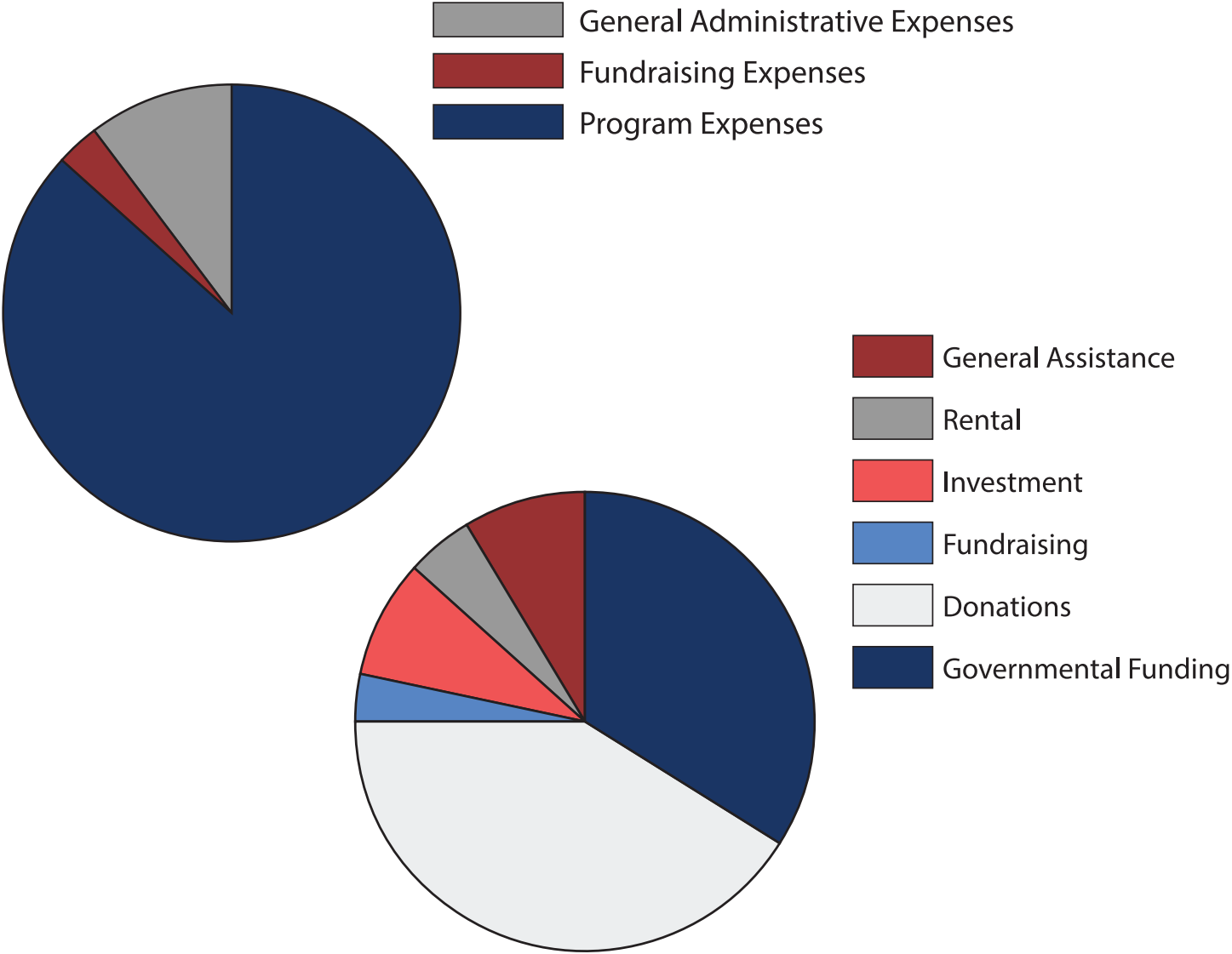
As of June 30, 2017

Thanks to the generous support from the community, the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter continues thrive. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, only 34% of the shelter's income derived from Government Funding. By contrast, over half (52%) came directly or indirectly from donors such as you. Given that the shelter also relies upon thousands of volunteer hours, it is clear that the Shelter would not function without support from the community.

Community support and contributions allow for eighty-seven (87%) percent of the funding to be returned to programming services aimed at providing stable housing to those without shelter.



# Information



# Cindy's Story

Much of the success that the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter has in housing people stems from first helping them to address the underlying issues that have caused them to become homeless. One such example is Cindy.

Cindy first came to the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter in 2013 after moving to Bangor from North Carolina. The Shelter helped her to secure stable housing, and she achieved success for a period of time. In June of 2017, however, Cindy once again sought the Shelter's help. She was fleeing an abusive relationship and had no family in the Bangor area whom she could turn to for housing or support.

Given these stressful circumstances, Cindy had days where she felt she could no longer go on. She used her second stay at the Shelter to address the depression she was experiencing. Cindy connected with a case manager and a primary care physician who began treating her for depression. With treatment and support, she was able to move forward and found regular employment. She also worked with the Shelter's housing manager and soon moved into a new apartment. Without the aid of mental health services and other connections provided by the Shelter, Cindy would not have been able to obtain stable housing or employment.

Reflecting on her time at the Shelter, Cindy expressed appreciation not only for how the Shelter opened its doors to her and provided her with a bed and meals but also for how Shelter staff reached out to her and coached her through even her roughest days, giving her the inspiration to persevere. "I still go by and visit those smiling, caring faces. I wouldn't be where I am today without them," she said.





# Staff and Board Members



## Board of Directors

David Casavant – President  
Jason Bird – Vice President  
Shareen Palmacci – Treasurer  
Laura Jensen – Secretary  
Robert Baker – Member  
Lisa Caruso – Member  
Carolyn Dorfman – Member  
Eric Gordon – Member  
John Hamer – Member  
Marc Inman – Member  
Rob Kissinger – Member  
Randy Poulton – Member

## Staff

Samantha Ahearn – Shelter Aide  
Jim Batchelder – Shelter Aide  
Diane Crockett – Office Manager  
Archie Curry – Program Manager  
Betty Dietz – Financial Manager  
Jim Fleming – Shelter Aide  
Mary Foster – Shelter Aide  
Ben Hatch – Shelter Aide  
Jon Hatch – Shelter Aide  
Boyd Kronholm – Executive Director  
Wendy Leighton – Shelter Aide  
Rhonda Morin – Shelter Aide  
Dennis Pegues – Shelter Aide  
Rebecca Rowe – On-Call Shelter Aide  
Nick St. Louis – Housing Navigator  
Abbe-Jaye Sochey – Shelter Aide  
James Vaughn – Case Manager  
Teena Weston – Shelter Aide  
Caitlyn Wood – Shelter Aide





# The Charge

## Join Us in Achieving the Vision

The longstanding mission of the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter has been to advocate for “collaborative, locally driven solutions to end homelessness.” In March of this year, the Board of Directors adopted a new vision that helps define what it means to end homelessness: “To have achieved our goal where all guests at the Shelter are transitioned into suitable, stable housing in 30 days or less.” The State of Maine has labeled this “Functional Zero.”

Please join us in achieving this vision of a community where no one is homeless. Only if we work together can we reach this objective. Imagine what it would mean for our regional community if we were able to say that, together, we found solutions to end homelessness and to help the humblest members of our society to thrive. What a fantastic testament to our caring community of individuals, businesses, and service providers that would be!

One of the Shelter’s first steps toward achieving this vision will be to host our first ever Town Hall Meeting where community members can contribute ideas and shape the Shelter’s agenda. We hope to see and hear from you at the Town Hall Meeting and, of course, throughout the year. As we strive toward “Functional Zero” for homelessness in this community, your talent, your suggestions, and your caring contributions are more meaningful than ever before.



# Community Events



The Board of Directors hosts two annual events in support of the efforts of staff at the Shelter. The first event is the Annual Meeting which takes place during the month of September. At the meeting, attendees are provided with a summary of the activities of the Shelter during the previous year and the organization's financial position. The Executive Director also recognizes individuals and corporations who have provided outstanding support. At its 2017 Annual Meeting, the Shelter recognized Jay McGarr as Volunteer of the Year, Rhonda Morin as Employee of the Year, and Hollywood Casino as Business of the Year.

The second event is the Hike for the Homeless which occurs on the first Saturday of April. Hundreds of walkers converge on Bangor's waterfront starting from four locations in Bangor, Brewer, Hampden, and Hermon. This event serves as the Board's major fundraising effort and brings awareness to the mission and vision of the Shelter in addressing the needs of those without housing. The generosity of corporate sponsors, many volunteers, and the hundreds of walkers make this event a great success.





# Contact Us



[info@bangorareashelter.org](mailto:info@bangorareashelter.org)



[www.bangorareashelter.org](http://www.bangorareashelter.org)



Bangor Area Homeless Shelter



@Bahs263

Report design by Allison Sinnett, student at New England School of Communications, Husson University.

