



Seeds of Hope

Neighborhood Center

Notes from the Neighborhood – October 2019

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Wishlist – in order of need

- winter sleeping bags, rated to 0 degrees
- New under ware – all sizes for men & women
- white cotton socks – various sizes for men & women
- wool socks – various sizes for men & women
- Tarps for camping
- Year-Round Tents

Visit our smile.amazon.com Wish List to make the donation easy:

- Gift cards to Walmart
- Gift cards to Hannaford
- Gift Cards to Dunkin Donuts

From the Executive Director

Calling all walkers! Are you a serious walker, or have desired to challenge yourself to become one? Do you believe in the work of Seeds of Hope and have been wondering how you might get more involved in supporting our mission? Here's your chance. Join our Hope 2-Day Walk. Each walker pledges to raise SSOO (the cost of feeding our neighbors for a week) by walking 10 miles/day for 2 days. On Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2 a hearty team of Board members, volunteers and supportive community members will walk the roads in and around Biddeford Pool and Goose Rocks and will close with a celebratory lunch on day 2. You will meet new friends and help feed those in need.

If interested, go to the Seeds of Hope website: www.seedsofhope4me.org and pay the \$50 registration fee. Then send an invitation to your friends to sponsor your walk. They can support you on our website as well! Registrations must be received by May 20.

Last year we raised over \$15,000. Can you join us by walking or sponsoring a walker? We hope to see you there !

Contact us: General info line—207.571.9601; Rev. Shirley's desk—207.283.1783

rev.shirley@seedsofhope4me.org

www.seedsofhope4me.org

Donor Spotlights

St. David’s Episcopal Church in Kennebunk has been a partner of Seeds of Hope from its very beginning. They provided volunteers and insights as we started the program and have consistently supported us financially for the past 10 + years. They have also been a regular contributor in programming for kids and adults, such as Christmas Cookie decorating, children’s reading & craft groups, and Easter baskets. Last year they initiated and run the Laundry Love program which provides free washing & drying to the community one night/month at Boom’s Laundry. They have been a true blessing to our neighbors and to Seeds of Hope!



We excited to announce we are now an AmeriCorps site. More details to come in the fall newsletter



Mythbusting

In the last newsletter we busted the **myth of Entitlement**. Our neighbors don’t come to Seeds of Hope with a sense of entitlement – we receive gratitude from all we serve, and everyone lends a hand as they are able.

This month’s myth being busted is the **myth of Scarcity**. Our culture in the US has come to believe that there are not enough resources for everyone, and therefore we hold on to what is “ours.” But we know differently. Seeds of Hope operates under the **philosophy of Abundance**. We know that there are enough resources for everyone. We just give the community the opportunity to learn about the lives of those we serve and to find ways each of us can. We don’t ration or shame anyone if they want to eat an extra bowl of soup or 4 eggs. We all need to be able to feel secure that our hunger will be sated, because we might not know when our next meal will be. Our job, **with your help**, is to insure we always have food on the table and that there is room for everyone at the table.

Program Update

For the past several months Seeds of Hope has been collaborating with the city of Biddeford and other organizations to address the challenges for those living outside. Following our presentation to Biddeford City Council, a Porta-Potty was installed in Mechanic’s Park and a collaborative of Biddeford Housing Authority and York County Community Action will be building a 5-unit apartment building with case management for the residents. This model is proven effective in helping those who have been chronically homeless become stable and successful. We’re making headway in improving conditions for those living outside with the goal of ending homelessness in our community.

Volunteer Spotlight

We’re spotlighting a very special volunteer this edition - Debbie Lamb. Debbie has been a volunteer at Seeds of Hope for 8 years as a Drop-In Center volunteer and 6 years on the Board of Directors - the past two as President. Debbie is a compassionate, positive, responsible volunteer. She goes about her work with no fanfare. She doesn’t like to be at the center of things, but is willing to step up and take on a leadership roll when the need is evident. As a Board member and President, she helped guide us through a strategic planning process and an update of our governance documents, and shared leadership in developing our biggest fundraiser – the Give Thanks, Give Hope Benefit Brunch, which continues to provide strong support for our mission. Although her time on the Board has ended, she continues to give her time and energy to serve our neighbors with a smile and listening ear. Debbie, you are the BEST.