THE EMMAUS HOMELESS SHELTER

P.O. Box 811, Ellsworth, Maine 04605
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2017 FALL APPEAL

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Emmaus Shelter:

Fall is the season of change and the hush before winter. Here at the Emmaus Shelter we are busily preparing for the colder months and the holiday season. This is also the season where we ask for and depend on monetary donations to assist us in housing the homeless, feeding the hungry, and clothing the people in need in our community.

Your donations helped us accommodate 113 people from October 2016 to present in our shelter and we transitioned 67 of them into permanent housing during this time frame. Most of these people completed a "Rent Smart" course while at the shelter which includes everything one needs to know about renting and also covers budgeting and credit reports. While guests are here at the shelter they also learn basic living skills, i.e. cooking, cleaning, laundry, etc. All able guests found employment and all guests with incomes were required to save 30% of their income into a savings account. This money was returned to them upon exiting the shelter and in most cases was used for security deposits and any left over money used to purchase some nice things for their new home. We were also able to set them up with furniture and household goods which many of you donated to the shelter.

It's always a great feeling when a former guest gives us a call or drops in to visit, to let us know what they have achieved since they left the shelter and we see how well they look and how far they've come.

This past year our food pantry and produce donated from Hannaford, Shaw's, and local farmers, provided 15,969 food boxes for residents of Hancock County which otherwise would have gone hungry. 216 local residents were clothed from our clothing room including shelter guests and many were fitted with warm coats, shoes, socks, hats and gloves to keep them warm in the winter months.

As you can see your donations make a big difference in the lives of many people in our community who are less fortunate than us and without your support a lot of people would have nowhere to live, no food on the table, or necessities to live.

Remember your kindness today is altering generations to come.

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**Holidays are around the corner and in addition to the needs
of the shelter we need your help with the following:**

<u>Thanksgiving & Christmas Food Baskets</u>

We are requesting a donation of $20 to cover the cost of a food basket but all donations are very much appreciated. Baskets consist of: turkey, stuffing, gravy, canned vegetables, potatoes, cranberry sauce, rolls and pie. Last Thanksgiving we handed out 140 food baskets and at Christmas 174 food baskets.

<u>Christmas</u>

We are continuing the <u>Christmas Adopt-A-Family Program</u> as many families depend on it in order to have gifts under the tree for their children. In 2016, your generous donations brought smiles to 420 children on Christmas morning as they opened their presents.

The process is as follows:
Families come in and fill out a request form and we do our best to fulfill their request. We try to match a family with participants in the Adopt-A-Family Program or fill requests with gifts that were donated by individuals, churches, schools, and businesses.

We ask that a $30 gift(s) be purchased for each person ages 0-17, and return the items no later than December 18th to the shelter unwrapped. Monetary donations are also accepted and volunteers will purchase gifts requested and combine all the gifts per family.

We greatly appreciate any assistance you can give to the Shelter whether it's volunteering, purchasing a food basket, participating in the Christmas Adopt-A-Family Program or a monetary donation. Your help and support make these programs possible.

Thanking you in advance for your generous donation,

Mary J Boylan (MJ)
Shelter Director