July 2020 News & Updates

Reflections from the Director

“We strive to feed the hungry, the homeless, the needy and the isolated; to offer spiritual nurture, support and hospitality; to promote greater peace and justice by addressing broader issues of hunger, poverty, and need; and to conduct our work in a spirit of respect and nonviolence.” (Bread of Life’s Mission Statement)

80% of those we serve at our Malden-based food pantry self-identify as non-white. Issues of social justice, racism and immigration affect those we serve, our volunteers, staff and donors. There is a piece of wise instruction that's been on my mind: “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.” (James 1:19) Listening gives me space to understand someone before I jump to judging them. In an effort to provide a space for listening, we’re initiating a feature called Point of View whereby a community member who has experienced racism or injustice can share their perspective. Their frame of reference may very well be quite different from my own. By listening and seeing through the eyes of someone who is suffering under racism and injustice, we hope to be part of the movement to forge a community where all have equal access to food, housing, jobs and the means to make a better life; where all are truly accorded justice, freedom and equality.

God bless you,

Gabriella Snyder Stelmack
Executive Director

Click here for information on our "Under One Roof" Campaign.

P.S. Our "Under One Roof" campaign continues to gather momentum, despite the crisis. Please like us and follow us on facebook and follow us on twitter. If you know of a house of worship, organization, business, individual, radio or TV show where we can
As a society, we have witnessed progress made in many facets of our life. For example, today it does not take a month, or however long it used to take, to travel from the United States of America to Europe. As a result of the invention of airplanes, traveling has become that much easier. The same advancement or progress can be seen in many other facets of life like medicine, communication, and more. Unfortunately, that same spirit of progress did not seem to transfer to how we relate to one another. Despite all the years of standing up for equality, justice, and human decency, and despite how much we have progressed cognitively as a society, it seems no real progress has been made in the realm of racism in America.

It seems that, despite the fact that each individual has been endowed with the ability to know right from wrong, that knowledge is still not being used for the right purpose. Instead, we in this country seem to continue to engage our neighbor not based on his intelligence, beliefs, or anything else, but solely on the color of his skin. The "good" thing about racism, however, is that it is a behavior, not a trait that one can inherit through physiological means. Thus, those who are racists were not born that way but were indoctrinated and taught to accept and embrace this evil way of life. Still, there is a way to slow down the evil of racism.

First, is to accept and respect our neighbor as he is. Sometimes, we find ourselves having preconceived ideas as to how our neighbor should behave. To that end, we would at times resort to fashioning our neighbor into our own likeness. However, this is a practice we must reject and, instead, embrace the diversity that exists between us. It is this incredible collage of shades of people that makes the world that much more enjoyable. Second, we need to work together to eliminate the tradition of handing down racism to the next generation. To that end, parents and future parents need to teach their children to love their neighbor as themselves. In addition, every parent needs to teach their children to stand up against social injustice because it affects the whole society. Lastly, we must understand and accept that one's skin color does not define the person. What defines a person is his character, beliefs, and aspirations. To that end, it is imperative that we each make an effort to understand each other without resorting to judgment. We must subdue our bigotry!

In sum, it would have been better if racism could be eradicated altogether in our society. However, given that it is a product of disobedience all that can be done to it on this side of heaven is slowing it down. My hope is that you will join me in seeing past our neighbor's skin color and accept him for who he is. Furthermore, I hope we can all start teaching our children to see themselves as their neighbor so that they can feel obligated to help their neighbor in his fight for social justice. The fight to slow down the evil of racism is not for some, but for all.

Max Prudent, Jr. is a graduate of Florida Institute of Technology where he earned a MBA degree. He later attended Concordia University in Portland, Oregon and graduated with a master's in education. He went on to attend the Rawlings School of Divinity at Liberty University where he graduated with a master's in divinity and Christian apologetics. Mr. Prudent is also the creator of the choosejesus blog, a blog that deals with Christian contents. He lives in Revere, MA with his family and teaches at Bunker Hill Community College.

Power of Prayer

At our weekly staff meeting we prayed for hope, understanding and guidance to learn and to make changes to fight racism. We stand committed to our diverse population and will continue to promote greater peace and
justice by addressing broader issues of hunger, poverty, and need, and to conduct our work in a spirit of respect and non violence.

We Deliver!

Did you know Bread of Life started a new meal delivery program for seniors? We are growing and need your help! Seeking volunteer drivers to assist. Please contact Tyrone at delivery@breadoflifemalden.org

Thank you!

Backpack items needed

During the COVID pandemic the need for Bread of Life's services continues to grow. BOL started an innovative Backpack Nutrition Program to provide City of Everett school students with food and snacks. To date over 700 students (and counting!) have received a BOL backpack. Can you help provide donations for the backpack program? Here is a wish list of most requested items.

Dockside Hospitality

Our friends at Dockside Restaurants are always so good to Bread of Life (and countless others). Recently, they again donated trays of delicious Mac n Cheese for our evening dinner meal. Family owned and operated since 1979, the Dockside has been helping others and supporting our community for a long time! Be sure to visit when you can and tell them Bread of Life says hello and thank you!
Golf Tourney Canceled but still Opportunities to Give

Sharing some good news and good vibes. Although our annual golf tournament is postponed until next year, our fabulous golf supporters are donating in honor of Bread of Life. Special thank you to Liz Merullo Lombardozzi in memory of Ed Lombardizzi, and Dennis Donnelly. You are Bread of Life champions!

Mix 360 Food donation

Thank you to Mixx 360 for sending over trays of chicken ziti broccoli, pasta, sausage/peppers/onions, chicken fingers, and dinner rolls for one of our evening meals! Thank you to a special friend of Bread of Life for sponsoring this delicious meal, and as always, thank you Anthony DeCotis at Mixx for your continued support!

Community spirit at it’s best!

For weeks, Melrose Kids have been hosting a porch pick-up food drive to benefit Bread of Life. We are so grateful for these much needed donations. Here’s Ella helping mom pick up groceries to deliver to our food pantry. Thank you Ella, Melrose Kids and all of the wonderful neighbors who donate! Here are the final statistics to this incredibly successful food drive:
9-weeks of food pantry deliveries
7-weeks of home baked goods for meal service
24- volunteer families driving pick-up routes
398- porch pick-ups all across Melrose

Standing in the Gap...

Email we received
Thank you from the bottom of my heart for arranging the food delivery for my father. It is very much appreciated and will be helpful in keeping him properly nourished during this trying time. I saw what was in the box and I do most of his cooking. Today I cooked the chicken legs for him with a cream sauce and he loved it. Once I get my own self back on track from this Pandemic craziness, I would like to volunteer some time to help your organization. Blessings to you and the rest of your crew.

Shop and Smile
If you shop at Amazon, every purchase will result in a donation to Bread of Life if you register at Amazon Smile and select us as your designated charity. The big shopping season is upon us and this is a great way to give back! You can sign up at Amazon Smile here.
Max,

Here’s the e-newsletter. It was sent out this morning to about 1200 addresses. You did a wonderful job. Thank you so much. Feel free to share, post, etc.

God bless you,
Gabriella

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Gabriella Snyder Stelmack
<gabriella.stelmack@breadoflifemalden.org>
To: Max Max <maximatic35@yahoo.com>
Wed, Jul 1, 2020 at 3:44 PM

Pastor Anders,

I want to let you know that Max Prudent agreed to write a column for Bread of Life’s July e-newsletter which went out today. I had asked him, following a morning devotional he led, if he would specifically write a column addressing racism. Our editor was very impressed and I think our readers will be also. Max was the first person I asked. I plan to reach out to others to keep it going.

God bless,
Gabriella

------+ Forwarded message ------+
From: Bread of Life <info@breadoflifemalden.org>
Date: Wed, Jul 1, 2020 at 10:14 AM
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[Quoted text hidden]

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Gabriella Snyder Stelmack
<gabriella.stelmack@breadoflifemalden.org>
To: Anders Eliason <anders@freedomhill.church>
Wed, Jul 1, 2020 at 3:49 PM