Reflections from the Director

Once upon a time there lived a rich man. Now when I say rich, I mean that he had things that 80% of the people in the world don’t have. For example, he had nice clothing, and a home with heat, electricity and indoor plumbing. He didn’t have to walk anywhere to haul back water for drinking, cooking or bathing. In fact, he didn’t have to walk at all. He had a car and could go to nearby markets and buy as much food as he needed…or wanted, for that matter. Anyway, not too far from where he lived was a poor man named Lazarus who lay on the sidewalk every day, covered with sores that dogs came and licked. He was hungry, and wished he could eat even the garbage that the rich man threw away. The rich man never paid attention to Lazarus’ needs. In fact, he usually tried to avoid eye contact every time he had to walk by him. The time came when Lazarus died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side in Paradise. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’ But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. Besides, there’s a great chasm between us that’s been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you, or from you to here, can’t cross over. He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, because I have five brothers. Let him warn them to repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the Prophets, they won’t be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’

Some of you may have recognized this as a modern retelling of a parable of Jesus (Luke 16:19-31). Whenever I read it, it makes me uncomfortable. I’ve known since I was a child that I was blessed to be born a citizen of one of the richest and most powerful nations in the world during the “American Century,” with the United States at the peak of its power and global influence. But why me? Because I’m better than some child in Bangladesh or Haiti? There’s no explanation that makes sense to me except this, from another parable of Jesus (Luke 12:42-48): “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.” The story of Lazarus is clearly about the rich man’s lack of compassion. But also, where was his gratitude, his humility? Did he really think he was a “self-made man”, that family and others hadn’t helped him financially or by opening doors to get him where he was?

During this season of Thanksgiving, we try to remember at Bread of Life that we have so very, very much to be thankful for: family, friends, community, food, water, homes. Due to COVID-19 concerns, Bread of Life will not be able to hold the wonderful annual community dinner “Don’t Be Alone on Thanksgiving” at Malden High School, during which hundreds of volunteers usually prepare and deliver about a thousand meals. However, we’ll still be preparing meals to-go for pick-up at our usual evening meal on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and we’ll be distributing grab-n-go groceries at our Malden and Everett pantries to an ever-increasing number of neighbors in need. We’re working with the Malden Warming Center at the First Church of the Nazarene to make sure there is a warm place for homeless individuals in the area to go overnight January through March. We’re working with
the City of Malden, Housing Families and local agencies to seek funding for shelter for homeless individuals over the winter. We're working with Metro North Housing Corp to create 14 new permanent, affordable studio apartments for local homeless people as part of our Under One Roof building project that will also create our new dining hall, kitchen and food pantry "superette." We're working with you, our volunteers and donors, who know that we've been given so much for one purpose: to use it for good.

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. And instagram.

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Thanksgiving Update

Due to COVID-19 concerns, we WILL NOT be holding our annual Don't Be Alone On Thanksgiving Dinner at Malden High School with deliveries to senior citizens. Mystic Valley Elder Services will arrange for an extra meal to be delivered by Meals on Wheels the day before Thanksgiving to any of their clients in need. Bread of Life will provide packaged Thanksgiving meals to-go at our regular evening meal on Wednesday, Nov. 25, 5:30-6:30 pm at the First Baptist Church, corner of Main & Salem Streets, Malden. Those interested in picking up a Thanksgiving meal need to sign up with the meal coordinator prior to Nov. 13th. Email: maria.tiro@breadoflifemalden.org or text: 781-548-9848

Donations of roasted turkeys (preferably de-boned) would be appreciated. They may be brought to First Baptist Church, corner of Main & Salem Streets in Malden, Tuesday, November 24th from 2:30-6:30pm. Please email the coordinator by Nov. 13th to let her know you will be donating turkey meat. Email: maria.tiro@breadoflifemalden.org or text: 781-548-9848

Socks Donation

One of the best things about Bread of Life is we get to make new friends and partnerships. Thank you Granite Coast Brewing Company staff and patrons for generous donation of 71 pairs of socks for our families! We are very grateful.

Happy Anniversary

Happy one year anniversary to our friends East Cambridge Savings Bank! To celebrate their one year anniversary in Malden, for every new customer that opens an account at the Malden Banking Center, 98 Pleasant Street, now thru 11/20, the bank will donate $50 to Bread of Life when you choose us as the organization to support!

Since day one in Malden, ECSB has been a great supporter of Bread of Life; we were the recipient of a generous donation at their grand opening last year and we are appreciate their ongoing partnership. Congratulations ECSB!
EN KA Society Donation

Thank You En Ka Society for generous donation to Bread of Life. The En Ka Society is a volunteer organization comprised of more than 200 women in Winchester. The En Ka Society gives back to the community in many ways including providing a food pantry for Winchester residents. Read more about the work of this wonderful organization here: https://enkasociety.wildapricot.org/page-1383615

Pure Haven Facebook Event

Start your holiday shopping early by joining Bread of Life board member Cindy Guazzerotti-Robillard for a fun Facebook event, starting next Friday, November 6th! Cindy will be donating the value of her hostess rewards earned for each Pure Haven product ordered during the event. Contact Cindy via Facebook here for more info! Learn more about Pure Haven products here: https://purehaven.com

2nd Annual Pool Tournament

The 2nd Annual Jeremiah Twomey Memorial Pool Tournament is Saturday, November 21, 2020! In Jerry Twomey’s memory, Lafayette Associates and Columbus Society are hosting a pool tournament to benefit Bread of Life’s Under One Roof Capital Campaign.

Entry Fee: $20 pp. ($10 to Bread of Life, $10 to prize money).

All levels of skill encouraged to participate.

Click here to pay Entry Fee of $20 per person: https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx...

Backpack Delivery

It was a cold and rainy day but Bread of Life’s Terri and Brandon brought sunshine to the Whittier School in Everett today. Bread of Life’s Backpack Nutrition Program sponsored by Foundation Trust made a delivery of backpacks filled with food to students. School days are much better when students are fed and nourished. To date, over 1,200 backpacks have been distributed to Everett students.

“Bread of Life’s Backpack Nutrition Program sponsored by The Foundation Trust”
Volunteers Needed

Please consider volunteering with the Bread of Life! You’ll be making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate! Thank you.

Standing in the Gap

I volunteer at the evening meals. We are distributing the meals outside because of Covid-19. The guests that come through the line have become friends. I cannot tell you how many times I hear them say “We can always count on you to be here” “God Bless You” and “I don’t know what I would do without your help.” There is a dinner guest who is on their own struggling with the stress of homelessness. When she comes through the line, we talk about how she is doing. The other day she came through the line upset with tears in her eyes. We talked, and after the conversation she shared with me that coming to the grab-and-go was more than receiving a meal. She knew if she came here she would be reassured that she was not alone. She left the site feeling loved.

-Board Member, Cindy Robillard

Food for the Body...Nurture for the Soul