

The Roundtable

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Bangor Area Breakfast Rotary Club***

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Hunger is no game

Honduras was not included in Melissa Huston's talk about the Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine this morning. But **Larry Diehl's** introduction mentioned the trip he and Ms. Huston took to the country several years ago through a mission project at All Souls Congregational Church. Their timing was perfect- the government was overthrown while they were there, and he described planes, helicopters and a great deal of concern for the mission trip's participants. All returned safely to Bangor.

Safety is sacrosanct. No so for the one in four Maine children- and 206,000 Mainers - who live with food insecurity. "Food insecurity is that you don't have the needs to

provide your family with food. This may be underreported because people don't want to admit to their situation," said Ms. Huston, who is Director of Philanthropy for Good Shepherd Food Bank in Central and Northern Maine.

The people served by the Good Shepherd Food Bank (GSFB) are getting by on less than \$30,000 per year. Ms. Huston explained that it is not about a lack of food that is causing hunger in Maine but underemployment, the high cost of inelastic expenses and the inability to pay for it.

She described education efforts to train people to look for healthy foods in the grocery store and to eat nutritionally valuable food (fruits, vegetables, whole grains, etc.). "There is the hidden face of malnutrition," she said. "The problem has become worse over the past

35 years."

The GSFB began purchasing from local (Maine) farmers in 2010. Farmers sign an agreement with GSFB for production levels. The food bank supports the farmers and they, in turn, have a guaranteed revenue stream.



The GSFB, based in Auburn, recently purchased the former Bangor Daily News production building in Hampden. The agency serves 20 million meals each year, with assistance from 400 partner agencies across Maine. Each donated dollar provides four meals for a Maine family in need.



Larry Diehl

In her notes, Ms. Huston said that since 1981, the Food Bank has partnered with individuals, businesses and farmers to alleviate hunger and build community relationships to leverage local resources and create strategic partnerships. In 2016, through its network and through innovative programming such as Cooking Matters, Mainers Feeding Mainers, child hunger initiatives and senior meal programs – Good Shepherd Food Bank has distributed over 21 million meals to families, children and seniors in need throughout Maine.

Ms. Huston announced that the GSFB will receive a \$3 million grant from the State of Maine to purchase locally produced food over the next three years.

The biz of the morning

Secretary **Karen Schaller** described changes in the front desk staffing beginning in January. Because the accounting work has gotten more complicated, continuity with front deskers becomes more important. **June Kontio** signed up for six months. An assistant is needed for periods ranging from two weeks to a month. We will continue the New Member greeter system. Karen distributed a sign-up sheet.

Deb Walters, who spoke to the club this autumn, continues her Guatemala project with a request for vitamins. If you can donate vitamins, bring them to the meeting by January 5. **President Kristy Kimball** announced also the new slate of officers for 2016-17. We voted approval of the following new officers:

Doug Townsend – President
June Kontio - President-Elect
Ken Nagle - Vice President
Karen Schaller - Secretary
Craig Costello - Treasurer

Ken Huhn's Rotary Moment focused on Rotary's Five Avenues of Service (Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service and Youth Service). These make up the philosophical and practical framework of the Breakfast Rotary.

While Sergeant-at-Arms **Paul Miragliuolo** languishes somewhere in Florida (your editor spoke with a friend in Ormond Beach two days ago who complained that it was 84 degrees and very humid), **Ken Kimball**, collected happy/sad dollars. **Lisa Wahlstrom** blew her trumpet for the Bangor Symphony Soiree and a stocking stuffer idea to purchase a raffle ticket. Prizes include trips to Montego Bay, Alberta and New York City.

Lucie Estabrook praised the arrival of the Winter Solstice and three seconds more of daylight today. **Tom Dorrity** reminded delinquent advertisers who placed ads in the Veterans Day Breakfast placemats to pay up! Speaking of paying up, **Greg Urban** said his daughter is in college application mode. When she decides and is accepted, the money flow begins.

One more money note. No one has won the Joker's Wild for awhile. Its balance is \$208.

Department of Corrections

There was some misunderstanding in last week's *Roundtable* in the report about the New Hope Hospice talk by Norma Crichton. Ms. Crichton said, "All hospices require a physician referral. If the family physician believes that the patient has a life limiting prognosis, and the patient is ready to cease aggressive treatment, and the physician believes that life expectancy is approximately six months or less; he can refer you to the Hospice of your choice for pain control and symptom management. Your physician remains your physician in hospice and you can extend your hospice care benefit beyond the initial six month period."

Les Myers- December 22, 2016

