

# *Furniture/HomeGoods Banks*

**They're NOT  
Rocket  
Science!**



*"HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED TO SUCCEED"*  
[www.welcometohousing.com](http://www.welcometohousing.com)

2001...A whim raises \$7,300. 2011  
another whim starts WTH!



# Welcome To Housing!

## A Volunteer Community Effort



from new mattresses to can-openers!



*HELPING ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF PEOPLE MOVING FROM THE SHELTER  
TO A PLACE OF THEIR OWN, BY PROVIDING BASIC HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.*

**Find us on Facebook: 'Welcome To Housing Bangor, Maine'**



The Bangor Area Homeless Shelter

263 Main Street • Bangor, ME 04401-6403  
Phone (207) 947-0092 • Fax (207) 945-9032

**[bangorareashelter.org](http://bangorareashelter.org)**

# Partial Listing Of Agencies Served

Acadia Hospital  
Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine  
Alliance  
AM Choices  
American Legion  
Bangor Area Homeless Shelter  
Bangor Area Recovery Network, The BARN  
Bangor Housing  
Beacon Health  
Care and Comfort  
Catholic Charities of Maine St Michaels Center  
Charlotte White Center  
Choices  
City Reach  
Community Care  
Community Health and Counseling  
Dirigo Counseling Clinic  
Down East Horizons  
Ecumenical Food Cupboard

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Hammond Street Congregational Church  
Health Equity Alliance  
Higher Ground  
Hope House  
Kidspace  
Living Innovations  
M.A.S Community Health  
Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Maine Families  
Maine Pre-Trial Services  
Manna, Inc.  
Mansion Ministries  
N.F.I. North, Inc.  
New Hope Women's Shelter  
Northeast Occupational Exchange  
O.H.I.  
Orono United Methodist Church  
Oxford House  
Partners For Peace  
Pathways  
Penobscot Community Health Care

Penobscot Nation Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Advocacy Center  
Penquis  
Pillars Community Outreach  
Pine Tree Chapter American Red Cross  
Preble Street  
Sequel Care of Maine  
Shaw House  
Stepping Stones  
Summer Street Clinic  
The Storehouse  
The Together Place  
United Cerebral Palsy of Maine  
Veterans Affairs  
Wabanaki Health and Wellness  
Wellspring, Inc.  
Wings For Children and Families

# TYPE OF THINGS WE GIVE OUT:



# WE ALSO COLLECT AND GIVE OUT:



AS WELL AS PERSONAL CARE ITEMS!





**DEAR REBECCA ADAMS...  
GUESS WHAT I FOUND!?!?!?**



**Welcome To Housing  
Home Goods Bank, Inc.**



FREE HOUSEHOLD GOODS FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

[www.WelcomeToHousing.com](http://www.WelcomeToHousing.com)



Paying It Forward ~ One Donation At A Time!



# MAKESHIFT STONEHENGE WITH DRESSERS



MOST  
BIZARRE  
DONATION TO  
DATE:



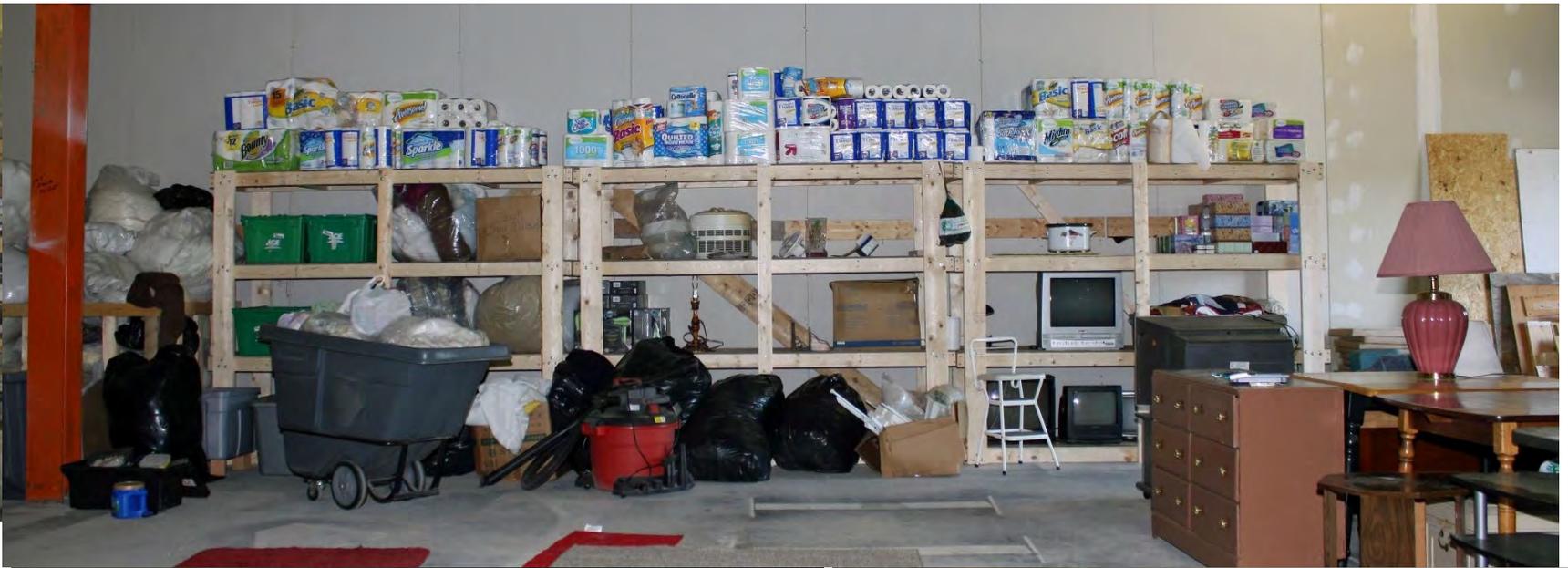
There it goes!



A Rehomed Pie-Anna!



# 2,267 SQUARE FEET @ OLD TOWN PLAZA



# 333 MAIN STREET OLD TOWN, MAINE



# WE ARE HOME...TO STAY!!!

FOUNDED OCTOBER 9, 2011

SUMMER OF 2021



A Grant From The Stephen  
and Tabitha King Foundation  
Secures Us A Permanent Home

Thank You for making our Dream a Reality!

**Aroostook Veterans Alliance** on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Aroostook-Veterans-Alliance-2020617314903046/>

Email: thegrunkas@aol.com Phone: (207) **496-8211**

**Project Fresh Start** on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ProjectFreshStartME>

Email: freshstart352@gmail.com (207) **621-4491** (Augusta)

**Furniture Friends** on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Furniture-Friends-119555971566842>

info@furniturefriends.org Phone: (207) (207) **210-5797** (Portland)

**The Storehouse** on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/theStorehouse/>

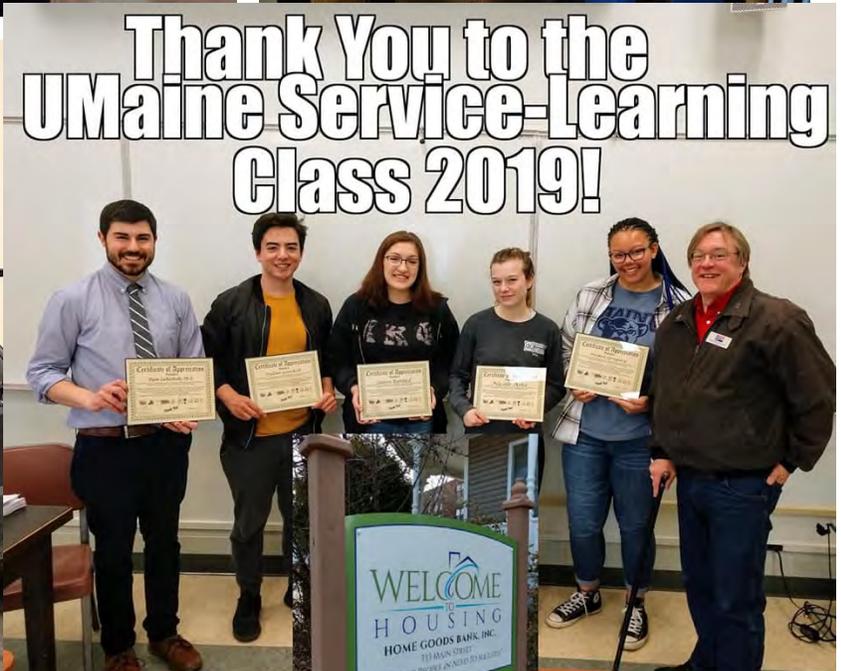
Email: thestorehouse126@gmail.com Phone: (207) **989-5401** (Bangor)

**Welcome To Housing Home Goods Bank, Inc.** on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WelcomeToHousing>

Email: welcometohousing@gmail.com Phone (207) **745-1287** (Old Town)

# THE VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN



Thank You to the  
UMaine Service-Learning  
Class 2019!



HUSSON & UMAINE STUDENTS TOGETHER!

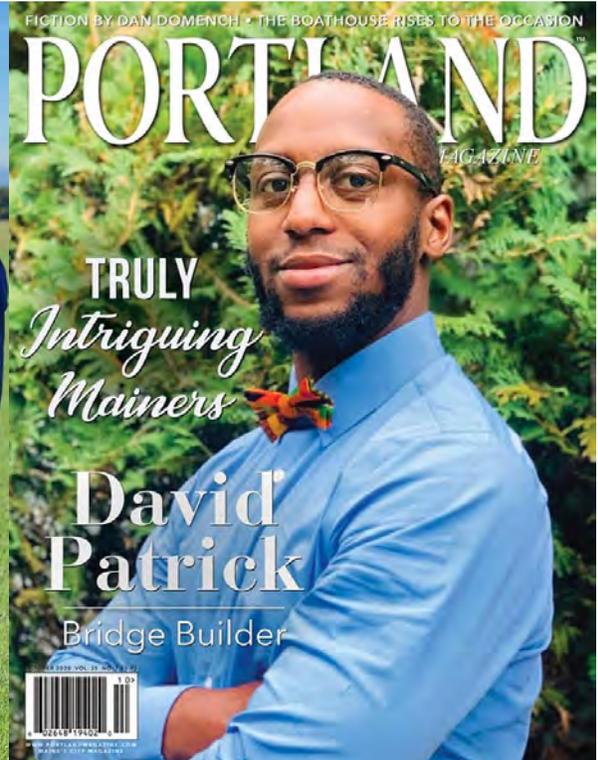




**COOPERATION AT ITS BEST!  
PARKER K. BAILEY & SONS AND  
RON'S MOVING BOTH HELP  
WELCOME TO HOUSING!**



# FROM RECIPIENT TO VOLUNTEER!



DAVID PATRICK AND HIS BELOVED CAROLYN AND THEIR FIRST SON LOST EVERYTHING A FEW YEARS AGO IN AN APARTMENT FIRE. WE HELPED THEM. I HAVE KNOWN DAVID FOR OVER 20 YEARS AND WE'RE SO PROUD OF HE AND HIS FAMILY. HE RECENTLY RECEIVED HIS MASTERS, WAS RECOGNIZED BY PORTLAND MAGAZINE AND HE CO-FOUNDED A GREAT ORGANIZATION CALLED RACIAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE. THEIR SONS ARE DAVID AND PRINCETON!





**Help make Welcome to Housing a Household Name!  
"Surf" over to [www.WelcomeToHousing.com](http://www.WelcomeToHousing.com)**

CHRIS OLSEN AND BRIE BERRY

# Furniture banks: Here for your community during a crisis and beyond

If you were driving down the highway and saw someone's car broken down on the side of the road, what would you do? You might pull over and provide assistance yourself, or you might call emergency services to render aid. You probably wouldn't blame the person who was going through this difficult experience.

This is partly because you realize that you could go through this experience, too. Your car might break down on the side of the road, and you might be able to imagine wanting that help from a stranger. There are always those who need help — but sometimes our cultural systems stigmatize them instead of encouraging us to empathize with their situation.

Over the course of the past year we've seen an outpouring of support for people suffering from the economic and health impacts of COVID-19. Yet for many, financial insecurity meant that they were living on the brink even before the pandemic, constantly fearing that a slight change to their income would render them unable to feed, house, clothe, or provide medical care for themselves and their families.

Food banks have been a model in helping neighbors care for each other, and the long lines snaking around distribution

centers show too clearly how changing circumstances can push people into a situation where they are in need of help. As the need for support became clear, food banks saw increasing donations to help them meet the needs of community members.

There's another kind of "bank," however, that doesn't get much attention. Furniture and home goods banks are nonprofit organizations that help people in need access home goods at low or no cost. This support is critical, as estimates show that the cost of furnishing a one-bedroom apartment can run over \$8,000. Emerging research on the social value of reuse indicates that furniture banks not only connect people with much-needed home goods, but that they do so with dignity and respect for the people they serve.

Consider the circumstances of some people in need.

When a person experiencing homelessness is transitioning from a shelter to permanent housing, they can often benefit from services ranging from health care to SNAP benefits, but these services do not include the provision of home goods. This means that they are often moving into an empty home. No bed. No chair. No kitchenware. None of the things that are needed to live life with some modi-

cum of comfort or dignity.

Imagine the circumstances of someone fleeing domestic violence. Forced to leave their possessions behind, they are faced with the prospect of starting anew with few resources and none of the comforts of home. In a troubling trend, domestic violence rates are increasing in Maine during the pandemic, meaning that more individuals may be in need of support than usual.

Victims of fires, too, benefit from furniture banks. In 2018, there were over 4,000 house fires in Maine. In an instant, a family can go from a situation of comfort and stability to losing all of their possessions.

In each of these circumstances, people are transitioning to housing without ample resources to provision their new homes. Access to free or low-cost furniture, bedding, basic toiletries, kitchenware and small appliances means the difference between moving into an empty house or a comfortable home.

Like our partners who run thrift stores, we also want useful, high-quality donations that are in good condition. We often describe the need for "donation with dignity" — the idea that people who have less do not want anyone's trash. Furniture banks and home goods banks play a

critical role on the road to stability for people in need. Organizations like Welcome to Housing and Furniture Friends are helping Mainers make ends meet, during the pandemic and beyond.

Whether you are in search of home goods during an unexpected life challenge or if you are in the position to donate or volunteer, we encourage you to learn more about furniture banks in your area. They're hiding in plain sight and are an opportunity for you to access help or to support your neighbors in getting back on their feet after life brings unexpected challenges.

Just like a broken-down car on the highway, we all have times when we can lend a hand and times when we need a hand. Caring for each other makes all the difference in the world.

*Chris Olsen is the founder of Welcome to Housing. Brie Berry is a PhD candidate at the University of Maine. This column reflects her views and expertise and does not speak on behalf of the university. She is a member of the Maine chapter of the national Scholars Strategy Network, which brings together scholars across the country to address public challenges and their policy implications. Members' columns appear in the BDN every other week.*

Welcome To Housing would also like to recognize the outstanding support of **Maine's media sources:**

**Newspapers/Magazines**

**Radio Stations**

**Television News**

**Podcasts**

WTH can be found on **social media** on:

**Facebook**

**Instagram**

**Twitter**

**YouTube**

**We ENCOURAGE,**

Copies of articles, video and recordings, printed materials helping raise awareness about the work we do and about furniture banks in general **to be SHARED!**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING WELCOME TO HOUSING!



# Everything is figureoutable.

By CHANCE a few year ago, Chris MET a Volunteer from THE LARGEST FURNITURE BANK IN ALL OF NORTH AMERICA on the Anniversary of the founding of Welcome To Housing while visiting CADILLAC MOUNTAIN... WHAT ARE THE CHANCES?



[BRIDGING.ORG](http://BRIDGING.ORG)



[Furniturebanks.org](http://Furniturebanks.org)

# Welcome To Housing Home Goods Bank, Inc.

## We help people in NEED...Succeed!



**Welcome To Housing!**  
 A Volunteer Community Alliance  
 from new mattresses to can-openers!  
[www.welcometohousing.com](http://www.welcometohousing.com)

HELPING INDIVIDUALS (INCLUDING VETERANS) AND FAMILIES AS THEY MOVE FROM AREA SHELTERS TO PERMANENT HOUSING BY PROVIDING HOUSEHOLD ITEMS DONATED BY THE COMMUNITY. WE ALSO HELP THOSE DISPLACED BY FIRE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

**1ST ANNUAL WINTER WHITEOUT PAPER DRIVE**

**Is on a ROLL!**  
 Saturday, February 18th, 10:00am to 4:00pm  
 at Shaw's Main Street Bangor!  
 FMI Visit: 'Welcome To Housing Bangor, Maine' on Facebook!



[www.WelcomeToHousing.com](http://www.WelcomeToHousing.com)

**Chris & his merry band of volunteers...  
discovered a magic building that**



**had pre-bagged bedding pop out its window,  
like a giant PEZ dispenser...and it said...**

***"More than 3 pick-up truck loads should help!"***

**Chris said, "Thank you Magic Building...and Thank you volunteers!"**



**Welcome To Housing!**  
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from new mattresses to can-openers! 



**Thank You Dr. Brie Berry! Thank You Stephen and Tabitha King, Craig Bailey, Ed Marsh, Penobscot Community Healthcare, Carol Epstein, Bev Uhlenhake, Ronda Savage, Gail Mcnerney, Mark Rogers, Belinda O'Clair, and of course ALL the DONORS and ALL the VOLUNTEERS, the City of Old Town and a SPECIAL Thank You to Robin Pinkham, our Treasurer and my beloved Wife.**

**Welcome To Housing Home Goods Bank, Inc.**  
Warehouse: 333 Main Street, Old Town, Maine  
Phone: (207) 745-1287

**Mailing Address:**  
499 Broadway, PMB #333 Bangor, Maine 04401

Email: [welcometohousing@gmail.com](mailto:welcometohousing@gmail.com)

[www://welcometohousing.com](http://welcometohousing.com)

Facebook: Welcome To Housing Bangor, Maine