

Issues Programs List

Q1

Townsquare Media Bangor

WBZN, WDEA, WQCB, WWMJ, WEZQ

January 1st – March 31st, 2024

Section I. Issues

The stations have identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

- **Homelessness** - Several organizations work every day to protect and provide for the unhoused population in Maine, including the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter. The shelter is more than a place to sleep, but also a food pantry, soup kitchen, warming center for those without a bed, and safe space for people to meet with caseworkers.
- **Public Safety** - It's been a weird winter in Maine, with warmer temperatures, extreme rainstorms, and flooding, which has prevented the waterways from icing over. The Maine Warden Service cautions outdoor enthusiasts, from ice fishermen to snowmobilers, about the importance of checking the ice's thickness frequently as they cross it and always carrying safety gear, so they can climb out of the water, if they fall through.
- **Education** - Finding unique ways to teach STEM topics is the mission of the Challenger Learning Center in Bangor, which allows children to learn through simulated space missions. Putting STEM topics to use while working toward a common goal gives middle schoolers a chance for hands-on learning in an interesting and engaging way.
- **Housing** - One of the biggest issues in Maine is the lack of housing, so there are agencies trying to help those most in need. Welcome to Housing Home Goods Bank, Inc Bangor steps in once housing has been found for people affected by homelessness, house fires, domestic violence, or incarceration to provide furniture, linens, dishes, and whatever else is needed to make the transition easy and successful.
- **Economy**- Student loans are expensive and can saddle the recipient with years of debt, so the Finance Authority of Maine is encouraging everyone to fill out the FAFSA, to access student aid. FAME holds informational seminars in high schools around the state to answer questions and give hands-on help to parents so they can apply for grants, scholarships, and federal loans that can help make education affordable.
- **Living With Disabilities** - The world is challenging enough to navigate for young people, but doing so with a disability, whether physical or emotional, just adds many more roadblocks. Best Buddies Maine is a national organization that helps people with or without disabilities to create friendships and networks, and learn about opportunities.

As the new Maine chapter grows, they hope to be able to help with finding employment and living independently.

Section II. Responsive Programs

Our community issues program, Maine Concerns, airs each Sunday on WBZN and WQCB at 6:00 a.m., WEZQ at 6:12 a.m., WWMJ at 6:20 a.m., and on WDEA at 11:10 a.m.

1-7-2024 Education, Economy (Length - 24:53)

Finance Authority of Maine - Mila Tappan of the Finance Authority of Maine talks with Cindy Campbell about the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which is now ready to be filled out by students and their parents. The form underwent some changes in the Fall, so its availability was delayed by several months. Tappan talks about the documentation needed to complete the form and where people can find help, including through information sessions at area high schools. ***Educational Costs, Economic Opportunities***

1-14-2024 Education, Public Safety (Length - 24:35)

Literacy Volunteers of Bangor - Cindy Campbell talks with Literacy Volunteers of Bangor's Executive Director, Mary Marin Taylor, about their upcoming fundraiser. The Literacy Tea promotes an interest in learning in children through a traditional 'tea,' with refreshments, book-themed decorations, and a live performance of a book by a Maine author. The organization is looking for people to design individual tables, each patterned after a different children's book.

Safety on the Ice - Cindy Campbell chats with Game Warden Jonathan Parker of the Maine Warden Service about the instability of the ice around the state. Warmer temperatures and rain have prevented ice from really forming, so the Maine Warden Service is cautioning outdoor enthusiasts to check the ice frequently as they go out. Parker also talks about safety gear people can take with them, like ice picks, to help them survive a fall through the ice. ***Appreciation for Reading in Children, Staying Safe on the Ice***

1-21-2024 Economy, Homelessness, Education (Length - 24:47)

Design Wall Housing - Cindy Campbell talks with co-founder Robin Sandau about Design Wall Housing, which is converting a formerly boarded-up house in Bangor to be used as apartments for some of the city's unhoused. Robin says that once the house is completed and tenants are in place, her organization will also work as advocates to help them adapt to their new lifestyle. They are in hopes of continuing to refurbish more of the 20+ boarded up buildings in Bangor to create more housing for the homeless.

Challenger Learning Center of Maine - Cindy Campbell talks with the Challenger Learning Center's Executive Director Kirsten Hibbard about their mission to use simulated space missions to spark an interest in STEM learning among Maine middle school students. Their latest project will share people's stories of the space program with future students. She is inviting community members in to do brief videos, talking about their memories of the space program, from watching man walk on the moon, to seeing a rocket take off from Cape Canaveral, to show students that the 'space race' was a real thing, and not just a simulation for fun. ***Housing for the Homeless, STEM Learning Made Fun***

1-28-2024 Health (Length - 24:25)

Camp Capella - Melanie Dresser, Executive Director of Camp Capella in Dedham joins Cindy Campbell to talk about the newest innovations at the camp, which serves children with a variety of emotional and physical disabilities. They are in hopes of turning it into a year-round camp, which will require winterizing. The annual Polar Dip fundraiser is coming up and Dresser says they need people willing to jump in the water to help them raise the funds for the needed repairs.

Beth C. Wright Cancer Center - Cindy Campbell talks with Amy Kurman, Program Director at the Beth C. Wright Cancer Center about the many programs they offer to people who are living with cancer. She talks about their approach that includes support groups, exercise, education, and more to keep people informed, as well as focused on their total wellness, rather than just their cancer treatments. ***Barrier-free Fun for Children with Disabilities, Living With Cancer***

2-4-2024 Education, Food Insecurity (Length - 24:54)

Literacy Volunteers of Bangor Part 2 - Cindy Campbell talks with Mary Marin Taylor, Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Bangor about upcoming tutor training. Taylor describes what's involved in becoming a tutor, including time commitment, as well as the rewards of watching a student succeed at getting a promotion or attaining their GED. She also explains the importance of reading in our everyday lives and how much those of us who read well take it for granted.

Old Town Pasta Drive - Cindy Campbell talks with Lee Miller, Deputy Chief of Police in Old Town about a month-long pasta drive being hosted, in part, by the police department. Drop-off spots have been set up in several stores and at the police station, where people can donate pasta, sauce, and other non-perishables, in order to keep the food pantry shelves stocked during the cold months. Miller discusses how food donations often drop after the holidays, so they're working to make sure food is available to anyone in need. ***Helping Others Improve Reading Comprehension, Feeding the Food Insecure***

2-11-2024 - no program

2-18-2024 Homelessness, Food Insecurity (Length 24:21)

Bangor Area Homeless Shelter - Cindy Campbell talks with Boyd Kronholm, Executive Director of the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, about the many services provided by the facility and its staff. Kronholm says they have many arms to their organization, including a food pantry, soup kitchen, community space for meetings between residents and advocates, and their warming center. He encourages people to donate through their Amazon wish list or by dropping donations off at the shelter on Main Street.

Homelessness, Food Insecurity, Public Safety

2-25-2024 Homelessness, Health (Length - 24:49)

Hope for Homeless - Cindy Campbell is joined by Ann Sweeney, co-founder of Hope for Homeless, an organization that provides basic needs to the unhoused population of Bangor. Sweeney talks about her mission for Bangor's homeless to be seen as individuals, rather than statistics, and to offer them hope through people who care. Her organization works with local agencies to deliver everything from clothes to tents to food, and works to help find housing for as many people as possible.

Veteran Suicide - Doc Goodwin, founder of the Maine Veterans Project, talks about the isolation of winter and how it can affect Veterans who are already struggling with PTSD. Goodwin tells Cindy Campbell about some of the activities planned for Veterans in the coming weeks, to help them find others who have similar experiences and find strength through community. One of the more popular activities is their Coffee and Conversation Fridays, where Veterans can relax over a cup of coffee and talk about whatever's on their minds. ***Homelessness, Suicide, Maine Veterans***

3-3-2024 Economy, Health (Length - 24:37)

100 Neighbors Who Care of Penobscot Valley - Cindy Campbell talks with co-founder Dan Moore about 100 Neighbors Who Care, a philanthropic organization comprised of more than 200 local residents who donate money to local charities four times a year. Moore explains that the group nominates charities, listens to their presentations, and then votes on who will receive each quarter's donation. Each member donates \$100, which adds up to a single donation in excess of \$200,000.

Reigning Hope Ranch - Cindy Campbell talks with Jenn Baillargeon of Reigning Hope Ranch in Orrington about her organization that uses horses to help people struggling with autism, PTSD, and other issues to learn to trust. RHR was a recipient of a 100

Neighbors Who Care donation and so Jenn discusses what that money meant to her organization and how it will help in her mission to provide equine therapy to even more area residents. ***Philanthropy Through Community Giving, Health***

3-10-2024 Education (Length 24:15)

Skills USA of Maine - Cindy Campbell talks with Emily Lajoie, organizer of the Skills USA Competition in Bangor. Lajoie explains the competition, which involves students from area vocational and technical schools, who take what they've learned and put it into action with everything from building a shed to succeeding at an interview. She says taking part in the competition not only builds confidence but also helps them to find employment after they graduate. ***Vocational and Technical Education, Future Employment***

3-17-2024 Health, Homelessness (Length 24:48)

Best Buddies Friendship Walk - Cindy Campbell talks with Cara Maloney of Best Buddies Maine about the organization and an upcoming Friendship Walk. The nationwide organization helps people with and without disabilities make connections, build friendships, and gain employment, as well as helping them to live independently. Maine's chapter is new and doesn't offer all of these, but they're building the organization and looking for people to take part.

Bangor Area Homeless Shelter Part 2 - Cindy Campbell gets an update from Boyd Kronholm, Executive Director of the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, about the upcoming Hike for Homeless, which is the shelter's largest fundraiser. Kronholm explains how essential the donations raised by the walk are to the shelter, in its mission to improve the lives of people in need. ***Living with Disabilities, Helping the Homeless***

3-24-2024 Public Safety (Length - 24:27)

Fire Safety - Cindy Campbell talks with Chandler Corriveau of the Bangor Fire Department about fire safety, after a spate of serious fires in the region. He discusses safe disposal of ashes, keeping combustibles away from woodstoves and fireplaces, and the safe use of generators and space heaters during power outages. Corriveau also talks about the importance of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and having an escape plan for your family. ***Fire Safety, Avoiding CO Poisoning***

3-31-2024 Homelessness, Public Safety (Length - 24:53)

Welcome to Housing Home Goods Banks, Inc. Bangor - Chris Olsen, co-founder of Welcome to Housing Bangor chats with Cindy Campbell about the newest innovations of

this organization that works to help people in transition. Furniture warehouses provide everything from beds to toilet paper for homeless people moving into housing, fire or domestic violence victims, as well as people transitioning out of prison. Olsen says they're now helping to provide health aids, like wheelchairs, walkers, and hospital beds to those who need them.

Fire Safety Part 2 - In part 2 of Cindy Campbell's interview with Chandler Corriveau of the Bangor Fire Department, he talks about lithium-ion batteries, which cause fires so hot that they're challenging to fight. Corriveau says the batteries are found in everything from cellphones to kids' toys, and can be extremely dangerous if they overheat. He recommends never leaving anything with a lithium-ion battery plugged in overnight and taking the battery out overnight, to avoid overheating. ***Transitioning from Homelessness, Fire Dangers of Lithium-Ion Batteries***