

**Government Operations Committee Meeting**  
**Homelessness Related Services Summary**  
**January 19, 2022**

Video Recording at [www.bangormaine.gov/video](http://www.bangormaine.gov/video)  
Agency Facebook Page: [\(20+\) Hope for Homeless | Facebook](#)

Hope for Homeless (HFH)

Co-Founder Anne Sweeney presented an overview and shared her observations.

- Purpose is to serve unmet need (food, clothing, hygiene items, etc.) of those experiencing homelessness and bolster current efforts. HFH fills in gaps not covered by existing organizations.
- Organization is entirely volunteer based. Five or six help regularly. Hundreds donate.
- Organization is registered nonprofit with a significant Facebook presence (no website). The organization started as a grassroots organization out of Ms. Sweeney's home, starting with small goodie bags at Christmas, and it grew from there. They did 4,000 bags this last year.
- They work in collaboration with the shelters, case workers, and warming centers to provide basic life-safety needs to those in need both living in shelters and outside.
- They've received various grants including one from the City and another from Poland Springs.
- Last year did 1,400 boxes of cereal, 400 backpacks, 60,000 bottles of water.
- March 2020, pandemic hit and things shut down. HFH helped out Bangor Area Homeless Shelter providing bagged lunches through back door since their soup kitchen could no longer safely operate. They've continued to help for approx. 15,000 meals a year. Also, helps provide meals to those outside at or near the Hope House.
- Has helped fundraise for warming center including bottle redemption (\$7,200) and will do it again. This is separate from their own funds.
- Regularly donates hand warmers, meals, gloves, first aid supplies, etc. to anyone in need including through case managers. Provides good bags that cost \$7.50 each (now costs have increased) but they bargain and order ahead to ensure they have the needed supplies. Often handed out through case workers – works with handful of agencies to provide supplies.
- Operates out of Maine Space – climate-controlled storage. "Villagers" rent them out for HFH. Started out with one 5 x 5 and now have five 5x10 storage units. Two are food, two are clothing, and one is winter supplies.
- Ms. Sweeney stated that what she believes is needed are shelter beds, in particular specialized beds (shelters that actively help with mental health, substance use, etc.), transitional housing. She commented on reduced capacity due to pandemic. She expects the homeless population will continue to grow. Case workers and shelter aides are overworked and overwhelmed. She stated more certified case managers/workers are needed and that there are some who claim to be but are not.
- HFH do not encourage folks to come to Bangor. They redirect folks to resources in their area.
- Ms. Sweeney shared with the Council that the majority of those panhandling have resources including housing, vehicles, and jobs.
- Ms. Sweeney shared her experience going to other communities in the United States and that they do not support and help folks the way Bangor does.

*This document was compiled by the City of Bangor based on information provided at a City meeting. For complete information and for questions related to this agency's services, please contact them directly.*