

The ABC Foundation has been so very generous in support of programs serving the most vulnerable among our neighbors. Thanks to both ABC and the successful capital campaign, _____ has been renovated and expanded, doubling the number of transitional housing units, and upgrading and redesigning the entire campus. The many public, private, and individual supporters have helped us focus on bricks-and-mortar overhauls and new construction. We are now turning to the interior systems, like kitchen equipment and an emergency generator, that are necessary to make _____ fully functional for the [#] individuals who annually experience homelessness in the [city] area.

When an individual – we could call him “Bill” – faces a housing crisis, he may try sleeping on friends’ spare beds or couches, or camping someplace he deems safe enough. But when winter sets in, sleeping outdoors becomes dangerous, if not fatal. He faces the necessity of mustering the courage to take the significant psychological step of approaching an emergency shelter. From July 2013-July 2014, [#] individuals sought temporary relief at the emergency shelter, the kitchen served as many as 1,000 meals a week, and the case management, transitional housing units, and re-housing program were available to the area’s entire homeless population.

Emergency shelter and food are never more important than in the midst of a frigid Maine winter. When someone like Bill finally seeks shelter, _____ offers warmth, light, and food. For a typical meal, employees, volunteers, and clients with food handling experience serve balanced entrées, beverages, and desserts for up to 100 people. At that volume, a kitchen depends on commercial equipment in good working order. However, the dish sanitizer (for food prep items and cook pots) is more than 14 years old and has required 6 repairs totaling \$2,000 in the past 24 months, remaining nonfunctional for 1-2 days each time. Paper, plastic, and Styrofoam reduce use of the sanitizer, but increase waste and negatively impact the environment. The range has been repaired 4 times in 24 months, costing \$1,200. It is nearing the end of its useful life and needs replacing; a temporary or permanent breakdown would render the kitchen virtually inoperable

If beds are full, Bill may be offered a Life Safety mat on the floor. But warmth, light, and food are dependent on electricity. _____ has no back-up power source for the 171,783 kwh of electricity, 2,366 g. of oil, and 16,551 therms of natural gas the campus used in the last year. If power fails, after 90 minutes of emergency lights, the shelter would be without heat, light, or security system alarms. The gas stovetop can be manually lit, but the oven cannot be ignited and the kitchen would remain dark.

[paragraph re: agreement with another facility for temporary beds in case of a power failure]

The nearly broken-down state of the dish sanitizer, the tentative condition of the range, and likelihood that the entire complex could be plunged into darkness and cold in the middle of a Maine winter directly conflict with the goal of helping people restore their lives with dignity and hope. Worn, leftover, or absent equipment convey negative messages to _____ guests that as individuals they are without worth, which is a psychological detriment to successful recovery.

[paragraph re: staff qualifications and awards, and other sources of funding]