

Common Ground News



Common Ground

FEEDING. CLOTHING & CARING

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS FALL 2023 Newsletter

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Volunteer Profiles

of:

Zack Bohne,

Kay Henderson

Michael Cerullo

VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS: “THE LIFEBLOOD OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.”

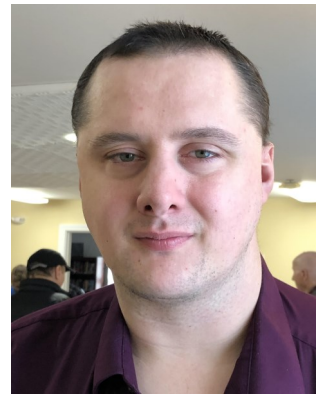
At Common Ground Ministries our volunteers are no exception. We have been blessed with dozens of individuals who offer their time and talents that contribute to the smooth running of our daily operations.

Whether it be the simple chore of sorting through donations in the thrift store, arranging transportation for those without access to an auto, serving meals at the café, cleaning the showers after use in the rear mobile units, delivering food to needy families, and countless other tasks that often go unnoticed. There are many other unsung heroes, including the homeless who come to the café for a meal, party or holiday celebration, and then help with the clean up.

During the past year, our volunteers donated a total of over one thousand hours of their time, each month, to help Common Ground Ministries meet the needs of the poor and disadvantaged.

And while we may count many dozens of volunteers, this “FALL 2023” edition of the CGM Newsletter highlights three individuals that contribute both simple and specific help in the café, thrift store, and in our local office servicing and monitoring technical equipment vital to smooth operations at Common Ground.

Zach Bohne



Zach Bohne is a familiar face at Common Ground Ministries. He can be found volunteering in the café, the thrift store, the pantry storage, or anywhere in the building where there is a need. His friendly disposition and winning smile reflects the person that he truly is.

Zach, a lifelong resident of southern New Hampshire, grew up in Danville and still has family there. He works and lives in Manchester and makes a living driving a truck making deliveries in Shipping & Receiving for a firm that deals in industrial cleaning supplies.

Always ready to assist, he leaves his apartment in Manchester and travels to Haverhill, usually on Wednesday and Saturday at Common Ground, and on Sunday at WEST Church in Haverhill.

Zach began volunteering at Common Ground fifteen years ago at the original Common Ground Café, two blocks west of our present location. He makes himself available wherever there is a need. For example: helping distribute food at Common Ground's Food Pantry on the second Saturday of each month. On other Saturdays, he helps Kay Henderson in the thrift store.

On Sunday mornings you can usually find him at WEST Church's 9:00 AM service, at the monthly Saturday morning Men's Breakfast, and at WEST's monthly Food Pantry on Wednesdays.

While Common Ground was developing our newly acquired 194 Winter Street location, Zach made repeated trips with loads of cardboard to Haverhill's Recycle Center. When the new Common Ground Café opened in 2022, Zach was there to help with the heavy lifting. He is also on the Property and Maintenance Teams. When asked why he spends so much time volunteering, Zach answered: "I guess I have a heart to serve. People are being blessed." His major frustration: "Not being able to meet some people's needs . . . "

Kay Henderson



Kay Henderson began volunteering at the original CGM Thrift Store, 8 White Street, Haverhill, in 2013 assisting Millie Cobbett. In January of 2016 Millie stepped down, at her request, to assume a “back-room-role,” and Kay segued into the position of manager. With Millie’s mentoring and encouragement, Kay learned quickly and became adept at managing the day-to-day operations of the store.

In July of 2017, CGM purchased a vacant three-story building at 194 Winter Street, Haverhill, and began planning the development of our new home, including a new thrift store. This new location provided many advantages over White Street, such as ample parking, large storage areas, and easy access at the street entrance. As work progressed Kay provided input into the development of CGM’s new space, and in May 2021 the new thrift store opened. She calls it “*The Thrift Boutique.*”

The Lord has also provided Kay with volunteers who sort through the wide variety of donations. They wash and iron clothing, arrange items for display, label them for pricing, assist customers and many more dutiful tasks. These special helpers contribute their time and energy to the orderly operations in the store.

When asked what the greatest joy Kay receives managing the store, she replies: “I love engaging with the customers, many who have become friends and ask for prayers and spiritual help. I try to make them feel welcome and always have time to share the Gospel, and the love of God, and to pray for their needs. The Thrift Store has become an outreach for the Lord. I’ve been truly blessed.”

Also note that since its opening, the thrift store’s income has gradually increased and now generates enough to cover our monthly mortgage and utilities!

Michael Cerullo



Every non-profit organization that relies on volunteers must have a technical person to monitor and program the technical requirements of the company. Someone who can work with computers and various software packages, telecommunications equipment, the internet, printers, cameras, and surveillance equipment, etc. That person at CGM is Michael Cerullo.

He has 50 years experience as an electrical engineer working at major corporations in the Boston area. He earned a Masters Degree from Northeastern University in 1978 with a newly developed computer science option. He can often be found at CGM on Thursdays and Saturdays, depending upon the need.

Michael lives in Medford, MA and was introduced to CGM in August 2020 when he donated, and helped sort, clothing at the original Thrift Store at 8 White St. He is a member of The River Church, 64 Newark St. Haverhill with Pastor David Braxton.

After the move to the present CGM at 194 Winter Street, Michael began volunteering at the Food Pantry in the new café, and developed the registration and record keeping required by the Boston Food Bank. He managed the installation of the surveillance system at CGM with the ability to extract video as necessary for safety and accountability. He also created signage throughout the building.

An avid sailor, he teaches at Community Boating on the Charles in Cambridge. Another passion is pipe organs. He belongs to the American Theatre Organ Society, and recently helped install a pipe organ in the Chevalier Theatre in Medford, MA. He has a collection of over 350 organ music DVDs.

When asked why he volunteers, Michael said: “I love people and receive a major sense of gratification when their needs are met.”