

NEWS FEATURE

BLUE HILL

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In These Times shows Blue Hill food pantry from many angles

Tree of Life releases short film

by Anne Berleant

“If I didn’t have this, you know there wouldn’t be food in my house.”

These and other telling words and images from clients and volunteers at the Tree of Life food pantry make up *In These Times*, a three-minute film released by the Tree of Life on January 13.

The film will be used as a promotional tool to help raise awareness, funds and donations, said Rick Traub, a volunteer at Tree of Life.

Produced and directed by Richard Kane and Melody Lewis-Kane of Sedgwick, it features a soundtrack by Noel Paul Stookey.

“The overall experience of making this film was—I’ve always known this is a fabulous community and people are there for each other. But finding at the Tree of Life that all of these people volunteer, there are no paid staff, that’s amazing,” said Lewis-Kane in a recent phone call.

“I, personally, grew up going to food pantries...Here, people are treated with respect,” she said.

Funded by donations from the Richard S. Petty Charitable Foundation, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, the Blue Hill Co-op, Merle B Grindle Insurance Agency, TradeWinds Market Place and Noel Paul Stookey, the short film will be followed this spring by a ten-minute, “how-to” film that explains the Tree of Life model of turning used clothing into food through Turn-Style, a secondhand clothing store connected—literally and figuratively—to the food pantry, said Traub.

Both films will be burned onto a single DVD for distribution to food pantries and organizations. *In These Times* can be viewed at treeoflifepantry.org/.



The title still from a three-minute film about the Tree of Life food pantry, released on January 13. The film was produced and directed by Richard Kane and Melody Lewis-Kane of Sedgwick, with the goal of using the film as a promotional tool for the pantry.

Photo courtesy of Richard Kane