

Dean Shambaugh finishes 12 years on Preble Street Board

On Tuesday, the Board of Preble Street gave a tribute to Dean Shambaugh for his 12 years as a member of the board and to St Luke's for decades of work with Preble Street with hunger and homelessness. During this St Luke's has received the Community Partner Award and Dean Shambaugh has received both the Board Member of the Year award and a commendation from the Mayor and City Council.

The weekend soup kitchen for the city began in St Luke's lower hall. When the Preble Street Resource Center was built, St Luke's ran the weekend soup kitchen there – not just providing our wonderful St Luke's Soup Kitchen team one Sunday lunch a month, but overseeing 80 other teams, food purchasing, grant writing, and management of the entire weekend operation (with Wayside doing the same during the week). Twelve years ago, Preble Street took over the management of the soup kitchen and food service, with St Luke's Weekend Soup Kitchen merging in and Dean Shambaugh joining the board.

During his tenure, Preble Street has built Florence House, Huston Commons, the Joe Kreisler Teen Shelter, and a collaborative clinic with Maine Medical Center, has greatly expanded work with veterans housing and human trafficking and advocacy, has created the Maine Hunger Initiative, the Faith Advocacy Network, and the Street Outreach Collaborative, and has greatly expanded food service. (12 years ago, serving 100 people a day was a norm. Last year, over one million people were fed!!) During Covid, Preble Street pivoted to work with the city and state to provide emergency shelters and services both at USM and in facilities both in the greater Portland area and around the state and was able to transition to a “food to go” feeding program that reached more people than ever before. Today Preble Street's work continues to evolve and grow, with a soon to be completed \$15 Million campaign helping it to adapt and fill its mission of providing accessible barrier-free services to empower people experiencing problems with homelessness, housing, hunger, and poverty and to advocate for solutions to these problems.