

8/27 Abbott Society Remarks

Good afternoon. I am Brad Mersereau, a grateful Abbott Society member, and request that you close your eyes, (I'm watching!) to picture a safe inclusive strengthening spot where human need and caring intersect. Food, counseling, clothing and household items have been offered abundantly since 1965 to Portland area neighbors (you may open your eyes).

You have just seen in your mind's eye, a glimpse of the wonder that is William Temple House, named after the late Archbishop of Canterbury and founded by Clarence T. Abbott, a visionary priest and mental health counselor who led the organization until 1990.

Generational mission continues. Last year 8,732 clients received over 506,000 pounds of food across 17,000 visits, 5000 hours of low-cost mental health counseling, and 500 connecting referrals to programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

I am a firm believer in the continuity of mission! It was my privilege to serve on the Board from 2008 – 2014. I appreciated the opportunity to participate in the initial creating process which resulted in today's Abbott Society.

Thank you Najia and Graham for inviting me to play and speak about the synergistic work of William Temple House. It is inspirational!

I think we can agree that these vital services must continue, adapt, and grow for future generations. The central mission of William Temple House remains to restore hope and renew strength for individuals and families in a welcoming and respectful atmosphere. Thank God for The Abbott Society's role in proactively seeding the future.