

Wellspring connection



The Newsletter of Wellspring House, Inc., Gloucester, Massachusetts
VOL. 29, NO.2 FALL 2010

Standing Strong Together Despite Cosmic Bootcamp

When I became executive director two years ago – on April Fool’s Day – it’s a good thing I had no idea of the economic firestorm that was coming our collective way (although starting on a Fool’s Day should have been a big tip off). I’m feeling like we are all in a cosmic bootcamp.

The thing about a firestorm is that nothing is left unchanged in its path. And this is true of Wellspring too. We’ve made a lot of changes here in order to meet the rising tide of need and still pay the bills. And we have delivered. With your financial gifts we served more people last year, over 2,400, than ever before in our 29 year history. We squeezed every dollar we received to do more.

“Years of working with low-income adults has helped us to understand that the key to an open heart is an open mind.”

The Board of Directors gathered together and we took stock. We had to. Only one thing was clear last spring when we dug in on a budget for this year – we couldn’t afford to continue to offer all of our programs. So we analyzed, talked, and stayed grounded in the spirit that had brought us all together in the first place. We considered the needs of the community and



Shelter guests proudly display their new backpacks for the 2010-11 school year. Wellspring is grateful to the Boston law firm of Bingham McCutchen for their annual backpack donations.

our resources and experience. What was the work that would allow us to make the most significant contribution to the community and those struggling in poverty?

We affirmed that we will not abandon the most vulnerable among us. Wellspring House continues to **shelter homeless families, offer homeless prevention assistance, holiday meals and the holiday store, and advocate and provide for affordable housing.**

Recognizing that education is essential to help low-income families break out of poverty, we also affirmed that we would **invest in our education and job training programs.** Years of working with low-income adults has helped us

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FROM DROP OUT TO HOT PROSPECTS...

When James Haskell enrolled in Wellspring’s Adult Learning Initiative in the Fall of 2009 he was an out of work lobsterman who had dropped out of high school. Without a diploma Jamie couldn’t even apply for most jobs or school, and his dream of becoming a Harley-Davidson mechanic was a very distant prospect. By the time he graduated from ALI in December 2009, Jamie’s dream had taken a new shape. He promptly passed his GED and was accepted into the National Aviation Academy. Here’s an update from him – one year later.

“I am scheduled for my general aviation mechanic’s license written test and I have already passed my airframe test last week! I just started the “Powerplant” section of my school and only have 7 months left until graduation. I have been competing for the top of my class with my classmate and good friend Josh who has already worked in the aviation field for the Airforce for ten years. I’ve also been talking to recruiters

From Drop Out to Hot Prospects continues on pg 3

MISSION STATEMENT

Wellspring is a community of faith, aware that each life touches every other life. Our work and our decisions are therefore guided by the vision of a just society, in which we must care for the earth and her people by using our resources, property, and land in a spirit of hospitality. In this spirit we work to meet basic human needs, and participate in social change through the provision of shelter, affordable housing, local economic opportunity and education rooted in community needs.

Thank You!

WITH YOUR FINANCIAL GIFT WELLSRING WAS ABLE TO HELP OVER 2,400 OF OUR NEIGHBORS LAST YEAR.

YOUR GIFT WORKS TO MAKE SURE KIDS HAVE A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- Over 130 families received help from our Homeless Prevention Fund
- 200 families received Holiday Meals
- 400 children celebrated the Holidays with gifts from our Holiday Store
- 34 people, including 17 children, called our family shelter home
- 11 low-income single people with disabilities lived in our affordable housing

**Did you know that 53% of homeless parents do not have a high school diploma?
Your gift is changing the world as education opens minds and potential is realized.**

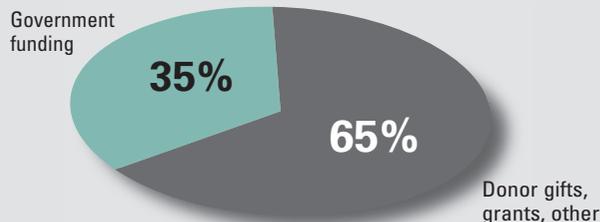
Education is the gift that keeps giving...

"I have built the confidence and strength I need to go to college to better my education so I can get a good job to support my son."

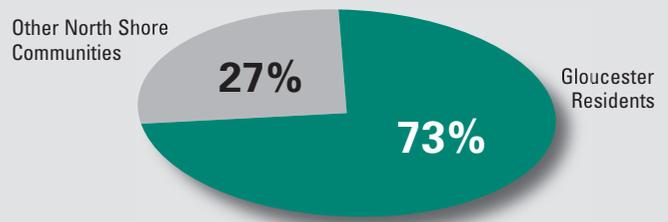
"I have learned how to present myself in a more professional way when applying for jobs. I have also learned about the strengths I have inside me, and what I'm capable of achieving in life."

"I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the MediClerk program. It made a difference in my life because for the first time in seven years I HAVE A JOB!"

Sources of Income



Who We Serve

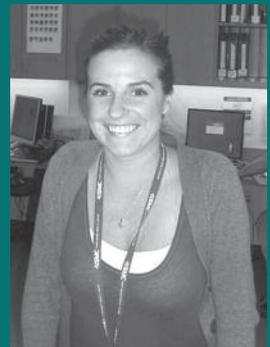


CAPE ANN FAMILIES

As we go to press, we are hopeful that Wellspring Cape Ann Families will soon find a new home so this important work can continue. Please be sure to check Wellspring's website for the most up-to date news.

Please consider donating to Wellspring House. Look for our Annual Appeal in the mail or donate online at wellspringhouse.org

October 2010 MediClerk graduate and student speaker, Lily Fritz, interning at Lynn's Union Hospital. Our congratulations to Lily as she was hired with benefits by the hospital as a Unit Secretary straight out of her internship. Lily plans to continue her education in the medical field.



Standing Strong Together *continued from page 1*

to understand that the key to an open heart is an open mind. Our students arrive tentative about their abilities and unsure about their futures. Through our programs they discover their strengths and develop their skills. Our students inspire each other – and us.

- Our Adult Learning Initiative prepares students for a GED, college or improved job prospects. ALI opens new opportunities for family stability.

“I leave the ALI program with confidence in my mind, drive in my heart and fearlessness in my soul. I would not take this experience back for anything in the world. I want to say thank you to the ALI program and thank you all for helping us better our futures.”

– Alesandria

- MediClerk is our 13 week job training program that prepares students for administrative jobs in the healthcare field. Offered in partnership with North Shore Medical Center, MediClerk helps students find jobs that offer opportunities and a path forward.

“I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the MediClerk job training program. It made a difference in my life because for the first time in seven years, I HAVE A JOB!! Please extend my thanks to the Wellspring House community.”

– Christine

- Our English language program connects non-native speakers with volunteer tutors. Language barriers can trap families in isolation and poverty. Our program helps adults build their conversational skills and improves a family’s ability to negotiate work, schools and their future. We have plans to do so much more. And the need is great – on Cape Ann over 20,000 adults over

the age of 25 have no post-secondary education. No one is really sure what the new economy will look like. But we do know that the workforce will be an educated one.

At Wellspring we also know about the magic of nurturing creative, self-reflective people who can take charge of their own learning and life. That’s a future worth investing in.

Now about the bootcamp we are currently experiencing. At the end of the day we know for sure that we are totally for each other, totally aware that we are in it together, and appreciative of simple, everyday kindness and blessings. Thank you for being a part of it all.

Kay O’Rourke, Executive Director



GIVING BACK: Adult Learning Initiative (ALI) graduates (L-R) Jessy, Sarah, Irene, Kim, and John presented Executive Director Kay O’Rourke with a check and Holiday Store toy donations that they raised through a bake sale and can collections. The presentation took place at the November 11, 2010 graduation ceremony.

From Drop Out to Hot Prospects *continued from pg 1*

from a bunch of different companies like Boeing, Sikorsky, Pratt&Whitney and a few other government contract companies, all of which offer some great opportunities. I may opt to go to another school in Illinois to get my B.A. in aerospace engineering after I graduate from this school, though.



Please tell everyone at Wellspring I said hello. I can’t thank you guys enough for all that you’ve done for me, and I really do wish I could come in and share my experience with the new ALI class. I would love to meet them and tell them about what they have to look forward to. Maybe I could even recruit a couple of them to come to my school! Thanks again for everything.” ■

Jamie Haskell at work.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

December 3 – 14, 2010

Sign up to help with Holiday Meals

Your donations will help families in need prepare a festive holiday meal.

If you can help, please contact Maria Rodrigo-Leaman at 978-281-3558 x 300.

December 11 and 12, 2010

Holiday Store

302 Essex Avenue, Gloucester

If you would like to volunteer at the store or donate new toys or books, please contact Katie Taormina at 978-281-3558 x 301. Donated gifts can be dropped off at 302 Essex Avenue from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm and we ask that the items be here by Friday, December 3rd.

January 20, 2011

Giggle for Wellspring Fundraiser

6 pm

Comedy Show/Silent and Live Auctions

Giggles Comedy Club
517 Broadway, Saugus

Have a few giggles for Wellspring!



May 2, 2011

Thirteenth Annual Women Honoring Women Luncheon

11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Crowne Plaza
Danvers, MA

For more information please call Romy Gardner at 978-281-3558 x 302.

WELLSPRING HOUSE – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2010-2011

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