

Wellspring connection



The Newsletter of Wellspring House, Inc., Gloucester, Massachusetts
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The World is On Fire – You are the Agent of Hope

As summer moves into fall the world is on fire. The strong currents of conflict are everywhere. Now is the time to actively work to make the world better. And with your help, that is exactly what Wellspring is doing. Together we create the practical help and ripples of hope that will see us all through the storm. Check out the smiles on our kids' faces as they model their new back to school backpacks; marvel how a life can be transformed in three months in our challenging job training program. Over and over the lives and families that are changed through our collective work is nothing short of astonishing. This past year we served 2,247 individuals from 1,179 families. You make that possible. You are the agents of hope. Keep on going. Thank you!



Kay O'Rourke,
President & Executive Director



"Sudden Storm", by Betty Lou Schlemm

BETTY LOU SCHLEMM'S "THE GIFT"

Lifelong artist and longtime friend of Wellspring, Betty Lou Schlemm held, "The Gift", a retrospective exhibit and sale of over 300 of her paintings. Proceeds from the sale benefited Wellspring House, Cape Ann Animal Aid, and The Open Door. The exhibit was held at North Shore Arts Association.

Thank you, Betty Lou, for your generosity and kind spirit!

WELLSPRING CORPORATE PARTNERS BINGHAM MCCUTCHEN LLP AND APPLESEED'S FILL BACKPACKS WITH LOVE

As the crow flies, school is not far from the motel in Danvers that is home to 97 homeless families. But for the children who live in the motel, it can be a world of hope and opportunity – a break from the isolation and bleakness of a single small room shared by the whole family.

It has become very expensive to send kids back to school with the long list of needed supplies. For families who are living in poverty it is an added stress and often out of reach. And what kid wants to be the only one in their class unprepared?

Our friends at Bingham McCutchen LLP and Appleseed's answered the call this year. Employees took names and shopped for school supplies and that most essential carryall and canvas of self-expression accessory – the backpack. They delivered 72 personalized, extraordinary backpacks that caused kids and



Happy children model their new backpacks from the generous employees of Bingham McCutchen LLP and Appleseed's.

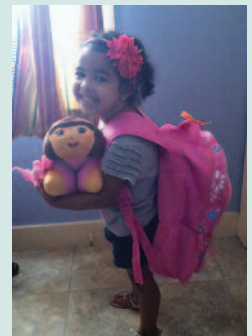
parents to literally shriek with delight.

So much thoughtfulness was evident: James is a 6 year old who loves basketball and lives in the hotel with his mother. He received a basketball themed backpack, complete with an indoor hoop. With no playground at the motel, the hoop will fill some of the after-

noons spent in the small space of their room – after his homework is finished, of course.

Employees at Appleseed's helped to provide another 16 backpacks and supplies for new families arriving to our shelter and the motel. Beth, a single mom who worked with our Career Advisor to obtain her first job, is working 20 hours/week making minimum wage. She was thrilled that her 10 year old son received a scientific calculator – she had been worried that she couldn't afford this needed item.

So far 88 children, ages 5 to 18 have received personalized backpacks with school supplies. When is a backpack not just a backpack? Thank you for bringing the love.



Wellspring Family News

Wellspring Welcomes New Board Members



ELIZA COWAN is the founder of WedBoston, a full service wedding planning company, with weddings spanning from Maine to Connecticut. Eliza is the event planner for the Friends of Acadia 25th Anniversary Gala, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Hamilton Wenham Mothers Club, Auction Chair for Trinity Preschool and a member and past Chair of the Nominating Committee of The Vincent Club in Boston. In the past Eliza has worked with The Cape Ann Museum, Pathways for Children, The Junior League of Boston and The Greater Boston Food Bank to create unique events and fundraising opportunities. She attended St. Lawrence University. Eliza resides in Topsfield with her husband, Peter, and their two children.

JENNIFER EDDY (photo not available) graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1982 with a BA in French and History. She went on to pursue a career in fixed income sales and trading with Lehman Brothers in New York and Boston. Jennifer earned a Professional Chef's Certification from Cambridge School of Culinary Arts and Ecole Lenotre in 1996 and worked as a restaurant special events director in Salem, MA. She has served in the boards of Hospice of North Shore, Young & Franklin Inc., the Disosway Foundation and the Green Mountain Horse Association. She is an active volunteer at Hospice of the North Shore, Windrush Therapeutic Riding Stables and the Essex County Trail Association. Jen resides in Ipswich with her husband, Tom, and three children.



JULIE KEIL RIORDAN holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from Columbia University and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Bank Street College. She has worked in early intervention in Malden, Medford, and Everett, Massachusetts. Julie was first introduced to Wellspring House when her daughter's first grade class at Brookwood School was asked to make donations of "Move Out" baskets to help Wellspring families get started in their own apartments. She has since been involved with the Holiday Store, the Women's Luncheon, and the Wellspring Benefit Concerts. Julie is a regular substitute teacher at Brookwood School and serves as a member of the Manchester Essex Regional School committee. Julie resides in Manchester-by-the-Sea with her husband, Patrick and two children.

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Record Number in Attendance at Women's Luncheon

A record 700+ women attended Wellspring's Women Honoring Women Luncheon in May, all in support of Wellspring's mission to empower individuals and families through basic needs assistance, education and job training.

PICTURED ARE WOMEN HONORING WOMEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Seated from left to right: Rebecca Booma, Julie Riordan, Jen Sanford, Louisa Attenborough, Devlyn LeBoeuf.

Standing from left to right: Caroline Hovey, Elizabeth Skates, Dyane Cotreau, Eliza Cowan, Lauren Gudonis, Amy Jones, Ekta Patel, Melissa Dane, Jennifer Eddy, Kate Horgen, Joan Lockwood, Barbara DiGuiseppe, Deb Ebeling, Jeannie Leibovitz, Val Gilman and Jennifer Ancevic.

Not Pictured: Michelle Galis, Kim McGovern and Cindy Ross.



Opening Worlds

English Language Learning Volunteer, Barbara Reeder

Barbara Reeder began teaching English to speakers of other languages, or ESOL, in January of 2000 and taught for 6 years in different schools before taking a position at as a Director of Adult Basic Education. After retiring in June 2012 Barbara taught a citizenship class.

These days, Barbara volunteers her time as a tutor for Wellspring's English Language Learning, or ELL, program at the Motel, where Wellspring is providing housing search services, for 97 families. About 20 families need help with English, and Wellspring has set up an onsite volunteer tutoring program.

We caught up with Barbara on a sunny day in August to ask her about the program.

Tell us about your volunteer work as a tutor:

I'm currently helping two students. One is intermediate, her basic English skills are good, but she'd like to focus on reading, writing and speaking. I asked what she'd like help with and she asked for help with pronunciation. That is the greatest thing that people seem to need help with.

We pick a topic such as food, weather, numbers, health, medical topics, geography [and discuss them]. She's very motivated. She listens to

stories being read on a computer and she reads them back. There are also comprehensive questions and a dictation to practice writing.

Another student is working on citizenship and we go through the questions she will be asked. [For the citizenship test], they need to be able to read, write and answer questions in English.

When I asked what she'd like to do she said, "I'd like to be a lawyer."

What are your students' career interests?

[One student] is a woman who has been at the motel a year and a half with her one year old. She has worked at Dunkin' Donuts. She has family members living [in Boston] and she'd like to move back. She feels she needs to be in Boston to be directed to a job.

When I asked what she'd like to do she said, "I'd like to be a lawyer."

She's an intelligent woman and what she needs are some good breaks in her life. She sees her family supporting her with childcare. She had attended Bunker Hill Community College and had taken some ESOL classes there, and would be drawn back.

How has volunteering changed your life?

Teaching [ELL] has opened my world to people from all over the world. Whenever I work with a student, I feel I get as much from them as they get from me. I find it very rewarding.

Wellspring Welcomes New Board Chair Kim McGovern

Wellspring House wishes to thank Caroline Hovey for her service on Wellspring's Board of Trustees. On June 30, Caroline completed her six year tenure as Wellspring's Board Chair. With her energy, compassionate spirit, and expertise in the field of finance, Caroline navigated Wellspring through the Great Recession, allowing the organization to meet the increased need in our community.



Wellspring's Former Board Chair, Caroline Hovey completed her 6 year term in June.

We wish Caroline all the best and we welcome new Board Chair Kimberly McGovern.

A resident of Gloucester, Kim grew up in Dunstable, the daughter of a dairy farmer. She left at age 17 to attend Georgetown University, graduating summa cum laude in 1985. She returned

to the Boston area to get her law degree cum laude at Harvard Law School in 1988. She then clerked for the Honorable Hector M. Laffitte in San Juan, Puerto Rico from 1988-1989, and began what turned into a 12-year stint at the law firm of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, first in Washington, D.C., and then in San Francisco, CA. She

made partner in 1996, and practiced environmental and toxic tort litigation.

Kim recalls distinctly how receiving financial aid at both her private high school and Georgetown enabled her to see herself with a real place in the world, without limits to what she could achieve. She also still has indelible memories from overnight shifts at a women's homeless shelter in D.C. and from doing legal aid work for women and children at the Legal Services Center in Jamaica Plain: often, people just need someone to give them an opportunity to show what they can do, and what they can be. For Kim, that is what Wellspring represents, and she is honored to become more involved in the work of Wellspring.



Kim McGovern, Wellspring's New Board Chair

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SUSAN'S STORY: CAN THREE MONTHS REALLY CHANGE YOUR LIFE?

Susan Lohmar, Spring 2014 Graduate of Wellspring's medical administrative assistant job training program:



Susan Lohmar, Spring 2014 Graduate of MediClerk, Wellspring's medical administrative assistant job training program.

When I came to MediClerk, I could never have imagined how much my life would change in thirteen weeks.

Sometimes in life we have things happen that cause us to lose our way or our sense of who we truly are. I am one of these people. I became a mom at 19 and then again at 21 and really didn't know what my future would hold. I was responsible for two young lives with nothing more than a high school education to work with. After years of struggling and barely being able to keep my head above water, I decided to take a chance and make a decision that would change it all.

I went to the MediClerk Open House not knowing what to expect. When I found out all that the program entailed and how detailed it would be I can admit I was terrified. Not so much of the program itself, but of whether or not I would be able to handle it and make it through. However, there was a determination in me that I could feel building and an excitement in me that I hadn't felt in a long time that pushed me forward and made me want to reach for more. I have always loved a challenge and it had been

many years since I had felt challenged or the excitement that comes from rising to it and succeeding.

On the first day of class the excitement and determination had gotten stronger and the fear I felt had disappeared. All I could feel was the hunger for knowledge and the satisfaction of knowing I had taken the biggest step of my adult life towards a better future for me and my kids.

We were handed our schedule and it was overwhelming to see how much we were going to be doing in such a short amount of time. All I remember thinking is how is this even possible, how much are we really going to learn? Well I can say now what you learn is more than you could ever imagine.

Through the course I found myself. I reconnected with myself in ways I hadn't even realized I had lost. I pushed myself to limits I never had before and through that I found out how strong I am. I believe in myself, in who I am and my abilities in what I can do and what I can achieve. I have returned to being the positive, optimistic person I once was. Waking up every day with a smile on my face is something I truly missed.

When I first started this program, a friend of mine asked me if I really thought three months can change your life.

Yes. Yes, I absolutely do.

After graduating Wellspring's MediClerk program on June 4, 2014, Susan immediately took a full-time job at the North Shore Physician's Group.

