Wellspring

The Newsletter of Wellspring House, Inc., Gloucester, Massachusetts VOL. 34, NO.2 FALL 2015

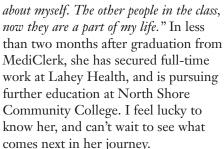
Enduring Truths

Wellspring House was founded in 1981 by seven dear friends who were willing to take the risk to do something radical: create a home where they themselves would live and provide temporary shelter to families, living side-by-side as a community. Thirty-four years later Wellspring House retains this strong sensibility. We know that money runs out, marriages fall apart, illness devastates a home. Yet, we have also proven that care and support provided in the context of a welcoming community can change lives.

Last week I had the privilege to sit with a passionate 27-year old woman who in her own words said "I was ready to give-up before Wellspring's MediClerk Program. I figured my parents didn't really go too far, and kids usually are like their parents." Prior to spending time with Wellspring, she had been working in the same receptionist position at a local gym for years, without any ability

to advance. At Wellspring House she learned about other opportunities, and gained the skills to get there.

"In a very short amount of time, just 15 weeks, Wellspring taught me that I CAN move forward. Now I believe I can do it! It's not just the academics. I learned



The world around Wellspring House has shifted a great deal over the



Melissa Dimond

years. Life is speeding along at a faster pace. Parents need more education and higher wages to support their families. Yet, some enduring truths remain. Successful communities are those where care and concern flow freely, and where people extend support for the sake of others. I ask you—right now—to make

a gift to Wellspring House for the sake of others. Please be generous, with the confidence that Wellspring House will connect more than 1,500 parents and children in 2016 with HOMES, JOBS, and EDUCATION, so that they may find success.

Thank you!
Melissa Dimond
President and Executive Director

Bank Gloucester Auction

Wellspring House extends its sincerest thanks to Ken Knowles and BankGloucester for September's auction to benefit Wellspring. "The Mayor's Race", an 8' x 12' mural by Rockport artist, Ken Knowles, now hangs in the main lobby of BankGloucester's 160 Main Street office. A smaller version of the painting was auctioned on September 10th, with proceeds donated to Wellspring House.



Pictured from left are Wellspring's Executive Director, Melissa Dimond, artist Ken Knowles, auction winners Debbie and Nick Holland, and BankGloucester President, Pat Thorpe.

HOMES • JOBS • EDUCATION

Double Your Gift!

Ralph Bates has agreed to match again this year, dollar for dollar up to \$100,000.



To make a gift use the enclosed envelope or visit www.wellspringhouse.org

Kay's Farewell

Many thanks to Kay O'Rourke for all that she has done for Wellspring House and the people we serve. "Kay has been a true gift to Wellspring, and a friend to all who live, learn and work here" says Board chair, Kim McGovern. Wishing you much happiness as you move onto your next chapter.

Pictured from left, Kay O'Rourke with Board chair, Kim McGovern.



Volunteer Spotlight - Debbie Whiting

For ALI volunteer, Debbie Whiting, math has always come easily.

"There is a lot of beauty to math. It's clean," said Whiting on a recent October morning. Debbie had just finished a lesson in Wellspring's Adult Education Initiative (ALI) program.

Debbie's gift is that she is able to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for math with her students.

"Most people when they come to ALI are petrified of math. The thrill for me is to get people past that stage."

Sometimes, she says, it's one thing that's always stumped them, like fractions or percentages." Lots of people only went so far with math before they ran into a wall."

Debbie's goal is to chip away at the obstacles keeping people from moving beyond that point. Before moving to Rockport, Debbie worked as a teacher's aide for 25 years, during which time she started a math group in the school where she worked. The group allowed students who struggled with math to have a space where they could focus without feeling self-conscious.

When she and her husband, a tutor in Wellspring's English Language Learning program, relocated to the area, she missed teaching. Volunteering with Wellspring's students turned out to be a perfect match.

"It's a great bunch, the staff and Wellspring. You can't find a better organization."

Thank you, Debbie! Wellspring feels the same about our volunteers. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact us at (978) 281-3558.

WELLSPRING EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

The Wellspring Educational Resource Center (WERC) works with students who are seeking college, occupational education or new careers leading to living wage jobs. Through a series of reflective exercises focusing on goal development, career exploration and resources, students develop a Pathway for Personal Success and are provided with mentoring services to succeed.

WERC is seeking volunteer mentors to work with students as they progress towards their college and career goals.



Patrick Devanney, Wellspring's College and Career Placement Counselor advises a student.

If you're interested in being a mentor contact Wellspring's College and Career Placement Coordinator, Patrick Devanney at (978)281-3558 ext. 323. Training and Resources will be provided.



72 school-aged children who are temporarily housed in the Danvers motel shelter were able to start their school year off right thanks to Morgan Lewis. The law firm spearheaded a campaign to fill 72 individualized backpacks with much needed school supplies. The kids were thrilled. Thanks for your continued generosity, Morgan Lewis!

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Our Work Homes - Jobs - EDUCATION FY'15

OUR VISION

Wellspring is guided by the vision of a society where all are welcomed and everyone has the opportunity to live a full and positive life. Believing that each life touches every other life, we work toward this vision of caring for the earth and her people by sharing our resources in a spirit of hospitality.

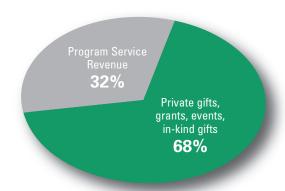
OUR MISSION

Wellspring House empowers individuals and families to live more secure lives through basic needs assistance, education and job training.

EDUCATION & JOB TRAINING

- 241 students participated in our education programs: the Adult Learning Initiative, English Language Learning, MediClerk job training and our new Wellspring Education Resource Center (WERC) – a 31% increase from FY2014.
- 7 students received grant awards totaling \$7,500 from the Robert Clarke Rogers Educational Opportunity Fund.
- 25 adults living in the motel shelter received help writing resumes and searching for jobs.
- 3 students were sponsored by Wellspring to participate in the One Family Scholars program.
- 32 Adults living at the motel were tutored to improve their ability to speak and understand English.

Thank you – You make our work possible!



BASIC NEEDS WORK

- 11 homeless families were housed in Wellspring's Family Shelter.
- 51 homeless families living at the motel shelter were placed in permanent housing.
- 40 children living at the motel shelter took part in Wellspring's after school Homework Club.
- 257 homeless families living in motel shelter received housing search services.
- 7 formerly homeless families received follow-up care after moving into their new homes.
- 176 callers to our Homeless Prevention Hotline received referrals and assistance.
- 12 families received grants totaling \$10,650 from Small Can Be Big to keep their homes.
- 93 children received back to school backpacks and supplies – a 55% increase from FY 2014.
- 853 children from 394 families were served by our Holiday Store – a 23% increase from FY 2014.
- 19 low-income single adults lived in our lodging house – their permanent home.

Total Families Served: 1,377 – a 14% increase over prior year

Total Individuals Served: 2,514 – a 10% increase over prior year

370 volunteers provided 4,637 hours of service



From Left to Right: Patrick Devanney, College and Career Placement Counselor; volunteers, Gary Simon and Carol Cataldo; and Laura Pedone, ALI Career Counseling and Placement Mentor.

WELLSPRING DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Berkeley

Ms. Andrea Carlin

Below is a list of individuals, corporations, foundations and community groups who generously supported Wellspring House during FY2015 (7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015). We are indeed grateful to these donors as this continued support makes our work possible. Our sincere thanks for the significant impact you have made in the lives of our families and neighbors.

We have worked hard to make this list accurate. Please inform us of any omissions or mistakes by calling (978) 281-3558 ext. 302.

vve nave worked nard to	make this list accurate. Pie	ase inform us of any omission	ons or mistakes by calling	(9/8) 281-3338 ext. 302.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for Wellspring's upcoming events!

Saturday, December 12th & Sunday, December 13th 2015

19th Annual Holiday Store Wellspring House, 302 Essex Avenue, Gloucester





Monday, May 2, 2016

18th Annual Women Honoring Women Luncheon

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. DoubleTree By Hilton, 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA



HOLIDAY STORE TOY DRIVES

One of Wellspring's most unique homelessness prevention programs is our donor driven Holiday Store. Each December Wellspring opens its doors to hundreds of low income families to "shop" for toys for their children. \$2 buys three toys and one book per child. Last year this program served 764 children, ensuring not only that these children would have a happy holiday, but also that their parents would not be forced to get behind on bills in order to do so.

The operation of the Holiday Store relies strongly on toy donations. Please consider brightening the holiday season for those in need by heading up a toy drive for Wellspring in your community.

For information contact Wellspring's Development Associate, Mary Zivkovic at mzivkovic@wellspringhouse.org or call 978.281.3558, ext 301.





Gloucester Fire Department will be running their third annual boot drive at local supermarkets to benefit Wellspring's Holiday Store. Pictured with Chief Eric Smith (L) and Firefighter Dean DeCoste (R) are Wellspring's Deputy Director Kara Murphy and Hospitality Manager Mary Hardwick .

Windover employees volunteer at last year's Holiday Store. If you're interested in helping out as a personal shopper or organizing a toy drive, contact us at mzivkovic@wellspringhouse.org