

The Newsletter of Wellspring House, Inc., Gloucester, Massachusetts VOL. 33, NO.3 FALL 2014

Wanted: A Home for the Holidays

Here we are, hurtling through space on this tiny, jewel-like planet, and with our feet planted firmly on the ground we get to witness the rising of the sun again. Just when it seems the anxiety and fear blanketing the earth will suffocate us all—the sun comes out again. If ever there was a time to bring every cell of your being to focused attention on what really matters, it's now. Whatever is in your power to do to make life better for others, now is the time. Every action arising from a good heart and a good mind is limitless in its impact.

Thirty years of stagnant wages for working families and an increased cost of living have taken their toll. A huge structural gap has opened up in our economy. And into that chasm are falling record numbers of families who can no longer support their families without government assistance. This is not inevitable, change is possible. And because you keep showing up for us, we can keep showing up for our struggling neighbors. Together we will make our way through the chaos and fear into the sunlight.

One of your neighbors is Christina, a working, single mom who spent 2¹/₂ years in a motel room until a subsidy became available for her family. She sobbed when we told her that her housing had come through—she had been facing her third Christmas in the motel and was so discouraged. She and her

> Thirty years of stagnant wages for working families and an increased cost of living have taken their toll.

two young children now have a home for the holidays. When her family is stable we will work with Christina to obtain the education and job training



Kay O'Rourke

she needs to increase her income.

We can keep showing up for the Christinas' of the world because you keep showing up for us. In all the wonderful ways you express your love, you are the sunrise. Never have you been more needed.

With gratitude,

Kay O'Rourke President & Executive Director

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Ralph Bates Honored

On September 9th, Wellspring presented Ralph Bates with an honorary chair. Ralph funded last year's matching gift campaign, a successful \$100,000!

Thank you Ralph!



MAKE HOPE REAL

With your help we can make hope real. Please consider making a gift. Your donation is needed to help support HOMES • JOBS • EDUCATION for struggling families.

To make a gift visit www.wellspringhouse.org

Or send your donation to: Wellspring House 302 Essex Avenue Gloucester, MA 01930

NSMC's Partnership = Success

North Shore Medical Center has partnered with Wellspring for 12 years to help us train low-income women and men as medical administrative assistants in our MediClerk program. The program has an excellent 86% job placement rate—and opens the door to opportunity for our students who have often been unemployed for long periods of time before they enroll. North Shore Medical Center provides us with classroom space, job shadows and internships so our students can gain valuable on-the-job experience.

Recognizing their outstanding leadership, practical help, and dedication to our students' success, Wellspring has nominated North Shore Medical Center for the Boston Business Journal's Corporate Citizenship Award. Thank you to all at NSMC who make it possible for our students to succeed—from our job shadow and internship hosts to Art Bowes, Sr. V.P. of Human Resources and his team.

Last year Wellspring's Board of Trustees committed to pursuing accreditation for the MediClerk program. Accreditation will help us to access financial aid for our students and provide a financial foundation that will enable us to expand our work and consider other job training programs. MediClerk is poised to make a leap!

"The day that made everything fall into place was the call saying I was accepted into MediClerk. I can only say good things about this program. Everyone truly devotes their time and energy to going above and beyond, making sure you succeed. I'm proud to say I'm a graduate of the MediClerk program that thrives on people's success for the future." HOLLY BELIVEAU (OCTOBER CLASS)

WELLSPRING FAMILY NEWS SPOTLIGHT

When Roger entered Wellspring's eight week Adult Learning Initiative program (ALI) last spring, he possessed 28 college credits from the early 1990s, limited computer skills and a tenacious desire to finish what he started.

Once enrolled, he didn't miss a class. "When I got stuck, they helped me. The teachers were great. I love them all." Roger is now matriculated full time at North Shore Community College and back on track to get his degree. Congratulations, Roger!





Intern and reading specialist, Ashby Conway, student, Betty, and volunteer, Chuck Everett meet at Wellspring's English Language Learning Center at the Sawyer Free Public Library.

Wellspring's English Language Learning Center at the Sawyer Free Library is growing to meet the needs of our students. To complement the strong conversational skills our students gain at the Center already, an innovative curriculum was introduced in October to help in the development of their reading comprehension and writing skills.

Wellspring is also supporting two other volunteer

driven ELL programs. There are approximately 20 volunteer tutors who are working at the Danvers motel housing the homeless families we are working with. These tutors are meeting with both children and parents. Many thanks to volunteers Jean Koulack-Young and Sharon Marie Clark for co-leading that initiative.

A special thanks to volunteer ELL teacher, Michele Harrison, who is piloting an ELL class in partnership with Gloucester Housing Authority on site at the Veteran's Way Community Center.

If you are interested in volunteering as a tutor at any of our sites please contact Mary Hardwick, mhardwick@wellspringhouse.org, or call (978) 281-3221 x300.



MediClerk students had a successful afternoon of shopping during J. Jill's Styling Party at the MarketStreet Lynnfield store. Thank you J. Jill for your ongoing support and generosity.

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Our Work Homes • JOBS • EDUCATION FY'14

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

- 183 students participated in our education programs: the Adult Learning Initiative, English Language Learning; MediClerk job training
- 7 students received grant awards totaling \$7,500 from the Robert Clarke Rogers Educational Opportunity Fund
- 4 students were sponsored by Wellspring to participate in the One Family Scholars program
- 3 graduate students majoring in Education participated in our Internship program

BASIC NEEDS WORK

- 12 homeless families were sheltered with services
- 259 homeless families living in motels received housing search services
- 17 formerly homeless families received follow-up care after moving into their new homes
- 278 callers to our Homeless Prevention Hotline received referrals and assistance
- 10 families received grants from our Homeless Prevention Fund to keep their homes
- 60 children received Back to School Backpacks and supplies
- 693 children from 356 families were served by our Holiday Store
- 14 low-income single adults lived in our lodging house their permanent home

Total Families Served: 1,205 – a 36% increase over prior year Total Individuals Served: 2,273 – a 44% increase over prior year

366 volunteers provided 4,700 hours of service



Last month Brookwood School first graders came for their annual fall bulb planting field trip. Thank you students, teachers and parent volunteers. We can't wait until spring.

Thank you – You make our work possible!





Cape Ann Pee Wee Football and Cheerleaders collected toys for Wellspring's Holiday Store at their November 16th Championship Sunday event. Shown at New Balance Field at Newell Stadium is Wellspring's Executive Director, Kay O'Rourke and Commissioner Fran Gibbs with participating football players, cheerleaders and volunteers. Over 100 toys were collected.



Gloucester Fire Department will be holding a toy drive again this year for Wellspring's Holiday Store. Pictured with firefighter Dean DeCoste (left) and Chief Eric Wilson are Wellspring's hospitality manager Mary Hardwick and director of development, Romy Gardner

WELLSPRING DONORS

Below is a list of individuals, corporations, foundations and community groups who generously supported Wellspring House during FY2014 (7/1/2013—6/30/2014). 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 x 302.

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Nancy Schwoyer, Frank Robinson and Jane Saltonstall catch up at the November Annual Meeting

Wellspring

Wellspring House, Inc. 302 Essex Avenue Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

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UPCOMING EVENTS Mark your calendars for Wellspring's upcoming events!

Saturday, December 13th & Sunday, December 14th 2014 18th Annual Holiday Store

Wellspring House 302 Essex Avenue Gloucester, MA



Monday, May 4, 2015 17th Annual Women Honoring Women Luncheon DoubleTree Inn 50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.







"Santa's elves at work: Manchester Police Department and Fire Department raised funds and collected toys for Wellspring's Holiday Store: 1st Row: Paramedic Bob Cavender, Officer Kevin Cleary; 2nd Row: Officer Ryan Machain, Paramedic Jon McDiarmid, Lieutenant Todd Fitzgerald, Wellspring's Hospitality Manager, Mary Hardwick, Lisa Biggar of the First Baptist Church of Manchester, Manchester Police Chief Glen Mckiel, and Manchester Fire Chief Glen Rogers."

Every parent wants their child to enjoy the magic of the Holidays. Wellspring's Holiday Store was created so that parents could ensure that their children were cared for AND the rent and utility bills are paid. Your gifts keep the joy flowing. Thank you!

We expect that 750 children will be shopped for in our Holiday Store this year, including 165 children living in a local motel. Calling all elves!