It’s never too late to change...

THE MYTH OF DESPAIR AND HOPELESSNESS SAYS WE ARE POWERLESS AND NOTHING EVER CHANGES. One of the great joys of being at Wellspring is that everyday we get to witness the truth – the unlimited creative power of our spirits that can remake our lives at any moment. Every day there is opportunity for creation, renewal, and redemption. Experience and past failures are learned from, and a new story about ourselves and our community is written.

- Homes
- Jobs
- Education

Our work helps the homeless get homes, the unemployed jobs, and education that can make dreams a reality. This work is really a journey that has the ability to liberate the human spirit. And we must be awake to create a new reality and realize our dreams. Poverty is not just a lack of basic necessities required to sustain our physical bodies. Poverty and live more fulfilling lives."

SUPPORT WELSPRING’S ANNUAL FUND

As we refine and reshape our education programs to better serve our participants, we ask that you consider making a gift to our Annual Fund to help us with this important work. Bringing the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue a higher education experience to our participants dramatically increases the odds that they will move beyond the cycle of poverty. Help us to make this possibility a reality by making a gift today.

To donate online visit us at: http://www.wellspringhouse.org/

Checks should be sent to Wellspring House, 302 Essex Avenue, Gloucester MA

BRING ‘EM HOME…

A radical re-structuring of the shelter system in Massachusetts has been proposed. The core of the proposal shifts resources to helping families stay in or find housing in their communities, and away from emergency shelter. Wellspring supports this Housing First approach and also advocates for changes in the proposal which would protect families dealing with disabilities and illness.

Wellspring also strongly supports changes in public policies that would help families to move off assistance and increase their ability to work. A slight increase in a family’s income can result in being penalized with the severe and immediate loss of critical benefits like healthcare, food, and daycare. Known as the “cliff effect” our current public policies act as a disincentive for families to increase their incomes as they often cannot bridge the income gap fast enough to offset the loss in benefits. Without changes in the public policies, the Housing First initiative will not be successful in the long term. Please talk to your state and federal representatives about the need for comprehensive public policies that will help families to Bridge the Gap.

Kay O’Rourke
Executive Director

WELSPRING’S WORK IS:

PASSION

PURPOSE

PATHS OUT OF POVERTY

"Since 1981, Wellspring House has provided adult education and job training, mentoring programs, housing advocacy and emergency shelter to help individuals and families on Cape Ann and the North Shore move out of poverty and live more fulfilling lives."
**WELLSPRING FOSTERS A RELATIONSHIP WITH VETERANS MEMORIAL SCHOOL**

In an effort to better serve members of the Cape Ann community, Wellspring’s executive director, Kay O’Rourke, has begun a conversation with Gloucester’s Veterans Memorial Elementary School, about partnering together to help address the many issues and challenges that can be found in a school system. It is difficult to maintain the integrity of the learning process with such scarcity of supplies and inevitably it is the children who suffer. Wellspring House and Brookwood School have enjoyed a strong relationship for nearly 15 years. During which time they have worked teamed up on a number of projects. This year, Brookwood has graciously agreed to gift the new and gently used books from its BookBash to Wellspring. The books received from the event will be used by Wellspring’s shelter guests and will also be shared with Veterans Memorial School as we begin to work collaboratively with them to strengthen the programs and increase the resources available to the students and their families.

**WELLSPRING HOUSE – BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011**

Kay O’Rourke, President & Executive Director
Caroline Hovey, Chair
Richard Savage, Treasurer
Trish Landgren, Clerk
Jackie Bell
John Bell
Rebecca Busna

Betsy Brown
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Rosemary Houghton, Emerita
Mary Jane Veronese, Emerita

**WELLSPRING WISH LIST**

- 10-12 cup Coffee Pot with automatic shut off
- Commercial Size Coffee Pot (40+ cups)
- Pillows
- Towels
- Twin sheet sets
- Twin Comforters
- Newborn Diapers Size 5
- (3) Pack ‘N Plays
- (3) strollers
- Volunteers are needed for the Spring Clean Up being held on Saturday, May 14th at 9:00 a.m. at Wellspring House.

For more information about our programs, please visit our website: www.wellspringhouse.org

**GIGGLES FOR WELLSPRING**

Wellspring extends its sincere thanks to Trisha and Steven Castraberti for graciously hosting the 2nd Annual Giggles for Wellspring event on Thursday, January 20th at their restaurant, Prince Pizzeria, in Saugus, MA. Ticket sales, donations and both live and silent auction bids raised a significant amount of unrestricted revenue for Wellspring House. 100% of the proceeds will be used to support Wellspring’s programs. The evening’s talented comedians were a humorous and effective way of drawing attention to Wellspring’s important work and securing the support needed to continue serving the families in our community. A big thank you to all who participated in Giggles for Wellspring.

**“ALI” Graduation**

On February 14, 2011 Wellspring held it’s most recent graduation for the participants of the Adult Learning Initiative (ALI). Below is a photo taken to commemorate the day as well as a note of appreciation written by a student:

Dear ALI Staff,

Well, it seems we’ve come to the end. There are a few things I would like to express.

I have had losses in my life. For a very long time they defined who I am, where I have dared to stand. These experiences have complicated my views and heightened my shortcomings. These kinds have used up my thoughts and gained too much power, leaving me always wanting. I found myself in a position of opportunity. I have felt an impetus. The ALI program, the people involved have given freely to me. I have gained knowledge. I found an understanding surpassing “safe” without constraints.

I have formed a relationship with people I admire. To each of you, I warmly say Thank you, and acknowledge that my views have changed. Thanks to your guidance and support, genuinely given.

Extended Thanks,
Anonymous

**GATHERED TOGETHER are some of the members of Wellspring’s Adult Learning Initiative Class of February 2011.**

**Yissania Sanchez**

Yissania Sanchez is a graduate of Wellspring’s Fall 2010-2011 MediClerk Class. While a student in the MediClerk program, Yissania began working in the medical field as an intern in at the Union Hospital emergency room. After successfully completing the program, Yissania was hired as a unit secretary at North Shore Medical Center.

MediClerk – QUICK FACTS:
- MediClerk graduated 90% of its students in the past year.
- The program has an impressive 82% job placement rate.
- The average starting wage post graduation is $14 and hour, which is $6 above minimum wage.
- Graduates have been hired by North Shore Medical Center, the North Shore Physicians Group, Bay Ridge Hospital, Partners Healthcare, Boston Medical Center and the Independent Living Center.

**MediClerk Graduates**

- Betsy Brown
- Lauren DeBose
- Polly Knowles
- Jeannie Leibowitz
- Jackie Littlefield
- Christine Lundberg
- C. Davis Pearce
- Lauren Rossi
- Ellen Shain
- Jennifer Warry
- Nancy Schwyzer
- President Emerita
- Rosemary Houghton, Emerita
- Mary Jane Veronese, Emerita

**VETERANS MEMORIAL SCHOOL**

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