

# Wellspring connection



The Newsletter of Wellspring House, Inc., Gloucester, Massachusetts  
VOL. 32, NO. 1 SUMMER 2013

## You Matter, and that's the Saving Grace



Kay O'Rourke

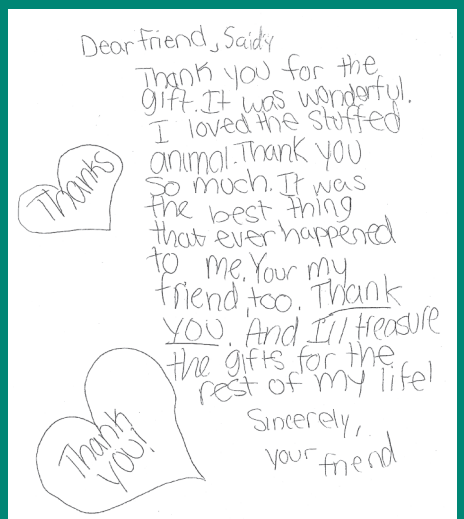
One way or another, if you're helping that mom and child stuck in a motel room move into a home, or the struggling student who passes the GED and has a new vision for his life, there is grace at work. Whether you are the donor, mom, student, teacher or volunteer — the outstretched hands join together and everything changes. All for one, and one for all. The most basic and essential truth of life. And when you really embrace that truth there are no outsiders or "them." There is only one question, one response...How do we keep moving forward, together, no matter what?

You matter a great deal. The deep knowing of our oneness is a beacon of light in a frightened world. The outstretched hands that Wellspring bears witness to carry your hope and love into the dark corners of the world. Thank you for making the work possible.

With love and appreciation,

Kay O'Rourke

*President & Executive Director*



Letter from a child staying in a motel giving thanks for a welcome box donated by another child at Brookwood School.

### A NEW AMERICAN

"I love Gloucester. It's beautiful here," says Maria Theresa enthusiastically of her adopted home. She re-located from



ESOL volunteers Marian Linden (left) and Paula Mullendore (right) are pictured with Maria Theresa (center) and Wellspring ESOL Lead Teacher, Melissa Buchanan (top).

Brazil to Gloucester in 2000 to be near her daughter, then a college student.

When Maria Theresa first arrived, however, she lacked the English language skills necessary to continue working in medical administration, her field when she lived in Brazil. Instead, to make ends meet she worked long hours cleaning homes, restaurants and offices.

Accepting the career change, Maria Theresa set her sights on remaining in the United States. "Gloucester is my home now," Maria Theresa said. "I wouldn't want to return to Brazil."

With the goal of obtaining citizenship, she enrolled in the English as a Second Language (ESOL) Program, at Wellspring House, studying with volunteers Paula Mullendore and Marian Linden. During their tutoring sessions,

the women read together, laughed together and shared stories of family, travel and their lives.

**Studying English as a Second Language offers students the ability to speak a new language, and an end to the isolation often experienced by newcomers.**

Today, Maria Theresa's endearing warmth and humor shine, not just through her gentle presence, but through her mastery of English.

On June 6th, Maria Theresa passed the United States Citizenship exam. In July, Maria Theresa traveled with her two tutors and friends Paula Mullendore and Marian Linden to Worcester to be sworn in as an American Citizen.

**Congratulations to all for a job well done!**

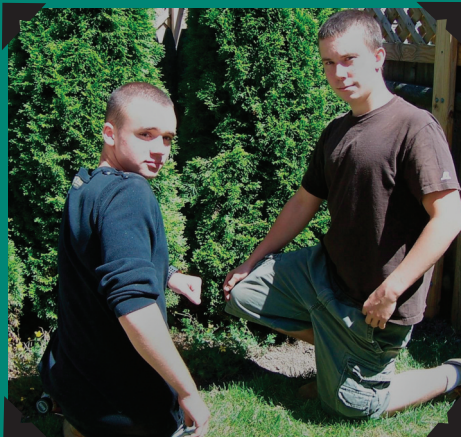
# Wellspring Family News



Congratulations to Wellspring sponsored One Family Scholar Graduates: Xaiomara Leon, Samara Pereira and Kelly Reardon-Clough. Xaiomara Leon, 7th from right, recently graduated from North Shore Community College with an Associate of Arts degree. Ms. Leon will continue her education in Social Work this fall at Salem State University. Samara and Kelly are not pictured.



Brandon (right), son of One Family Scholar, Katie O'Leary, received a scholarship to the Patrick Chung football camp this summer, where he won an award for best defensive back. Brandon is pictured here with Patrick Chung.



Wellspring was fortunate to have the help of high school students and Beverly residents Shawn Morse (left), student at Beverly High School, and Mike Nolan (right), student at Essex Agricultural and Technical High School. They are shown working on the grounds of Wellspring's family shelter. Shawn and Mike worked at Wellspring this summer through a grant from the First Jobs Program.



Wellspring's most recent ALI class graduated on July 24th. From left to right are graduates Aislinn Carroll, Angela Rodriguez, Meng Eang, Megan Paxton, Emily Gusmano, Rozelir Satiro-Sanborn, Shatera Whitfield, and Heather Allen. Not pictured: Brenden Johnson.



New trustees pictured left to right: Mary Jane Steward, Paul Lundberg, and Kimberly Cafferty.

## Wellspring Welcomes New Board Members

Kimberly Cafferty of Manchester, Paul Lundberg of Gloucester, and Mary Jane Steward of Hamilton, were elected at the June board meeting to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Ms. Cafferty is the founder of Cafferty & Company, a specialized consultant firm focused primarily on debt financing transactions. Kimberly is widely recognized as a leading expert in the field of debt and equity financing. Paul Lundberg, born and raised in Gloucester, is a senior corporate executive with extensive operations experience in logistics and transportation. His most recent post was Senior Vice President and Chief Operating officer at Rail America. Ms. Steward is a seasoned human resources professional with over twenty years of multi-functional experience. Mary Jane is currently the director of human resources with Appleseed's Brands/ WinterSilks in Beverly, Ma.



# When Home is a Motel Room – Kids in crisis

You are alone, worried sick about your kids, living in a motel room and no help on the horizon.

Joanie is the single mom of 5-year-old Mary. With no family support Joanie couldn't avoid homelessness on her part-time work as a personal care attendant. Enter Kristen Smith, Wellspring's Housing Stabilization Case Manager. Kristen first helped Joanie increase her income by obtaining a full-time position. Market rate rent was still beyond her means. Kristen then helped Joanie obtain a subsidy through the Mass. Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) that will pay 60% of her rent. Kristen assisted Joanie with finding an apartment, a utility arrearage and locating furniture so the family could move in.

**For the first-time this family has a stable home, and Mary will start Kindergarten this Fall.**

Kristen Smith says, "My greatest satisfaction is helping families get their lives back."



Wellspring's Housing Stabilization Manager, Kristen Smith (left) meets with a family who recently moved from a motel to their own permanent housing.

*"My greatest satisfaction is helping families get their lives back."*

KRISTEN SMITH

of that can be overcome in a stable home. Sometimes complex problems have simple remedies. Dorothy had it right in The Wizard of Oz, "There is no place like home." ■

Last year Wellspring started working with the motel families in Danvers to make sure every child had a Christmas by sharing our Holiday Store presents. In January we teamed up with Lynn Housing Authority and other providers on the North Shore to bring much needed housing search assistance to parents.

The ongoing homelessness crisis has meant that in Massachusetts over 1,600 families every month are living in motel rooms. Those families are in addition to the 2,200 families that are living in state-funded emergency family shelters. The stakes are high. Joanie and Mary spent 8 months in a motel room. Homeless kids are more likely to be depressed, fall behind in school and have significant health issues. All

## "Everyone should be celebrated"

– Volunteer, Christine Gordon



Christine Gordon is a married, homeschooling mother of four children as well as a realtor. She has served as a volunteer at Wellspring House for the past five years. It was a sermon at her church, First Presbyterian, in Ipswich, that initially inspired her work with Wellspring. In the sermon, the speaker urged the church-goers to live out what they say they believed, that God wanted them to use any resources they had for others and that if they have the means to feed someone in need, they should do so.

The speaker challenged them to serve others, to reach out, and move beyond their comfort zone. Incredibly moved by this message, Gordon accepted the challenge. Wellspring's participants

came to mind first. She began helping the shelter guests by organizing the donations of pillows and comforters. Next was a push for Christmas gift donations. It wasn't long before she thought, "There have got to be other needs." Keeping the shelter guests in mind, she brainstormed one night and came up with the idea of donating cakes to celebrate their special occasions.

**"If this could brighten someone's day, then it is all worth it," said Gordon.**

Periodically, Wellspring's shelter staff notify Gordon that a special occasion is approaching. Gordon then recruits volunteers to bake or buy the cake, usually to the recipient's flavor specifications.

The cakes are delivered to the shelter, along with candles. Occasions range from birthdays to the celebration of monumental milestones, such as leaving the shelter and moving into a home. The cake program has been very well received and guests have been extremely grateful, often sending thank you notes to the cake donors.

**"Wellspring is a great reminder that we are not here for ourselves. I'm thankful because Wellspring helps me live out my reason for being, which is to love and serve others," said Gordon.**

## OFFICERS

Kay O'Rourke  
*President and Executive Director*

Caroline Hovey  
*Chair*

Kim McGovern  
*Vice Chair*

C. Davis Pearce  
*Treasurer*

Polly Knowles  
*Clerk*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Louisa Attenborough

John Bell

Julie Bishop

Kimberly Cafferty

Peter P. Canny, Jr.

Patricia Castraberti

Paula Cole

A. Lawrence Crimmins, III

Jeannie Leibovitz

Jackie Littlefield

Paul Lundberg

Andrea B. Schaut

Ellen Shain

Mary Jane Steward

Matthew F. Whitlock

...

Nancy Schwoyer  
*President Emerita*

Rosemary Haughton  
*Emerita*

Mary Jane Veronese  
*Emerita*



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

[www.wellspringhouse.org](http://www.wellspringhouse.org)

*Wellspring Connection* Editor: Romy Gardner; Contributors: Kay O'Rourke and Mary Zivkovic; Photography: Wellspring House Inc., One Family, Inc.  
Layout and design: Debbie Hird. Printed on recycled paper by Daily Printing.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Mark your calendars for Wellspring's upcoming events!*

**Tuesday, November 5, 2013**

**Wellspring's Annual Meeting**  
5:00 p.m.

**November 7, 2013**

**Benefit Concert: Live and  
Acoustic Featuring Amy Lee of  
Evanescence and Paula Cole**

6:30 p.m.  
Shalin Liu Performance Center  
Rockport, MA

**Saturday, December 14 &  
Sunday, December 15, 2013**

**17th Annual Holiday Store**

Wellspring House  
302 Essex Avenue  
Gloucester, MA



**Monday, May 5, 2014**

**16th Annual Women Honoring  
Women Luncheon**

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA  
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2013**

**LIVE AND ACOUSTIC  
AMY LEE (OF EVANESCENCE)  
AND PAULA COLE**

IN A BENEFIT FOR WELLSPRING HOUSE

6:30 PM

SHALIN LIU PERFORMANCE CENTER  
37 MAIN STREET, ROCKPORT, MA

Visit [www.wellspringhouse.org](http://www.wellspringhouse.org)  
or call 978-281-3558, ext. 301  
for more information and to purchase tickets.

