

Wellspring connection



The Newsletter of Wellspring House, Inc., Gloucester, Massachusetts
VOL. 36, NO.3 FALL 2017

Join Us!

Dear Wellspring Friends,

Please consider this Fall issue of our Newsletter as an open invitation! You will see featured a variety of ways in which you can participate with Wellspring this season. You may choose to take in the songwriting and performing talents of Mark D Sanders and Jason Mathews at #Celesong in Essex on November 17th. You may gather friends and family to contribute to and volunteer with Wellspring's annual Holiday Store program. Many local families choose to be a part year-after-year and report how meaningful the Holiday Store experience is for them. New this year we have a rare opportunity for members of the Wellspring community to participate in gallery showings and sales from the private art collection of Wellspring's longtime and dear friend, Frank Robinson.

As you read this issue, please take a moment to honor and celebrate the hundreds of people and organizations who have made financial gifts to support the continued impacts of Wellspring House's programs. One especially generous act deserves special mention. In July,



Melissa Dimond

we were so fortunate to create the Rick Gilbert Endowment Fund thanks to an amazing gift from Richard Gilbert of Rockport to create long term support for Wellspring's impacts in the communities of Cape Ann.

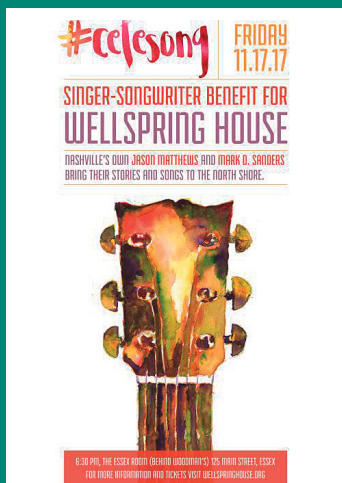
At the end of the day, however you choose to belong to the efforts of Wellspring you are sustain-

ing critical education and job training opportunities that are 'game changers' for families. You are making it possible for parents to secure stable housing and stable employment with wages that start to cover a real cost of living. Thank you!

Melissa Dimond
President and Executive Director

You are making it possible for parents to secure stable housing and stable employment with wages that start to cover a real cost of living.

Celesong is Friday, November 17th!



Tickets to #Celesong, Wellspring's fall benefit concert are selling fast!

The singer-songwriter benefit for Wellspring House will feature Mark D Sanders and Jason Matthews, bringing their stories and songs from Nashville to the North Shore.

Join us for an evening of cocktails, family-style barbecue dinner and entertainment. We will offer a few special auction items as well as a Fund-a-Need paddle raise!

All Proceeds support Wellspring's homelessness prevention programs.

Friday, November 17th, 2017 at 6:30pm at The Essex Room at Woodman's, Essex, MA.

Limited tickets and Sponsorships available. Visit www.wellspringhouse.org.



Special thanks to our sponsors Bank of America Charitable Foundation and Marketstreet Lynnfield!

Wellspring's Holiday Store Now in its 21st Year!

Each December, for one weekend before the holidays, Wellspring is stocked with donated toys, books and gift cards for eligible low-income parents to shop by appointment for their children.

Last holiday season, Wellspring's Holiday Store served 804 children from 344 families on Cape Ann and beyond. This program not only brightens the holidays for kids in need, it also serves as a lifeline keeping parents from getting behind on bills or rent in January.

This year, our Holiday Store will be held on Saturday, December 9th and Sunday, December 10th. Please consider making a child's holiday and easing the financial burden on those in need by heading up a toy drive or making a financial contribution. Churches, book groups, dinner clubs and birthday parties are great places to get started. Also a perfect service project for your student.

Gifts may be dropped off at 302 Essex Avenue, Gloucester from Monday, November 27 to Wednesday, December 6, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Arrangements for pick-ups can also be made. All gifts should be new, unwrapped and non-violent. Gifts needed for young children up to teens.

BOOKS AND GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

We try to give each family the opportunity to leave with a gift card of their choice. We recommend Market Basket, Walmart, Marshalls, Shaws, Target, Kohl's, CVS, and Walgreens, as these stores are accessible by public transportation.

For more information, please contact Katie Misuraca at kmisuraca@wellspringhouse.org or 978-281-3558 ext. 303.



Volunteers, Trish Castraberti and Brandon Bruce restock toys at Wellspring's Holiday Store.

MORE THAN 40 KIDS RETURNED TO SCHOOL PREPARED THANKS TO WELLSPRING SUPPORTERS

The start of a new school year brings excitement, anticipation and the added financial cost of back to school shopping. A new backpack can cost upwards of fifty dollars. Combined with school supplies, the total can become a real burden to household budgets that are already stretched.

Thankfully again this year, Wellspring's families — from shelter guests and case management clients to MediClerk students — got a much needed boost in the form of backpacks and school supplies from our friends at Cornerstone Church in Manchester, Saint Paul's Church in Hamilton, and Cross Fit Cape Ann, as well

as our corporate partner Garnet Hill. Cornerstone Church and Saint Paul's donated brand new, hand-picked and hand-packed backpacks filled with supplies. Cross Fit Cape Ann donated school supplies, and Garnet Hill donated thirty colorful, brand new backpacks from their fall line.

Backpacks donated by Garnet Hill are made from recycled bottles.



Pastor Ryan Ackerman of Cornerstone Church in Manchester delivers donated back to school backpacks for the children of Wellspring's guests, clients and students.

Over 40 backpacks were distributed to the children of Wellspring program participants, allowing them to begin the school year prepared and neatly accessorized, and with confidence.

We're giving our generous donors, Garnet Hill, Cornerstone Church, Saint Paul's Church, and Cross Fit Cape Ann an "A+" for their effort!

Our Work HOMES • JOBS • EDUCATION FY'17

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.

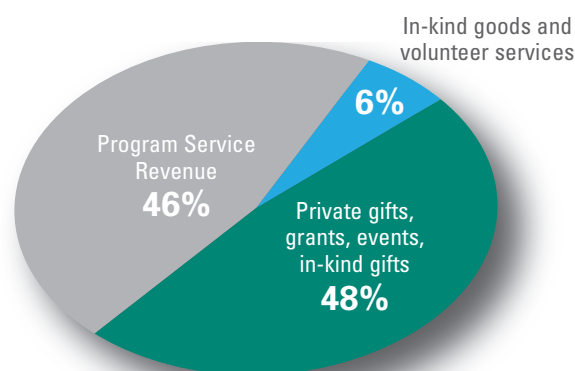
EDUCATION & JOB TRAINING

- 268 students participated in our education programs: the Adult Learning Initiative, English Language Learning, MediClerk job training, and our new Wellspring Education Resource Center (WERC)
- 6 students received grant awards totaling \$8,350 from the Robert Clarke Rogers Educational Opportunity Fund.
- 2 students were sponsored by Wellspring to participate in the One Family Scholars program.

BASIC NEEDS WORK

- 14 homeless families were housed in Wellspring's Family Shelter.
- 32 remaining homeless families living in a motel shelter (now closed) were placed in permanent housing.
- 56 homeless families living in a motel shelter (now closed) received housing search services.
- 34 formerly homeless families received follow-up care after moving into their new homes.
- 312 callers to our Homeless Prevention Hotline received referrals and assistance.
- 17 families received grants totaling \$22,367 from Small Can Be Big and Wellspring's Homelessness Prevention Fund to help avoid homelessness and keep their homes.
- 56 children received back to school backpacks and supplies.
- 804 children from 344 families were served by our Holiday Store.
- 12 low-income single adults lived in our lodging house — their permanent home.

**Thank you –
You make our work possible!**



**Total Families Served: 1,170 –
Total Individuals Served: 1,913 –
406 volunteers provided
4,197 hours of service**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for Wellspring's upcoming events!

Tuesday, November 14th, 2017

Annual Meeting

5:30 pm Reception; 6:30 pm Meeting
Wellspring House

Friday, November 17th, 2017

2nd Annual #Celesong Concert and Fundraiser

The Essex Room at Woodman's
125 Main Street, Essex

Sunday, December 3rd, 2017

Art Sale

Noon-5 pm Muzio Designs
55 John Wise Avenue, Essex

**Saturday, December 9th &
Sunday, December 10th, 2017**

21st Annual Holiday Store

Wellspring House

Monday, May 7th, 2018

20th Annual Women Honoring Women Luncheon

DoubleTree by Hilton
50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers

BUY SOME ART!

Thanks to a generous donor, Wellspring House will be the beneficiary of proceeds from the sale of a private art collection.

Frank Robinson, a long-time friend of Wellspring House, explains why he decided to make this magnanimous offer:

Prior to retiring I was and actually still am an architectural designer [I've been a dismal failure at this retirement business!].

Currently I'm going through a major down-sizing, giving me an opportunity to unload a bunch of art for Wellspring's benefit now. Why wait? I have a compulsion to collect visual items that please me. I have done this by visiting artists in their studios, attending gallery openings and craft shows, locally and while traveling here and abroad. This started in high school, with my first oil painting been purchased in 1950. The bulk of my collecting covered the period from the late 50's through 2000's. I've tried to stop, another failure on my part. Items are sculpture in wood, metal and ceramics, paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolor and prints of various types, all in both functional and abstract.

Wellspring will host a series of receptions featuring Frank's art for sale. Enjoy a cocktail, a nibble and the chance to own artwork from artists including John Gable, Marc Civitares, Michael Bigger, Pellegrino and Michael Cohen. All proceeds benefit Wellspring House. For more information and to be added to the invitation list for art sale receptions, contact Lisa Robinson at lrobinson@wellspringhouse.org or 978-281-3558 x302.



For more information or to donate visit online at wellspringhouse.org