



NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GLOUCESTER, MA
PERMIT NO 64



Wellspring Connection

Editor: Mary Powers; Contributors: Melissa Dimond, Mary Hardwick, Lisa Wheeler; Photography: Wellspring House, Inc. and Cynthia August Images, Layout and design: Communications, Ink.; Printed by Daily Printing

Printed on recycled paper.

Upcoming Event: Wellspring's Luncheon Monday, May 6th, 2019

Donate to Wellspring's Annual Fund today
and make your gift count twice with the
Ralph Bates Challenge.

Go to wellspringhouse.org to learn more!



From left to right: Laura Pedone, WSH Director of Career Pathways; Becky Wuenschel, WSH College and Career Placement Counselor; Melissa Dimond WSH Executive Director; Marjorie Dyksinski, WERC student; Therese Luca, WERC student; Sue Ellis, Institution for Savings Assistant Vice President, Gloucester Office Manager; Lisa Robinson, WSH Director of Development; Bruce MacDonald, Institution for Savings Vice President, Branch Administration.

Institution for Savings Supports Wellspring's Professional Mentorship Program

Wellspring House was recently awarded a grant from Institution for Savings in support of the Wellspring Educational Resource Collaborate, or WERC. This program is designed to help students advance in their careers and education by providing mentorship and resources for college, occupational education or placement in a new job.

Last year, WERC helped 179 find their pathways to higher education, job prospects, and living wage work through mentorship and guidance. Now, thanks to Institution for Savings, this work can continue into 2019.



THE NEWSLETTER OF WELLSPRING INC. | VOL. 35 | NO.2 | WINTER 2018



Endless Possibilities. Over the past year Wellspring has taken time to speak with members of our community — program participants, staff, volunteers, and donors — to find out what Wellspring means to them.

In the words of one MediClerk Training Program student:

"Most people go to Wellspring looking to see if there is more for them 'out there'. Wellspring gives hope that you are not

stuck where you are forever. The word 'possibilities' actually defines Wellspring. There are possibilities everywhere, whether it is shelter, job training, getting a GED or being a mentor. There are endless possibilities."

In today's economy, it is more important than ever for parents to be able to earn a living wage, one that covers a true cost of living. Housing costs in Massachusetts are rising faster than any other state in the United States. Wellspring provides real opportunities for people to gain the training and education they need to move into new positions and raise up their earnings. We help families to address the root causes of housing crises and move forward. It takes time and trust.

The MediClerk student quoted above is in our current Fall 2018 class, training onsite at North Shore Medial Center full-time for 15 weeks. At the end of only one semester she will move immediately

into a medical administrative position, increasing her entry level annual income by \$10,000 or more.

At Wellspring's foundation, our programs are built on supportive, authentic relationships. Whether parents and students come to Wellspring to take classes, work with a career advisor or a homelessness prevention case manager, they are offered a holistic range of opportunities. They are using education to improve their skills, their confidence and future job prospects.

But we can't do it without you! Together, we are making our community stronger.

Melissa A. Dimond, Sc.M.
President and Executive Director

ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING FY2018 NOW AVAILABLE

Thank you for your generous support of Wellspring! Without you, our work would not be possible. Your contribution makes a significant impact to the families and individuals we serve — your neighbors right here on Cape Ann.

Wellspring's programs are funded by donations and grants, and supported by over 350 volunteers.

In the past, we have published in our fall newsletter the list of individuals, corporations, foundations and community groups who supported Wellspring in the previous fiscal year.

This year, in an effort to direct vital, donated funds to our program and less to the production of this publication, the list will instead be posted on our website at www.wellspringhouse.org/FY18Giving. This list is not available to the general public.

If you would like a paper copy of the list or have any questions, please call (978) 281-3558 ext. 302.

Endless Possibilities...

Dedicated Volunteer Sarah Archer

ARTICLE BY MARY HARDWICK, HOSPITALITY MANAGER AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Sarah Archer maybe one of the most loved, appreciated and knowledgeable volunteers in Wellspring's ALI computer classes.

Sarah began taking ALI classes as a student in 2012 as reassurance that she could keep up with her generation of classmates in college after a brief illness. With the help of Mass Rehab accommodations were made for Sarah to receive transportation to Wellspring each morning. Wellspring staff gave her the confidence and boost to further her education after her ALI graduation.

When computer teacher Jane Stevens came calling for help in volunteering in her computer class Sarah said "absolutely!" She knew how difficult it was for teachers to lead their students and tutor at the same time.

Passing on her knowledge to each group of students and seeing what they can accomplish is one of best part of volunteering for Sarah.

When Sarah is not volunteering at Wellspring House she can be found at the Manchester Historical Museum

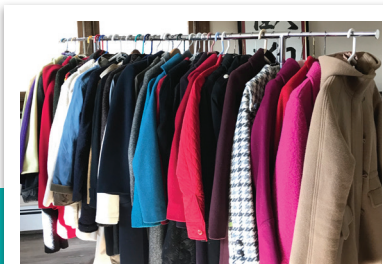


Thank you Sarah for the "Endless Possibilities" you bring to Wellspring's participants!!

where she is busy cataloging and photographing the many collections. Sue Parker, President of the museum can't imagine what they would do without Sarah, a very faithful volunteer! Her attention to detail, many contributions, enthusiasm and inspiration are valuable to the museum.

When I asked Sarah what the best part of volunteering was she said, "It is a huge honor to volunteer with the computer students and see what their future endeavors may lead!"

"Just to name a few..."



Awesome Closet

We'd like to send out a huge thanks to Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce Business Women's Group for organizing a women's winter coat drive for Wellspring's Awesome Closet!

Thanks to the generosity of the women who donated, any woman in need who is served by Wellspring's programs will have access to warm coats this winter.



A Warm Thank You!

We'd like to send out an enormous and sincere thank you to everyone who donated children's coats this fall. With your generosity, 18 kids who are either living in Wellspring's shelter or who are receiving housing stabilization will be able to stay warm. Thank you!

From Civil War to Prospective Paralegal

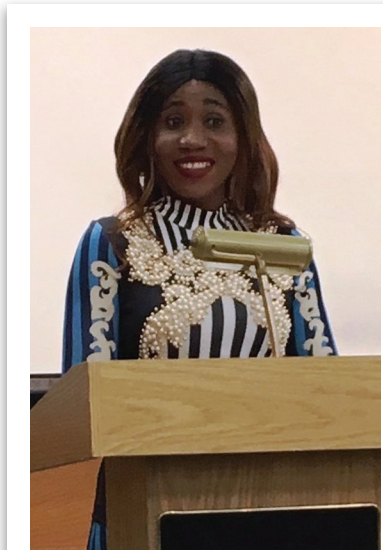
ARTICLE BY LISA WHEELER, GRANTS MANAGER

Sarah Archer maybe one of the most loved, appreciated and Kim came to our ALI Program in September 2017 from Liberia (West Africa). She had only been in the United States for a short time when she arrived at Wellspring. She grew up without opportunities and experienced eleven years of civil war, during which she was kidnapped and abused many times. She taught herself to read and write, and she learned to speak English by self-education and sheer determination.

On her first day of class at Wellspring House, Kim was very upset, terrified and unsure of what she was doing in this classroom with total strangers. We took it slow on Day 1 (Orientation) and offered her some snacks and tea during break time. She finished out her first day and returned the following morning for class. The transformation in her demeanor from one day to the next was remarkable. She was now smiling and ready to start learning math, writing and computers. She felt comfortable now. It was truly amazing.

Kim went on to complete this 8 week program and she also signed up for WERC (Wellspring Educational Resource Collaborative), Wellspring's mentoring and advising program.

In the spring of 2018, Kim joined 11 others to be part of the first group to graduate from Wellspring's Front Office Professional-Ability to Benefit Pilot Program. This program at North Shore Community College's Lynn Campus was



the first such program offered in Massachusetts allowing students without high school diplomas or GEDs to enroll in college level courses and degree programs. Kim is determined to keep moving forward until she reaches her educational and career goals. She wants to work towards an associates' degree in paralegal studies.

Kim gave a powerful and emotional speech at our June 2018 ALI End of Year Celebration. An excerpt from the end of her speech told the audience,

"Even sometimes as we procrastinate or we mess up over and over, even though in our journey we experience night and day, light and darkness, it does not matter. All that matters is that we keep going until we reach our destinations."



"...and more!"

American Rhino Donates Merchandise for Wellspring's Holiday Store

Thanks to the generosity of Chris Welles, Wellspring recently received a large donation of American Rhino merchandise for our annual holiday store, supporting families in need on Cape Ann.

Endless Possibilities...

Sheila MaGuire: Caring Curator of Wellspring’s Awesome Closet

ARTICLE BY MARY HARDWICK, HOSPITALITY MANAGER AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

When Sheila read about Wellspring’s “Awesome Closet” in the Gloucester Times, she knew this is where she wanted to volunteer. For almost a year now Sheila has unpacked hundreds of boxes and bags of donated business clothes and arranged them so tastefully in our clothing boutique each Tuesday morning. With a smile on her face and a willing hand she is happy to help students find that perfect outfit for classes, interviews or work.

Not one to stand still Sheila also volunteers one day a week at Wellspring’s MediClerk program at North Shore Medical Center in Salem. As a former manager of a cardiology and respiratory department at a South Shore hospital, Sheila’s medical background comes in handy assisting students and staff where ever help is needed.

Since living on Cape Ann the past ten years, Sheila has also volunteered at the Grace Center and the Cape Ann Thrift Shop. One of her hobbies is knitting hats for hand sewn dolls that her fellow friends make for those who



Thanks to Sheila for showing us the “*Endless Possibilities*” in volunteering!

are ill in various area hospitals. This summer her son built her flower boxes and Sheila has become a successful window box gardener!

With a sense of purpose and commitment, Sheila has become a valuable volunteer at Wellspring in a very short time. Without her flair for fashion and sense of humor, the “Awesome Closet” would not run as smoothly and the “clerical work, interviews and assisting students with outfits” would not be fulfilled at our Mediclerk program.

“Another example...”

Gloucester Flag Football Scores Hats and Gloves for Wellspring

Wellspring is so grateful to the Gloucester Flag Football Program for their generous donation of \$200 in gift cards toward the purchase of children’s gloves and hats!

With this support, kids living in Wellspring’s shelter and whose families receive housing stabilization services from Wellspring will have warm hands and ears this winter!



Our Work

HOMES • JOBS • EDUCATION FY’19

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

- 46% increase in participation over last year
- 179 people participated in the WERC Career Advising program
- 32 people participated in Wellspring’s MediClerk job training program
- 10 students received education grant awards from the Robert Clarke Rogers Educational Opportunity Fund
- 69 students participated in our Adult Learning Initiative, with courses in computers, college readiness math and GED prep
- 99 students participated in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Basic Needs Work

- 20 homeless families were housed in Wellspring’s Family Shelter
- 59 families (164 individuals) received support from Wellspring’s Homelessness Prevention and Family Stabilization Program
- 405 callers to our Homeless Prevention Line received referrals and assistance
- 20 families received grants totaling \$18,000 from Small Can Be Big and Wellspring’s Homelessness Prevention Fund to help avoid homelessness and stay in their homes
- 40 children received back to school backpacks and supplies
- 720 children from 291 families were served by our Holiday Store
- 11 low-income single adults lived in our single room occupancy residence — their permanent home

1,240
TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED

1,864
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED

365 VOLUNTEERS
PROVIDED 4,566 HOURS
OF SERVICE