



Wellspring Connection

THE NEWSLETTER OF WELLSPRING INC. | VOL. 36 | FALL 2019

Dear Wellspring Friends,

In June, Wellspring released a new organizational Vision and Mission, in keeping with our most current strategies.

Vision: *Wellspring is guided by the vision of a just society where every member of our community thrives. We are an innovative and welcoming learning environment where people push beyond the limits of their lives to realize success and fulfillment.*

Mission: *Wellspring inspires families and adults on the North Shore to achieve employment and financial security through stable housing, education, job training and career readiness.*

Now more than ever before, families in our local area are struggling to afford

the rising cost of living. The median rent in eastern Massachusetts is increasing faster than any other urban area in the United States. At Wellspring, we are tackling this social problem by creating numerous opportunities for young adults and adults to attain the skills and credentials they need to earn higher wage jobs.

There is no easy fix. It is hard work and takes time. Yet, the pay-off is immense: parents and children who have stable housing, financial security, and a healthy quality of life.

In the words of Janine, who is taking classes at Wellspring for college credit,

"Wellspring's program is one of the best ones out there to help integrate struggling people like me back into the work force. Wellspring has given me a boost

of knowledge and confidence while teaching me how to maneuver life's challenges."

Please join Wellspring today to help more than 1,350 families across Cape Ann and the North Shore to make meaningful changes in their lives. There are so many ways to get involved. Thank you for being a part of the solution!

Sincerely,



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



BANK OF AMERICA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS WELLSPRING FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Wellspring is excited to announce Bank of America Charitable Foundation's third consecutive year as a funding partner for our Homelessness Prevention and Family Stabilization program! Over the next year, more than 70 families with serious housing crises will receive ongoing assistance from Wellspring to overcome immediate emergencies while working on root causes and solutions for long-term housing and financial stability. Thank you, Bank of America!

BANK OF AMERICA 

MAKE HOLIDAY MAGIC! ORGANIZE A TOY DRIVE FOR WELLSPRING'S HOLIDAY STORE!

Each December, for one weekend before the holidays, Wellspring House is transformed into a toy shop stocked with donated toys, books and games for eligible low-income parents to shop by appointment for their children.

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 later in the winter.

Please consider making a child's holiday special 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.

The 2019 Holiday Store will take place on Saturday, December 7th and Sunday, December 8th. New, unwrapped and non-violent gifts may be dropped off at 302 Essex Avenue from Monday, November 4th until Friday, December 6th from 9am to 4pm. Call (978) 281- 3558 to get involved.

Endless Possibilities...

Let's Celebrate Vilma's Success!

ARTICLE BY PAULA FLYNN AND LISA WHEELER

Since we launched the Homelessness Prevention and Family Stabilization Program (HPFS) we have learned firsthand that helping families to achieve financial self-sufficiency following housing crises and possible periods of homelessness takes a significant amount of time. The goal of the HPFS Program is to set families on a path that will lead them out of poverty permanently. Wellspring provides a unique opportunity for families to receive support following immediate housing crises, through a period of learning and adjustment with more focused attention on household finances, and into concrete education and job training opportunities.

One such family is The Cerritos Rodriguez Family. It was not always easy for Vilma, but she has achieved her goals of a career in the medical field and to provide financial stability for herself and her two young special needs children. We first met Vilma 5 years ago in the motel based shelter in Danvers where Wellspring provided direct services. She was eventually accepted into the Gloucester Housing First Program and was able to transition into an apartment.

Vilma continued receiving support from Wellspring after leaving the motel shelter through our Homelessness Prevention and Family Stabilization Program for 18 months.

During this time and then beyond, she also received additional services from Wellspring.

Once Vilma's learned of our MediClerk Training Program (MediClerk), her goal was to enroll and be trained for a well-paying administrative job at a hospital. Vilma applied to MediClerk but her English and typing held her back from immediate acceptance into the program. However, she was determined to improve her skills and re-apply.

Fortunately for Vilma, Wellspring had FREE educational programs that helped her gain these skills while continuing to receive assistance from Wellspring's HPFS Program. Vilma improved her English language learning with the help from a tutor at our library based ESOL Program. She then enrolled in our Adult Learning Initiative (ALI) Program to continue her English proficiency plus gain computer and typing skills.

It took Vilma about three years to finally reach her goal of enrolling in our 15-week MediClerk Training Program. Her hard work and determination really paid off with the support from staff and volunteers across several programs at Wellspring. In December 2018 Vilma graduated from MediClerk and she has recently secured a full-time job with full benefits as a Medical Receptionist. It has been a long road for Vilma, with so many challenges, but Wellspring has been with her every step of the way.

Congratulations, Vilma! □

A Community of Support

We are honored to have the support of local businesses and individuals.

We'd like to send a huge thank you to **Common Crow Natural Market** in Gloucester for supporting Wellspring back in May with donation boxes at checkout!

Every cent counts and goes toward alleviating poverty in our area through homelessness prevention programs, job training, adult education and mentoring.



**Common Crow
Natural Market**

Local high school students, Rizza Anderson and Iona Murray-Brown organized this summer's Teen Open Mic Concert Series at Cape Ann Farmers Market.

The series took place each month with the goal of raising funds and awareness for various non-profits.

Rizza and Iona dedicated their July 18th Open Mic Concert to Wellspring. The girls raised \$100 and handed out dozens of flyers!

Thank you, Rizza and Iona for including Wellspring in your creative philanthropic endeavor!



New Board Member Spotlight

Julia Frost

Julia Frost is the Director of Marketing at Arjuna Capital. She was first introduced to Wellspring through Chive, a sustainable event design and catering company which she co-founded in 2009. Chive hosted a series of seasonal events where the proceeds directly supported local organizations, Wellspring being among them. In the 7+ years since that event Julia has been exposed to the immense needs of Essex County residents and has deepened her appreciation for the programs, services and genuine support that Wellspring provides. Julia resides in Gloucester.

Elizabeth Furber

Elizabeth Furber is a Managing Partner and Founder at High Street Advisors, a marketing and consulting firm located in Manchester, MA. Elizabeth was first introduced to Wellspring through the involvement of Brookwood School's 1st Grade class, and their charitable efforts. She has attended Wellspring's Annual Luncheon and various fundraisers over the years, and has always been moved by the work being done and the stories of success. Elizabeth has also been involved with many other charitable efforts over the years such as Habitat for Humanity, and organizations in South America.

Larry Oaks

Larry Oaks is the President of Mainstay Supportive Housing and Homecare, a non profit organization headquartered in Newton. Larry has spent 25 years leading organizations that work to advance solutions to end homelessness and which create affordable housing. He resides in Gloucester with his wife Sarah and their two teenaged sons.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019-2020

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Nancy Schwoyer, *President Emerita*
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Lucy (Jackie) Littlefield, *Emerita*

Michelle Langille

Michelle Langille is an experienced fundraiser, community volunteer, grant reviewer and grant writer for a number of non-profits doing exceptional work in Essex County. As a grant writer, she strives to help her clients raise much needed funding for their programs aimed at improving the quality of life for all Essex County residents. She lives in Manchester with her husband Ben, children James and Stella, and pup Luna. She enjoys traveling with her family, reading and discussing current books, hosting holiday celebrations and frequenting the many North Shore beaches.

100+ Women Support Local Initiatives

More than one hundred women attended the One Hundred Women Who Care about Cape Ann kickoff event in July.

The group's mission is to support local non-profits that serve our community by finding at least 100 women who want to make an impact by pledging \$100 quarterly to raise \$12,997 in one hour.

From left: steering committee members

Erin McKay, Diane Connolly, Marilyn Short, Lisa Robinson and Jane Remsen (far right) present a big check to Melissa Dimond (second from right), Executive Director of Wellspring.



Back to School Drive Serves 47 Kids in Need!

Every child deserves to start the school year prepared, with a sturdy backpack and all the notebooks, pencils, markers and crayons they need. But for families working on a budget, the combined cost of school supplies and backpacks can be prohibitive. No family should get behind on bills in order to provide back-to-school gear for their kids.

Each year, thanks to community support, we offer backpacks to children whose families are served by Wellspring's Programs

Thank you to Garnet Hill of Franconia, New Hampshire, Trinity Congregational Church of Manchester-by-the-Sea and the many others who helped support this important homelessness prevention initiative a success!



GARNET HILL DONATED 23 ECO SIGNATURE BACKPACKS TO CHILDREN WHOSE FAMILIES ARE SERVED BY WELLSPRING.



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www.wellspringhouse.org

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Upcoming Events:

Annual Meeting and Reception

Wednesday, November 13: Reception at 5:30pm | Meeting from 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Wellspring Night at Great Marsh Brewing Co.

Thursday, November 21

Holiday Store to Benefit Families on Cape Ann

Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8

Wellspring Luncheon

Monday, May 4, 2020 from 11:30am to 2:00pm

Please consider donating to Wellspring House. Donate online at WELLSPRINGHOUSE.ORG