



# Wellspring Connection

THE NEWSLETTER OF WELLSPRING HOUSE, INC. | VOL. 37 | FALL 2020



Dear Wellspring Friends,

As we head into fall, although we are not together physically, my colleagues and I are reaching out to share a bit of Wellspring with you at home.

For all of us, this is a year like no other. I hope that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy, and finding ways to be meaningfully connected. There is nothing more important. The same is true here at Wellspring. Ever since Massachusetts first implemented social distancing guidelines in March, our top priority has been protecting our community's safety while staying connected with the hundreds of program participants who rely on us for support and guidance.

Wellspring has adapted its vital programs to remain safely open while staying connected. As an 'Essential Business', we have operated throughout 2020 without interruption.

During this fall season,

- **Adult Education college preparatory classes** are operating online with full enrollment of 30+ students, each working towards new post-secondary education opportunities. Wellspring now has a computer loan program to ensure that all candidates can participate from home.

- Families are transitioning from **Wellspring's Family Shelter** into permanent housing, as the state's reopening plan stimulates tenancy programs to 'open up'. A mom and her son recently moved from shelter into an apartment in their home community, having saved nearly \$5,000 during their time living with Wellspring! This money will go a long way to help the family be financially stable as Mom enters work in a new field following her training to become a CNA.

- **The MediClerk Job Training Program** has been modified into a fully online program with 11 students enrolled (30-35 anticipated in the next year), and a goal to move to a hybrid model as possible. Mass General Brigham's North Shore Medical Center remains Wellspring's strong partner to pave the way into new healthcare administrative positions. We are seeing health care hiring pick-up again. In the last month, two graduates have been hired as unit secretaries in the Emergency Department.

- Wellspring remains deeply committed to the 'end' goal: financial stability for local families. We are immersed in planning with key partners such as North Shore Community College, Gloucester Public Schools, Gloucester Housing Authority, and Lynn Housing and Neighborhood Development, creating pathways to steady housing, training, education and employment. Wellspring intends for young adults and families throughout Cape Ann and the North Shore to secure jobs with steady wages that cover a true cost of living.

Over the course of the coming year, Wellspring will provide support to more than 1,400 young adults and families. Thank you for being with us! Now, more than ever, we need your continued support. Please consider a gift today by mailing a check in the enclosed envelope or by donating online at [www.wellspringhouse.org/giving](http://www.wellspringhouse.org/giving)

With Gratitude,

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

Wellspring House is grateful for the generous support of  
the Bank of America Charitable Foundation and the Cummings Foundation.

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 **Cummings Foundation**





"No one has ever helped me like this before."  
- Mother of newborn twins

PROGRAM: Homelessness Prevention



"Wellspring gave me so much support. They were there to listen to me. It's taken a long time but I'm only 4 classes away from my degree! I'm almost there and I couldn't have done it without Wellspring" - Medelyn

PROGRAMS: WERC and College Readiness Classes

*Thank you for supporting  
Wellspring's work!*

View our Annual Report of Giving at  
[www.wellspringhouse.org/honor-roll](http://www.wellspringhouse.org/honor-roll)



"Wellspring, helped guide me back to school through the ESOL and College Readiness Classes. I am now attending North Shore Community College to become an LPN." - Nicasio A.

PROGRAMS: ESOL and Adult Learning Initiative



Wellspring's outdoor meeting space for socially distant COVID-19 safe meetings in full bloom.





**"Wellspring's Adult Education classes most definitely helped me improve my academic skills but also helped me reach my educational goals towards attending college. Without Wellspring this would not have been a possibility."** – *Stephanie K.*

**PROGRAM: Adult Learning Initiative**



**"Wellspring mentoring and classes, including role playing and notes, helped me tremendously with interviewing skills. The assistance with my resume and cover letters was invaluable and has helped me successfully get jobs I wanted."** – *Rose*

**PROGRAM: Wellspring Education Resource Collaborative (WERC)**

## WELLSPRING WELCOMES TWO NEW TRUSTEES

### Anthony Barbuto

Born in raised in NY and now a Bostonian at heart, Anthony Barbuto is the Assistant Vice President and Director of Leadership Gifts at Boston University. He has worked at BU for more than 19 years in various roles including Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations at BU School of Law.

Anthony also worked at the Peabody Essex Museum as Principal Gifts Officer and Director of Advancement Administration. Working for such a remarkable institution was an incredible experience. Prior to development work, Anthony practiced as an attorney.

Anthony received two BAs from Boston University: Fine Arts/Painting and Psychology and went on to earn a JD at the University of Florida. Anthony has served on a number of volunteer boards and looks forward to painting Cape Ann landscapes upon retirement (someday). Susan, his lovely wife and center of his universe, went to UMASS Amherst and UCLA, and works for SiliconExpert.

Why I joined Wellspring's board: "Friends invited me to the annual Wellspring luncheons and a number of events and I became interested in the mission. Wellspring assists over 1,000 families each year, acting locally with far a reaching impact. Homeless prevention and giving people the tools to help themselves is important to us all, especially now. "

### Leo Zerilli

Leo Zerilli is a native of Gloucester. After spending several years outside of Gloucester, he and his wife, Kristen, moved back recently and are renovating their home in Annisquam. Leo loves being on the water and enjoys boating and sailing on the weekends.

Leo has significant global financial services expertise built over more than 20 years in the wealth and asset management industry. Leo received his B.A. from Colgate University and earned an M.B.A. from Boston University.

Why I'm a Wellspring Board member: "Our mission to help families and adults achieve employment and financial security is so incredibly important in the world today. I am thrilled to be able to make a contribution to achieving that worthy goal within our community."



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

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### MEDICLERK ADAPTS CURRICULUM TO ONLINE LEARNING MODEL

Wellspring's MediClerk Job Training Program began the spring session as it always had: in person at North Shore Medical Center. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, however, the MediClerk program moved online. Despite this unexpected upheaval in the middle of the term, MediClerk staff and students rose to the challenge and successfully switched gears. The Spring 2020 term culminated in a successful graduation via Zoom. The program staff continued to support spring graduates with weekly Zoom classes and individualized education and career planning while also working with our health care partners to help students secure employment.

Now, more prepared than ever, MediClerk just began its Fall 2020 term entirely online. During the past 5 months, program staff and leadership have reconfigured the curriculum, built out an entire learning platform via Google Classroom, developed a new schedule of live classes via Zoom, trained students on the use of Chromebooks, and built out a new teacher website.

MediClerk has adapted beautifully to these changing times. Classes may be remote, but the curriculum remains as rich as ever, with classes ranging from Intro to Computers to Business Communication & Medical Keyboarding. Two graduates of the Spring 2020 cycle have just secured full-time employment in local hospital emergency rooms.



ABOVE: Wellspring staff distributed laptops and textbooks to 11 new MediClerk students.

Dontate today by mail (envelope enclosed) or at [WELLSPRINGHOUSE.ORG/GIVING](http://WELLSPRINGHOUSE.ORG/GIVING)