

## *Leadership Changes at Cross Roads House*

*A letter from our President*

Dear Friends,

Each year, our Board of Directors meets to review our past performance and chart our course for the future. This year, after reviewing the past year, one of our members sagely noted that "we are closing one chapter and opening another."

I couldn't agree more. Last year we completed the reconstruction of our campus. This transformation has dramatically changed the experience of staying in a shelter for our residents. This year, we will be transforming our management team, as Chris Sterndale has decided to step down as our executive director. The Board of Directors is thrilled to announce that Martha Stone stepped up to be our new executive director on July 1.

For the past decade, we have been engaged in a capital campaign and facility reconstruction. If you haven't toured the new buildings, you should. You would be proud of what this community has accomplished.

Leading us through this period has been our Executive Director, Chris Sterndale. In 13 years with us, Chris has transformed Cross Roads House- launching new program efforts, managing our reconstruction, and developing a team of professionals who run the operation like a well-oiled machine. We could not have completed this journey without Chris. Our Board is of one accord in thanking Chris for his sacrificial service and we wish him well as he moves on to pursue the next chapter of his career.

Now Cross Roads House is opening a new chapter of our development as well. The Board envisions a future defined by dramatically improved outcomes in the lives of our residents. We are pushing beyond our historic commitment to provide safe and secure shelter to a future where our residents receive needed health care and transition rapidly to permanent housing and sustainable jobs. We want to shorten the stay of our residents and ensure that they never need our services again.



*(photo credit Rich Beauchesne)*

*Chris Sterndale is leaving Cross Roads House after 13 years.*

*Martha Stone has accepted the executive director position after 9 years as development director.*

To lead us through this next phase of development, Martha Stone has stepped up to take the helm. Martha has been our development director for the last nine years. In that capacity, she led our capital campaign and our annual fundraising efforts, resulting in millions of dollars of private contributions. But she is more than our development director. In many ways, she is the face of Cross Roads House to the community - mobilizing volunteers and representing us throughout the community. She fully embraces the vision of the Board to improve the outcomes in our residents' lives. Having worked alongside Martha throughout this time, we have seen first-hand the skill and compassion that she brings to lead us forward.

Please join us in congratulating Martha. As someone who cares about Cross Roads House, I hope that you will continue to stay involved as we start this new chapter in our history.

Sincerely,  
*David Van Patten*  
President  
Board of Directors

## *Mission Statement*

### **At Cross Roads House:**

We protect men, women and children of the Greater Seacoast area experiencing homelessness from exposure and hunger.

We provide secure, transitional shelter for those seeking to break the cycle of homelessness.

We support individuals and families by providing them with the opportunity to move with dignity and purpose to stable and decent housing.

## *Board of Directors*

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## *Partners Offering On-Site Services*

Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Adult Learner Services Program of  
 Rockingham County (GED)  
 Families First Health & Support Center  
 & Healthcare for the Homeless  
 Narcotics Anonymous  
 Seacoast Mental Health Center

## *From The Executive Director*

July 1st marks the beginning of a new year for us at Cross Roads House. We start our fiscal year with several significant changes.

For the first time in over a decade, this letter is not being written by Chris Sterndale. Cross Roads House is extremely fortunate to have been run by such a capable leader and Chris will be sorely missed by all. When I was hired nine years ago as the organization's first development director, I knew little about fundraising, and even less about homelessness. Chris took a gamble hiring me and, with great patience, taught me much of what I needed to know to succeed in my role. Together we accomplished some remarkable things and I will forever be grateful to him for guidance and leadership.

As I begin my tenure as executive director, our board is examining how we can further support the health of our residents, shorten their lengths of stay, and help them secure permanent housing more rapidly. We have much to do and I'm excited to work together with our staff and board to meet the challenges ahead of us.

While we'll have some staffing changes, our mission and the demand for our services remain the same. We are fortunate that our state and federal funding will remain constant this year, but three quarters of our funding...for food, shelter and other basic human needs...will come from private donations. I will continue to oversee our fundraising activities and value the relationships that I've developed over the years. With your continued support, we'll be able to shelter the roughly 400 people who will seek our services in the year ahead.

*Martha*  
 Martha Stone



## *Volunteer Spotlight*

This year a group of volunteers, led by Sandy DeSisto and Deb Twombly, planted and maintained a vegetable and herb garden at the shelter. Six raised beds and multiple containers are located behind our building, right outside our dining room. The project is generously funded through a grant from the UNH Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners Program. Our residents have enjoyed the fresh produce harvested so far including several varieties of lettuce, peas and blueberries. Volunteers are still needed to help water and harvest throughout the summer. If you are interested in helping, please contact



*Volunteers Deb Twombly and Sandy DeSisto organized and implemented the planting, maintenance and harvesting of our vegetable gardens.*

Sandy DeSisto, at [sandydesisto@gmail.com](mailto:sandydesisto@gmail.com) or (603) 431-0265. We appreciate the tremendous effort and dedication of Sandy, Deb, and all the other volunteers who have helped make this gardening project a success!



11th Annual  
**BENEFIT BY THE SEA**  
at Wentworth by the Sea



Thank you to all our sponsors and guests who attended our event and made pledges of support. The gala was once again a huge success and event funds will provide critical operating revenue for our shelter.

PLATINUM

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IN-KIND

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Additional event information and photos are available at [www.crossroadhouse.org](http://www.crossroadhouse.org)



Cross Roads House, Inc.  
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603.436.2218

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 161  
Portsmouth, NH 03801



*Discovering sea urchins and starfish are just some of the fun activities our kids will enjoy this summer.*



Questions?  
Please phone or email Martha Stone at  
603-436-2218 or  
[martha@crossroadshouse.org](mailto:martha@crossroadshouse.org)

## *IT'S SUMMER CAMP TIME!*

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, every child currently staying at Cross Roads House who wanted to attend camp this summer has been enrolled. Our social worker case managers worked diligently to get every child enrolled in camp sessions for eight weeks this summer. The children attending range in age from 4 – 11 years old and will attend camp programs at the YMCA, Seacoast Science Center and the Rye Recreation Summer Programs.

Our summertime "WISH LIST" includes items we need to support our kids attending camp as well as all our adult residents.

- ☀️ Sunscreen
- ☀️ Bug spray
- ☀️ Gas cards (\$5 or \$10, to help parents get their kids to camp)
- ☀️ Wal-Mart gift cards
- ☀️ COAST bus tickets