

MOVING FORWARD AS A FAMILY

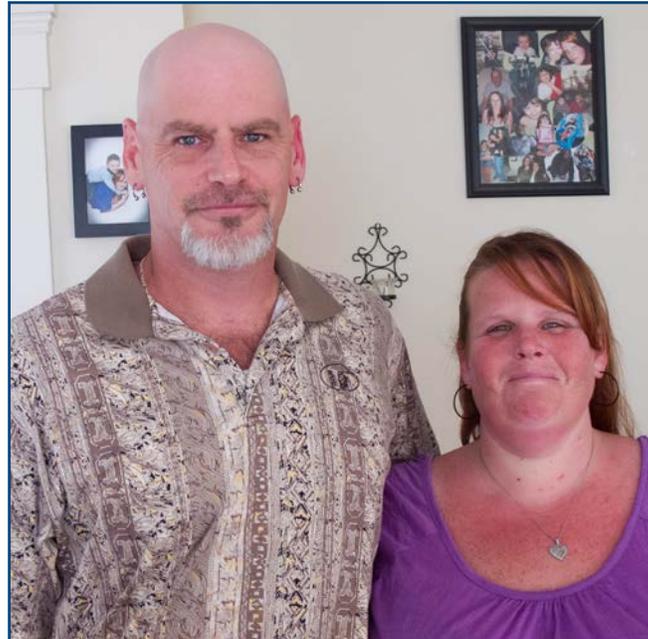
When Bev and Larry lost their apartment, they needed a safe place to stay and start over again. But with two adults and two children, many local shelters could only accommodate the family members separately. "We had to find somewhere to go and Cross Roads was the only place we could go that would keep us together."

Larry admits he was surprised that the staff at Cross Roads was so welcoming and helpful, during what was a very difficult time for his family. "It's hard enough to deal with and accept the fact that you have to be in a shelter. The staff at Cross Roads just tried their best to make us feel comfortable.

Even if it's a temporary home, they at least make you feel like you're at home."

For about a year, Larry, Bev and their two children lived at Cross Roads House and worked towards building a more permanent, safe future for themselves. "We've gotten a little bit more financially sound and stable. [Living at Cross Roads House] gave us an opportunity to get re-grounded, figure out where mistakes were being made, and correct the mistakes, mentally, physically and financially."

With the help of their case manager, the couple was able to look for housing opportunities that would be suitable for the whole family. "Jennie helped us out with applying for housing and the Section 8 voucher. Basically, she presented us with all the resources that



Larry and Bev in their new home.

were available to people in our situation."

Bev and Larry were able to secure a private apartment because they qualified to receive assistance through a Rapid Rehousing program, which provides financial help

with security deposit and rent.

Now that they are living independently, Larry acknowledges that there are challenges, but focuses on the positive skills the family has. "We know how to function as far as keeping our house and making sure our bills are paid – being independent – we know all about how to do that. We have to do it on a fixed income, but we know how to do it."

Larry is very thankful that he, Bev and the children could stay at Cross Roads together and work on moving forward as a family unit. "My family might not even be together if it wasn't for Cross Roads. They're my world."

Now, Bev and Larry are looking to the future. Larry said they would like to save money and buy their own home, get their oldest child into college. "I'm grateful for Cross Roads. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be where we are."

You can help people like Bev and Larry.

Financial contributions to Cross Roads House help fund our emergency and transitional shelter programs, which are crucial in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Three quarters of our operating revenue comes from private donations. The services we provide are made possible by the generosity of our friends in the community.

For more information about how you can help, see page 3.

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.

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Seacoast Mental Health Center

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Throughout the holiday season, our shelter is bustling with activity. Our volunteers and supporters decorate the shelter, cook special meals, host holiday parties, contribute gifts, and more. All these activities are sincerely appreciated by our residents and staff and add joy to the season.



For many of our residents, however, the holidays are not joyful. Some are separated from family and friends and do not have the resources to travel. Others are concerned about making the season special for their children. The stress that many of us feel during the season is magnified when you are homeless.

We do our best to help ease the worry and brighten the holidays for the 90+ men, women, and children at our shelter. Throughout the holidays, our staff and case managers continue to focus on the important daily work of meeting our residents' most pressing needs, helping them secure jobs and housing, and connecting them to a vast array of supportive services to keep them healthy and safe during their stay.

None of this would be possible without your help. We rely heavily on our supporters to provide both the holiday festivities and the funding to help us continue our work year-round. On behalf of the residents and staff at Cross Roads House, thank you so much to all our contributors this holiday season.

Martha Stone



Volunteer Spotlight

Bill Epperson has been a dedicated and dependable volunteer at Cross Roads House since 1984. Before the shelter had an adequate kitchen, Bill prepared meals off-site with fellow church members and brought those meals into the shelter to serve.



Today he is able to cook in our new, fully functioning kitchen with commercial appliances.

Through the years, Bill has gained the interest and support of like-minded individuals in the Seacoast community who want to give back and serve the homeless. He now independently coordinates three teams of volunteers, 12 to 15 people at any given time. Each group comes in monthly to cook, serve, and often they donate the food they are preparing for our residents.

Scheduling this volume of volunteers to provide meals each evening is challenging. Bill's ability to add not one but three consistent, reliable teams each month is very valuable to our program. A leader among volunteers, Bill's enthusiasm encourages others to participate.

Bill is an active member of the Seacoast community and dedicates many hours to helping others and making the Seacoast a better place for everyone to live. Thank you Bill, for all that you do!

Leadership Giving Society Reception 2013

Cross Roads House held its annual Leadership Giving Society Reception on October 29, 2013, at the Discover Portsmouth Center. The event was an opportunity for the CRH Board of Directors and administrators to personally recognize and thank society members for their generous support of the shelter.

The Leadership Giving Society was founded in 2010 to recognize donors who contribute \$1,000 or more within the fiscal year (7/1 - 6/30). Society members are recognized at a private reception, in our annual report, and their names are engraved on a plaque in our shelter lobby.

During the reception, Board President David Van Patten shared some highlights and outcomes from the prior year and discussed future goals. He noted the board evaluates where we are relative to our mission statement each year. We served nearly 400 people last year and had very good outcomes from our transitional shelter program. Executive Director Martha Stone updated donors on some current activities and shared the story of a current shelter resident who has been working, completing her GED, and is nearly ready to transition to permanent housing.

It was wonderful to see the Leadership Giving Society members who were able to join us for the evening and we thank all members for their tremendous support.



Pictured top, left to right are past and current Cross Roads House Board members Wes Gardner and Jim McCarthy.

Bottom, left to right are Arlene Wapenski and John Forma.



CROSS ROADS HOUSE

YOU CAN HELP BREAK THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS

Three quarters of our operating revenue comes from private donations. Your contribution will help Cross Roads House provide our residents with basic needs - a safe place to sleep, a warm shower, and healthy meals - and fund crucial services like case management support to help connect residents with the services they need to work towards permanent housing.

Make A Financial Contribution: Contributions at all levels are needed to help us provide shelter and services to homeless families and individuals. You can help by making a cash donation, annual pledge, or gift of stock.

Join Our Leadership Giving Society: Become a member of the Cross Roads House Leadership Giving Society by donating \$1,000 or more within one fiscal year (7/1 - 6/30). Society members are recognized at a private reception, in our annual report, and their names are engraved on a plaque in our shelter lobby.

Join Our Legacy Society: Contribute to Cross Roads House through a provision in your will, trust, or another charitable giving vehicle. These gifts ensure that Cross Roads House will be equipped to shelter the homeless in our community for years to come. Please let us know if you have made these provisions so that we can add you to our list of Legacy Society members.



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Holiday Giving Opportunities

During the holiday season, we present each adult resident with a gift bag (families are sponsored separately). You can help us accomplish this by donating some of the items from the wish list below. In addition to providing gifts for our residents, financial donations are always needed to help fund shelter operations. Thank you for your generosity during this season of giving.

Unwrapped gifts can be dropped off or mailed to: Cross Roads House, 600 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801 by Monday, December 16th.



Gift Cards:

- Wal-Mart
- Rite Aid
- Gas Stations
- Grocery Stores
- Fox Run Mall
- Movie Cinemas
- Bowl-O-Rama
- Coast & C & J Busses
- Taxis
- Local Restaurants

New Items:

- All Sizes of Men's and Women's: Hats, Gloves, Rain Ponchos, Socks, Underwear, Thermal Underwear
- Wallets, Watches, and Small Daily Planners
- Bike Locks, Adult Bike Helmets
- Dental Floss, Deodorant, Disposable Razors, Shaving Cream, Nail Clippers, and Shampoo



Questions? Contact Jessica Parker at 603-436-2218 ext. 112 or j.parker@crossroadshouse.org.