

A Home for The Holidays

Last fall Nicole was evicted from her apartment. "My roommate moved out and I couldn't afford the rent." At the time, Nicole was pregnant and had two young sons. She moved into a camper with no heat, hot water or electricity. Nicole realized that "staying there wasn't reasonable," so she came to Cross Roads House.

In the past year, Nicole has worked with her Case Manager on building a better future for her family. "My Case Manager was always there to answer questions, look up resources, or help me make a phone call or send an e-mail."

There were some things Nicole knew she needed to take care of as soon as she arrived last fall. The state of New Hampshire was changing its high school equivalency program and those who had started the process needed to complete all testing by the end of the year or start over under the new system. "I started my GED four years ago and when I found out that they were changing it, I sat down every night and did the work that I had to do to finish the test." Nicole completed her GED last December. Moving forward, Nicole would like to take some college courses.

In May, Nicole gave birth to her third son. Nicole's case manager helped her create a birthing plan and donors provided many necessary baby items. "My biggest challenge is



Nicole and her sons on their last day at Cross Roads House.

started Head Start.

Early this fall, Nicole moved into public housing. "I started working, I got my license, I completed my GED, I got housing all squared away," shares Nicole. "I have a three bedroom apartment. This will be the first time I've had my own bedroom in five years."

Nicole said that staying at Cross Roads House gave her the time and tools she needed to get back on her feet. "It gave me time while I was here to square things away in my life and realize what needs to be done and what was

just being one person. That about sums it up. Juggling four people is hard work!"

In addition to caring for her three boys, all under the age of five, Nicole works 35 hours a week. Her children are able to stay with family while she is working and her oldest son just

important."

Nicole is very thankful for all the assistance she received while she was staying at Cross Roads House. She is looking forward to spending the holidays settling into her new home with her boys.

Help people like Nicole.

Last year, Cross Roads House sheltered **469 people, including 32 families with 53 children.** Your financial contribution will help fund our emergency and transitional shelter programs, which provide basic human needs and the opportunity to break 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

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In addition to providing shelter and supportive services to our residents, we also work hard to bring some joy to the shelter during the holidays. At this time of year, many people pause to appreciate their own good fortune and consider the needs of those less fortunate. We are so grateful to our supporters and volunteers who provide meals, holiday gifts, and financial support. Your generosity at this time of year helps sustain us year round.

We are excited to announce that we will be partnering with Community Action Partnership of Strafford County to provide homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing services through a federally



funded grant. This new program will be a valuable resource for qualified families and will allow us to provide rental assistance along with housing stability case management. For some families, this program will mean a shorter shelter stay and other families may possibly avoid entering the shelter altogether. I look forward to sharing the outcomes and success stories of participants with you in the future.

Thanks again to all who support our work. Please know that your contributions make a tremendous difference in the lives of our residents.

Happy Holidays!

Martha
Martha Stone

Volunteer Spotlight



Debra Prindeville started making gingerbread houses in 1983 at her home day care. Soon, it became an annual tradition.

A few years ago, Debra started volunteering at Cross Roads House, hosting gingerbread house parties for both our adults and children during the holiday season. "I have found that the adults like making them just as much as the kids. Each year I hear excited adults tell me that they never had an opportunity to do this as a kid."

Debra brings family, friends and sometimes grown up kids from her day care days to help out with these parties. Last year her employer generously purchased supplies to construct the gingerbread houses.



Pictured above are gingerbread houses that were made by Cross Roads House residents last year.

We are so grateful to Debra for sharing her time and talents, providing all of our residents with the opportunity to celebrate the holidays in a fun and creative way.

2014 Leadership Giving Society Reception

Cross Roads House held its annual Leadership Giving Society Reception on October 22, 2014, at Strawberry Banke. The event was an opportunity for the Cross Roads House 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).

During the reception, Board President Suzanne Bresette spoke about the strength of the Cross Roads House Board of Directors and their efforts to support the work that is done at the shelter. She stated that last year lengths of stay decreased by 18% allowing Cross Roads House to serve 21.5% more people than the previous year.

Executive Director Martha Stone reflected on the past year's accomplishments, including the implementation of a single point of entry system for people seeking shelter (Coordinated Access), and the shelter's increased focus on programming for residents.

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 Tom Blais and Board Member Lex Sourby.



Pictured bottom left to right are AnnaCarrie Ash, Doug Ash, John Moore, and Board Secretary Vanda Moore.



CROSS ROADS HOUSE

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.



**CROSS
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Cross Roads House, Inc.
600 Lafayette Road
Portsmouth, NH 03801-5435

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

View the
Cross Roads House
2014 Annual Report
online at
www.crossroadshouse.org

Holiday Giving Opportunities

During the holiday season, Cross Roads House presents each adult resident with a gift bag (families are sponsored separately). Please help us fill these gift bags by donating 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 15th.



Gift Cards:

- Wal-Mart
- Rite Aid
- Gas Stations
- Grocery Stores
- Dollar 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
- Toothbrushes, Tooth Paste, 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.