

Together At Last

Nate arrived at Cross Roads House at the end of March having just completed rehab. Now sober and receiving treatment for his depression, Nate was ready to move forward with his life. "I was very successful until my depression. It took a toll on me. It got bad. It took me to places I didn't even know."

While he was in rehab, Nate's 7 year old son and 4 year old daughter were removed from their mother's custody and placed in foster care. Nate was singularly focused on regaining custody of his children. Nate worked with his Case Manager Theresa and many other community organizations and, after three months, his family was reunited. "I had nowhere to go and this place took me in and helped get my family back. I probably wouldn't have my children if it wasn't for this place."

Nate is now a resident in the family transitional shelter program at Cross Roads House. He has a slew of weekly meetings with various community organizations that provide support



Nate and his two children are residents in our family transitional shelter.

for him and his children. "Anything that's going to be good for my children, or help my children, that's what I've got to do - take care of my kids."

Nate works as a painter part time in between meetings. "I can't work as much as I'd like to. I'm on the bus three and a half hours a day [getting the kids to and from meetings]. I might work every day of the week, just for

three or four hours at a time."

Nate says that with community supports in place and the structure he has been able to provide during their stay at Cross Roads House, his children are adapting well. "I think my kids are doing pretty good, but they've been through a lot. They were in foster care for a year in different placements."

Nate is very thankful for all the assistance that the staff at Cross Roads House provided for him. "Cross Roads has really helped me do what I need to do to get back on my feet - to get housing back, to reunify with my children - just get my life back to normalcy. They're there every step for me."

Nate is looking forward to finding permanent housing and settling into a routine with his children. He is grateful for all of the help he has received. "I don't know what would have happened. It's a miracle. I am truly grateful for this place."

In Memoriam *James W. McCarthy*



We are deeply saddened to share the news that Jim McCarthy, a member of our Board of Directors, passed away on October 22, 2015. Jim joined the Cross Roads House Board of Directors in 2010. He was a member of our finance committee and, most recently, served as Board Treasurer.

Jim's first involvement with Cross Roads House was as a sponsor of our annual "Benefit by the Sea" gala in 2004. In the years since, Jim's steadfast support of Cross Roads House was evident. Each year he introduced many new supporters to Cross Roads House by inviting them to attend our annual event as his guests.

In 2007, Jim was among the most generous donors to our capital campaign. The reception and welcome area in the shelter are named in honor of Jim's company, Seascape Capital Management. The dedication plaque in the shelter lobby will forever remind us of Jim's tremendous generosity, compassion, and dedication to Cross Roads House.

Jim will be missed by his family, friends, and all those touched by his giving spirit.

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

Suzanne Bresette, President

Bob Brown, Vice President

Vanda Moore, Secretary

Richard Ade

Tim Allison

Jude Blake

Eric Campbell

Denis Cloutier

Ken Cohen

Denis Dillon

Kathryn Drew

Richard Hayden

Rev. Vivan Martindale

Lex Scourby

Chuck Silva

Ben St. Jean

Joe St. Martin

David Van Patten

Mary Lee Worboys

Partners Offering

On-Site Services

Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous

COAST Transportation

Families First Health & Support Center
& Healthcare for the Homeless

Seacoast Mental Health Center

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we prepare for the cold winter months ahead, I'd like to take a moment to reflect back to the warm summer months when our fiscal year came to an end. Our outcomes from last year have recently been published and I hope you'll take a moment to look at our annual report which is available on our website. Significant improvements were made in several areas.

Overall we served 18% more people than the year before (a total of 552), they had shorter stays, and more people successfully moved to permanent housing. Our average length of stay for all residents went down to 61 days which is a decrease of 24%. Among all the people who participated in our transitional program, 91% moved to permanent housing



(a 78% increase). We are proud of these outcomes and will continue to work hard to assist all who seek our services in the year ahead.

This newsletter is full of ways that you can provide support during the upcoming holidays and throughout the year. With your help we'll provide not only the most basic human needs of shelter and food, but also a healthy dose of holiday cheer throughout the season. We are grateful to all who volunteer and donate and assure you that your compassion and generosity truly make a difference in the lives of the hundreds of people we serve each year.

Happy Holidays,



Martha Stone

Help Break the Cycle of Homelessness

Last year, Cross Roads House sheltered 552 people, including 35 families with 60 children. Your financial contribution will help fund our emergency and transitional shelter programs, which provide basic human needs and programs and services that help 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.

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.

2015 Leadership Giving and Legacy Society Reception

Cross Roads House held its annual Leadership Giving and Legacy Society Reception on October 21, 2015, at The Atlantic Grill in Rye. The annual event is an opportunity for the Cross Roads House Board of Directors and staff to personally recognize and thank society members for their generous support of the shelter.

The Leadership Giving Society recognizes donors who have contributed \$1,000 or more in the last fiscal year. Legacy Society members have included support of Cross Roads House as part of their will or trust.

During the reception, Board President Suzanne Bresette spoke about the past year's accomplishments. She noted that last year resident lengths of stay decreased by 24% allowing Cross Roads House to serve a total of 552 individuals, 18% more people from the previous year.

Executive Director Martha Stone shared that in the past year, Cross Roads House has started to provide services through two Rapid Re-Housing grants, and has implemented two new instructional programs to help residents learn the basics of finding and keeping a home and job searching.

It was wonderful to see all the individuals who were able to join us for the evening and we thank them for their tremendous support.



Pictured above (l-r) are Mary and Ted Robbins and Bev and Matt Tilley.



Pictured left (l-r) are Peg Millar and Brian Belliveau.

Special thanks to the Atlantic Grill for sponsoring this event.



Volunteer Spotlight Cross Roads House Birthday Team



Pictured above (l-r) are Birthday Team members Cate Toner, Sarah Grenon, Judy Sepanski, and Patti Betti. Not pictured are Amy Birck, Erica Gowen, Janet and Abby Guen, and Jo Lenardi

The Cross Roads House Birthday Team is a group of volunteers who are dedicated to ensuring that every child staying at the shelter feels celebrated and cared for on their birthday.

"We know that birthdays are important milestones and are a chance for families to create happy memories together," said Sarah Grenon, a Cross Roads volunteer who leads the team. "Our goal is to make sure that every child feels special and has fun on their birthday."

The team fulfills each child's birthday wish list by preparing cakes or cupcakes, providing

party decorations, and even making sure each child receives a gift.

Recently, the team expanded their involvement to include providing assistance with holiday parties for children at Cross Roads House. Team members bake cookies for decorating and help with special activities to celebrate holidays like Halloween and Valentine's Day.

If you are interested in joining the Birthday Team, please email JoAnn Rohde at j.rohde@crossroadshouse.org.



**CROSS
ROADS
HOUSE**

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
2015 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 Tuesday, December 15th.



New Items:

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

Gift Cards:

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

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