



Cross Roads House, Inc.
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Cross Roads House, Inc.,
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transitional shelter.
Portsmouth, NH
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Three Generations...Home at Last

Just days after Christmas last year, a three generation family arrived at Cross Roads House seeking shelter and assistance. They had no car and brought with them only what they could carry. For several years they had traveled together living a transient lifestyle. They stayed with family, friends, and in hotels but could never find and maintain a home of their own. Their former lifestyle ended the day they arrived at the shelter and they embarked on a path to secure, stable housing.

Mother Deborah, daughters Brittany and Amber, and granddaughter Sierra spent the next eight months working with their case manager at Cross Roads House to address a variety of issues. The most critical was the need to find permanent housing, but many

agencies including the local Lion's club who provided eye glasses, NH Dental Society-Denture Care Program, and Families First. Five year old granddaughter Sierra received primary medical care and was enrolled in the Head Start Program. Once their housing was secured, our case manager helped enroll her in kindergarten. She continues to receive supportive services through her new school district.

After eight long months and a tremendous amount of hard work, the whole family was able to move into a housing program in Strafford County specifically for low income families that have been homeless. Mother and daughter, Deborah and Brittany, moved into one unit, while Amber and her daughter Sierra moved into a neighboring



Deborah, Amber, Sierra and Brittany are thankful to be living in neighboring apartments so they can continue to support each other.

other supportive services were coordinated during their stay.

The three adults in the family

received a myriad of services including: vocational rehabilitation, GED classes, mental health counseling, assistance verifying and correcting credit reports, assistance with applications for Social Security and disability benefits, food stamps and other financial aid, obtaining birth certificates and ID's. Many services were provided by other

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apartment. Living in close proximity was especially important so that the family could continue supporting each other. With safe, secure housing, and many supportive services in place, the three generations of this family together broke the cycle of homelessness.

Deborah notes, "I'm not in a hurry to forget my experience at CRH. You have to know where you came from to know where you are going. The program was helpful if you just do what is suggested—the counseling advice by staff—you will find your way out."

Shelter Awarded \$300,000 Challenge Grant

In fundraising news, we are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a highly competitive challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation. This \$300,000 grant is intended to help us complete the final fundraising portion of our campaign. *These funds will only be given to us if we meet our \$5 million goal by July of 2009.* We already have gifts and pledges for just over \$4 million, but we still need your help! All donations and pledges of future gifts will count towards this challenge, so please consider a contribution that will help us obtain this generous grant.

Cross Roads House Resident Holiday Wish List

Gift Certificates to:

Local Restaurants (pizza, McDonalds, Dunkin Donuts, etc.)
Christmas Tree Shop
Wal-Mart
Grocery Stores
Fox Run Mall
Gas Stations
Auto Supply Stores
For kids: Toys R Us,
Chuck E Cheese, Bowl O Rama
Phone Cards
Hair Salons
Regal Movie Cinemas
C & J Trailways

New Items:

Hats, gloves, mittens
Rain Ponchos
Wallets for men & women
Socks
Travel Alarm Clocks
Backpacks
Thermal underwear (all sizes)
Padlocks (with keys)
Playing Cards
Bike locks
Toiletry kits (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, razor, soap, shampoo)
Portable Music/CD Players

If you would like to provide a gift for a Cross Roads House resident this holiday season, please choose an item from the Wish List and drop it off (unwrapped) to Cross Roads House by December 19th. You may also mail it to Heather Hahn, 600 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801. Thank you for your generosity during this season of giving.

Questions? Contact Heather Hahn at 603-436-2218 x 107 or email heather@crossroadshouse.org

No Clothing Please!

Due to ongoing facility changes, we will no longer be accepting clothing donations. We have made arrangements for our residents to get clothing through other local outlets. Please consider donating your clothing to the following:

Operation Blessing – next door to Cross Roads House – Mon, Thurs, Fri, 10-4
Fair Tide Thrift Shop – Kittery, State Rd. next to Water District – Mon-Sat 10-5
Goodwill – Portsmouth, Rte 1 Shaw's plaza; Dover, on Chestnut St.

Cross Roads House accepts:

Food and beverages
Personal hygiene products
Cleaning products
Twin bedding and towels

For an up-to-date wish list please visit www.crossroadshouse.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

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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Partner Agencies Offering On-Site Services:

AIDS Response of the Seacoast
Child and Family Services
Exeter Adult Education
Families First
Healthcare for the Homeless
Seacoast Mental Health Center

From the Director

Dear Friends,

Nearly every day someone asks me if today's financial crises are filling up the beds at Cross Roads House. We typically operate at or near capacity, but have not seen a dramatic increase in demand- yet. During this recession, three key things will impact the number of people who could face homelessness: housing, services, and employment.

The rise in foreclosures will contribute to homelessness - not always owners who lose their homes, but often tenants in buildings that are foreclosed upon. Fortunately, some

The Campaign for Cross Roads House Update

We continue to make steady progress in our effort to rebuild the shelter facility. Several exciting advances have recently taken place.

- Two of our four buildings will be demolished in November and removed to make way for the new facility
- We received a bank commitment for

rental housing is available, and we are seeing fewer becoming homeless because of big rent increases.

Municipal welfare and state programs such as heating assistance can help prevent homelessness, but both will be strained by falling government revenues and increasing demand for help. Those same forces will challenge Cross Roads House and our partner agencies that prevent, alleviate, or shorten episodes of homelessness.

We have not yet seen widespread layoffs in our area causing people to lose their housing. (continued on page 3)

financing through the campaign pledge period

- All our administrative offices have been relocated
- Construction will begin before year end, and we expect to be in the new building before next winter
- Building designs have been finalized



CROSS ROADS HOUSE INC. - PORTSMOUTH - NEW HAMPSHIRE

Volunteer Spotlight: Student Volunteers Step Up

It takes a huge contingent of volunteers to cook and serve dinner seven nights a week at Cross Roads House. We are fortunate to have among the ranks of our volunteers many student groups who contribute in a significant way to our soup kitchen operation. Students from the following schools and organizations have been preparing and serving dinner or contributing food:

- Berwick Academy
- Phillips Exeter Academy
- Chi Omega Sorority at UNH
- Circle K (College Kiwanis)
- Greenland Central School
- Catholic Student Organization at UNH
- Organic Gardners of UNH

Thank you to all the generous and caring students who contribute their time and effort. We appreciate your service!



"I like to volunteer because it's important to help people who are not as fortunate as me."
- Peter Jenkinson



"Working at Cross Roads has shown me that people can genuinely be helpful toward others."
- Eli Robinson

From the Director(cont.)

However, there is a structural problem that our economy had even before the recession- wages and the cost of living. A recent study from UNH's Carsey Institute found that in Rockingham County, a single parent with a child has to earn over \$19/hour to pay for basic needs such as housing, food, and transportation. Most jobs here don't pay that much, even in good economic times. Thankfully most of our residents can still find work, albeit in the low-paying service sector.

With housing, services, and employment, the sky is not falling – but we are nervously looking up.

Chris Sterndale, Executive Director

Special Thanks:

As always, there are many individuals and organizations working quietly behind the scenes to help support Cross Roads House. Here are just a few who we'd like to recognize for their outstanding support:

- The hundreds of volunteers who continue to prepare and serve dinner 7 nights a week for our residents.
- Womenaid of Greater Portsmouth for ongoing short-term financial assistance to our residents which has helped countless individuals pay for healthcare needs, car repairs and inspections, employment-related costs and licensing, educational expenses and more.
- Jack Chambers from the City of Portsmouth for coming to Cross Roads to register shelter residents to vote.
- Bethany Church who raised money to purchase 50 TONS worth of food to restock our food pantry and 49 other food pantries through the region.
- Lonza Biologics who organized the Harvest Open Golf tournament and contributed nearly \$34,000 to the shelter.
- Conni & Tell White from New Castle who hosted a campaign fundraiser for us in their home.
- Adaptive Communications, who for the 4th consecutive year, supported us with proceeds from their Painted Woods golf tournament.
- The "Goodwill Gals" for including us as one of the beneficiaries of their Goodwill Gala held in their home in Portsmouth.
- The Seacoast Half Marathon Committee who selected us as this year's beneficiary and will contribute approximately \$50,000 to the shelter.