



Cross Roads House, Inc.
600 Lafayette Road
Portsmouth, NH 03801-5435
603.436.2218

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

Cross Roads House Current Needs

- Gas Station Gift Cards
- Wal-Mart Gift Cards
- Grocery Store Gift Cards
- Bug Spray & Sunscreen for kids
- Swim Pull-Ups
- Juice Boxes
- Camp Snacks
- Diapers Size 4 & 5

Pillows, blankets, twin sheets, towels,
and cleaning supplies are also needed!

Questions? Contact Heather Hahn at 603-436-2218 x107
or heather@crossroadshouse.org

No Clothing Please!

Due to ongoing facility chanportsges, 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, 10-4

Goodwill:
2454 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth /47 Chestnut Street, Dover

Fair Tide Thrift Shop:
Kittery, State Rd. next to Water District – Tues-Sat, 10-5

Cross Roads House always 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

Campaign Donors Collectively Contribute \$450,000

Cross Roads House has received three pledges totaling \$450,000 from a group of very generous supporters. These contributions have helped us reach the \$4 million dollar level in our Campaign for Cross Roads House to rebuild the shelter facility. The Campaign goal is \$5 million dollars. Mike Simchik, of 100 Market Street, LTD, has pledged \$250,000, Jim McCarthy of Seascope Capital Management has pledged \$100,000, and Mike and Sue Daigle, of DataRisk, LLC have also pledged \$100,000. All of these donors have been supporters of the shelter for several years and each offers their thoughts about the project below.

Michael Simchik:
"I prefer to make charitable contributions to organizations based on two critical



hurdles... will my contribution make a difference and will it be put to the most effective and best use? Donating to Cross Roads easily fulfills the first item as I've yet to see another local organization that has had and continues to have so much direct impact on

the lives of needy individuals and families in the Seacoast. As for the second hurdle, the entire Cross Roads team (starting with the management team right through to the leadership of Board Directors) is outstanding and extremely attuned to operating Cross Roads in a fashion that would be the envy of many for-profit businesses. Saying that, their passion alone for this expansion (especially when coupled with their business acumen) should be enough to convince any potential contributor to jump on board."

Jim McCarthy:
"I have supported Cross Roads for several years because they start by meeting



the very basic needs of providing shelter—but they don't stop there. They help people develop the tools they need to get back on their feet and get headed in a direction that will help improve their lives and the lives of their families. It is what I most admire about Cross Roads' programs. Instead of just a handout, these people are given the

opportunity to truly change the course of their future. The need for an improved facility is immediate, and I am happy I can be a small part of it."

Mike & Sue Daigle:
"Both Sue and I believe strongly in giving back to the community and in supporting



the mission of Cross Roads House. After viewing the facility first hand, we realized the urgent need to rebuild the Cross Roads House facility and improve the living conditions of its residents. We wanted to be a part of making this happen."

Plans include the replacement of three older buildings with one, at the current location, and renovation of one remaining building. The new facility will solve the multiple physical challenges that we face, and the shelter will remain open during construction.

Fundraising efforts continue as we work to reach our goal. Gifts at all levels are needed and appreciated. For more information and to find out how to support the Campaign for Cross Roads House, please visit www.crossroadshouse.org.

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 Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The Campaign for Cross Roads House has brought us almost to the doorstep of a new shelter facility. While we have not yet reached our goal, the generous support we have received in the past 18 months is giving us the confidence to keep moving forward with the project. Our current facility continues to provide constant challenges and expense, and the cost of construction materials seems to increase with each passing month. Our Board of Directors will make a final decision next month on contracts and financing necessary to "break ground."

Preliminary work is underway, and despite many changes on our property, we will continue to stay open. We expect to see another 600 people at our door this year, and we are prepared to continue delivering shelter and services throughout the process.

Our architects and engineers have completed the plans, and our construction manager has collected bids. The City of Portsmouth has been very supportive of our project, and we are now completing the necessary approvals to begin construction. Most of our trees have been cut down, and we are now

moving many of our administrative and case management offices to make way for the demolition of two buildings. We look to this "point of no return" with anxious anticipation, as the next year in a smaller space will be both cozy and chaotic.

With these changes comes a slight reduction in the capacity of our transitional program. Also, our Family Case Managers have been busy getting kids signed up for summer camp, which is especially important this year since our playground will be dismantled soon. Otherwise, we expect residents and volunteers to feel little impact from the ongoing work.

The best way to understand the challenges faced by our residents, and the importance of this project, is to tour the shelter. Please come see it – before it's gone!

Sincerely,



Chris Sterndale
Executive Director

Board Member News

Cross Roads House would like to thank John Hall for his dedicated service as a member and past President of the Board of Directors. After six years of contributing his time, leadership and compassion for our cause, John has stepped down from our board. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Dave Jodka who served for three years and left the board after he moved out of the area.

We welcome new Board members: Suzanne Bresette - Bresette + Company, Michael Bean - The Bean Group, Deborah Shelton – Wentworth Douglass Hospital & Health Foundation, Joe St. Martin, and Roger Worboys.

Lonza's "Open Harvest" Golf Tournament Will Benefit Shelter

Lonza

Each year Lonza Biologics hosts their "Harvest Open" golf tournament to benefit the community by raising money for local charities. This year Cross Roads House is thrilled to be one of three local charities that will receive proceeds from the tournament on September 15, 2008. Sponsors, raffle donations, and event day volunteers (who will receive lunch & a T-shirt) are still needed. For information, please send inquiries to: harvestopen@lonza.com. Thank you Lonza!

Cross Roads House Selected As Beneficiary of Seacoast Half Marathon

This year all proceeds from the Seacoast Half Marathon will be donated to Cross Roads House. Last year the race raised over \$45,000. This year's race takes place on November 9th and registration is now open. Last year the race sold out shortly after Labor Day so organizers urge runners to register early to avoid being shut out. Runners and competitive walkers can register online at www.seacoasthalfmarathon.com or in person at Runner's Alley at 104 Congress St. in downtown Portsmouth. Volunteers will be needed on race day to help with pre-race preparations, registration, help guide the runners and control traffic out on the course & feed the hungry runners back at Portsmouth High School. Volunteers will receive a long sleeve t-shirt and a \$10 coupon to Poco Diablo's. Sponsorship opportunities for the Seacoast Half Marathon are still available. To sponsor or sign up to volunteer, please visit the race website or send an e-mail to racedirector@seacoasthalfmarathon.com.

SEACOAST HALF MARATHON

Caring for the coast, one step at a time



Check out the latest Cross Roads House video!

Visit our website at www.crossroadshouse.org to watch "A New Era" and see how we'll continue providing services while our new facility is constructed.



Volunteer Spotlight:

Motivated Teacher Helps Out

What happens when a violin teacher challenges her students to collect pledges for each hour that they practice so that they can help rebuild the homeless shelter in their community? Not only did practice time and awareness of homelessness increase... but many generous donations were made to our Capital Campaign.

This is just one of the many things that violin teacher Tara (who requested we use her first name only) has done to help out. She first got involved two years ago when she received a \$50 Christmas gift from her mother and decided to use the money to purchase items from the Cross Roads House "wish list". Tara explains, "I delivered (the items) to CRH and when I left I knew I would never be able to stop coming and doing what I can to help."

She has continued to prepare and deliver food and other items twice a week. In addition, her violin students have had food, bedding, and toiletry drives for CRH. "I think people often want to help but just don't know how to start. I think it important for kids of any age to learn about helping people. We all had a great time doing it." Tara noted. She continued, "I am so grateful to have CRH to help people in our community, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to do my small part to help."

We are grateful for people like Tara. Every effort to help the people who are staying at the shelter is truly appreciated by both residents and staff. Thank you Tara!

Kids Have Own Rooms For First Time In Their Lives

As a newly married couple, Daryl and Christina were excited about starting a new life together with their four children. Daryl was eager to provide for his new family, but life got tough after he changed jobs and Christina's child support payments became less frequent. The couple fell two months behind on rent. They were not eligible for any cash benefits from the state and the family arrived at Cross Roads House in late 2006.

They attempted to relocate in early 2007, moving to Massachusetts to be with relatives. Daryl was unable to find steady work and the kids missed their friends. They returned to New Hampshire in late spring and resumed working towards obtaining permanent housing. They were initially denied federally subsidized housing because of an eviction and nonpayment of back rent to a local housing authority. Daryl and Christina appealed the decision and met with local housing officials to identify the progress the family had made towards improving their quality of life.

While at Cross Roads House, all family members became actively involved in family and

individual counseling. Daryl and Christina routinely met with their case manager to discuss progress, address impending challenges, and develop action plans. Both agreed, "We really felt emotionally supported at Cross Roads House. Staff believes in people especially when we felt like giving up."

Daryl and Christina won their appeal and were awarded a Section 8 voucher in April 2008. They recently moved into a five



Christina, Daryl and three of their four children pose for a photo before moving out of the shelter and into a home of their own.

the kids have their own rooms for the first time in their lives."

Christina reports she is happy with her new home despite the financial pressures. "Unexpected costs have been hard. It feels like we started off behind. We wish we had saved more money. We had moving costs and registered the van in the same month." When asked if they had any advice for people who find themselves homeless they said, "Don't give up and don't be afraid to ask for help. Everybody needs help once in a while."

bedroom apartment in Strafford County. Daryl relayed the family's excitement regarding the move, "Our house is looking great. We were able to do some painting and

In the last 12 months:

**Cross Roads House sheltered 613 people; including 32 families with 61 children*

**Over 32,000 nights of shelter were provided*

**101 people moved from the shelter directly into permanent housing or other residential programs*

Special Thanks:

Heartfelt thanks to volunteer Mary Kath Wilsey for her ongoing deliveries of birthday party supplies to each and every child who is staying at the shelter. For each child's birthday, Mary Kath drops off a cake, decorations, gifts and party favors . . . customized for each child's age and interests. Her efforts are very much appreciated both by the birthday child and their family. Currently there are 18 children living at Cross Roads House ranging in age from three to seventeen years old.

Thank you to River Run Bookstore who donated 2% of March and April's gross sales to Cross Roads House. The shelter is one of six local nonprofits whose mission supports affordable housing and/or homelessness that will receive contributions from the bookstore this year in its "Business Building Community" program. Thanks to owner Tom Holbrook and everyone who purchased books . . . we appreciate your generosity!

Thank you for your support!

On May 10, 2008 Cross Roads House held the most successful fundraiser in its history raising \$300,000 to operate the homeless shelter. This tremendous outcome is the result of the generosity of the sponsors below and the guests who attended the event and made pledges of support.

Benefactor

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Cross Roads House would like to extend a very special thank you to the following organizations for their contribution to this event.

- ~ Marshall Rental Center
- ~ William Camiré Advanced Digital Photo Services
- ~ Heather Hahn Photography
- ~ Cuzin Richard Entertainment
- ~ Ben Baldwin & The Big Note



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The Flower Riosk

Please visit our website at www.crossroadshouse.org to view more event photos or learn more about our event.