



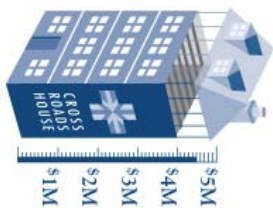
Cross Roads House, Inc.
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Non-Profit
 Organization
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1/8/09
 Dear Cross Roads House,
 I am a student at New
 Franklin School. This year we ran
 a holiday shoppe. We raised \$108 to
 donate to your agency and I want to
 help you. You should use it to build a
 new shelter.

Note: After we received
 this letter, we realized
 that Izzy is a former
 resident of Cross Roads
 House.

From Izzy



Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant:
June 30, 2009 deadline approaching!
Balance to raise to secure grant =
\$172,000

This past fall Cross Roads House was awarded a \$300,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation. The intention of this type of challenge grant is to help organizations complete their fundraising campaigns. The \$300,000 will only be given to Cross Roads House if we meet our \$5 million goal by June 30, 2009. Thanks to our generous donors we've made great progress, but we still need to secure \$172,000 in new donations or pledges of future gifts by the deadline. Every gift will help. Please consider sending your donation today.

From Homeless To A Home: A Success Story

When you think of the 4th of July, images of fireworks, picnics, family gatherings and a leisurely holiday from work may come to mind. Kim, a single mother of two, remembers it as the day last summer that she arrived at Cross Roads House.

After five months of living at the shelter, Kim, her six year old son and 4 year old daughter, are now happily settled in their own apartment. Just a year ago, she was living with her children's father who had a full time job working at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. He was laid off and despite efforts to make ends meet by doing temp work and babysitting, they just couldn't afford the rent on their apartment and other living

expenses. Facing eviction, they put their belongings into storage and sought shelter at Cross Roads House.

Their relationship ended while they were



Kim and her two children enjoy the privacy and security of their new apartment.

staying at Cross Roads House and Kim's partner left the shelter and took all of their belongings out of storage, leaving her and their two children with nothing. Kim, determined to make it on her own, worked diligently with her case manager Mandy to move back into permanent housing. Mandy helped Kim get her children enrolled in school and other programs, sign up for benefits, and get her name on the waiting list for public housing.

They learned to adjust to living at the shelter: the lack of privacy, dealing with multiple families in one living space, and following the meal schedule in the soup kitchen. Despite the challenges, Kim
 (continued on Page 3)

Participating Banks Donate To Capital Campaign

On a recent cold winter morning, four representatives from local banks arrived at Cross Roads House to participate in an official ground breaking ceremony along with the leaders of the shelter's capital campaign. The lead lender for the shelter's construction project is Ocean Bank. Other participating banks in the construction loan program include: Optima Bank, Centrix Bank and First National Bank of Ipswich. Each of these banks made a contribution to the shelter in the amount equivalent to the fees that would have been associated with their loan to the shelter.



(l to r) Chris Sterndale, Executive Director/CRH; Paul McKeon, VP/CRH Board of Directors; Bill Young, Optima Bank; Kay Maneen, Ocean Bank; Ryan Bishop, Centrix Bank; Leanne Spees, First National Bank of Ipswich; Lex Scourby, President/CRH Board of Directors

Collectively, the banks contributed \$16,500. Chris Sterndale, Executive Director of Cross Roads House noted, "We are very grateful to Ocean Bank, our lead lender, and the participating banks that helped us with financing the project. The fact that each bank donated back their fees associated with our loan is also a great help. This combined contribution of \$16,500 from all four banks will move us closer to meeting our fundraising goal, and help us earn our Kresge Challenge Grant." Sterndale added, "We are fortunate to have these four strong, local partners."

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

Lex Scourby, President

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*Partner Agencies
Offering On-Site
Services:*

Child and Family Services

Exeter Adult Education

Families First

Healthcare for the Homeless

Seacoast Mental Health Center

From the Director

Dear Friends,

Another winter is behind us, and we are happy to say that it was our last in the old shelter building. While our capacity is a bit smaller than a year ago, all of our services continue uninterrupted, despite the ongoing construction project. Our residents, staff, and builders are all making the best of tight quarters.

We are starting to see our residents have more difficulty in the job market, but thankfully rents and heating prices have been stable, so demand for our services is about the same as last year. On the bright side, several families were able to move from the shelter into permanent housing just before the holidays.

Since our last newsletter, two buildings have been demolished. Several generations of utility, water, and sewer lines have been removed or relocated. Our property was once a motel with several cabins. So underground, it is old fill, septic systems, or hardy New England ledge. All three make for slow moving site work, but much of that is complete and foundation walls are starting to appear. We are on schedule to move into the new building this fall, and excited to see our dream becoming a reality. Please come see the progress!

Chris



A shelter building that provided transitional housing for families was demolished in November.



The perimeter foundation walls of our new shelter are nearly complete.



Cement is pumped into forms to create the foundation of our new facility.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Jennifer Lermer

Jennifer has become a familiar face in the kitchen at Cross Roads House. She was here on Christmas Eve and returned again on Christmas day. Since this past November, Jennifer has been volunteering four days a week helping to serve lunch and assist our Volunteer Coordinator in our kitchen. That's dedication.

This single mother of three teenagers is making an encore appearance at Cross Roads House. She first started volunteering at the shelter 15 years ago when she had two young children. The arrival of her third

child, and many years of volunteering at their school and in her hometown of North Hampton kept her very busy. As her children grew up and her obligations changed, she found that she had the time again to return to the shelter to help out.

When asked about her motivation to volunteer, Jennifer explained, "I needed to fill my time. I think of the residents as somebody's brother, or son, or father and I try to treat them with compassion, the way they deserve to be treated." She also noted that she has been, "...inspired by the dedication of the



staff and the way the residents support each other in their time of transition." Jennifer concluded, "People need to realize that homelessness is an ongoing issue and it needs everyone's support. It could be your own child or parent who is here...everyone is just trying to start over."

7th Annual Benefit by the Sea: May 9, 2009

Cross Roads House will hold its 7th Annual Benefit by the Sea gala fundraiser on Saturday, May 9th at the Wentworth by the Sea Hotel. Come and join us for this fabulous evening that includes a formal dinner and dancing to music of Ben Baldwin and the Big Note. This year's proceeds will help us meet our capital

campaign fundraising goal and secure our Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant. Limited tickets are available for \$175 per person. For sponsorship or ticket information please visit our website or contact Martha at 603-436-2218 x110 or Martha@crossroadshouse.org.



From Homeless To A Home, cont.

remained optimistic that life would get better.

Two days before her daughter's fourth birthday, Kim received the news she had been waiting for. An apartment had opened up and they would be able to move in before Thanksgiving. Since all her home furnishings were gone, Kim was especially grateful for the furniture and household items that were collected and delivered to her by Cross Roads House volunteers. Her eyes filled with tears as she recollected her daughter's reaction to the news, "Mommy...we're getting an apartment for my birthday and I'm going to have my own room!" Unlike July 4th, Kim and her children celebrated the holidays at the end of 2008 in their own home.