



Front Door Agency  
7 Concord Street  
Nashua, NH 03064

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[www.frontdooragency.org](http://www.frontdooragency.org)

News from Our Front Door to Yours

Spring 2013

## 25th Annual Gourmet Festival & Auction Raises Over \$200,000!

The 25th Annual Gourmet Festival & Auction, held at the Nashua Country Club on March 10, raised more than \$200,000 in support of our mission, far surpassing all previous years' proceeds!

A key ingredient for this year's success was the unprecedented response to Fund a Need, which was greatly enhanced by a matching gift from Brian and Lisa Law and the Law Companies. Thanks to the Law Family and many guests who came forward to meet the challenge, a total of \$100,000 was raised for the Dr. Ronald J. Kraus Memorial Education Fund (see more below).

### Heartfelt Words from a Graduate

During the Fund a Need part of the program, Heather (above), a graduate of the Transitional Housing program, described how the Agency supported her journey from a "literally broken" single mother to a college graduate and homeowner today. She now works full-time as a Program Manager at Harbor Homes and is a real estate broker.

"If it was not for this program, I cannot tell you where I would be today. I don't think there is an agency out there that offers the amount of support this agency does." With the support of her case manager



*"If it was not for this program, I cannot tell you where I would be today."  
Heather*

and others at The Front Door, Heather was able to earn a college degree, attend parenting classes, receive counseling, and eventually live independently while raising her son.

"[The Front Door] was a godsend for me and I am happy to share my story in hopes that we can help one more family to achieve the happiness and love for life I now have," she said.

### Thank You to Chefs, Partners, Donors

Another highlight of the Gourmet Festival & Auction was the fabulous food, presented this year by the following area restaurants and vendors: Bertucci's, Burton's Grill, Creative Cakes by Debby,

Celebrations Distinctive Catering, 11 Eleven Bistro, Firefly, Frederick's Pastries, King David Coffee Roasters, Moonlight Meadery, MT's Local Kitchen, Surf, Buckley's Great Steaks, Pine State Beverage, The Nashua Country Club, Sodexho-St. Joseph Hospital, Stella Blu, Two Chefs Are Better Than One Catering, Villa Banca and You You Japanese Bistro.



The success of this event is also due to the generosity of our corporate partners, sponsors and many local and regional businesses who donate fabulous auction items, as well as to our many guests. Thank you to all!

Special Thanks to Major Event Sponsor Law Warehouses, Inc. Law Motor Freight, Inc.

Mark Your Calendar for next year's Gourmet. March 23, 2014!

## Dr. Ronald Kraus Memorial Educational Fund Launched

**Raises \$100,000 for Education**

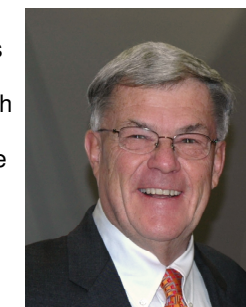
The Front Door Agency was pleased to launch the Dr. Ronald Kraus Memorial Educational Fund in February 2013, in honor of Ron's lifelong commitment to education, particularly for those we serve.

The Fund received a significant boost at the Gourmet Festival when longtime supporters Brian and Lisa Law and the Law Companies stepped forward with an unexpected offer to match "dollar for dollar" all donations given in Kraus' memory. Thanks to their generosity, a total of \$100,000 was raised that evening!

Ron was a beloved and well-respected

member of our Board of Directors for nearly ten years, serving both as president and Chairperson of the Securing the Future Endowment Campaign.

In remarks at the Gourmet Festival, Ron's wife Donna shared how his early upbringing in a hard-working immigrant family shaped his personal philosophy toward edu-



cation. "Many people helped him to realize his own educational dreams," she said, and as a result, "He never lost sight of how lucky he was to be given these incredibly valuable opportunities, and he wanted to be remembered for helping others to achieve this same goal."

The Dr. Ronald Kraus Educational Fund will help pave the way to higher education for women in transitional housing, removing barriers to self-sufficiency. It will provide much-needed funding for case management, tuition, books, childcare, transportation and other education-related expenses.

To learn more about the Educational Fund, please visit [www.frontdooragency.org](http://www.frontdooragency.org)



Gourmet Sets New Record



Financial Literacy Now in Spanish



Join us for Golf on June 3rd

READ MORE INSIDE!



### Front Door Board of Directors 2012-2013

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Thomas Boucher  
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Chris Malloy  
Mike Martinez  
Judith Masson  
David McGinley  
Beth Needham  
V. James Polus  
Carrie Poole  
Robert Shaw  
Melissa Stevens



**Register  
Now!**

**Golf Tournament**  
**Monday, June 3, 2013**  
**Nashua Country Club**

**7:30 a.m. Breakfast**  
**9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start**  
**Buick Scramble Handicap System**



**BBQ Lunch following tournament**  
**Entry fee: \$200/per person/\$800 per foursome**

[www.frontdooragency.org](http://www.frontdooragency.org)

Please consider the Front Door Agency in your estate planning.



## News From Our Front Door To Yours

### With a Lot of Help from our Friends...

We are only able to help individuals and families transition from crisis to self sufficiency with the continued support of many friends and organizations in the community. A sincere thank you to the following groups and individuals!

- Altrusa Club of Merrimack Valley donated Valentine's Day Ditty bags for children in our Transitional Housing program.
- Church of the Good Shepherd members gave Easter baskets for all the children in Transitional Housing.
- First Church provided Mother's Day baskets for the single moms at the Norwell House.
- Nashua High School lacrosse and football players participated in spring Clean Up Day on May 4.
- Many area volunteers generously respond each month to requests for party supplies on [www.birthdaywishes.org](http://www.birthdaywishes.org). With your help — and the dedication and generosity of our own Transitional Housing Administrative Assistant Mary Anne McHugh — we are able to create special birthday memories for each child in Transitional Housing.



### Making a Difference for Children

Last holiday season was made a lot brighter for 1,743 children from 512 families who received Christmas gifts through our Adopt-A-Family program. This was all made possible through our long-standing partnership with The Telegraph Santa Fund program. More than 160 individuals, local businesses, churches, schools and civic groups either adopted or shopped for our families. BAE Systems alone adopted 300 children!



### Telegraph Recognizes Front Door's CEO

Maryse Wirbal, CEO (second from left) was named by The Telegraph as one of the "Next 20" area leaders expected to rise to prominence in coming years. Shown with her at the Awards dinner in December are Front Door Agency Board members (from left) Cindy Woessner, Michael Gonzales, and Karen Carlisle.

Maryse was selected based on her leadership and passion for helping those in need in our area. She also gives back to the community through her involvement with the Rotary Club of Nashua, United Way, Hunt Community and other organizations. Congratulations, Maryse!

### The following grants were received between July 1, 2012 and April 30, 2013

Ella Anderson Foundation  
BAE Senior Retirees Breakfast Club  
Barker Foundation  
Citizens Bank Foundation  
City of Nashua  
Conway Arena  
Club National  
Daughters of Isabella  
Ann de Nicola Foundation  
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation  
Hollis Brookline Rotary Club  
Agnes M. Lindsay Foundation

NATCA Charitable Foundation  
People's United Community Foundation  
Riverstone Resources  
Rotary Club of Nashua West  
TD Charitable Foundation  
Town of Hudson  
Town of Merrimack  
Toyota 100 Cars for Good  
St. John Neumann Fast  
for Social Action  
State of New Hampshire  
United Way of Greater Nashua

### Telegraph Women's Expo Benefits Front Door

The Front Door participated in The Telegraph's Women's Expo at the Radisson Hotel on April 23 and as this year's beneficiary, we also received proceeds from the event.

The day featured an Extraordinary Women's luncheon, seminars and special activities. Thanks to The Telegraph and to all the Expo attendees for your generosity.

## Message from Maryse . . .



Maryse Wirbal

Spring is a time of growth and renewal. As I see the flowers starting to bloom, I think of the great growth the women in our Transitional Housing Program continue to experience. I am extremely proud that we have played a significant part in helping to break the cycle of poverty for so many women and children by providing them with the tools to transform their lives. In a few weeks, another one of our residents will graduate from Rivier University with her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. A single mother of three boys, she has faced many barriers, but with our support she was able to reach her goal and graduate with high honors.

We were pleased to introduce the Ron Kraus Memorial Educational Fund in February. This fund will ensure that *more* single mothers will be able to reach their educational goals and pursue careers, allowing them to reach self-sufficiency. Ron, who touched the lives of so many in our community, was recognized at our Gourmet Festival and Auction this past March. I cannot thank Brian and Lisa Law and the Law Companies enough for their tremendous support for the Fund, and I am ever grateful to them.

Our other programs continue to provide great benefit to those in need. We helped 48 families secure permanent housing by issuing nearly \$50,000 in security deposit loans from July to December. In addition, another 56 families in crisis were able to maintain their housing and utilities through our Prevention & Intervention Program. Giving families an opportunity to help themselves with dignity and respect is what we continue to strive for each and every day.

As I write this letter, we are celebrating National Volunteers' Week, with the theme "Celebrating People in Action." (Please see more about our volunteers at right.)

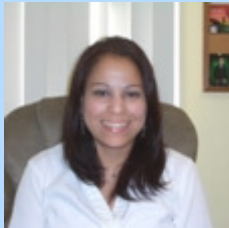
I can't think of anyone who "takes action" more than Terry Williams, Publisher for the Nashua Telegraph. Our community experienced another great loss with his departure from this position. During his tenure on the Board of Directors of the Front Door Agency during the 1990s, Terry truly helped mold the agency to where it is today. His vision and dedication, both to our agency and to the community, is inspirational. It has been a distinct pleasure to have worked with Terry over the last 15 years and we will miss him greatly!

In closing, I invite you to visit our website at [www.frontdooragency.org](http://www.frontdooragency.org) to learn more about our programs and how you can join us in transforming lives. Thank you.

*Maryse Wirbal*

## Financial Literacy Now Offered in Spanish

The Front Door partnered with the Family Resource Center of Greater Nashua this spring to present the area's first Financial Literacy program in Spanish. "Take Control of Your Personal Finances" was developed by Front Door Homeless & Housing Coordinator Gleny Liranzo in response to what the Agency sees as a growing need in the area for financial information for those whose primary language is Spanish.



Gleny Liranzo  
Homeless & Housing  
Coordinator

The five-week Financial Literacy program covers budgeting, saving, banking services, and credit and debt management. In addition to Gleny, presenters included Kayla Gutierrez, Branch Manager at B.J.'s Triangle Credit Union and Juana Pagan, Hispanic Advocate at the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter.

## Transitional Housing Successes

Our Transitional Housing program is currently serving 18 families headed by single moms, with children ranging from nine months to 14 years old.

- Nicole, a mother of three, will graduate from Rivier University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.
- Stephanie and Mindy recently earned their GED from the Nashua Adult Learning Center and are pursuing a college education.
- Kristen, a 26-year-old mother of three, completed a course in medical billing and coding and now works full-time at a nursing home.
- Jahsen, an Honor Society marketing student at Nashua Community College, lent her time and talents to this year's Gourmet Festival and recently earned her driver's license.

## We Love Our Volunteers!

The Front Door Agency took part in National Volunteer Week, "Celebrating People in Action," from April 21-27. Thank you to all of our incredible volunteers who give countless hours each week, helping with office work, babysitting, mentoring, financial literacy training, fundraising and governance.

We would like to recognize a few individuals who constantly give of themselves to help us empower those we serve...

**Sally Stalker, Cindy Woessner, Chris Hugo, Elaine Roy, Kay Kenyon, Carol Metropolis, Bill Metropolis, Diane Mobilia, Barbara Chase, our Board of Directors, Committee Members and Penny Pickers.**