



Front Door Agency
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Inside the Front Door

frontdooragency.org

Summer 2014

Education is Key to Self-sufficiency

Balancing the demands of higher education and a young family is difficult for anyone; but for the single mothers in our Transitional Housing Program, the challenges can be even greater.

Many women in the program face significant financial barriers to education at the same time they are trying to juggle childcare, transportation and personal relationship issues. Rebecca Gagne, Director of Transitional Housing, says many of the women also lack positive role models and family support.

Path to Success

The Front Door's Transitional Housing program is designed for motivated single mothers, ages 18 to 35, who need stable housing and extra support while they continue their education and/or secure a job.

Each client is required to spend 30 hours a week in school, volunteering or working. Gagne and her staff work one-on-one with clients to help them take the necessary steps to self-sufficiency. Sometimes the path starts with English as a Second Language classes or a GED program.

When a client is ready to enroll in college, Gagne says, "We try to lead them down a path where others have been successful and where we know there are jobs." Popular fields include medical as-



Single mom Lesley G. received a Ronald J. Kraus Memorial Scholarship along with Jessica M. (shown below). Many women in the Transitional Housing Program also attend Financial Literacy classes and a parenting group.

Kraus Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in 2013.

At the Gourmet Festival in March, two young mothers received the first scholarships awarded from the fund. Lesley (at left) and Jessica (below) both received assistance.

Lesley works full-time at the Humane Society of Greater Nashua and plans to pursue further education in animal behavior. Jessica will complete an Associate's Degree in Marketing at Nashua Community College this fall and plans to pursue a Bachelor's degree.

Financial Literacy Program

Twice a year the Front Door offers a five-part Financial Literacy program open to the entire community. Sessions in both English and Spanish, feature financial experts from the region presenting on practical topics such as managing debt and saving toward goals.

The young mothers in Transitional Housing are encouraged to attend, along with other clients who come to the Agency for assistance with rent or utilities.

"Our goal is to provide people who come to us in crisis with the tools to avoid a similar situation down the road," says Glenn Liranzo, Director of Homeless and Housing Services who coordinates the program. "A big part of that is education."

Scholarship Assistance

Financial aid comes from several sources, including the state of New Hampshire, as well as from private scholarships such as the Front Door Agency's Dr. Ronald J.

26th Annual Gourmet Festival & Auction a Huge Success

Thank you to Chefs, Partners, Donors & Guests!

Our 26th Annual Gourmet Festival & Auction brought together 24 of the region's finest chefs, more than 200 guests and many outstanding auction items to raise \$130,000 to support our programs! The event was held Sunday, March 23 at the Nashua Country Club.

Ingredients for Success

The success of our signature fundraising event depends on the generosity and talent of many people, including the phenomenal chefs who donate their time and food; many area businesses who donate fabulous auction items, and of course, our guests who respond generously to both the live and silent auctions.



We could not do it without support from our corporate partners and from the many businesses and organizations who sponsor the event. Thank you to all for helping us to make a difference to people in need in our community!

A Brighter Future

During the Fund-a-Need part of Gourmet, Jessica shared her personal journey from a young single mother in an abusive relationship to the successful and confident woman she is today. After

overcoming many obstacles, including the loss of "the two most important people in my life," Jessica is now an honor student in marketing at Nashua Community College. (To read more of her inspiring story, visit frontdooragency.org.)



Mark your calendar now for our next Gourmet event on March 22, 2015.

Photos this page courtesy of Ann Grummon Photography



23rd Annual Penny Picker Drive October 18-19 & October 26-27

Your spare change helps us to change lives.

Please save your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters! It may seem like a small thing, but all that loose change adds up to big changes for people in need in our community. Volunteers are at the heart of this drive...will you consider giving 2-3 hours of your time to make a big difference in the lives of those we serve?



Learn more at www.frontdooragency.org.

Watch our website and your mailbox for details about a new Penny Picker event.

Just One Click and 30 Seconds

The Front Door Agency has been nominated to receive funds from The Provident Bank Community Foundation. The amount we receive is up to you! Please take just 30 seconds of your time to vote for us by June 30 at: www.the Provident Bank.com/#home

Thank you!



Front Door Board of Directors

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We wish to thank our outgoing board members for their years of service and dedication to our mission: **Brad Croteau, Jim Polus and Cynthia Woessner**. Please see our welcome to new board members on page 3.

News From Our Front Door To Yours

With Many Thanks and Good Wishes



Carol Connor, our Director of Development and Public Relations, is retiring in July after more than a decade at the Front Door. Carol handled the many facets of her job with so much dedication, professionalism and skill that it will be difficult to fill her shoes.

During her 11 years with the Front Door, Carol was responsible for many successful fundraising events, community outreach activities, and grants.

"Carol's dedication, vision and personal support is what truly helped mold the Agency to what it is today... a well-respected, healthy organization empowering families to transition to self-sufficiency," says CEO Maryse Wirbal. "We will miss her!"

The following grants were received between May 1, 2013 and May 15, 2014

Agnes M. Lindsay Trust	Hollis Brookline Rotary Club
Amherst Junior Women's Club	Hollis Women's Club
Ann de Nicola Foundation	NH Charitable Foundation
Ella Anderson Foundation	People's United Bank
BAE Senior Retirees Breakfast Club	Progress Software
Barker Foundation	Riverstone Resources, LLC
Citizens Bank Foundation	Rotary Club of Nashua West
City of Nashua	Samuel P. Hunt Foundation
Club National Charitable Fund	St. Mary's Bank
Cogswell Benevolent Trust	TD Charitable Foundation
Conway Arena	Town of Hudson
Finlay Foundation	Town of Merrimack
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation	State of New Hampshire
	United Way of Greater Nashua

Opportunity for High School Students

The Front Door has a great leadership and service learning opportunity for area students entering grades 10-12. Do you know a student who would be a welcome addition to our Student Advisory Board? Students selected for this program will have a chance to offer creative ideas, develop leadership skills, and gain valuable contacts. For more details, please contact Jean Perry at (603) 816-0293 or email jperry@frontdooragency.org.

Can you Help?

The Norwell Home on Concord Street is showing its age. The building is in need of a new roof, gutters and ventilation at a total estimated cost of \$28,000.

If you are able to help, please consider a tax deductible donation. You can write "Norwell Roof" in the memo section of your check or on the remittance envelope. Thank you for helping us to make a difference!



The Norwell provides a temporary home and a structured support program for up to eight homeless single mothers and their children.

Thank You to Souhegan Valley Rotary Club



Photo by Kristin Hardwick Photography

The Front Door Agency is grateful to the Souhegan Valley "Happy Hour" Rotary Club for choosing our organization as the benefit charity for this year's very successful Kentucky Derby Party. The festivities, held May 3 at Boston Billiard Club, drew more than 400 guests in fancy Derby attire for an evening of fun.

Holiday Program is Successful Because of You!



Last year, we served nearly 600 families with 1,052 children—a 12 percent increase from the previous year. More than 170 individuals, business organizations, churches and civic groups stepped up to "adopt" or to shop for those in need in our community. We are very grateful for this generous response and look forward to continuing our longstanding partnership with the Telegraph Santa Fund again this year.

Message from Maryse . . .



Maryse Wirbal

As you read through this newsletter you will see a common theme... partnerships. We are so fortunate to have wonderful community partners that enable us to do what we do best...help families take the path towards self-sufficiency.

We were honored to be selected by the Souhegan Valley Rotary Club this year as the recipient and agency of choice of their Kentucky Derby fundraising event. The event raised significant funds towards the Club's service efforts and allocated \$9,000 to the Front Door Agency's programs.

Our Transitional Housing residents continue to receive wonderful supportive services through our community partners. Most recently our Agency and the Adult Learning Center joined together to offer a parenting support group led by Child Psychologist Dr. Ben Garber.

We are delighted to have been chosen by the Jewish Women's Giving Circle of Temple Beth Abraham as their charity of choice this year. (Please read more about their special birthday project at right.)

Our Financial Literacy Program is all about partners. Sessions are facilitated by community partners such as Triangle Credit Union and Home Team (formerly NeighborWorks). Prevention Makes Cents provided childcare and the Greater Nashua Family Resource Center provided classroom space. Together, we had 11 graduates from this spring's session.

Finally, we are grateful to our corporate partners including Cityside Management who invested once again as our Gold Partner; Bellwether Credit Union and Triangle Credit Union as our Bronze Partners and new to us this year, Lowell Five Savings Bank, who understands the importance of effective partnerships.

A true leader of bringing people together to form partnerships is Carol Connor, the Agency's Director of Development and Public Relations. Carol will be retiring in July after serving 11 years at the Agency. Although we will miss Carol greatly, we are very excited for her as she enters this new phase in her life. We know she will continue to be a vital partner in helping to break the cycle of poverty in our community.



Thank You to our Volunteers!

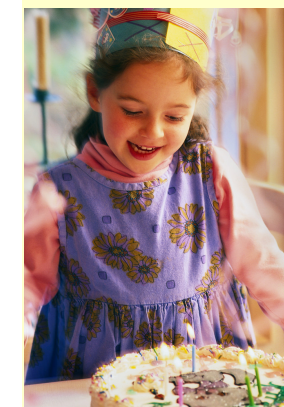


Volunteers (from left) Cindy Woessner, Elaine Roy, Kay Kenyon, Bill Metropolis, Chris Hugo and Karen Potter. Not pictured: Barbara Chase, Carole Metropolis, Diane Mobilia and Sally Stalker.

The Front Door Agency recognized its volunteers at a special luncheon put on by staff April 11. "We rely on the steady commitment of many dedicated volunteers to help with our day-to-day operations," says Administrative Assistant Nancy Paige. "We truly couldn't achieve what we do without them!"

The Agency was fortunate this year to participate in the "High Impact Volunteer Engagement Program" offered by the NH Center for Non-Profits and NH Charitable Foundation's The Corporate Fund. This program helped us to train more volunteers to provide ongoing reception and other support, freeing up our staff for other tasks.

Jewish Women's Giving Circle Bringing Birthday Wishes to Children



For several years, The Front Door Agency has participated in Birthday Wishes, an online program that seeks to match children in need with generous people in the community. (Learn more at birthdaywishes.org.)

Recently, the Jewish Women's Giving Circle of Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua became an active partner with us and Birthday Wishes. This dedicated group now helps to coordinate our monthly birthday celebrations. They are helping to bring smiles and happy memories to homeless children!

Welcome New Board Members

We look forward to working with new board members:

Kate Binder — Prospect Hill Publishing Services
 Zach Duprey — Provident Bank
 Cory Hussey — Stanley Elevator
 Amy LaBelle — LaBelle Winery