



Front Door Agency
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Inside the Front Door

frontdooragency.org

Summer 2015

One Young Mother's Remarkable Journey to Self-Sufficiency

Nicole Campbell and her two-year-old daughter Jaelyn came to the Front Door Agency from a domestic violence shelter in 2005. "My main goal was to be safe and to be able to meet our basic needs. I didn't really dare to dream of more than that," she says a decade later. "I was very scared and was suffering from PTSD and anxiety." In addition, her family had adopted a hands-off "tough love" approach that left her with no one to turn to.

After arriving at the Front Door, Nicole enrolled at New Hampshire Community Technical College because it was a requirement of the program. "I had no definitive end game in mind and no desire to be in school," she says, adding that she was a licensed cosmetologist at the time and had struggled to get good grades in high school.

Imagine her surprise then—when even as a reluctant student—she began to excel academically. "I immediately found a niche as a college student and discovered I enjoyed learning. For the first time in my life, I could actually see myself earning a degree," she says today.

The young mother's route to her first college degree took many twists and turns, however. After completing all three phases, Nicole graduated from the Transitional Housing program in 2007 and was able to rent a place of her own and



Nicole Campbell (center) earned her bachelor's degree from Bridgewater State University and was recently granted a fellowship for her master's degree.

hold a job. She then began a healthy relationship with a new partner and in 2010, gave birth to her son.

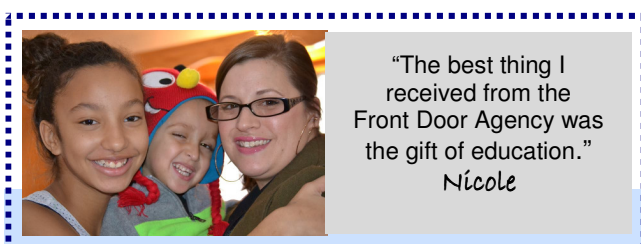
Finally, in 2012, Nicole earned her associate's degree magna cum laude from Bristol Community College. She was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

She immediately enrolled in a bachelor's degree program in social work at Bridgewater State University, graduating two years later with a 3.89 GPA and as a member of Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society. "I juggled work, school, family and a 900-hour internship," Nicole says proudly.

Two weeks later, she started work for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families and just recently, became a licensed social worker. She has been accepted into a fellowship program "with advanced standing" which will pay for her master's degree in social work. In June, Nicole and her family moved into their newly-built home.

Looking back, she remembers coming to the Front Door Agency a decade ago "with two plastic trash bags and a toddler whose basic needs I could barely meet." One important thing she got from the program was the "support and guidance of dedicated staff who believed in me so much I had no choice but to begin to believe in myself."

More importantly, she says, the best thing she received from the Agency was "the gift of education. It has literally changed my life."



"The best thing I received from the Front Door Agency was the gift of education."
Nicole

Read Nicole's Story & Others Inside



Casino Night & Murder Mystery Dinner

'A one-of-a-kind fundraiser'

Join us at LaBelle Winery **Tuesday, October 27, 2015** for casino gaming and an interactive murder mystery dinner.

- ◆ Featuring an all-new production company
- ◆ Expanded space for gaming, dining and mingling
- ◆ Plus a truly unique wine cellar VIP experience
- ◆ Regular Tickets: \$60 VIP Tickets: \$125

Enjoy casino gaming, a murder mystery show, three-course elegant dinner, cash bar and mysteriously good times. Last year's event sold out quickly! To buy your tickets, please call (603) 886-2866 or purchase online:
www.frontdooragency.org/events/murder-mystery

Interested in volunteering for our 24th Annual Penny Drive?

Sunday, October 18
Saturday, October 24 or Sunday, October 25
Visit www.frontdooragency.org/events/penny-pickers or call Lucie at (603)816-0283 for ways you can help.

News from Our Board of Directors

Congratulations to Two Outstanding Women!



Congratulations to **Beth Needham**, Operations Commercial Lines Manager at Eaton & Berube Insurance (at left) and **Karen Carlisle**, Director of Sales & Marketing at the Crowne Plaza Nashua. Both board members were named to The Telegraph's 25 Outstanding Women for their contributions to the community.

Thank you to outgoing Board members for their strong commitment to our mission: **Tom Boucher**, **Mike Gonzales** and **Chris Malloy**. We would like to extend a warm welcome to new board members: **Jackie Clancy**, **Paula Farrer** and **Meagan Pollack**.

Fourteen Graduate from Financial Literacy Program

"I have finally been able to get on track and really grasp my finances."

Margaret was one of 14 successful graduates from the Agency's Financial Literacy program this past spring. The five week program, offered free to the community, features financial experts from the area presenting on a variety of topics, including budgeting and spending; credit and debt management, saving and identity theft.

"At first I was nervous because I never really had a good grasp on my finances," says Margaret. But the 36-year-old single mother decided it was time to teach her own children by example.

"I learned how to prioritize my budget; how to explain to my kids when I can't buy



something; and how to pay my bills on time. But most of all, I gained self-respect, confidence and a feeling of security."

Sandra DeLosa, Director of Homeless and Housing Services, coordinates the Financial Literacy program, which generally runs two times each year. "We are very grateful to the volunteer presenters who offer their time and financial expertise," she says.

Thank you to financial experts from the community:

- ◆ Dick Lavoie, VP of Marketing Triangle Credit Union
- ◆ Tony Attardo, Raytheon Company
- ◆ Maureen (Moe) Daniels, Custom Engineering Services
- ◆ Paul McLaughlin, NeighborWorks Southern New Hampshire
- ◆ Ryan Tufts, NeighborWorks

Check www.frontdooragency.org/programs for information on future Financial Literacy sessions.

News From Our Front Door To Yours

How Does Your Garden Grow?



Many Hands and Willing Hearts Make Project a Reality

With a recent grant from Kitchen Gardens International and the volunteer efforts of Keller Williams employees, the Norwell Home now has a community garden that will provide fresh vegetables for our Transitional Housing residents. Thank you to Benchmark Title for donating gardening tools and gloves; P & L Landscaping for contributing toward the loam; Masi Plumbing & Heating for installing a new water spicket and Natural Roots for donating fertilizer.

Shown above are volunteer garden designer Tim Monette (front center) with Keller Williams employees (from left) Mary Beth Gustitus, Craig Dufton, Susan Monette, and Elizabeth LeClaire. Not shown: Janet Bartolo, Michelle Soucy and Sally Trombley.

The following grants were received between July 1, 2014 and May 15, 2015

Agnes M. Lindsay Trust	HSN.com
A.L.I. Plumbing	Kitchen Gardens International
Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund	Merrimack County Savings
B.J.'s Charitable Foundation	NH Charitable Foundation
Citizens Bank Foundation	NH Women's Foundation
City of Nashua	Peoples United Community Foundation
Ella Anderson Trust	Progress Software
Getz Charitable Trust	RiverStone Resources, LLC
Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare Foundation	Rotary Club of Nashua
Home Family Charitable Foundation	Rotary Club of Nashua West
	State of New Hampshire
	TD Bank Charitable Foundation

Leave a Legacy with Planned Giving

If you are willing, please consider the Front Door Agency in your will or life insurance plans. To learn more about how you can make a lasting gift and create a legacy, please contact CEO Maryse Wirbal at (603) 886-2866.

RiverStone Provides New Roof, Security



Laurie Kozak from RiverStone Group (right) presents a check to Rebecca Gagne, Director of Transitional Housing.

Thanks to two significant gifts from the RiverStone Group in Manchester, as well as gifts from individual donors — the Norwell Home now has a new roof and a much-improved security system with upgraded surveillance cameras. The Norwell is one of several properties in our Transitional Housing program that provides housing for families in the process of transforming their lives.

With Help from our Friends

We would like to express heartfelt thanks to the following churches, school groups and organizations for their generous support in recent months:

- **Church of the Good Shepherd** members support our mission in many ways. This past spring, they prepared Easter baskets for children in our Transitional Housing Program and they also held a benefit Comedy Night at the Crowne Plaza.
- **Nashua High South** student-athletes helped with yard work.
- **Nashua Boy Scout Troop #773** and their leaders provided a Thanksgiving dinner for families in Transitional Housing.
- **Eaton & Berube Insurance** donated funds they would normally spend on holiday cards.
- **The Telegraph** selected the Front Door as the benefit charity for their Total Women's Showcase in April.
- **The Jewish Women's Giving Circle of Temple Beth Abraham** sponsors and coordinates monthly birthday parties for children in Transitional Housing.
- **B & S Integrated Security Systems** provided generous support for recent upgrades to our security system.
- **TD Bank** held a "Bring Change" campaign to benefit the Agency.
- **Skillsoft employees** prepared an Italian dinner for Financial Literacy participants.
- Hundreds of individuals, businesses and groups gave toys and warm clothing to more than 1,200 children in need through our Holiday Program.

Message from the CEO



Maryse Wirbal

Collaboration, commitment and caring are common themes in our day-to-day operations. We are grateful for the many generous individuals, organizations and businesses—some of whom are highlighted here—for supporting our mission to help families take the path to self-sufficiency. Not as visible, but equally important, is the behind-the-scenes work we are doing to improve our processes and ensure the Agency's effectiveness for the long-term.

The Front Door is proud to be one of three lead agencies actively working on a Coordinated Intake process for homeless individuals and families in the Greater Nashua area. Together with Harbor Homes and Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission, we have been screening calls from people facing homelessness since the end of January. The goal is to first try to divert them from becoming homeless, and when that is not possible, to quickly connect them with resources such as prevention programs, emergency shelters and transitional housing so they can stay safely sheltered and receive any additional supports as needed. Although a pilot program, we have seen some great success.

I am pleased to welcome two new staff members to the organization this past year. One employee who has been key to the success of the Coordinated Intake pilot is our new Homeless and Housing Services Coordinator, Sandra DeLosa. She joined the Agency after a successful student internship here while earning a degree in Human Services from Nashua Community College. Also new to our staff is Rebecca Boisvert, Foundation Relations Manager, who is actively engaged in grant writing and in forging new connections with businesses, foundations, and organizations.

Speaking of support, it was our sincere honor last November to name one of our Norwell Suites for retired Hollis businessman James Healy and his wife Sandy. Their generosity, like that of many other individuals, continues to be fundamental to the ongoing success of our work.

Looking towards the future, we have engaged the services of the Matchbox Group to lead the process of developing a new strategic plan for the Agency. We will be reaching out to our current clients, graduates, donors, volunteers, staff, board members and community partners in an effort to identify potential gaps and ways we can enhance what we currently do well to increase successful outcomes for families striving to become independent.

Finally, I would like to thank outgoing board members Tom Boucher and Mike Gonzales—who both served terms as President—along with Chris Malloy, for their commitment to our mission. Working together, we are making a difference.



Thank you to chefs, sponsors, guests and donors! Gourmet Festival & Auction a Tasty Success



Board member Amy LaBelle and her husband Cesar Arboleda greet staff from Local Delights Café in Nashua.

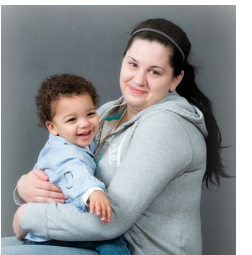
Our 27th Annual Gourmet Festival & Auction featured 23 of the region's finest chefs, more than 200 guests and many wonderful auction items — all donated by local and regional businesses. Held in March at the Nashua Country Club, the event raised \$143,000 to support our mission!



"We can only realize this type of success because of the generosity and support of so many in our community," says Jean Perry, Director of Development and Special Events. "We owe a huge thank you to all the amazing chefs and beverage vendors who donated their time, food and drink; to our corporate partners and event sponsors; to the local businesses who donate auction items...and of course, to our wonderful guests for strongly supporting our mission."

Your Support Helps us to Change Lives

Ashley, a young mother in Transitional Housing, shared her journey to self-sufficiency during the Fund-a-Need part of the program. When she first came to the Front Door, Ashley was facing the heart-wrenching possibility that she might have to give up her son Gabe for adoption.



Today, Ashley is working full-time at a local animal hospital and she and her son are living in Phase III of the program. "I am eternally grateful to the Front Door for giving me hope and allowing me the opportunity to change and grow," she said.

Raechel Brand, also in our Transitional Housing Program, was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from the **Dr. Ronald Kraus Memorial Scholarship Fund**. Raechel is a marketing student at Nashua Community College. To learn more about the Scholarship Fund, please visit our website at www.frontdooragency.org and select "programs."

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