

How a Partnership in Greater Nashua Is Making the Holidays Joyful for a Growing Number of Families in Need

Nashua NH (12/18/2025)- As the weather cools and generosity continues to pour in from local organizations, businesses, and volunteers in our community, the Front Door Agency is once again ready to spread some holiday cheer through their rebranded Holiday Program, Project Joy, a gift giving program in Greater Nashua centered around providing children in need with personalized gifts and clothing.

This year marks a 10-year partnership with The Event Center at the Courtyard Marriott, who has continued to supply the Front Door Agency with their ballroom and event space for them to efficiently organize the hundreds of gifts and to use it as a common pick-up point for families. Even though this time of year has a high demand for holiday mixers, parties, and events, The Event Center at the Courtyard Marriott still makes a point to put community first by selflessly offering the Front Door multi day use of their main event space for, now, a whole decade.

“I can’t even begin to explain the impact this partnership has had on our ability to expand our holiday programming. Prior to the Event Center at the Courtyard partnership, we used our small office and had gifts in the basement, bathrooms and every inch of office space was used, in addition to classrooms at our neighbors the First Church with no elevator access and with limited parking,” said Maryse Wirbal, CEO of the Front Door Agency. “Having the ability to use the Event Center ballroom has truly been a blessing and has made our program much more efficient and provides greater dignity and compassion for those in need of the program. Over the past ten years, this change has positively influenced the lives of thousands more children as a result.”

“This help is more than just toys and gifts to me, it helps me remember I'm not a bad mom for struggling and asking help,” said Kennedy, a mother of three children and a three-year participant of the Front Door Agency’s Project Joy program. Kennedy originally came to the Front Door for assistance outside of the Holiday Program when pregnant with her third child, but after getting a raise unexpectedly, did not need the offered support. As a single mom, she still needs that extra bit of help around the holidays and is thankful to the Front Door for continuing to be there for her during the most expensive time of the year. “When

the holidays approach, it always becomes a big worry for me. I worry the most if my children will have anything under the tree,” she says, “I have three of the most appreciative children who will love whatever they receive. It’s being together that’s worth it. Each year that has passed by has truly been the most amazing, seeing those smiles on Christmas morning, thanks to the Front Door Agency.”

Each year, the Front Door Agency hears hundreds of stories just like Kennedy’s. The holidays add more stress to the lives of financially struggling parents dealing with everything from expensive housing to medical costs. With 550 children participating in Project Joy this year, that means there are hundreds of parents in Greater Nashua who no longer have to worry about making their limited ends meet for the holidays. The Greater Nashua community truly bands together, with BAE adopting 150 children and Nashua Rotary West adopting 50 children this year alone. Thanks to the partnership between the Front Door Agency and The Event Center at the Courtyard Marriott, this is all possible, creating a certain type of holiday magic for adults as well as children.

The Front Door Agency feels thankful to partner with The Event Center at the Courtyard Marriott and is deeply appreciative of their decade-long support.

About the Front Door Agency

The Front Door Agency, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization that invests in New Hampshire individuals and families as they transition from crisis to self-sufficiency by providing a hands-up opportunity to those at risk of homelessness. Through our four core programs, we invest in those who need assistance with basic needs by providing direction and educational opportunities as they transition from crisis to sustainable independence. To learn more, visit www.frontdooragency.org.