

Fall 2014



Nature has her paint brush ready as she is beginning to drizzle out vibrant colors from her pallet of bright oranges, reds and yellows to usher in Fall in New England.

The seasonal fun of apple picking, pumpkin carving, and the cranberry harvest are all a part of autumn in New England. Football games, cool evenings and a few Indian Summer days. Walking on the beach it's simply seagulls and you!

Soon it will be ghosts and goblins ringing your doorbell for Halloween, then, but a few weeks away, Thanksgiving and Christmas will be upon us. Each season is one of new beginnings.

You will never win if you never begin.
~ Helen Rowland ~





Harvest Time

Pumpkins



It's harvest time in Massachusetts!! The pumpkins are ready to choose the "perfect one" for Halloween to be carved into Jack O'Lanterns. The cranberries are being harvested for juice and sauce from our beloved fruit! Apple picking time for cider and pies brings Massachusetts harvest in full force!!!

Apples



Cranberries



HALLOWEEN



Halloween is always a fun time for young and old alike. Trick or Treating, costumes, parties, too much candy and harvest fairs. We love seeing all the little ones in costume. Plymouth Area Coalition has an annual Halloween party for the children residing at the Pilgrim Hope homeless shelter. A fun time for all!

Halloween Safety

Tips: Clear all walkways. Use lights not candles for decorations. Candy with peanuts? Post a sign for allergic kids. Restrain pets to prevent biting or jumping. Wear bright and reflective costumes. Costumes short enough to prevent tripping? Add reflective tape to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility. Shopping for costumes? Buy flame retardant only!



NOTE:
Be sure to check all candy prior to your children eating it!!



Pilgrim's Hope

Homeless Shelter



Pilgrim's Hope is Plymouth Area Coalition's Homeless Shelter. Pilgrim's Hope began in 1985 as a result of a group of concerned citizens responding to families living in their cars or the state forest. The group raised support and opened the first shelter in a rented farmhouse in Halifax in May of 1987.

A generous donation of land, building services and materials enabled the Coalition to custom-build a **facility on Bishop's Highway** in Kingston to accommodate ten families at a time for shelter.

Take a moment to imagine how you would cope with having to fill a suitcase with your clothes and your child's backpack with enough items to get him through for an indefinite amount of days, leaving behind the things that made your house a home.

You are fleeing an unsafe situation or you are now homeless due to lack of funds to pay your rent or mortgage. It's now fall and the nights are getting colder. You must find a safe shelter where you and your children can stay. You have over-stayed your welcome camping in friends living room. Now where do you turn?

Considering our **Pilgrim's Hope** temporary shelter is 100% occupied with single Moms and single Dads with children of all ages, intact families with one or more children, and, yes, we also assist grandparents who have custody of their grandchildren. This is NOT imaginary. We see this every day! As soon as we find housing for a family, another is waiting in line to stay at Pilgrim Hope.

The goal is for families to move from the shelter into safe housing they can afford. We help families to live productive, self sufficient lives by offering opportunities to gain skills and enhance family living.

For those who continue to support Pilgrim's Hope, we thank you. For those who are considering contributing we invite you to contact our Executive Director, Helen MacLean to learn how you can help. In addition to safe temporary shelter, families residing at the program site receive support services to help them help themselves.

If you feel you could assist as a volunteer, please, give us a call. We love our volunteers who help make this transition for our residents far less stressful. If you could volunteer to teach a class or help in the daycare center, assist with a holiday children's celebration or resume assistance for a job application, please do not hesitate to call us or stop by for a volunteer application.



No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

~ Charles Dickens ~



A Donation



Left to right: Helen MacLean, Executive Director of Plymouth Area Coalition, Mark Crociati, Suzanne Crociati, and Lauren Crociati.

***"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another."
Charles Dickens***

Suzanne Crociati, is a volunteer at the Coalition who is an Accredited Wealth Management Advisor. Mark Crociati, Suzanne's husband, is a Data Sales Executive with Granite Telecommunications of Quincy, MA. Suzanne suggested to Mark that Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless be considered as one of the many charities supported by Granite employees' *Jeans Day* which Granite holds each Friday when employees make a charitable donation of three dollars.

Granite is a highly charitable business ranking 6th in Massachusetts for overall donations to various charities. These donations, by Granite Telecommunications are given to a different charity every week. Granite and its employees donated \$3650.00 to the Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless on their August 30th *Jeans Day* with the help of Michael McDonald, Credit Executive, collecting the proceeds.



If you would like to donate please contact:

Moira Coffey - Business Manager
mcoffey@plymouthareacoalition.org

Thank You!

WORLDWIDE SPREEDERS



Ocean Spray staff members spent the day at the volunteering at the Coalition preparing the Children's Holiday Fund program for this upcoming season. Ocean Spray is an example of many of the corporations that lend a hand!



Ocean Spray Employees left to right: Linda Potvin, Lisa Millman, Marc Dinderdale, Gabriela Lockney, Nichole Grabert, Joan Guenard, and Mike Donohue.

Volunteers



Up with People is a global education organization aiming to bring the world together through service and music. The combination of international travel, service learning, leadership development and performing arts offers students an unparalleled experience and a pathway to make a difference in the world, one community at a time.

Since 1965, **Up with People** has provided young people from around the world a unique international education experience unmatched by any other program. More than 21,000 young leaders from 100+ countries have traveled abroad with **Up with People** and are now part of our global alumni network.

thank you



Up With People volunteered this summer at the Coalition. They did an awesome job cleaning, organizing and stocking our food pantry. Thanks to these great young adults who volunteer nation-wide!!

Happy Thanksgiving



The Plymouth Area Coalition and our Food Pantry believe no one person or family should go without a Thanksgiving holiday meal. **Each individual or family who is in need of assistance with Thanksgiving Day dinner is welcome to obtain an application at our Food Pantry for a Thanksgiving holiday meal.**

It is our goal at the Plymouth Area Coalition to make certain you are able to provide a meal for your family and/or friends. From turkeys to pie ingredients, cranberry sauce to vegetables, our baskets are to help those in need.



A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues. ~ Cicero

Through generous donations of organizations, companies and individuals who donate each year, the Plymouth Area Coalition feeds hundreds in the area with the Thanksgiving Meal Food Baskets which include turkeys and food staples or gift cards for Stop & Shop and Shaw's supermarkets.

As in previous years, **the Coalition seeks donations** of \$10 gift cards to Shaw's or Stop & Shop supermarkets to provide low income South Shore families with holiday turkeys. For more information please call Ariel at 781-582-2010. You can deliver gift cards to Plymouth Area Coalition at 149 Bishops Highway, Kingston, MA 02364 or mail to the same address.

In 2013 one hundred twenty-seven households which represented four hundred eight individuals received assistance for their Thanksgiving Day dinner.

The Plymouth Area Coalition **also provides Christmas holiday meals for those in need.** You can find this information further on in this newsletter or by calling the Coalition to inquire about the Children's' Holiday Fund.



2014 Children's Holiday Fund



The 2014 Children's Holiday Fund is underway. You can help to make the holiday wonderful this year through our Children's Holiday Fund.

We help those in need who have had financial difficulty or a change in family dynamics. The Children's Holiday Fund provides assistance with gifts for children under the age of 18 years in the communities of Carver, Halifax, Kingston, Plymouth and Plympton. You will be welcome to also inquire about assistance with a family Christmas meal.

The success of this program is funded through the generosity of individuals and organizations, throughout the area. Giving is easy and fun. Civic groups, school activity clubs, individual social groups and families can adopt a child or children for the holidays. Many of the large and small businesses from far and wide and, in the communities that we service, graciously sponsor families of varying size.

You too can become part of our sponsoring family. The Coalition will provide you with a profile of the child/children along with their wish list. Shop for the items on that list, drop them off, and provide a happy holiday for a deserving family.

If you would like to sponsor one or more please call 781-582-2010. Our Children's Holiday Fund Coordinator will match you with a child or children for whom you can make the holiday one to remember!! In the process you will sincerely find why our sponsors get such great joy from their annual shopping adventure for the CHF. The list of our annual sponsors grows each year. Many calling ahead of time to make certain they are given children to sponsor.

If you are in need of assistance please call our Holiday Fund line at 781-585-0006. Follow the instructions by leaving a message and an application will be sent to you for gift assistance and a holiday meal.



VOLUNTEER

Give a Helping Hand!



Give a Helping Hand!

As with the changing seasons, our individual priorities often take on a new beginning. If you have not taken the time to volunteer in the past to help a family, a child, or an organization, perhaps now is the time! If you are visiting our web site for the first time, perhaps you feel a bit more enthused as you read how we accomplish so much with the volunteers? We consider ourselves fortunate to have an extremely diverse group of ages and a diverse group of professionals, each talented in their own way, who share a few hours or more on a weekly, monthly or annual basis.

Whether your “expertise” is landscaping or the kind act of raking leaves, a math teacher or sharing story time with a young child, organization skills or comforting skills, your efforts, while volunteering, are not measured in monetary value, but what comes from within.

As with any non-profit, the Plymouth Area Coalition cannot function without volunteers. Perhaps you think you just don’t have the time to do this “volunteer thing” on a regular basis. We would like to suggest you take the first step. Visit us or any non-profit organization of your choosing. See what giving of your time can do for others. We are certain if volunteering is on your agenda, we can help you “get around to it”.

Ask anyone who is a volunteer how the act of helping has changed *their* lives. CORRECT! Once you take the step to help others, you will find that you may experience positive changes within *yourself*.

Simply ask whomever you believe could use a helping hand, whether it be the Plymouth Area Coalition or your elderly neighbor or the young mother down the street who simply needs a break. There is someone who always needs a helping hand. Set a goal with the changing of the beautiful New England seasons to begin something new: **VOLUNTEER**. Call the Coalition at 781-582-2010 and ask how you can help.

Genuine beginnings begin within us, even when they are brought to our attention by external opportunities.

~ William Throsby Bridges ~

We Will Never Forget



NEVER FORGET.
09.11.2001